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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 1.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, JAN. 6TH, 1900. 明治三十三年一月六日 [VOL. XXXIII.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 6TH, 1900.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

IT is announced that Abbas Pasha, the Khedive of Egypt, will shortly visit England.

A GERMAN steamer has gone down in the British channel, fortunately without loss of life.

ANOTHER foreign missionary has been murdered in the interior of China. He was a British subject.

THE Boer forces besieging Kimberley wear a khaki uniform somewhat similar to that of the British forces.

UGLY rumours are current in Capetown of disaffection in the Victoria West and Clanwilliam Districts.

EIGHTEEN guns consigned from Krupp's factory to the Transvaal Government have been detained at Hamburg.

AN ex-employe at the Yokohama Railway Office named Okuno has been sentenced by the Chiho Saibansho to nine years' imprisonment on a charge of having stolen *yen* 88 belonging to the authorities through destroying an official document.

ACCORDING to news from London, the British Cabinet has determined to ask for 5,000,000 sterling wherewith to equip the Artillery with new guns.

THE most important fighting during the week has taken place near Colesberg, where General French has driven the Boers back somewhat.

SIX hundred emigrants collected by the Morioka and Hiroshima Emigration Companies, left Yokohama for Honolulu on Saturday by the steamer *China*.

IT has been resolved by the British War Office to sanction the employment of certain officers on the reserve under the rank of Major to fill vacancies.

A BRITISH quartermaster belonging to the steamer *Cowrie*, was drowned in Yokohama harbour on Wednesday night, while under the influence of liquor.

SEVERAL severe engagements have taken place since Christmas week in Cape Colony and Natal. General Buller has a stupendous task before him, it would seem.

A STRIKE at the Yokohama Laundry Company's works on Tuesday has led to the discharge of the whole of the Japanese employes and the substitution of Chinese.

THE New Year holidays have come and gone, everything passing off peacefully and happily in the capital and in Yokohama. Bright, though frosty, weather prevailed throughout.

THE French Government is to introduce Bills in Parliament assigning 120 million francs for the defence of the coasts and colonies, and 400 millions for the increase of the fleet.

THE Japanese Minister in Berlin has had an audience with the Emperor William and presented the Order of the Chrysanthemum which the Emperor of Japan has conferred on the Crown Prince.

THROUGH the carelessness of a gardener, the greenhouses attached to the Bluff residence of Mr. David Jackson, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, were destroyed by fire on Wednesday night.

AN English cruiser has captured in Delagoa Bay a German steamer called the *Bundesruth* on suspicion of carrying contraband of war. The affair has been submitted to the Prize Court in Durban.

TANABE KANAKICHI, a coolie working in the Customs Compound, was on Saturday detected in the act of extracting from a case some furs which he concealed in his *kimono*. He was arrested and handed over to the Water Police.

ACCORDING to an officially sanctioned statement the Government regards the formation and despatch of Yeomanry to South Africa as one of the most pressing needs of the situation. The *Daily Telegraph* says that the Government is now prepared to accept the services of some eight to ten thousand Yeomanry.

IT is stated in Washington that the result of Mr. Secretary Hay's negotiations for securing the open door in China is most gratifying. Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Japan have responded favourably.

The Times' correspondent at Lorenzo Marques telegraphs that the suspicions are confirmed of close relations existing between the Boers and a foreign consulate in Pretoria. There are persistent rumours in Lorenzo Marques and in Durban of guns and ammunition for the Boers being smuggled through at Delagoa Bay.

THE choir-boys of Christ Church were entertained to a sumptuous repast in the vestibule of the Public Hall on Thursday evening, when the prizes won during the year were distributed. The vicar, the Rev. E. C. Irwine, presided, and made a most interesting and encouraging speech.

THERE was a serious fracas among coolies in Suyeyoshicho, Yokohama, on the 23rd ult. Two coolies named Seki Yoshi and Kencho Bunkichi were seriously cut about the body with a sword, the assailant or assailants escaping On Saturday a carpenter named Kimura was arrested by the Isezakicho Police, when he confessed to having cut the men.

THE French Navy Estimates for 1900 provide for the construction of two battleships with a displacement of 14,865 tons each. Such a displacement has been hitherto unknown in the French Navy, the largest previously designed French ironclad being the *Suffren*, now in course of construction at Brest, with a contemplated displacement of 12,728 tons.

A LONDON telegram states that the committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club recommends that there be six balls to an over in first class matches. It is further recommended that a side may be permitted to declare its innings closed after luncheon on the second day of the match, and also that the side leading by 150 runs may have the option of going in or making its opponents follow on.

THE *Chuo* remarks that the method hitherto adopted in Yokohama in silk transactions has been extremely disadvantages to the Japanese. Foreign firms were in the habit of taking under the name of *kankanryo* or inspection fees, about 0.5 per cent. on every English pound of silk delivered by Japanese. The Japanese recently determined to show a firm front on the subject, and it was finally decided that English scales should be abolished, and weights substituted determined exclusively by Japanese balance, one for 500 *kin*, and the other for 250 *kin*, the former to be employed for raw silk and the latter for waste silk. The new arrangement was to be enforced from the 2nd January.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Wednesday, Jan. 3.

It is very disappointing to learn that the Sixth Division did not sail until the 25th of December. According to a statement publicly made by Lord Wolseley and telegraphed by Reuter, the Division should have left England by the 7th of December at latest. Had that programme been carried out, the troops would be already at the Cape or very near it. But sailing on the 25th December, it is probable that the whole of them will not land at Capetown before January 18th, and the Seventh Division, which commences its embarkation on the 4th of January, will not reach the Cape until the end of the month. The Fifth Division had landed on the 29th, and will be ready to move to the front when Lord Roberts arrives, probably about Tuesday next. But not until the early part of February will an additional force of thirty-five thousand regulars be available for service in the fighting line. We hear nothing now of the Eighth Division, and it would seem that the Government considers it sufficient to send the fifth, sixth, and seventh; in other words, to strengthen the forces already in Africa by some thirty-five thousand regulars. Of course there are also the volunteers to be taken into account. But the telegraphic news about them has been confusing. So far as we can see, the idea is, in the first place, to take one company of men from every infantry battalion and organize them into a force of mounted infantry. If that were done for the whole of the seven Divisions, the force would consist of 64 companies, taking into account the battalions engaged in guarding the lines of communication. But we must deduct 10 battalions on account of the troops shut up in Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking, so that the number of mounted infantry companies becomes 54, and the total strength of the corps, about 5,500. The companies taken from the battalions for that purpose are to be replaced by volunteers from England. Further, there is to be a force of Imperial Yeomanry, from eight to ten thousand strong. We do not understand by any means that this last force is to consist of recruits from the Yeomanry of England. It is to be organized with volunteers of every kind, provided they can ride and shoot. Probably it will attract a very fine class of men. If our rendering of the Government's intentions be correct, the gist of the matter is that the forces in Natal will be augmented by from fourteen to fifteen thousand mounted men. That is very much to be desired. The Boers are all mounted, and have thus an immense advantage not only for rapid evolutions in the open, but also for escaping the worst effects of a defeat. How long will it take, however, to complete these arrangements? Two or three weeks at least. Meanwhile it is evident that there has been a great deal of volunteering at the Cape. Recent telegrams spoke of ten thousand men having been enrolled there. It seems probable that from that source sufficient men can be taken to guard the communications as far as the Modder River, and if so, there will be seven or eight thousand regulars immediately available for service at the front in addition to the troops (fifth Division) which landed at the Cape a few days ago. It may be possible, then, for Lord Roberts to bring a corps of seventeen or eighteen thousand regulars into action on the Modder River by the 20th of this month,—to say nothing of the Naval Division or local troops and Volunteers — without waiting for the Sixth Division, though it also will have landed by the 20th. If he chooses to take the Sixth Division, he can not strike before the end of January or the beginning of February, but, on the other hand, he could probably push forward something like thirty thousand men at that time, and on forming a junction with Methuen, would find himself at the head of an army of about forty thousand, which, after driving the Boers from the Modder, could advance at once upon Bloemfontein. The Seventh Division would still remain. It will reach the Cape at the end of January, as we have seen, and perhaps the idea is to send it on at once to Natal, unless Robert's advance upon Bloemfontein had, in the meantime, relieved the pressure at Ladysmith and Colenso and enabled Buller to effect a junction with White.

It does not often happen that a General, immediately on taking command, has to make such a momentous decision as that awaiting Roberts. To strike at once in Natal would be not only to choose the line of greatest resistance, but also to largely enhance the difficulties of subsequent offensive operations. It is evident that the Boers deliberately selected Natal as a battle-field, first because they thought they could see their way to occupying a splendid line of defences on the Tugela, and secondly because, in the event of being driven back, they would still have the barrier of the Drakenburgs to place between their homes and the invader. Had not White been shut up in Ladysmith, it would be extremely fatuous to accept the Boers' challenge even in part. Their vulnerable points are on the Western borders, where nature offers them comparatively little aid, and to attempt to force them over the eastern borders merely because they invite us to do so, would be silly. The obvious course for Roberts, then, would be to join Methuen, sweep the Maggersfontein Boers out of his path, and leave Natal to itself. But then there is Ladysmith. If only Ladysmith were wiped off the slate, Roberts could make his preparations at leisure, and begin his final advance in the middle of February with four Divisions and at least fifteen thousand additional troops of sorts, or an army of fifty-five thousand. We do not believe that Ladysmith will draw him to the Tugela, but we do believe that his anxiety to draw the Boers from Natal will induce him to strike a blow at the Modder with twenty-five thousand men about the 20th of this month, instead of striking with fifty-five thousand on the 20th of February. In all these calculations we have taken minimum figures.

Meanwhile, Buller's programme appears to be artillery fighting. It is a singular turn of events that having been compelled by the loss of eleven field-guns to desist from his attempt to force the passage of the Tugela, he should now be relying on artillery to render the Boers' positions untenable. He probably has a fine park of guns at his command by this time; not only 5-inch howitzers, but also heavy Naval guns, for recent intelligence shows that the naval men have been mounting 55-pounders (5-inch guns) for land service, and have been handling them almost as easily as field artillery. The Boers can scarcely bring any weapons of corresponding efficiency to oppose Buller. But long-range artillery practice against entrenchments which an enemy can easily evacuate so long as the shells are flying, is not a very satisfactory kind of business. We nevertheless believe that Buller will relieve Ladysmith before many days have passed.

The Times correspondent gives the following account of the only attempt made by the Boers to carry Ladysmith by assault, an affair which has hitherto attracted little attention, though it probably cost the Boers as many casualties as the battle of Colenso cost Buller's force:—

Ladysmith, Nov. 15.

On Thursday, the 9th, the enemy made a most determined attack on the town. Their artillery opened fire shortly after 4 in the morning, pouring a heavy shell fire on the position held by our men.

Under cover of their guns the Boers advanced along the ridges and kopjes adjacent to those occupied by us. Our troops lined the hills round the town. The enemy advanced, taking advantage of every bit of cover, but our infantry fire was very warm and the plucky attack was repulsed.

The enemy made a combined attack on all sides of the town. The main attack was between the Free State and Newcastle lines. This position was defended by the King's Royal Rifles and the Rifle Brigade, who beat the enemy back twice.

The Boers had dug a trench in open ground. From this they retired to bring up their horses, and the Rifle Brigade promptly doubled to the trench and occupied it. The Boers on their return were allowed to advance almost right up to the trench; then volley after volley was delivered, while the enemy, retreating, were shelled. The Boers lost heavily

Our guns put a mortar, from which the enemy threw large shells, out of action. When the enemy returned to put the mortar right, two shells were fired, scattering a large force of them.

Most of the fighting was over at 11 o'clock. At noon a salute of 21 guns was fired in honour of the Prince of Wales's birthday the troops cheering wildly.

The Manchesters occupied Cæsar's camp on the south-west, and found several hundred Boers hiding from our shell-fire in a ditch. The enemy were within a few hundred yards, and deadly volleys were poured in on the dense mass of the enemy, who must have sustained very severe loss, a moderate estimate being 700 to 800 killed and wounded. This seems to have settled the Boers as there has since been only an intermittent shell fire.

On Tuesday, the 14th, a reconnaissance in force, chiefly of cavalry and artillery, attacked the enemy to the right of the new Colenso road, driving the enemy back on their main position. Our shell fire was very effective and must have inflicted considerable damage. On our side only one man wounded was reported.

Our Lyddite shells have had a most terrifying effect on the Boers who have to be driven up to work their guns with loaded revolvers at their head. Ladysmith can hold out for months.

Dysentery is reported to be working dreadful havoc among the enemy, and they are said to be rather disheartened.

Thursday, Jan. 4.

The railway from Naauwpoort into the Orange Free State crosses the Orange River at Norvals Bridge, which is some 100 miles distant from Bloemfontein. Early in January it was reported that the Boers had destroyed all the bridges over the Orange River on the southern border of the Free State. That was probably an exaggeration, for their troops have since occupied and maintained positions on the South of the River, and it is scarcely credible that they should have destroyed the bridges behind them, for though they might be able themselves to cross without much difficulty, they could not hope to get their guns over without a bridge. It is possible that General French, after

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capturing Colesberg, was able to push on quickly to the point where the railway crosses the River, and it is also possible that he found the bridge intact. If so, the fact will probably determine Lord Roberts' movements. It has never seemed to us doubtful that Lord Roberts' would make the Free State the objective point of his first campaign. The only question was, what route would he choose. From Norvals Port to Bloemfontein the distance by rail is 122 miles. The country is fairly level and there are no rivers of any consequence to cross. Plainly the Colesberg-Bloemfontein route is the line of least resistance for striking at the Free State. The Boers massed in front of Methuen near Kimberley are about 100 miles from Bloemfontein. It would be necessary for them to lose no time in falling back upon their capital if they intend to defend it, and in retreating they would be hotly pressed by Methuen, so that no interval would be available for entrenching themselves strongly. To remain in front of Kimberley while Roberts marched upon Bloemfontein would be to court crushing disaster, for their communications would be cut and they would ultimately have to support powerful attacks from front and rear. We believe and trust, therefore, that Roberts will adopt that line of strategy, and that he will be able to cross the Orange River at Norvals Port. As to his leaving Natal to its fate, the question to be answered is, would not a move upon Bloemfontein be the best way to reduce the pressure in Natal. It would certainly relieve Kimberley, and it *would take* advantage of the weak point which has been developed in the Boers' strategy. The weak point is that the Boers have allowed themselves to be tied up at Ladysmith and at Kimberley. They never expected to meet with any really serious resistance in their attacks upon those places. They had not foreseen the immense strength that modern weapons confer on the defence. It may fairly be assumed that they expected to take everything in their stride before the arrival of English reinforcements, and that they looked thereafter to receive from their fellow-nationals in Cape Colony such overwhelming assistance as would enable them to defy all Great Britain's efforts. They have been disappointed, and the result is that the present situation offers one great disadvantage for them—their home territories are left virtually at the mercy of the enemy. Lord Roberts' aim will be to compel them to return to the defence of their own lands, and, if possible, he will endeavour to deliver a crushing defeat to the Boers now massed on the Kimberley frontier before they can receive assistance from the other side.

We are again disappointed as to the starting of the Seventh Division. A few days ago the telegraph said that it was to commence its embarkation on the 4th instant. Now the 11th is indicated; a delay of a week. Probably, however, the telegrapher means that the embarkation will be completed by the 11th. Sailing on the 11th, the Division can not reach the Cape before the first week in February. Lord Roberts will scarcely wait for it. He will have the Sixth Division in a fortnight from the present time, and he can therefore advance with fully twenty thousand men about the 20th of this month, Methuen, with eight thousand more, cöoperating on his left flank.

The news about disaffection in Victoria West and Clanwilliam is disquieting. Clanwilliam is far distant from the field of immediate operations, but Victoria West lies quite close to the railway, 75 miles south of De Aar, and disaffection there would add to the difficulty of keeping the lines of communication open. One is disposed to think, however, that if any formidable disaffection was to be anticipated, it would have taken place before now.

Since the above was in type the Reuter's message telling of General French's successful cutting off of the Boers' retreat, has arrived and seems to confirm our surmise as to a bridge being still intact.

In Reuter's telegrams of the 2nd inst. it was stated that the Boers still hold "Hlanglvane," and we expressed the opinion that Inhlawe Mount was meant. Inlawe Mount is on the south side of the Tugela, but lies nevertheless on the north-east of Colenso, for the Tugela at Colenso takes a turn northward almost at right angles to its original course, then runs nearly due east, and then turns southward again before resuming its generally eastward course, thus forming a large angle within which Inlawe lies. From Chieveley to Inlawe the distance is 13 miles, and it would be a natural piece of strategy for the Boers to hold Inlawe with the object of preventing any attempt on the part of the British to cross the Tugela at a point on the east of the Colenso position. The river being now in flood, the Boers at Inlawe, if that is really where they are, must be completely cut off from the main body on the north of the Tugela, and it seems probable that Buller will not leave them unmolested. We suspect that these are the Boers to whom Reuter referred in his telegram of the 1st, which said that several hundreds of Boers had been cut off by the sudden rising of the river. It would look as though the Tugela, in ordinary times, were fordable in the neighbourhood of Inlawe, for the Boers would not be likely to rely on boats for purposes of retreat.

Friday, Jan. 5.

Very varying opinions are expressed with regard to the numerical strength of the forces that the British Government has now decided to allot for the purposes of the South-African campaign. Perhaps a few words on the subject may be interesting. We must premise, however, that all statements on paper have margins of possible error. The figures taken for such purposes are the nominal war strength of the tactical units considered, whereas the actual strength may be more or may be less.

The forces actually despatched from Great Britain are two Army Corps, consisting of six Divisions, each Division being organized with two Brigades, and each Brigade with four Battalions of infantry; in addition to artillery, cavalry, engineers, and supply columns, bearer columns, and field hospital corps. Thus a Division contains eight battalions of infantry, 3 batteries (18 guns) of artillery, a squadron of cavalry, and a company of engineers, besides the non-combatant troops. The total strength of the Division is 10,515 of all ranks, and the Army Corps, consisting of three Divisions, consequently aggregates 31,545. But in addition to these components there are also Army-Corps Troops under the direct command of the Army Corps. They consist of one battalion of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry, eight batteries (30 guns and 18 howitzers) of artillery, pontoon troops, telegraph divisions, balloon sections, etc., and the total strength is 5,380 of all ranks. Hence the Corps d'Armée aggregates in all 36,925 men, and the two Corps represent 73,850 men. There has farther been sent from England a Cavalry Division (under Lieut. General French), which numbers 5,816, and has 12 guns. Hence we arrive at the following result:—

Regular Troops actually sent from England (assuming that the 7th Division is on the point of embarking).

Two Army Corps	73,850
Cavalry Division.....	5,816
	79,666

The artillery numbers 180 field-guns and 36 howitzers. There has also been sent a park of 30 5-inch howitzers with a thousand men (approximately), so that the forces despatched from England up to January 11th will total 79,666 men, and have with them 180 field guns, 36 field howitzers, and 30 5-inch howitzers.

To these we must add the Division sent from India and the troops which were in South Africa when the war broke out. Taking the former at ten thousand and the latter at the same strength,—figures which must be tolerably accurate approximations—we obtain a grand total of 99,666 men of all ranks.

We have assumed in this estimate that two Army Corps have been actually organized; or, in other words, that the six Divisions sent from England are organized as Army Corps. We know that the first three Divisions were so organized, but we are not equally well informed about the second three Divisions. If only one Army Corps has been organized, then there is only one body of Corps Troops, and we must deduct from the above total 5,380 men, 30 field guns, and 18 field howitzers. On the other hand, we have not included the troops for the lines of communication, which represent an additional force of 9,387 men. Finally, we have assumed that there is only one Cavalry Division—that under Lieut.-General French. But in the middle of November, the War Office organized another brigade of Horse Artillery, namely, three batteries (18 guns). Horse artillery can not work without cavalry. These three batteries, then, must be the nucleus of a force of at least two thousand cavalry. What seems most probable is that there is only one body of corps troops, and that the Cavalry Division has been strengthened by some two thousand men with 18 guns. On these hypotheses, the estimate for the regular troops becomes:—

Total as above given	99,660
Deduct one body of Corps Troops=5,380. Add troops on lines of communication =9,387	6,007
Add a brigade of cavalry and artillery =2,000	
Total	105,673

With regard to the number of guns, we have the following figures, proceeding on the second of the above hypotheses:—

Divisional Artillery (7×18)=126 field guns.	
Artillery of Garrison troops...	18 do do
Corps Artillery	30 do do 18 field howitzers.
Cavalry Division	30 field guns.
Howitzers (5 inch)	30
Totals.....	204 field guns. 18 field howitzers. 30 5-inch howitzers.

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Our readers will perceive that the factor of uncertainty is the Corps Troops. If there are two bodies of these—in other words, if the 6 Divisions sent from England are organized as two full Army Corps—then the total number of regulars becomes 111,053, with 234 field guns, 36 field howitzers, and 30 5-inch howitzers. If there is only one body of corps troops, then the total is 105,673, with 204 field guns, 18 field howitzers, and 30 5-inch howitzers.

We come now to the irregular troops sent, or to be sent, from England. Here there is again some uncertainty. According to our reading of the telegrams, the programme devised by the Government immediately after receiving news of the Colenso and Maggersfontein reverses, was this:—To take from each infantry battalion of the South-African army one company, and organize the whole into a mounted infantry corps. To replace these companies by adding to each battalion an equal number (113) of volunteers from England. Further, to raise a volunteer force of from eight to ten thousand mounted men. Let us see what increase that programme would give. There are (or soon will be) 73 battalions of regulars in South Africa (including the troops for the lines of communication and the original garrison). Seventy-three companies of 113 each make 8,249 men. To these add, say, 9,000 Imperial Yeomanry, and we have 17,249 men.

Next, there are the Colonial troops, which we may put at about 2,500, and there is the City of London Corps, 1,000 strong.

Finally, there are the local forces and volunteers in South Africa. These we may put at 18,000—a low estimate, for the telegraph says that there are 10,000 in the Cape Colony alone.

Thus we get this result:—

Regular Troops	105,673
Volunteers from England drafted into the Divisions	8,249
Imperial Yeomanry	9,000
London Corps	1,000
Colonial Troops	2,500
Local Troops and Volunteers	18,000
Grand Total	144,422

The casualties up to date number some 6,500. Deducting there, we have a remainder of 137,922 of all ranks, which ought to be available by the middle of February at latest.

It will be observed that we make no deductions on account of the beleaguered garrisons. In point of fact, these are at least as useful as any other troops in the field, for they are holding a large force of the Boers. It will be found before the war is over, we confidently believe, that the Boers, by setting for themselves the task of besieging remote places which they can not reduce, have greatly weakened their capacities for defence, and offered to their enemy opportunities which he will utilize to their destruction.

Perhaps it is right to remind our non-military readers that an army of 137,000 men does not by any means signify that number of combatants. There are many belonging to the non-combatant branches, and many more who must be employed locally or to guard lines of communications. We must deduct about 35,000 on these accounts, leaving 102,000 for the fighting line.

Our telegram of this morning speaks of 7 battalions of militia being sent to South Africa. We have not included them in the above calculation.

Concerning the success gained by a column of Australians and Canadians near (not at) Belmont, had Reuter been good enough to mention the point of the compass we should be greatly enlightened. If the affair occured on the east of Belmont, the British force must been entered the Orange Free State to find the enemy, for we are told of a forced march of 22 miles, and Belmont, according to the maps, is not 10 miles west of the Free State's border. On that hypothesis it would seem that the Boers had pushed southward of the Modder, and were threatening Methuen's communications.

The *Jiji Shimpo* draws a lesson as to the value of sea-power from the story of the South African war. No country in the world, it says, except England could possibly undertake the feat of sending a hundred thousand men to fight in a land six thousand miles distant. The States of Continental Europe have immense military forces, but for the purposes of attacking an over-sea enemy they are practically helpless. And it is not merely the possession of a vast number of steam transports that enables England to accomplish this. People speak of no other country's interfering with her, as though such abstention on their part were due to good will or to the existence of an understanding. But the fact is that England is strong enough at sea to defy interference. She owes her immunity to her own capacity. The war teaches two things: the immense difficulty of conducting a campaign against a strong enemy at a great distance, and the impossibility of attempting the task without command of the sea.

MARQUIS ITO ON THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

Sunday, Dec. 31.

The *Japan Times* discusses in a very sarcastic strain a note recently published by us with reference to views attributed to Marquis Ito. Our contemporary is so kind as to read us a lesson about the duties of a journal "with the least sense of responsibility," a lesson by which we hope to profit since it comes from such an eminently qualified source. The matter in question is that Marquis Ito, in a speech delivered at a meeting of the Doki Club on the 16th instant, was represented as having pointed out that if even a little State like the Transvaal is strong enough to grant to foreigners the privileges of owning land and engaging in mining enterprises, Japan, which has received recognition as a great Power, can well afford to be equally magnanimous. The *Japan Times* represents us as having "propounded this amusingly novel view" and is good enough to "envy our possession of special sources of intelligence" "mysterious and exclusive sources of information," "spirit rapping," etc., which are denied to ordinary journalists. Altogether our sedate contemporary shows much excitement, and flutters through a whole column of purturbed protest. The plain fact, however, is that we did not "propound" anything, or make any assertion whatever on our own account. We carefully observed the precaution usually taken by journalists with even a small "sense of responsibility," namely that of distinguishing reports and original utterances by prefacing the former with "it is said," "it is stated," and so on, and we were further careful to note that in the published reports of Marquis Ito's speech, we could not find any such emphatic utterances. As to mysterious and exclusive sources of information, if our contemporary will be so good as to examine the *Hochi Shimbun* of the 28th of December, it will discover exactly whence we obtained our news. A few days ago, the *Japan Times* declared that statements confidently attributed to Marquis Ito by the *Asahi Shimbun* were entirely incorrect. It now subjects the *Hochi Shimbun* to similar condemnation. We imagined that some measure of reliance might be placed upon journals like the *Asahi* and the *Hochi*. Apparently not. Apparently Japanese journals are altogether untrustworthy even when they recount such important matters as the gist of speeches delivered or statements made by their country's greatest statesman. Will not the *Japan Times* extend its function of mentor so as to impress upon its own vernacular contemporaries a small "sense of journalistic responsibility." Our fault in venturing to trust such sources of information seems venial compared with their enterprise in the matter of fabrication and invention.

Thursday, Jan. 4.

We really are perplexed to determine what cause for excitement the *Japan Times* finds in the utterances recently attributed to Marquis Ito by the *Hochi Shimbun* and taken by us as the basis of a note. Our contemporary's present object, apparently, is to prove that we credited the *Hochi's* report. There is no occasion for proof. We frankly admit that we credited it. Had the views attributed to Marquis Ito been, in any sense, inconsistent with the large-minded attitude he has always maintained towards foreigners and questions of foreign policy, we should certainly have hesitated to believe them. But they were in no sense inconsistent. The *Hochi* reported him as having drawn attention to the liberalism of the Transvaal in granting mining and land-owning privileges to foreigners, whereas Japan, comparatively a great Power, can not reconcile herself to such a course. That is just the kind of criticism we should have expected from Marquis Ito, and therefore when we read an emphatic declaration in a Tokyo newspaper not only that His Excellency had made such a statement, but also that his hearers had been induced by it to form an association for the purpose of giving practical effect to the Marquis' views, we did not detect any cause to suspect the correctness of the *Hochi's* report. The *Japan Times* says that the *Hochi Shimbun* is "a third-rate illustrated paper." The description seems somewhat severe, but, even granting its correctness, we have only to observe that, according to the ordinary code of journalistic morality, the inferior status of a newspaper does not confer on it a right to publish falsehoods. It is quite true, as we noted at the time, that "no such emphatic utterances were to be found in the published reports of Marquis Ito's speech." But it did not at all follow that he might not have made the statements attributed to him by the *Hochi*, for, in the first place, Japanese journals seldom give exact verbatim reports

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of speeches, and, in the second, Marquis Ito's published speech certainly did not comprise everything that he said during his presence at the *réunion* of the Doki Club. We gather that the *Japan Times* is authorized to contradict the *Hochi Shimbun's* report. Very well. Why not say so simply and directly, instead of addressing to us courteous homilies about a sense of journalistic responsibility, and endeavouring to demonstrate that we "adopted the story and presented it in such a manner as to produce an impression that it was worthy of credence"? Here again there is no occasion for demonstration. We did adopt the story, because we believed it: we did present it in such a manner as to invite credence because we thought that it deserved credence; but we remain entirely unconvinced of either our carelessness or our crime in so doing. It is a matter of regret to learn that the *Hochi* was wrong, and that we ought not to have suspected it of telling the truth about a matter of fact. But what then? There is a tea-pot storm blowing, and we seem to be somewhere on the outer margin of it.

COUNT OKUMA.

Count Okuma has expressed himself with his usual frankness to a representative of the *Fiji Shimpo* on the subject of Japan's foreign policy. The Count adheres firmly to his original idea that the partition of China need not be anticipated, and that, so far as she is concerned, the Far-Eastern question will be settled on *the lines* of the "open-door" policy. But he thinks that Japan ought to exert herself more resolutely to bring about that end. Japan does not form a true estimate of her own capacities. Many of her people advocate the doctrine of supporting China on the ground that the safety of this country depends upon the maintenance of its neighbour's integrity —the *shinshi hosha* (lips and teeth) doctrine. But Japan's safety is a thing apart. It is guaranteed by the patriotism and courage of her people, and no Power in the world could subdue her. The motives of her conduct towards China should be, first, consideration for the relations that existed from time immemorial between the two countries, and secondly, tradal interests. China's mood towards Japan at present is trustful and friendly. Advantage should be taken of the fact to develop tradal facilities and to apply every possible lever for pushing the ancient empire into the path of progress. Count Okuma evidently has much faith in the prospects of a China-Japan bank. He thinks that the Chinese would readily deposit their money in such an institution, and that it might be made a means of obtaining capital for the development of many enterprises now inviting attention. He condemns the present Cabinet's want of activity and uniformity of policy. Arguing from the fact that nearly all the successful enterprises in Japan were originally fostered by official protection, he contends that the Government should do something towards laying out the newly acquired settlements in China, towards promoting the Söul-Fusan Railway, and generally towards encouraging the Japanese to look abroad, instead of confining the range of their vision to domestic affairs.

THE "TAMBA MARU" CASE.

Sunday, Dec. 31.

Two legal experts have been at some pains to set forth the facts of the *Tamba Maru* case in the columns of the *Fiji Shimpo* and the *Kokumin Shimbun*. They are evidently anxious that there should be no misunderstanding, and we appreciate the trouble they have taken. We ourselves have kept silence, pending the hearing of the appeal, but it is obvious that no restraint of that kind exists in Japan, and we therefore feel at liberty to speak. Let us say at the outset that, so far as we are concerned, and probably so far as foreigners generally are concerned, there is no suspicion that racial prejudice influenced the judgment of the Court. The judges doubtless endeavoured to discharge their duties fairly and conscientiously, without respect of person or regard to nationality.

Certain points have now been satisfactorily cleared up. First, the question of delay. There must always be some delay in such cases in Japan. The summary jurisdiction of the police tribunals is so limited that charges which in England or America would be disposed of in 24 hours, have to be carried here from the magistrate to the district court, at the expense of considerable time. But, for the rest, the delay in the *Tamba Maru* trial was due to two applications for postponement on the part of the defendant, and to an outbreak of contagious disease in the family of one of the judges. Nothing more need be said about that.

Secondly, as to the nature of the sentence. An assault which incapacitates a man for duty for a period of 20 days is punishable, according to Japanese law, by imprisonment for from 1 to 3 years. The Judge has no discretion outside those limits. Now the medical evidence showed that Toyomatsu, the quartermaster whom Kent struck, was incapacitated for 20 days. Hence, the lightest sentence the Court could inflict, apart from extenuating circumstances, was one year. But in consideration of the fact that Toyomatsu had behaved insolently, the sentence was reduced by two degrees. It thus became six months. The Court had no competence to further reduce it. That such a law is bad in some respects, there can be very little question. One of the Japanese experts himself denounces it. By fixing the inferior limit of punishment, grave injustice may often be done. There are objections to the complete removal of the inferior limit, as is the English custom, but they do not, we think, outweigh the considerations on the other side. Further, the notion that a black eye should incapacitate a man for 20 days sounds extravagant to Englishmen. But there, again, the medical testimony was clear, and the judges had to be guided by it. There are black eyes and black eyes. Such a question is for physicians alone to determine. Thus we may condemn the law, and we may query the doctors' diagnosis, but the court's decision does not seem open to objection on those scores.

So much is cleared up. We now come, however, to the fundamental question, which of the two men struck the first blow. Everything turns upon that. That the quartermaster invaded the cabin of the third officer and addressed him insolently did not justify the third officer in violently assaulting the quartermaster. It is no use talking about ship's discipline in such a context. Ship's discipline can be preserved, and must be preserved, without recourse to fists. But if the quartermaster struck the third officer, then the whole blame rested with the quartermaster. What evidence had the Court with reference to that point? It had, on the one side, the statement of the quartermaster that the third officer struck him first. It had, on the other side, the statements of the third officer, Kent, and of two other foreigners, Hill and De la Hyde, that the quartermaster struck the third officer first. Under ordinary circumstances there could not be the smallest doubt as to which version the Court should accept—three witnesses for the accused, one witness for the defence. But the Court set aside the evidence of the three foreigners and accepted that of the one Japanese. What were the reasons for that extraordinary discrimination? Let us write them down, together with the Court's reasons as formulated by itself:—

THE THIRD OFFICER'S EVIDENCE.

STATEMENTS.	THE COURT'S DECISION.
The quartermaster commenced the assault by striking me twice on the right ear.	Unworthy of credence because Kent can not remember whether he was struck with the right hand or with the left.
The quartermaster seized my legs and twice threw me.	Unworthy of credence because the quartermaster says that he was knocked down in the first instance, and that, when he attempted to rise, the third officer seized him and both fell together. N.B.—In this matter the quartermaster's statement is preferred without any assigned reason whatever.

HILL'S EVIDENCE.

The quartermaster struck Kent with his ringed right hand on the right ear.	Unworthy of credence, first, because the quartermaster alleged that he wore the ring on his left hand, and it is usual to wear a ring on the left hand; secondly, because it is impossible to strike the right ear of a person facing one with the right hand.
The quartermaster twice threw Kent by seizing his legs.	Unworthy of credence, because, although it exactly corroborated the statement of Kent himself, Hill admitted that, it being dark, he could not see well.

DE LA HYDE'S EVIDENCE.

Saw the quartermaster strike Kent first.	Evidently untrue, because De la Hyde could not tell what part of the third officer's body had been struck.

These reasons for the Court's incredulity fall mainly into two classes; first theories entertained by the Court itself; secondly want of accurate recollection on the part of the witnesses. The theories are that it is usual to wear a ring on the left hand, and that it is impossible to use one's right hand in striking the right ear of a person facing one. Both theories are absolutely valueless. A ring may be worn on either hand, and nothing in the world is easier than to deliver a back-handed buffet with the right hand on the right ear of a man facing one. Now, as to the want of recollection on the part of the witnesses, Kent did not remember which hand the quartermaster had used in striking him; De la Hyde did not remember what part of Kent's body had been struck. Therefore their evidence was discredited. But what about the recollection of the quartermaster whose

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evidence was accepted from point to point? He bit Kent eight times during the course of the struggle. The Court admitted the biting. Yet the quartermaster first denied that he had bitten Kent at all, and then, being cautioned by the Public Procurator, said that he could not remember having bitten him. He could not remember having bitten him! He bit him in eight places. He must have devoted nearly his whole time to biting him. His main object throughout the struggle must have been to fix his teeth somewhere in Kent's body. Yet he could not remember any biting, and that miraculous lapse of memory was not allowed to invalidate his evidence, whereas the foreigners' evidence was ruled out of Court because their recollection did not extend to secondary points which might easily have escaped their observation. We have carefully read the explanations of the Japanese experts. They do not help us in any way. The judgment of the Court remains one of the strangest examples of judicial analysis we have ever perused. The motives of the judges may have been excellent, but their reasoning is of the most unfortunate character.

Thursday, Jan. 3.

Judge Sato, who presided at the trial of Miller, publishes a statement in the *Kokumin Shimbun* with regard to the *Tamba Maru* case. A considerable part of his remarks consists of a dignified protest against the attempt made by certain foreign treaty-port journals to pervert this affair into a racial question. He frankly admits that a tendency of that kind is almost inevitable and that his countrymen themselves sometimes show it. Thus, when the master of the *Normanton* was brought to trial for unseamanlike action which caused the death of 24 Japanese passengers in the vessel commanded by him, and when his trial ended in a sentence of three months' imprisonment, there were many Japanese who alleged that the sentence was out of proportion to the crime, and that racial feeling had influenced the Court. Yet, as a matter of fact, had the master of the *Normanton* been arraigned on a similar charge before a Japanese tribunal, a fine would have been the limit of the punishment provided by the Code. On that occasion several prominent Japanese barristers, including Mr. Masujima, stood forward as defenders of the English Court, claiming that it had shown remarkable impartiality and a high sense of justice. Racial prejudice may show itself in many lamentable ways, but it does not invade the precincts of the Japanese law courts, where the judges are disposed to treat the foreigner with even more consideration than they show to their own nationals. Judges Fujisei and Morii, who tried the *Tamba Maru* case, were both educated in the school of English law, and, like the majority of Japanese judicial officers, they are imbued with the principles of English and American jurisprudence. It is not to be supposed for a moment that they allowed their judgment to be warped by international feeling. Judge Sato rightly remarks that all thoughtful persons should endeavour to banish this unfortunate suspicion of racial prejudice from the intercourse between Japanese and foreigners.

We suspend our *résumé* of Judge Sato's remarks for the purpose of expressing our entire accord with them up to this point. Foreign local journals are responsible for the introduction of the racial question in this particular case. It is they who have dragged it upon the scene, and by their intemperate writing have succeeded in creating a situation which can not now terminate satisfactorily, whatever be the verdict of the Appeal Court. For such comments have had the effect of arousing Japanese sentiment also, and of greatly enhancing the difficulties that face the Court of Appeal. We ourselves go a great deal further than Judge Sato goes. We affirm, with absolute conviction, that the articles and notes appearing, almost without cessation, in the columns of certain foreign local journals, are responsible for much of the racial feeling remaining in Japan. For the sake of catering to a spurious patriotism, and thus winning for themselves a little ephemeral popularity, these journals do not hesitate to appeal to passion and prejudice in case after case. They create, or, at any rate, strengthen the feeling by which they accuse the Japanese of being swayed, and they are themselves the most flagrant victims of the bias which they read into all the acts of others. Happily they do not represent the real mood of the foreign community, and the mischievous part they have acted will be appreciated sooner or later.

Judge Sato then passes to criticise certain points in the verdict of the Court, and here again we are in entire agreement with him, as, we venture to think, all carefully reflecting persons must be. In the first place, he traverses the Court's view that special credence attached to the evidence of the quartermaster Toyomatsu, because of the entire concordance between his original depositions, his statements before the preliminary court, and his testimony in the District Court. Such concordance, Judge Sato says, is commonly observable in the assertions of a complainant, and no importance should attach to it as a proof of veracity. In the second place, the supposed difficulty which the Court found in imagining that, when two men stand facing each other, one can strike the other with his right hand on the right ear, is quite imaginary. Such a feat presents no real difficulty. In the third place, the Court drew a particular inference from the severe nature of the injury received by Toyomatsu. It inferred that a blow of such weight could not have been delivered with the fist had not its recipient been off his guard and at the mercy of his assailant. In other words, on the severity of the blow the Court based a deduction that it must have been struck before the struggle began: that is to say, that Kent was the first to resort to violence. In all these points Judge Sato dissents from the verdict. He observes that Judge Fujisei would not have been the presiding judge had not Judge Watanabe happened to be absent, and he thinks that the great domestic affliction and anxiety from which the assistant-judge, Mr. Morii, was suffering, may have interfered with his perspicacity. Whatever the explanation may be, the plain fact is that Judge Sato dissents from the finding.

We thank Judge Sato for his courageous outspokenness and we sincerely trust that it may not prove injurious to himself. But there is no denying that the course he has adopted is very unusual, and that it will certainly be condemned by sticklers for official etiquette.

BUDDHISM.

The lamp of public observation has been turned strongly on Buddhism in consequence of the agitation caused by the Religions Bill, and it seems as though one result would be to bring the ancient faith into considerable discredit. The great Shin Sect, which has its headquarters in the splendid Hongwan temples of Kyoto, comes worst out of the scrutiny. Shinran, the founder of the Sect, took for the fundamental principle of his teaching the impossibility of securing a title to future happiness by self-help. Salvation by faith, not by works, was his motto, and he reduced his doctrine to the pithy formula *ichinen Mida-Butsu soku-metsu sraku*, which implies that a single fervent thought suffices to save the soul. A logical consequence of such a belief was that the flesh need not be mortified: a preacher of the *sutras* need not practise celibacy or abstain from meat. Shinran's teachings show that in framing this rule of liberty he looked far beyond the mere question of self-indulgence. He saw the truth equally appreciated by the founders of Protestantism—that compulsory ostracism from the joys of conjugality and parentage shuts a man's heart against the access of many sympathies without which his moral nature is necessarily defective. But there was something wanting in Shinran's system. It lacked some sanctions or vetoes which would have secured its liberty against degenerating into licence. The same principles of freedom have been practised by Christian ministers consistently with absolute purity of life and rectitude of morals, whereas the prelates of the Shin Sect often lead an existence flagrantly disgraceful. The highest office in the Sect, the office of *Hossu*, is hereditary in the Otani family. Only an Otani can fill it. That fact alone is sufficient to condemn the system. But if even a small fraction of the rumours constantly circulated be true, there are many other facts, unconnected with the abuse of hereditary succession, which render it almost a burlesque that a great body of so-called religionists should be pastored by men such as those that control the spiritual affairs of the Shin Sect. One is reminded of the Chinese official method of collecting funds when one reads of the Shin organization. The yearly allowance of the *Hossu* resembles the grant for the Privy Purse. Its amount can not be questioned nor can the manner of its expenditure be queried when the budget goes before the council for debate. Then, when the budget has been passed, its incidence is determined. Each of the main temples has to provide so much, and they in turn distribute the task among the chief branches, which subdivide it again among the smallest parishes, the amount growing with each process of division, for the priests of every temple engaged in the business of raising funds from the parishioners seize the opportunity to replenish their own coffers. There is this to be said, however, in favour of the Shin priests. No month is allowed to pass without some three or four sermons being delivered at each temple, and the eloquence shown by the preachers does not fail to attract large audiences. Undoubtedly great good is done by these homilies, though even here abuses creep in. In Echigo, for example, the sermons are employed as a means of raising money, and the seats in the temples have labels

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distinguishing them according to the amounts paid by their occupants. One of the worst features of all is that the position of *Renji kaku* is procurable by money. The holder of this title is regarded as a brother of the *Hossu*, and many of the privileges and prerogatives of the latter are duplicated in his case. He presides over one of the principal temples, enjoys a splendid income, and wields great power. Of course the position is not reached without regular passage through many minor grades, but people say that it can not be reached at all without the payment of a large sum to the *Hossu*. The *Shin* Sect may be misrepresented by rumour, but it certainly does not enjoy an enviable reputation, and it is the chief Buddhist Sect in Japan.

NEW-YEAR ISSUES OF LEADING JOURNALS.

The leading Tokyo journals now compete very keenly in the matter of New Year issues. Here is a list of the number of pages contained in the New Year's issue of each of the great newspapers, as well as the number of pages devoted to advertisements:—

	Total Pages.	Advertisement Pages.
Jiji Shimpo	64	25½
Kokumin Shimbun ..	56	18
Nichi Nichi Shimbun	48	14
Nippon	24	11½
Shogyo Shimpo	20	13
Asahi Shimbun	20	10
Yamato Shimbun.....	16	10
Chuo Shimbun.....	16	10½

All these journals distribute pictures of more or less artistic merit—reproductions of celebrated masterpieces, *genre* paintings or comic sketches,—and it must be confessed that the energy and enterprise displayed in compiling and publishing these big illustrated numbers speak volumes for the progress of Japanese journalism.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* has a special reason for the great effort it makes: it has reached its ten thousandth number. The fact is reflected in the English page of its publication as well as in the Japanese section. In the former we find congratulatory letters from Their Excellencies Sir E. Satow and Mr. A. E. Buck, from Captain Brinkley, the Rev. D. C. Greene, and Mr. Zumoto, and special articles from Mr. Stillman, Professor Foxwell, Dr. Clay MacCauley, Professor E. F. Fennellosa, the Rev. A. E. Webb, and Mr. E. W. Clement. The *Kokumin* says that "to reach the highest standard of newspaper ethics and to become a strong moral force in Japan is indeed what we aspire to attain to the best of our ability," and we wish to congratulate our contemporary on the success that has attended its efforts.

A "FIN DE SIÈCLE" NEW YEAR'S CARD.

This is genuine:—

SIR,—It is to be, time is an allow, already had gone nineteen century, and come twenty century. I think so that will you welcome happy new a year. Excuse me; for past of communication, and entreating acquaintance better than before year.

Yours truly, ———.

LAND TENURE.

We observe that the Mascarenhas case is again adduced by the *Kobe Chronicle* in support of its repeated assertion that no form of land tenure, short of actual ownership, can be secure in Japan for more than a very brief term. A strong disposition is now observable on our contemporary's part to evade the real issue by wandering off into collateral considerations. But nothing can change the original fact. What the *Kobe Chronicle* maintained persistently in article after article was that a superficies could not be obtained for such a term as would meet the requirements of persons desiring to build factories or use land for general business purposes. But now come the troublesome incidents that one superficies has been obtained for 500 years and another for 999 years, and that both have been duly registered. Under these circumstances, surely the straightforward course for a journal desiring to enlighten the public, and not confuse it, would be to confess frankly that its former contention was an error, and to acknowledge the undeniable evidence of accomplished facts. Instead of taking that course, the *Kobe Chronicle* falls back upon the Masarenhas case. The Mascarenhas case was based upon a *lease for an indefinite period*, whereas the point now under discussion is a *superficies for a fixed period*. According to law, a lease for an indefinite period, or a superficies for an indefinite period, can be dealt with by the Law Courts in the sense of imposing restrictions. According to law, a lease for a definite period, or a superficies for a definite period, can not be touched by the Law Courts until the expiration of that period. The proposition affirmed by the *Kobe Chronicle* and others was uniquely this, that the period of a superficies could not be fixed for more than a very brief term of years. They are now confronted by the fact that it can be fixed, and has been fixed, for 500 years or 999 years. Yet, rather than confess that it was mistaken and that it grieviously misled its readers, the *Kobe Chronicle* tries to escape under a mist of verbiage about a lease for an indefinite period! It would even have its readers interpret it as merely contending that "a superficies in Japan can not be regarded as equivalent to land ownership." No sane person has ever pretended that it could be so regarded.

We desire to add here a strong protest against disingenuous attempts to misrepresent the attitude of persons who, like ourselves, desire to interpret the law correctly. Our opponents seek to thrust us into the position of pleading that a superficies is an entirely satisfactory substitute for ownership, and that the law is already liberal enough. That is most unjust. Long before any of these gentlemen penned a sentence on the subject, we had published articles strongly condemning the illiberality and unwisdom of withholding from foreigners the privilege of land-ownership. Superficies is very good so far as it goes, but it is by no means as good as ownership, and we have never asserted any such claim on its behalf. Apparently the *Kobe Chronicle* thinks that if the public understood the value of superficies they would rest content with what they have got, and refrain from seeking to get any more. But it ought also to occur to our contemporary that if what the Japanese have already conceded is seen to be wilfully underrated, they may hesitate to make further concessions. The wisest plan, it seems to us, is to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of every kind. Our confidence is absolute that the Japanese will soon discover the mistake of withholding land-owning and mining privileges from foreigners, but we know enough about the people of this country to be quite sure that to persistently under-estimate what they have already done is not the way to lead them to do more.

JAPANESE POLITICS.

The day is past when great interest attached to changes of Cabinet in Japan. So long as the struggle between imperialism and party seemed not unlikely to be attended by complications more or less grave, the foreign public watched it with much curiosity. But the grounds for uneasiness have disappeared. Evidently there is to be nothing violent or radical about the transition. Officialdom will quietly absorb such party elements as are needed to establish its own stability and to satisfy the nation's ideas of political progress. It is possible that we may now be on the eve of a change of ministry but if so, the work of re-organization will be directed by influences which have established their right to be trusted. We do not speak of a change because we have any direct knowledge that anything of the kind is imminent, but merely because we find repeated allusions to it in the columns of our Tokyo contemporaries, allusions so persistent that they indicate, at all events, a tolerably wide spread feeling in favour of change. Even the *Jiji Shimpo* echoes the note. It hints that Marquis Yamagata has grown weary of governing, that, in proportion as he values his post less highly, his disposition to placate the Liberals grows colder, so that they, on their side, are beginning to show symptoms of discontent. We had hoped that the present Ministry would last long enough to break the very ephemeral record of Cabinets in Japan, and we still entertain the hope. But rumour points in a different direction.

Some of the purveyors of news for the public insist that there is a difference of opinion between the parliamentary and the non-parliamentary members of the Liberal Party with reference to the advisability of insisting on an immediate share in the administrative power. The parliamentary members advocate delay, the other side insist on taking steps at once. It is thought, however, that the friction on this account will not become serious until after the Diet has passed the Religious Bill and the Bill for the State purchase of private railways.

Our readers are probably quite weary of these rumours. They seem to be manufactured, as a rule, out of the flimsiest materials—the gossip of a house of assignation or the imagination of an ambitious reporter.

One of the most remarkable statements we have recently seen in print—remarkable from the point of view of courageous invention—appears in the columns of the *Nippon*. We need scarcely say that foreign policy is the basis of the story. It represents Marquis Ito as strongly condemning the policy of Viscount Aoki

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in Korea; as declaring that such a policy is eminently calculated to antagonize Russia; as opposing even the grant of a subsidy to the projectors of the Soul-Fusan Railway; and as saying that if there is no one to conduct the foreign affairs of the country more intelligently than the present Minister, he, the Marquis may have to step into the breach. This tale is supplemented by an account about strained relations between the Minister of the Navy and the Russian Legation, and about repeated failures on the part of the Russian Legation's Secretary to obtain access to Admiral Yamamoto although even the dignity of diplomatic costume was enlisted in the cause. We apprehend that even the credulity of a street *gamin* would be overtaxed by such a "yarn" as the above. Has the *Nippon* proposed to itself the task of writing down to a rabble audience?

JUDICIAL PROCEDURE IN JAPAN.

We learn from Tokyo journals that on the 15th of December the persons in the Kaji-bashi House of Detention—that is to say, the persons awaiting trial—were as follows:—

PERSONS AWAITING TRIAL AND PERIODS OF WAITING.

Court of First Instance.

	Persons.
Waiting for over 6 months.....	28
Waiting for over 3 months.....	55

Appeal Courts.

Waiting for 2 years or upwards	2
Waiting for 1 year or upwards	23
Waiting for 6 months or upwards ...	49
Waiting for 3 months or upwards.....	89

Court of Cassation.

Waiting for 1 year or upwards	3
Waiting for 6 months or upwards.....	18
Waiting for 3 months or upwards.....	25

This is said to be a very marked improvement on the state of affairs at the corresponding period in 1888.

RICE CAKE AND BIRD LIME.

There was once an ardent student of Chinese in Her Britannic Majesty's Legation in Peking. He wanted to get some coal, a cartload, and he gave to his servant an order in that sense, as he supposed. The commission remaining, unexecuted, was repeated impatiently after an interval of days. The servant excused the delay on the ground "b'long no makee easy pidgin," and finally produced a mule's load of eels! We are reminded of the incident by an amusing story that two students of Japanese tell in the columns of a local contemporary. They went seeking for rice dumplings and they obtained bird-lime. Both words take the form of *mochi* in *romaji*, but there is a marked difference in sound, bird-lime being pronounced *motchi*, and rice-cake *mochi*.

THE PEST.

The Pest has attacked two physicians in Osaka, and has killed one of them. It has also attacked the wife of the latter. Both of these medical men attended Adachi Rihei, who was among the early victims of the malady.

The Tokyo City Assembly has passed the proposal that five *sen* each should be paid for rats delivered at the police stations throughout the capital. It is expected that a week will be required to complete the organization for carrying out this measure, so that the police will not be ready to discharge their new function before the 7th or 8th instant. Rats dead or alive, large or small, is the extensive order of the day, and it is conjectured that the rustics in the vicinity of the city will find it very profitable to engage in a crusade of extermination. Even the breeding of rats will be undertaken, some folks predict. A baby rat may be bought at present in Tokyo for 7 *rin*, so that there is a margin of six hundred per cent. profit; but doubtless the market will soon adjust itself to the new conditions.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Yokohama is to have a clearing house at last, it seems. Foreign and Japanese bankers are said to have held a meeting and arranged the preliminaries. Tokyo and Osaka have had clearing houses for some years, and Yokohama is quite sufficiently important to be similarly equipped.

The Korean Government is manfully clearing off its indebtedness to Japan. The sum originally borrowed was three million *yen*. Of that amount 2¾ millions have been returned. The last quarter of a million, however, seems to be causing some difficulty. A Tokyo contemporary says that application has been made by the Söul Authorities for a period of grace until June next.

On the 30th ultimo the Bank of Japan had issued notes to the extent of 14 million *yen* above the legal limit, and the figure was expected to reach 16 millions on the 31st. In that amount was included 4 millions which had been held in deposit for the Government, but which was withdrawn at the close of the year to meet various calls. It does not appear to us that, considering the Japanese custom of settling all accounts and discharging all liabilities at the end of the year, there is anything startling in these figures.

There is talk of a large company being organized by French capitalists and Japanese for the purpose of providing a better supply of electric light for Tokyo. The capital is stated to be five million *yen*. If the project is realized, the Tokyo Electric Light Company will have to face severe competition. The service of light in Tokyo has considerably improved of late. People are no longer exposed to the once frequent accident of finding their houses plunged in darkness at a critical moment. But the quality of the light leaves much to be desired. We presume that the idea of the new company is to utilize water-power.

Some of the Tokyo journals are quite determined to convince themselves and their readers that serious complications threaten between Japan and Russia in Korea. The *Hochi* double leads an announcement that Mr. Hayashi has brought home from Söul a problem of the greatest gravity; that Marquis Ito has been consulted about it, and that it demands and is receiving very careful consideration. The *Jiji Shimpo*, without descending to particulars, writes very strongly about the necessity of having a fixed policy in the peninsular Empire, and one can easily read between the lines of its article that it is not at all content with the present state of affairs. It may be presumed that these journals detect some smouldering embers of fire since they observe so much smoke, but their extreme vagueness does not encourage credence.

A French gentleman, whose name we can not identify in its transliterated form, writes to the *Hochi Shimbun* in the sense that England is trying to egg on Japan to fight with Russia, believing that the former is strong enough to make head against the latter and hoping to derive profit for herself from the results of the struggle without expending any blood or treasure on her own account, and without suffering Japan to pick up any plums. That view is very hackneyed. We observe that the *Hochi* attaches very little importance to it. Neither does the Frenchman who propounds it, we imagine, but the thoroughly undiscerning section of the public constitutes an audience worth addressing under some circumstances.

There is material for a journalistic squabble in Tokyo. The *Mainichi Shimbun* supplies it. The Judicial Department has decided, it would seem, to advertise the names of registering Japanese firms in three journals only, the *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, and the *Shogyo Shimpo*. Nothing is paid for these advertisements, as we understand, but the papers publishing them are naturally selected by banks and business institutions generally for the insertion of advertisements and notices. The *Mainichi Shimbun* writes in strong terms, and hints that improper means have been employed by the favoured journals. We must say that our contemporary's article strikes us as rather an unworthy production. It seems to be informed with a spirit of jealousy which warps the writer's vision and betrays him into some unwarrantable assertions.

COUNT INOUYE ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

Count Inouye recently delivered a speech at the Mitsui Club with reference to the present financial condition of Japan. The gist of his remarks we condense:—Among other things I should like to make a few remarks on the foreign trade of this country. The excess in imports for last year alone amounted, as you may be aware, to over 110 millions of *yen*, the result being a corresponding exodus of specie to foreign countries. The number of years in which Japan would be able to restore the specie so absorbed, is difficult to predict. Some of you may probably entertain the idea that owing to the operation of the Revised Treaties the exports will exceed imports. But any such notion is erroneous. Commercial statistics up to November show that while imports aggregated 194 760,000 *yen*, against exports totalling 196,950,000 *yen*; the aggregate totals up to the first half of December stand at 203,460,000 and 206 800 000 respectively, a balance of 3 340,000 in favour of imports. Even supposing that perfect equality of trade had been attained this year, it would still be my conviction that domestic commodities for export had in no way increased. In fact, the present advantage experienced in trade is simply due to the export of silk a little earlier than usual and a certain appreciation in its value. Whether that staple will maintain recent quotations next year is very doubtful. Looking at the imports for the 31st year, I find that the figure for food stuffs, which form the most important articles of consumption, is steadily and considerably increasing, having now reached 4,800 000 *yen*. Of this amount eggs accounted for 490 000 *yen*, and salted fish for 600 000 *yen*, whereas in the 26th year of *Meiji* the figures did not exceed 40,000 *yen* approximately. This class of imports continues to increase yearly. As to flour the imports have

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already reached 2 million *yen*, while cheese, butter, and condensed milk are also among commodities the import of which is rapidly increasing. Flour, in the 26th year of Meiji, totalled only 300,000 *yen*, but by the 31st year the figure had increased to no less than 2 millions. of *yen*; the figure for salt for the former period stood at 3,000 *yen*, but by the latter period had swollen to 133,000. The native salt industry can scarcely be expected to survive for any length of time if unprotected, but the prevention of the import of foreign salt is a question beset with difficulties. As to printing paper the amount of import is also steadily increasing. In 1898 the figure stood at 2,280,000 *yen*. Various paper manufactories have been established in Japan, the total output for the year I have just mentioned being 5,700,000 *yen* in value, but they were not able to meet the demand to any considerable extent. It is apparent that if things are left to themselves the import of even articles of daily consumption will steadily increase, with the result of a corresponding outflow of gold. Now, there are no good gold mines in Japan, and, the condition of the country being such as I have indicated in ordinary years, then, if a failure of crop occurs once in five or seven years, what sort of measures can be adopted to meet the contingency? You know of course that owing to the failure of crops in 1897, the import of yarns and rice for that year and the next increased to 69 million *yen* in value. Since the lower classes have suddenly raised their standard of living it is quite reasonable to suppose that the failure of crops in future will have the effect of augmenting the amount of imports to a very serious extent.

Domestic Industry.

Industry must be promoted, and any step for that development is worthy of hearty encouragement. But one thing is necessary, and that is that it must be developed systematically. With regard to railways I may say that according to my own investigations of late years even the lines presenting the fewest difficulties in construction have necessitated the use of imported materials to the extent of 20 per cent. Taking an average of lines, 35 to 40 per cent. would be nearer the mark. Taking, then, the average at 35 per cent., it follows that no railway can be completed in Japan without much specie being taken abroad. How many years will suffice to bring it back to the country? Ten or twenty years will hardly be long enough. In the case of spinning companies, from 70 to 80 per cent. of the materials are brought from abroad. The ratio, at first sight, appears extraordinary, but the money thus spent returns to Japan much more quickly than in the other case. It was on that account that I endeavoured last year to save the spinning establishments from ruin—because the future interests of the economic community were largely bound up in their success. These establishments have led to a great reduction in the import of yarns. In 1889, the import of yarns aggregated 120 to 130 millions of *yen*, but the figure had decreased in 1893 to 7,200,000 *yen*, and by 1898 to 8½ millions. We first obtained coarse yarns from India and fine from England. At present the former are not imported at all, the latter alone being brought into the market, and as factories are now in existence in Osaka and Tokyo for the manufacture of the so-called *gasu-ito* a decrease in that item is to be contemplated. In short, the development of the spinning industry has stopped the exodus of gold to a certain extent, and has indeed helped to bring specie into the country from China. Some of the manufacturers in Osaka informed me, three months ago, that the export of cotton yarns from that city up to September last did not fall short of 21 million *yen* in value, and that the chief market for them was China. I have not yet ascertained the balance that may be left after subtracting the cost of raw cotton, freight, and charges for marine insurance. I want to draw your notice to the gradual increase in the number of blanket and cloth manufactories, which have tended to decrease the imports in these lines and so to reduce the outflow of specie. The encouragement of manufactures which supply substitutes for imported articles is absolutely indispensable.

A Scheme to Prevent the Exodus of Specie.

Japan must devise some scheme that will make her industrially and economically self-supporting. Unless that is done the outflow of gold will remain permanent The Bank of Japan or the Specie Bank, or the Legislature itself, may take steps to palliate the present evil, but the effect of such steps will be only temporary. Investigations I have made lead me to the conclusion that the manufactures which may be profitably undertaken by Japanese amount in value to 51 million *yen* approximately. But how are they to be organised? The rates of interest are high, and there is a difficulty in obtaining capital. Some industries can hardly be carried on at a profit except on a small scale, or by the amalgamation of capital, and others, established on a great scale, suffer from undue foreign competition. According to the present arrangements the Government, in the case of purchases of blankets, cloth, and other commodities advertises for competitive tenders as prescribed by the Law of Accounts. So-called competitive tenders outwardly look fair and just, but are really full of abuses. When domestic manufactures are concerned things may be arranged smoothly, but when articles that require special processes of manufacture are wanted, it may be advisable that contractors should be able to obtain from Government special terms to prolong contracts for a period, say, of five or ten years. Such a concession would indirectly be the means of promoting industry. Without a boon of this kind no industry can possibly make progress. Again, the Law of Accounts to which I have alluded may have been suitable to the time at which it was framed, but subsequent changes have necessitated some alterations. Considered as a whole, in its present form, it has a tendency to encourage the importation of supplies from abroad. Fifty millions of *yen* a year can be secured to native enterprise. Even half the amount will do for the present to retard the exodus of gold. This consideration induces me to urge the necessity of a systematic development of industry. It is advisable to suspend all railway enterprises for two or three years hence, inasmuch as the Government, having established an Iron Foundry in Wakamatsu with an outlay of 14 million *yen* in specie (in addition to expenses incurred in harbour-building) will probably be in a position to supply rails by the end of the year. The inconvenience resulting from delaying certain railway enterprises for a few years, will not, I am confident, be so great as to counterbalance the advantage of using the Iron Foundry's rails. It is necessary to stop the spirit of speculation in railways and such enterprises, and nothing will achieve this but an attitude of moderation on the part of capitalists and enterprising men; even laws and ordinances would be comparatively ineffectual. I therefore earnestly entreat you, gentlemen, to pursue the course I have just laid down. The aggregate total of exports and imports from the 1st to the 31st year of *Meiji* shows an excess of 225,960,000 *yen* in favour of the latter. To that amount therefore specie must have gone abroad. Against this remark some may point to the indemnity of over 350 millions from China and to other sums making a total of 365,000,000 *yen* approximately. Out of this amount appropriations were made for the extension of the Navy and Army, and for the establishment of an Iron Foundry, while considerable amounts were included in Special Accounts, and also in general accounts for the 30th year of *Meiji* as well as in the grants to the Imperial Household. A portion was also set apart as a capital fund for education, a natural calamities reserve, and a fund for war vessels and torpedoes, while again other sums were carried to the general account for the 31st year of *Meiji*, the remainder being reserved for liquidation of industrial liabilities.

(To be continued.)

MR. KANEKO ON SERICULTURE.

The development of commerce and industry in America is indeed remarkable, says Mr. Kaneko. That country is destined to be the emporium of the world. The steady organization of Trusts has stimulated the railway, mining, and other enterprises to such an extent as to paralyse competition on the part of other nations. Japan indeed had an excess of 4 million *yen* in exports to America last year, but subsequently the balance of trade was reversed, imports being in excess. The demand, though increasing, for Japanese commodities in the United States can hardly lead to a great increase in the exports from this country, except in the case of silk, which alone gives hope for the future. Having made investigations on the subject, I think it deplorable that mulberry plantations have been turned into wheat farms through the mere apprehension of bad trade. Some are inclined to believe that the failure of sericultural industry in Japan is due to the bad quality of silkworm eggs, and that therefore the importation of French or Italian eggs is desirable. Others are of opinion that the mulberries ought to be stunted instead of being suffered to grow naturally, that eggs should be restricted to two classes only, and that Government should be urged to undertake a monopoly of eggs. I entertained all these views before I proceeded to America last summer, and at one time caused experts, as well as the Silk Institute at Nishigahara, to investigate the advantages and disadvantages resulting from the importation of foreign eggs. I also called their attention to the improvement of fertilizers. Unfortunately, however, I had to retire from the Cabinet before the results of their investigation were known to me. When I went to America in the summer I had the opportunity of visiting Butterson's factory, where I inspected all the different processes for the manufacture of silk and for dyeing and weaving. This entirely changed my opinion. In the first place I may mention that the French or Italian silk, when subjected to the process of refinement, is of an uniform quality of 13 to 15 deniers, while Japanese silk varies from 11 to 17 deniers and presents a serious lack of uniformity. This is an evidence of bad quality. When such silk is used in weaving it makes the surface of the stuff rough. The inferiority of Japanese silk may lie to some extent in the bad quality of eggs from which it is produced, but it must be admitted that imperfection in the process of manufacture is also a chief factor. The native silk is in every respect inferior to French or Italian products. But it is curious to observe that while the products of these countries show an average loss of 25 per cent. in weight after refinement, the reduction in the case of Japanese silk does not exceed 17 per cent. In other words, the loss in the former case is 25 catties per picul, while in the latter it is only 17 catties, the Japanese therefore having an advantage of 8 catties as compared with the French or Italian article. Such being the case, if the Japanese silk can be made so as to secure a uniformity of from 12 to 16 deniers it will find a ready market in Butterson's factory at all times. The advantage of 8 catties can not be ignored by foreign manufacturers. The defect of Japanese silk is chiefly, as I have remarked, its irregularity, which entails no small trouble in refinement or weaving. When it is in the loom uneven parts are always encountered, necessitating cutting in several portions. Such trouble is never met with in the case of French and Italian silk. Even *hakutae* or *kai* silk, when wound, requires similar labour, and two or three females are always employed in removing circular knots in the stuff. Nevertheless, despite the trouble thus entailed by Japanese silk, foreign manufacturers are still in a position to secure a margin of profit, and if marked improvements were made at home so as to guarantee its uniformity the silk might be exported with greater facility and at a larger profit.

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IN WHITE MAN'S ASIA.

(WRITTEN BY R. B. PEERY, PH.D., FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

The Far Eastern Question is an all-important one in international politics. A large part of that ever narrowing portion of the world not yet appropriated by the stronger Powers seems at the point of dismemberment, and the greedy nations are watching each other with jealous eye, fearful lest some one should get more than his share. Russia is the most prominent figure in this scramble for aggrandisement; she has taken time by the forelock, and secured very signal advantages ere the other Powers have realized her purpose. By natural position and fixed resolve she is destined to play a paramount part in the settlement of this vexed Eastern Question, and, perhaps, ultimately to dominate this corner of the earth. This fact lends great interest to the position and polity of Russia in the East just now, and all eyes are turned towards her. Sharing this general interest in things Russian, and desiring to study the subject on the ground, I was led to make a vi it to the seat of Russian power in Eastern Asia in the summer of 1898.

Arming myself with a general passport, properly endorsed by the Russian consul at Nagasaki, I embarked with some friends on one of the Yusen Kaisha's steamers, and after calling at the Korean ports of Fusan and Gensan, reached Eastern Russia in five days.

We had our first view of Vladivostock early on a foggy morning in July. The harbour presented a picturesque appearance, surrounded by beautiful green hills which were dotted with the white tents of camping soldiers. The good steamer glided gently up the bay of Peter the Great and stopped in the outer harbour, where a physician came aboard to inspect the passengers, and a policeman to examine their passports. These little formalities over, we entered the inner harbour—the entrance to which is very narrow; but, once inside, the harbour is large, deep, and well protected. A good view of the town could be had from the steamer's deck. It lay stretched out along the whole length of the bay, a distance of three or four miles, and extended back almost to the top of the low hills behind. Most of the buildings being large, substantial ones, in Western style, the general appearance was unlike that of any other town I have seen in the East.

Our party, consisting of two men and two women, went ashore at once, in Chinese boats not nearly so clean and nice as the Japanese *sampan*. A motley crowd of Koreans and Chinese was standing on the shore to receive us; and a lively scramble was immediately begun for our baggage, which ended by two Koreans forcibly taking possession of it and starting off ahead of us. We followed after, seeing nothing of custom house or officer, and soon we were in the middle of the town. Here the language difficulty began, and it was with us every hour of our stay in Siberia. Wishing to go to the Pacific Hotel, I enquired the way of several parties in English, French, and German, but they could not understand one word. How glad I was to see a Japanese gentleman coming down the street; and when I asked him the way in his own tongue he very kindly pointed it out to me. When we arrived at the hotel the difficulty began again. It seemed impossible to make the landlord understand that we wanted rooms: all the clerks were called out and the whole house was in an uproar, but none of them could understand our signs or guess at what we wanted. Finally I spied a little Japanese chambermaid far down a corridor, and calling her to our assistance the difficulty soon resolved itself, and we were settled in tolerable rooms.

This hotel is perhaps the best in this part of Russia, but it is poor enough. To get to our rooms we had to pass through a long dark corridor, by the kitchen and in full sight of the cooking; and then down a muddy flight of stone steps. The rooms were small and scantily furnished. The beds were narrow and hard; there were no carpets, but one bright red rug that should have been on the floor, was tacked to the wall behind each cot. There were electric bells, but no electric lights. They did not even use oil to any extent; the whole establishment was lighted by candles, and we had to buy those used in our rooms at fifteen *sen* each. It is customary in Russia to eat only two meals per day, and at our hotel breakfast was served from 10 a m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 2 to 8 p.m. Most people take a cup of hot coffee or tea early in the morning in place of breakfast, and I noticed that it was always served in glasses. The cooking was very bad. Everything was swimming in grease, and no one but a born Russian could digest it. Although it is commonly reported that prices are very high in these parts, we found them just about as they are in the hotels of America. One can live in good style for three dollars per day. Everything is on the "European Plan," and expenses can be regulated to suit the purse.

In the afternoon I got into a carriage and took a drive over the city. These carriages resemble the *droska* of St. Petersburg, and are called by the outlandish name of *isvaschick*. They are low cabs, with seating capacity for two or three persons, drawn by two, and sometimes three, big strong horses. The central horse is in shafts, and has a high wooden bow over his collar; the others are attached to the outside, and made to turn their heads outward as they run, thus covering as much of the street as possible. The drivers are coarse looking men with bushy beards, long blouses, and large red sleeves. I was informed that many of them are ex convicts. Driving at a rapid rate, they carry one quickly all around the city; and it is a pleasure to ride in these vehicles after having known nothing but *jinrikishas* for years. The streets are broad and bad. Not being paved, they are muddy in wet weather, and dusty in dry. The sidewalks are made of heavy boards.

I was agreeably surprised both as to the extent of the town and quality of the buildings. Vladivostock is a large place, including its environs containing perhaps fifty thousand people. The general appearance is that of a prosperous young city in the Western part of the United States. Most of the buildings are of brick and stone, and many of them are quite handsome. The railway station, Admiralty buildings, public offices, and all Government buildings are heavy and massive; and some of the business houses would not look bad in New York. This is not a temporary place; the buildings are being put up to stay. A great many houses are under construction now, and I did not see one small one being built. Vladivostock is building as though secure of its future; for, although the turning aside of some traffic through Manchuria to Port Arthur will doubtless be felt, the bulk of the trade will come here, and besides, there is a magnificent territory behind quite sufficient to support a large city. The harbour is also larger and better than that at Port Arthur, and it seems certain that Vladivostock will continue to be, to the Russians at least, what its name signifies—the port of the East.

Although the residences are proportionally smaller and less assuming than the business, there are some very pretty homes. Even the small, humble ones show a great deal of taste; there are lace curtains in front of the windows, and lovely geraniums and fuchsias blooming behind them. Occasionally one sees an old log hut, a reminder of pioneer days. There is a beautiful pavilion marking the spot where the present Czar landed when he visited the port, and there is also a very pretty statue to the discover of the harbour. A large Greek Church is one of the handsomest buildings in the town, and there is a prominent Lutheran Church also. It was surprising to learn that the latter is supported by the Government, just as the national church is. Is Russia more liberal in religious matters in the Far East than in Europe?

One of the things that have impressed me most strongly here is the fact that I am again in the white man's country. Having lived among the Japanese and Chinese for some years, and being accustomed to seeing them in authority everywhere I had almost come to think that the whole East belongs to the yellow man, but here the white man is again in evidence. The power and authority are entirely in his hands, and his is the predominant race. This is a white man's city; the streets, the stores, the residences, the conveyances, show the hand of the white man. Even the carriage drivers, the waiters in the hotels, the mail boys, and the beggars have white faces. One feels more comfortable and at home among such people—even if their language and customs are different.

Most of the Russians here are officials; large, manly men in uniform and great gray overcoats, although it is mid-summer. Many Germans and Danes are here too, but Englishmen and Americans are scarce. The ladies surprised me more than anything else. They were almost as pretty and well dressed as the ladies of New York or London. There were many neat gowns and smart costumes that must have come all the way from Paris on a late steamer. I was glad to note that the ladies are held in high esteem, and the bearing of the men towards them is as chivalrous and gallant as we find in Anglo-Saxon lands.

I have found all these white people exceedingly kind and courteous, and apparently glad to help a stranger when they can. Not only are their bodies large; they have big hearts, too. They are a very social people, warm and cordial in their treatment of each other. I never saw so much hand-shaking anywhere else. When the clerks come to the stores and offices in the morning each one goes around and shakes hands with all the others; in the hotels and on the steamers every man went around in the morning and shook hands with all his acquaintances; and even the city governor, when he came down to his office, shook hands with all his subordinates. It looked strange to see big bearded men kiss each other good-bye, but to these Russians it is the conventional thing. The men are kissed on the lips or cheek, but the ladies only on the hand.

Although the whites are much in evidence here, the yellow races are not wanting. There are thousands of Chinese, a good many Koreans, and some Japanese. The Koreans are the coolies; the Chinese the builders, contractors, and shopmen; and the Japanese are merchants and tailors. Nearly all important work is done by the Chinese, and they already have a monopoly in many kinds of trade. They are the most thrifty people in the world. A Chinaman comes here, spreads a piece of matting over some poles for a shelter, and opens a fruit stand on the street corner. You come back in two or three years, and he will have a flourishing store there. Not only in the city, but throughout the whole country north all the work is being done by the Chinese. This end of the great Siberian Railway was built by them, and the section gangs who keep it in order to-day are Chinamen.

The climate of Vladivostock was delightful when I was there, but is very cold in winter; For almost six months the harbour is frozen over, and the country is deeply covered with snow. There is an ice crusher there that cuts a narrow passage for steamers, but traffic is much hindered by ice in spite of this. Even at this season the men wear their overcoats and the ladies cloaks; and one can't help wondering what they put on when winter comes. The houses are all built to protect against extreme cold; the walls are very thick and the windows are double. There is a large hermetical oven in each room, which reaches almost to the ceiling; flues are arranged through all the inner walls to keep the passageways warm. I believe damp rainy weather is expected at this season; but during my sojourn there it was delightful.

Vladivostock is preeminently a military town There are more soldiers in this city than there were in the whole United States before the outbreak of the American-Spanish war. Nearly every man one meets is either a private or an officer of the army. Some of the most

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prominent buildings to be seen are barracks, located just on the outskirts of the city. At this season the soldiers leave the barracks and go into camp, and all the hills and plains in the suburbs are covered with their white tents. The army largely supports the town. The private soldiers are strong and active, but do not appear very intelligent. Their food and clothing they receive from Government; but their pay in money is small.

The harbour and surrounding hills are well fortified, and the place can doubtless be made impregnable to an attacking army. Even the hills in the midst of the city have fortifications on them, and one is not permitted to climb them. I started up one of the smaller ones, but soon came to a large sign-board saying "Entrance is Prohibited," in Russian, French, German, and English. The Russians are nothing if not military. They are dreaming of world-wide empire. A state without a large standing army that lords it over the people seems an anachronism to them. I was speaking yesterday with a very intelligent Russian officer, who spoke English, French and German with great fluency, and in the course of the conversation he said:—

"There is one clause in the Constitution of the United States which always makes we laugh."

"What is it?" I asked.

"The statement that it is natural for all men to seek happiness, and that it is the business of government to attain it."

"But do you not consider government to be for the sake of the governed, and the welfare and happiness of the people a worthy end?"

"Certainly government is not for the sake of the people; and I do not consider happiness an end at all. We must make the people happy, else they will rebel, but this is only a means for furthering the interests of the state, while the true end of government is a great *nation*—Empire."

My view was evidently just as strange and ludicrous to him as his was immoral to me.

Although the military aspect gives an air of sternness and dignity to life here, there is a lighter social side as well. Various entertainments, operas, and theatricals are held daily and are well patronized. The most popular time for these entertainments is Sunday after noon, the people going to the church in the morning and to the theatre in the afternoon. There is also a very pretty park in the city where military band performs twice per week. I went there on Sunday afternoon, and saw a gay scene. Large, well-dressed men were escorting their wives and sweethearts, in silks and satins, along the beautiful shady avenues; and bright, happy children were playing under the trees, just as they do at home—a familiar sight in the West, but one that is rare in this corner of the world. The music was good. Some of the yellow races are permitted to enter this park.

After spending some days in Vladivostock, I set out on a journey to the Amoor River, by the great Siberian Railway. This road, of which the town is the eastern terminus, is far and away the greatest railway enterprise the world has yet seen. To build a road from St. Petersburg through Moscow, and then all the way across the forests and unexplored wilds of Siberia to the North Pacific might well have appalled any nation. But this big empire is not daunted by great undertakings. She began the work with unbounded courage, has prosecuted it with energy, and will bring it to successful completion in three years. More than two thousand miles have already been completed eastward from Moscow, and five hundred miles have been built westward from Vladivostock, About two thousand miles yet remain to be built, besides the southern branch to Port Arthur. The complete line will be 5,500 miles long, and the authorities say that the through journey to St. Petershurg will be made in twelve days. The time to Europe will not only be lessened by one half, but the cost will be proportionally decreased as well—so it is likely that there will be much travel over this road.

The road, like everthing else up here, seems strong and substantial, laid out and built for a foreseen future. The grade is good, but the road bed is not yet all that might be desired. The bridges are strong structures, built of stone and the road is broad gauge, and the carriages are the broadest and heaviest I have seen anywhere. Wood is used exclusively for fuel. Although new yet, travel by this road is fairly comfortable. There are three classes, and sleeping—and dining—cars attached to all through trains. But the facilities for observing the country are very poor, the windows being small and high up. The fare is just about what it is in America.

Our train left Vladivostock at four o'clock in the afternoon. For several miles we ran around the edge of the bay, past little farm houses and vegetable gardens, and then entered a beautiful green wood. After passing the first station we came to a broad level plain of many miles extent, and the large herds of fat cattle and horses roaming over it took me back in memory to my boyhood days, in a well-known grazing region of Virginia. There were several farm houses near the road; small, but clean and home-like, and there was an air of thrift and prosperity about everything. This plain is capable of supporting an immense colony, and I doubt not it will be peopled before many years have passed.

Just at sunset we ran into a pretty country station at the farther side of the plain, and the train stopped a few minutes while we bought fresh bread and milk from the barefoot peasant girls who were in waiting. Two young ladies passed by on horseback, going for their evening ride; a large drove of cows was coming in from the common pasture; goats and pigs were playing around in the yards; while an old grandmother sat knitting in an easy chair before her cottage door, and I thought, what a peaceful evening scene to be found in "the wilds of bleak Siberia"!

There was one unpleasant feature about this ride. A nice-looking Russian lady and a young man, evidently her son, came into the car and took a seat just opposite us; and in a little while they both began smoking cigarettes. That woman must have smoked a dozen before we reached our destination. Smoking cigarettes is a very common practice with Russian women, and I saw many of them after that puffing away with as much satisfaction as their husbands and brothers. Although we found the smoke disagreeable, the smokers were exceedingly kind. We could not talk with words, but we made them understand by signs where we were going, and the young man indicated that he was going there too, and would assist us to a hotel. This he not only did, but he came back the next day to see if we were getting along all right, and went with us to the train to see us safely off for Habarofsk.

The railway being new, it frequently gets out of order, and we passed hundreds of Chinamen along the way engaged in repairing it. Their dirty white tents can be seen all along the line. Russia has brought these men here to do her hard work because they are better workmen than Russian peasants, and cheaper; but she will find in a few years that these same men will have settled here and secured nearly all the trade of the country. Russia suspects this and has wisely provided that no land can be taken up along the railway by other than her own subjects; and they cannot transfer it to aliens.

At nine in the evening we reached Nikolskoe, where we had planned to spend a day. The town is one mile from the station, and there was a rough scramble for carriages. After twenty minutes rapid driving across a level plain we entered the town, and were put down at a small hotel kept by a German; but, the rooms there being all taken, we went to a Russian inn. In this place we secured one tolerable room for the ladies, and a corner of the billiard room for the men to sleep in. The whole of the next day was spent seeing the town and vicinity.

Nikolskoe is a very important town, having a population of about ten thousand. By the number of waggons that come in from the surrounding country I would infer that there is a considerable rural population. The town is spread out over a broad level, plain, with ample room between the houses, and the streets are very broad. There are a few good buildings, but the majority of them are small and shabby. Russian officers and soldiers are to be seen everywhere, and a good many peasants are strolling about the streets. I found one man who spoke English, but he himself wass a German. The vegetable and meat trade is exclusively in the hands of the Chinese, who are here in large numbers. In general, this town is very little different from a small town on the Western prairies, and if the Chinese were away, and the people spoke English, one could easily imagine one was not in Asia at all. This being a grazing section, we have had the best beef I have found anywhere on this line of railway. But the bread—the black bread of Siberia—exceeds anything of the kind I ever saw. It is black, and hard, and sour; and is made in great big loaves and kept for months. A Western lady who came here last year took a big loaf of it back with her as a curiosity, and I doubt not it will ornament her parlour and amuse her visitors for many years. It is not so amusing when one has to eat it.

The Manchurian railway leaves the Siberian line at Nikolskoe, and runs directly across Northern Manchuria to Lake Baikal. This road takes the place of the one originally contemplated through Russian territory along the Amoor River, as the latter was found very difficult and expensive to build. The southern route is in every way preferable, now that Manchuria has become to all intents and purposes a Russian province. The road from Port Arthur will connect with this at Hulan-chen, in Central Manchuria. Large construction corps are busily engaged on this road at present, and it will be completed soon.

After spending a pleasant day in this frontier town we took the evening train for Habarofsk, on the Amoor. This part of the line has just recently been opened to traffic, and has been little written about as yet. We ran through a pretty section of country, across level plains, and over rolling prairies. The land lies low, and at certain seasons much of it is covered with water. The level nature of the country was a great surprise to me. I expected it to be exceedingly rough and mountainous, but there are hardly any hills or mountains along the line. One sees nothing but rolling prairies and meadow land, with an occasional mountain in the distance.

I did not see much valuable timber along the road. There are plenty of woods, but the trees are mostly small and burnt. The ties for this part of the road were secured along the way, but most of the heavy timbers for bridges were brought from the Pacific Coast. These burnt forests furnish great quantities of firewood, and millions of cords of it are piled up along the way awaiting shipment. As it is so cold in winter, and little coal is used here, this wood brings a good price. There is plenty of coal in the hills, but very little mining has been done as yet. Farther back from the railway there appears to be some better timber, but I was disappointed in the country in this regard.

The railway stations are very pretty. Most of them are frame buildings, painted yellow or brown, and wearing an appearance of extreme newness. Many of them are picturesquely situated in the midst of forest trees.

The country is very sparsely settled as yet, and not many homes were visible. Russia is trying to induce immigration to this section, and gives free passage, some supplies, and a grant of land to every Russian subject who will come here; but, the country being comparatively unknown, and so far away, few settlers have come in yet. There are only about 200,000 colonists in the whole province, a mere drop in the bucket. Most of the land is fertile and lies well, but it takes some time to bring it under cultivation. Very good wheat, oats, buckwheat, and corn are grown; but the land appears better adapted for grazing than anything else. The

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vast plains are covered with rank grass, and the large herds of cattle and horses grazing on it seem to thrive well. Much hay is made along the lines. The further back we went from Vladivostock the better settled the country seemed to be, but even there the houses were few and far between.

There are good sleeping cars attached to the trains, and we spent the nights very comfortably. The sleepers are different from those in America; the passageway runs along the side of the car, and the berths are arranged crosswise. In the daytime they are folded up, making comfortable seats. Even the third class cars had rough sleeping accommodation.

The dining cars are far inferior to those in America. There is one long table in the centre of the car, and the people all sit around it in family style. The furnishings are poor, but there is an abundance of food.

Early the next day we ran into Iman, which is one of the most important stations on the line. It stands in a pretty prairie, on the Ussuri River. Good river steamers run from this point down to Habarofsk, and the wharves present a busy scene. With a large water and land traffic, Iman will doubtless have a considerable growth. From this point we followed the Ussuri banks for several hours, and the scenery was good. Broad fertile meadows spread themselves out along the river, and extended back to the blue mountains in the distance, while large herds of fat cattle and fine horses found splendid pasturage on them. Now and then we passed peasants in the large meadows making hay. In one field I counted 115 big haystacks. Good fields of oats and wheat were visible along this part of the journey, and the grain was heavy. Mother earth is ready here to fill full the hands of every farmer who will hold them out to her.

After riding slowly all day and all night, we arrived in Habarofsk at eight o'clock next morning. Here too we found the town some distance from the station, and had to drive across in carriages. Habarofsk is the northern terminus of the railway, 500 miles from Vladivostock. Originally it was intended to extend the line clear across Siberia from this point; but, as was said above, since Russia has obtained control of Manchuria the through line turns east at Nikolskoe. But this line will retain its importance, connecting as it does all the lower section of the country with the great Amoor River. Habarofsk, like Jerusalem of old, is beautiful for situation. It is built on three parallel hills, on the south bank of the Amoor, and is a town of perhaps 15,000 people. It is pre-eminently a white's man town. The buildings are not at all like the shabby little things of China and Japan, but are good substantial Western houses. No jinrikisha or kago are to be seen, and one goes where he wants to in a carriage drawn by good big horses, and driven by a white man. Well dressed officers in full uniform, and sweet, pretty ladies, swarm the streets everywhere. Life seems gay on the Amoor, and there is abundant society.

The Amoor, on which the town is situated, is one of the great rivers of the world. It drains a large part of northern Asia, and discharges into the sea a volume of water not very much less than the Mississippi. It is navigable for almost three thousand miles, and will afford cheap river transportation for the produce of the province when all its fertile valleys shall be populated. Habarofsk is 1,000 miles from the mouth of the river, and fine steamers go another thousand further up from this place. Then light-draft steamers go about a thousand miles further. There were several steamers lying at the wharf and I went aboard one of them. It was large and airy, and had very comfortable cabins and decks. I noticed that the engines and machinery were made in England; but an axe lying on the deck was made in Massachusetts. To get on one of these river boats and go one thousand miles back into this wildest and newest part of Asia would be an ideal excursion, and I regretted much that my time did not permit me to make it. But I did have a canoe ride of one hour on the Amoor, getting about half way across it in that time. This waterway is entirely shut up by ice for six months of the year, and in the winter season it is used as a road for sleighing.

The most prominent building in Habarofsk, as in all Siberian towns, is the Greek Church, built and supported by government. It stands on the summit of a hill, and is surmounted with the large balls usually found on Greek temples.

Standing on a high bank overlooking the Amoor is a pretty life-size statue in bronze of a Russian nobleman connected with the founding of this town. The eyes of the figure are gazing far over the broad river, trying, as it seems, to peer clear through northern Asia to the borders of European Russia. He sees Empire here.

The museum at Habarofsk is very interesting. It is beautifully housed in a brick building of three stories. Here I saw the rare animals of Asiatic Russia, preserved with all the skill of the taxidermist's art. Among them were two magnificent tigers, and one large bear from which the figure of the "Russian Bear" is taken. Then, there were the various costumes, made of furs and fish skins, of all the aborigine tribes; and samples of their sledges and snow shoes. It was, on the whole, one of the most interesting museums it has been my good fortune to visit.

In the streets of this town, and at other places, I saw gangs of convicts, wearing light chains under the escort of armed soldiers. Convict labour is still practised here, but is unpopular with the people, and efforts are being made to abolish it in the near future. This is not because the system as now practised is too cruel and inhuman, but simply because convict labour is more costly than free labour, and is detrimental to the development of the country. As for the hardships of the Siberian exile I believe they are greatly exaggerated. Certainly nothing that I saw would indicate that they are treated with unnecessary cruelty; and the fact that most of the exiles prefer to remain in Siberia after their term of banishment is completed is sufficient proof that their lives here are not so very hard. Peasants and other low orders of convicts are much better off in their Siberian exile than in European Russia; and the opportunities to retrieve their character and fortunes are incomparably superior. It is on the political exile of high class that the burden rests heavily—not because of any inhuman treatment visited upon him, but simply because he is an exile.

I spent a short time very pleasantly in this new town of Habarofsk, on the banks of the great Amoor; and then took the through train back to Vladivostock, the journey consuming twe nights and one day.

The next day being Sunday, we attended service at the Greek Cathedral. The service began promptly at nine o'clock, and a beautiful chime of bells announced the hour. There were few worshippers when the priests began chanting their liturgies, but soon the people filed in in crowds, and the great church was filled to overflowing. As there were no seats, we had to stand throughout the long service. But not all the people remain to the end; indeed, there are some coming and going all the time. The service is very spectacular. Thousands of candles keep the vast room brilliantly lighted; and golden images and pictures give a very gorgeous effect. There is a counter at one side where a man sells candles, and everyone who came in bought one or more candles, which he lighted and set up in front of a picture, before crossing himself and saying his prayers to it. The music was grand, and it was hard to believe it was unaccompanied—but there are no organs in Russian churches. The choir was concealed, and it was difficult to decide where the music came from. The service consisted simply in chanting liturgies and singing responses. There was no preaching, or instruction of any kind. Some of the people seemed very devout, and to have a real spirit of worship; but most of them went through the performance in a perfunctory manner, without appearing to attach any meaning to it whatever. These people seem to look upon religion as but part of the government, to be gone through with as a matter of course. But, whether the heart is in it or not, the outward sign of religion is visible on every hand. Not only in the private homes, but in all public offices the "ikon" is seen fastened up in a certain corner of the room, and this is called "God's corner." The house is considered as dedicated to God, and the people burn candles before these images on feast days and cross themselves before them. They do not seem to think that drinking is incompatible with religion, for I noticed one of these images just over a bar, in a public house.

In travelling amongst these people one is struck with the evident popularity of the young Emperor and Empress. Good photographs of them are found in all the houses, in the shops, in the public offices, and sometimes even on the streets. No one is permitted to wear his hat in a room that contains the Emperor's picture in uniform. Not knowing this, I went into the post office with my hat on, when an officer came at once, pointed to the Emperor's picture, and motioned for me to take off my hat. If the photographs one sees are true representations, the Imperial pair are certainly a handsome couple.

Even in her calendar Russia is differentiated from the rest of the world. She still uses the old Julian calendar, and all her dates are twelve days behind ours. Thus to-day is August 8th by our reckoning, but here they call it July 27th. I understand that the present Emperor is trying to enforce the use of the Gregorian calendar, but is making little headway because the priests are against him. A change would disarrange all their feast days.

America has an enviable share in the trade of this country. Most of the flour, canned goods, and other edibles used here come from the Pacific Slope. America also sells a great deal of lumber, and many machines in this section. All of the supplies for the Manchurian railway are either bought in America or by Americans in Europe. One of the engineers, himself a Scotchman, told me that everything in connection with it passes through American hands. The Russian government stipulated that that part of the railway which traverses Russian territory should be built of Russian material only, but even there they were forced to buy American lumber for bridges.

Passports are a great nuisance here. No one is permitted to land without a proper passport, and it must be given to the hotel keeper as soon as one arrives at the hotel. Special permission must be secured to go into the interior, and I was forced to delay my visit to Nikolskoe eight hours to get that permission. After the passports have been properly visèd one must have another special permit before he can leave the country. I spent several hours yesterday at the police office trying to get permission to return to Japan; and when I finally secured the necessary papers they told me I would have to go to the governor's office on the morrow and secure his signature in addition. So I went there this morning, and only after waiting two hours and paying several fees, did I finally get permission to leave the country. It is a disgrace to the city that there is no one in either the police office or city council who can speak English. With an interpreter the passports could have been arranged much sooner. But I don't think they want to speak English, or to hear it either. Anglo-Saxons and their speech are not at a premium in this corner of the world. It is not only we poor foreigners who are subjected to this imposition about passports: every Russian subject as well must get a passport before he can travel to the next town, and if he desires to go to a foreign country he will have more trouble in getting away than we had. The whole business is an unmitigated nuisance.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania to pension Mrs. Gridley, widow of the late Captain Gridley, of the *Olympia*, at $100 per month.

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EDUCATION IN THE ARMY.

There is said to be a considerable improvement in the condition of the Japanese soldier with regard to education. A table compiled by the War Department shows the following figures :—

		(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)
Guards	1897	—	802	1,830	362
(Tokyo)	1898	51	891	1,988	425
First Division	1897	—	1,065	1,972	444
(Tokyo)	1898	49	1,164	2,240	393
Second Division	1897	—	869	3,282	858
(Sendai)	1898	44	718	1,836	316
Third Division	1897	16	857	3,126	967
(Nagoya)	1898	24	601	3 066	379
Fourth Division	1897	—	1,085	3.673	813
(Osaka)	1898	34	755	2,541	370
Fifth Division	1897	10	1,031	2 850	1,186
(Hiroshima)	1898	28	578	1,898	536
Sixth Division	1897	—	1,152	2,799	1,759
(Kumamoto)	1898	24	644	1,680	1,087
Seventh Division	1897	—	52	99	67
(Hokkaido)	1898	1	51	122	29
Eighth Division	1897				
(Hirosaki)	1898	20	554	1,801	228
Ninth Division	1897				
(Kanazawa)	1898	14	447	1,583	475
Tenth Division	1897				
(Himeji)	1898	21	581	2,298	188
Eleventh Division	1897				
(Marugame)	1898	32	445	1,689	494
Twelfth Division	1897				
(Kokura)	1898	44	688	2,020	514

(1.) Graduates of Middle Schools.
(2.) Graduates of Upper Elementary Schools.
(3.) Graduates of Ordinary Elementary Schools.
(4.) Uneducated.

A WONDERFUL GUN.

We read in the columns of a Tokyo contemporary that "the Osaka Arsenal is now engaged in the manufacture of the 7-inch rapid-firing mountain and field guns *devised by* Colonel Arisaka." We can *not speak* with absolute accuracy about a 7-inch gun, as there is no such weapon in the British service, but we shall not be far wrong if we say that it would weigh 7 tons and fire a projectile weighing 130 lbs. What is Colonel Arisaka's mountain field piece, we wonder. Perhaps it is a 7-centimetre gun; in other words, a weapon firing a projectile with a calibre of 2.751 inches.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE RELIGIONS BILL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Does Art. 6 of Chap. 1 of the "Bill Relating to the Law of Religions" now pending in the Diet forbid the incorporation of a "mission," *i.e.*, of the missionaries representing some one of the Boards or Societies having work in Japan? Also, does it forbid the incorporation of a missionary society on the part of members of churches whose conscientious scruples forbid them to set up a *kyōha* exercising general control over the organized local churches?

If I am correct in supposing that each of the above questions must be answered in the affirmative, would it not be more in line with the broad-minded principles which underlie the proposed law to strike out that article and substitute one permitting the incorporation of such bodies as those referred to above?

It seems to me that this point is quite important.

Sincerely yours, E. C. FRY.
Sendai.

THE "JAPAN MAIL" AND QUESTIONS AFFECTING FOREIGNERS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Having read the *Japan Mail* for years and followed through its columns the many discussions arising on questions of Treaty Revision, with its important bearing on the status of foreigners resident in Japan, I wish to acknowledge the helpfulness of the information which your paper has constantly given—information which would, to say the least, have been difficult to obtain from other sources. During this period of uncertainty the calm and rational view taken by the *Mail* of perplexing questions has helped much to lessen the uneasiness which was unavoidable in facing a new situation.

Yours, A SUBSCRIBER.
Yokohama, January 3.

THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—As some doubt exists as to whether both principal and interest will be divided amongst the recipients of the Lord Mayor's Widows and Orphans fund, to which the amounts collected here are being remitted, we propose to instruct the Secretary of the fund to distribute the whole sum sent him through our channel, and that no part of it is to be capitalized.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
J. C. BUDD, Agent,
Chartered Bank of I., A. and C.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The tea market this year has been extremely active, remarks the *Shogyo*. Sales have been effected down to the last leaf, so that nothing now remains in Yokohama either in stock or for special delivery. The following table shows the amount of transactions concluded with various foreign firms in the Settlement up to the 20th instant, as compared with the corresponding period of last year :—

Firms.	Amount of purchases for this year. piculs.	Same for last year. piculs.
178	32,340	33,388
211	23,594	24,242
221	20,694	21,420
33	19 800	21,543
225	17,718	17,142
143	16,716	15,300
1	15,142	8,782
36	11,824	9,911
22	10,799	14,586
162	10,577	6,645
210	10,474	9,795
Nitto Boyeki	9,804	11,586
68	7,579	6,152
Seicha Kaisha	5,825	8,362
133	1,719	1,154
48	895	—
Total	215,500	210,000

As had been anticipated, the foreign trade of Japan for the first half of this month shows an excess in imports of 5,020,000 *yen* and in exports of specie of 170,000 *yen*. Below are the details :—

	1st half of December. yen.	Aggregate total from January. yen.
Exports	6,438,011	203,463,834
Imports	11,459,987	206,808,556
Total	17,897,908	410,272,390
Excess of imports	5,021,976	3,344,722
Export of specie	262,817	10,099,816
Import	84,493	19,940,177
Excess in export	178,324	—
Excess in import	—	9,840,361

Compared with last year the total trade has decreased by 32,460,000 *yen*, but the export, have increased by 37,770,000 *yen*. The excess in imports has also diminished by 108,200,000 *yen*, and trade, on the whole, seems to have entered upon a course of progress.

Commenting upon the extraordinary development of Trusts in Europe and America, the *Tokyo Keisai Zasshi* says that the recent operations of these vast aggregations of capital has proved extremely detrimental to the interests of commerce and industry, being attended with serious abuses, not only economical, but political. Some of the statesmen of Japan have now begun to direct their attention to the subject lest this country should be involved in similar misfortunes. But institutions of the kind, remarks our contemporary, already exist in Japan. One example is the corporation known as the Kwansei Union Steamship Company. It was in the 8th or 9th year of *Meiji* that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha entered into competition with one or two minor organisations in respect to the traffic to the westward of Osaka. It gained a complete victory, the result being the absorption of the weaker companies in the 18th year of *Meiji*, through the purchase of their ships and the transfer of the shares. This was the origin of the Kwansei Union, and it furnishes an analogy to the appearance of Trusts in Europe and America. Meanwhile, another competitor sprang up in the shape of the Iyo Steamship Company, and it was followed by still another, the Uwajima Kisen Kwaisha. These two corporations, however, signally failed, and were also amalgamated into the Union Steamship Company in the 22nd or 23rd year of *Meiji*. At one time the union was almost dissolved, but as the companies found they could not, stand individually a final amalgamation was effected in the 26th year of *Meiji*, the Kawnsei Company being constituted in its present form. The number of ships and amount of capital owned by the Union at present are as follows, according to our contemporary's calculation :—

Name of Company.	Capital paid up.	No. of ships.	Nominal amount of capital. Yen
Osaka Mercantile Marine	Whole	60	5,000,000
Chugoku Kisen Goshi	(Uncertain)	4	19,000
Uwajima-Okayama Joint Stock	Whole	5	120,000
Iyo Steamship	Half	6	300,000
Taiko Steamship	Whole	3	300,000
Awa Kyodo Kisen	Whole	4	200,000
Uwajima Kisen	30.000 Yen	2	100,000
Hijikawa Kisen	50.000 Yen	2	100,000
Nippon Kyodo	Half	—	500,000

The *Official Gazette* publishes a detailed report on the foreign trade of Japan as compiled by the Finance Department. The figures are as follows :—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (ASIA).

Country.	Exports. Yen.	Imports. Yen.	Totals. Yen.
China	2,387,469	5.489 667	7,877,137
Hongkong	2,966,322	919,132	3,885,455
British India	404,470	1,662,606	2,067,076
Korea	772,183	679 024	1,451,208
Russian Asia	233,400	536,093	769.493
French India	2,884,760	578,903	581,788
Philippine Archipelago	13.786	50,210	63 997
Dutch India	4,826	52,605	57.432
Siam	2,006	54,456	56 463
Total	6,787,350	10,022,700	16,810,051

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (EUROPE).

England	790,408	4,740,825	5.531.233
France	3,651,053	7,067,580	4,358,701
Germany	473.452	1,945,015	2.418,468
Belgium	28,208	826,901	855,108
Switzerland	34	207,984	208,018
Italy	151,406	22,155	173.561
Austria	72,157	37,893	110.051
Holland	8,816	25,787	34.604
Russia	19.838	11,391	31,229
Sweden and Norway	385	13,172	13 557
Turkey	8,198	1,821	10,020
Spain	852	6,212	7,065
Portugal	—	1,146	1,146
Denmark	403	169	572
Total	5,206,113	8,547,237	13.753,351

AMERICA.

The United States	7,567,809	2,350,529	9,918,338
British America	173,796	18,219	192,016
Mexico	925	—	925
Peru	—	288	288
Total	7,742,530	2,369,037	10,111,568

OTHER COUNTRIES.

Australia	299,863	170,404	470,267
Hawaii	207,884	1,358	209,232
Egypt	9 006	24,082	33,088
Total	516,753	195,845	712,599

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Other countries	17,595	8,540		26,136
Uncertain ...	204	31,335		31,539
Grand Total ...	20,270,548	21,174,698		41,445,247

Export and import of specie :—

	Export.		Import.	
	Gold.	Silver.	Gold.	Silver.
British India.	2,701,534	—	—	—
China	8,505	116,429	34,957	1,535
Korea	—	760	142,560	—
Hongkong ...	330,000	32,472	—	—
Asiatic territories belonging to Russia	200	31,472	—	—
United States N. A.....	502,036	—	—	—
Total ...	3,542,275	151,804	198,937	2,109

Exports and imports dealt with by domestic and foreign merchants.

	Exports.	Importe.	Totals.
Domestic	7,979,926	6,689,350	14,669,276
Foreign	12,290,622	14,419,433	26,710,055
Total	20,270,548	21,108,784	41,379,332

Commenting upon the brisk sales of imported goods since last month, the *Fiji* says that even those stored in warehouses for the past two or three years have been all cleared. The following table shows the amount of stocks in Kobe and Yokohama at the end of November :—

	Yokohama. Yen	Kobe. Yen.
Cotton	250,000	1,700,000
Cotton yarns.....	430 000	100,000
Cotton satins.....	285,000	250,000
Wool	380,000	550,000
Mousseline de laine...	280,000	180,000
Cloth	225,000	100,000
Watches	1,550,000	900,000
Machinery	500,000	1,000,000
Locomotives and passenger cars	—	300.000
Bar iron	350,000	400,000
Rails	270,000	180,000
Iron nails	450,000	280,000
Pig iron and steel ...	475 000	200,000
Brown & white sugars	1,280,000	800 000
Peas, Beans, &c.	210,000	470.000
Kerosene oil	1,450,000	1,000,000
Alcohol	500,000	300.000
Shirtings	370,000	150,000
Rice	—	200,000
Italian cloth	20,000	30.000
Foreign paper	90 000	80,000
Leather	50,000	80,000
Zinc	20,000	15.000
Fragrant wax	10,000	18,000
Cotton velveteens ...	100,000	95.000
Blankets	25,000	20,000
Flannel	100,000	100,000
Satin	70,000	80,000
Hemp and flax.....	30,000	50,000
Thick cotton (*unsai*).	10,000	—
Bleached calico	120,000	85,000
Turkey reds	50,000	70,000
Cotton cloth.....	120,000	150,000
Worsted	50,000	65,000
Flour	125,000	150,000
Wine	150,000	100,000
Aniline dyes.....	30 000	40,000
Cigarettes.....	30.000	25.000
Indigo	70,000	90,000
Sails	50,000	25 000
Miscellaneous	175.000	250,000
Oil cake.....	270,000	200,000
Total.....	11,020,000	10,878,000

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The silver punch bowl and seven beakers to be presented to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Reed by the foreign communities of Yokohama and Tokyo are now on view at Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., and will be found splendid specimens of the Japanese silver smith's craft.

In the United States the smokeless powder stored in magazines for the use of sea-coast guns is said to have deteriorated to such an extent as to be dangerous to use. A 10-inch gun was lately burst by this powder that had been stored for two years, and the resulting examination showed that practically all the stored powder was affected. The cause of deterioration is being investigated.

The greenhouses attached to the residence of Mr. David Jackson, No. 160 Bluff, were destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. A gardener's carelessness is said to have been the cause.

Attention should be directed by the police to the conduct of the drivers of wagons and carriages. Their recklessness is positively criminal. On Tuesday morning one wagon, driven at a furious pace by a drunken *betto*, ran over a woman in Water-street, bruising her face and chest, and inflicting injuries of the gravest kind. Instead of stopping the driver at once whipped up his horse, and soon disappeared round the corner. No policeman was within call at the time.

The *Chinese Mail* received a long telegram from the north on Dec. 21, stating that an Edict had been issued by the Emperor on the 19th condemning Kang Yu-wei and Leung Kai-chiu for spreading false political reports, thus inducing men to work with them to the detriment of good government. The Edict urges the Viceroys and Governors of the Maritime Provinces to offer rewards of extraordinary value for their arrest, and, if failing to lay hold of them alive, to offer ample rewards for their murder.—*China Mail.*

Mr. A. Swanson, of Messrs. J. M. Laffin & Co., was brutally assaulted on board the P. M. steamer *China* on Saturday by a coolie named Nakajima Seikichi, who was employed in loading cargo. The coolie cut the foreigner in two different places on the forehead with a large jack knife, and bit him in the leg. The cause of the trouble was a dispute over money. The coolie demanded payment for putting some cattle on board, but it turned out that he was not engaged by Swanson. The man has been arrested by the water police.

In the little village of Broughton, near Newport Pagnell, a Mrs. Sarah King has entered upon her 100th year. She is in possession of all her faculties, and is able to read and thread a needle without the aid of spectacles, and to attend to many household duties. A photograph of this venerable lady was submitted to the Queen, who was pleased to accept it, and commanded her private secretary to send £5 as a present to Mrs. King, in the hope that it may be of some service to her.

A new steamer, to be called the *Cecil Rhodes*, built for the Tanganyika Concessions Company, and intended for service in connection with the laying of the telegraph line along the shore of Lake Tanganyika, has been launched at Wyvenhoe, near Colchester. The *Cecil Rhodes* is a twin-screw steamer of about 65 tons. After the launch she will be taken to pieces, packed into parcels of about 60lb. each, conveyed about 8,000 miles by sea, 350 miles over African rivers and lakes, and then carried on natives' backs for another 250 miles, after which she will be the first iron steamer launched on Lake Tanganyika.

A system of electrical driving and lighting has, says the *Engineer*, been adopted in the new shops of the Thames Ironworks and Engineering Company, at Blackwall. This company has in hand orders from the Admiralty for ten sets of machinery for 56ft. vedette boats, nine sets of machinery for 42ft. steam pinnaces, and six sets of water-tube boilers for 40ft. pinnaces. In addition to these, the Admiralty have given them the order for a third set of battleship machinery of 18,000 indicated horse-power.

Cuban war relics seem to be a drug on the American market, while, on the other hand, the scarcity of scrap iron is almost unprecedented. These two circumstances have resulted in the shipping to Philadelphia of great quantities of shot and shell from the battlefields of Cuba, which are being snapped up at prices varying from 15dols. to 17dols. a ton. In fact, all kinds of old iron, be they relics or not, are coming from the West Indies. From Cuban sugar plantations which were wrecked during the war large consignments of disused iron are being sent. Negotiations are now pending for the importation into the United States of all the old iron that can be found. Five thousand tons have been shipped from Cuba within the last two months.

The *Evènement* states that certain Germans, who belong to the cult of Heine, take special interest in the tomb of their loved poet in the Montmartre cemetery. Since the beginning of this year, the bag, in which visitors place their personal tributes to the poet, has contained no fewer than 385 cards bearing 492 names. On one of these cards was the following from a Berlin merchant :—"Heinrich Heine, with his bitter irony, has always pleased me. I have travelled well-nigh through the world, and I find that he is always right."

After a trial lasting six days judgment was delivered recently in the case of the District Judge of Mocsa, Hungary, and other officials of the Commune accused of torturing prisoners in order to obtain the confession of a robbery laid to their charge. District Judge Koloman Szabo was sentenced to three years', and Gedeon Molnar, an official accountant, to three and a half years' penal servitude, and Ludwig Goebel, a notary, and Ozunyi, the local judge of the Commune, to 12 and four months' imprisonment respectively. All the prisoners gave notice of appeal.

The *Times of Natal*, in a recent leader, headed "Retribution and Restitution: Boers dividing Natal," said :—"Absolutely trustworthy information reaches us that Boer surveyors have been actually for some time at work carefully and systematicelly surveying all farms in the Richmond district, with the avowed object of having reliable data for the redistribution of Natal farms among the leaders of the Boers, in the event of their success in the field! To anyone who may doubt the fact of these Boer surveys having been made in Natal, we will give the name of an M.L.A., whose farm among the rest has been so surveyed."

The Polish papers learn that it is intended to transfer the remains of Chopin from Paris, where his grave is between the resting-places of Cherubini and Bellini, to Cracow, for interment in the Royal vault of the ancient Polish Kings and Polish celebrities on the Wawe Hill. The intention, says the Vienna correspondent of the *Standard*, is to have the remains taken to Cracow by special train, and to make their reinterment the occasion of a great Polish festival. M. Frederick Chopin has given two thousand florins towards the expenses, which will be raised entirely among Polish patriots.

The public authorities who are removing the human remains from "Little Dorrit's Church," in Southwark, have already cleared away upwards of a thousand bodies, but in the process of doing so they have discovered new vaults, the existence of which was unknown or had been forgotten, and these also are choke-full of coffins. It is stated that the clearing out of the whole of the vaults and the re-interment of the remains at Woking will add fourpence per pound to the rates of the parish. The bodies are presumably those of persons of local standing or distinction, whom the parishioners or the church in past times desired to honour.

Writing in his customary vigorous style, M Urbain Gohier, in the *Aurore*, warmly protests against the outcry against the British. After recalling all that they did for France in 1870, he says that in any case France, who has allowed so many abominations to be perpetrated under her flag in Indo-China, in Madagascar, and in the Soudan, has no right to cry out against any other nation. "If we have any complaint to make against the British, why do we not tackle them ourselves? We bowed the head and neck for them at the time of Fashoda, in spite of our admirable fleet and invincible

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admirals and the money we have spent upon them. But we think it more prudent to cry to the little Transvaal, 'Bravo, Boers! Go for them! Please revenge us.' To those," he adds, "who have any idea of what is due to the country's dignity there is enough in all this to make one die from very shame."

The American Consul at Capetown, finding that the Boer prisoners at the Cape were living in a state of luxury, authorised his colleague at Pretoria to advance money to the British captives there. President Kruger has forbidden the American Consul at Cape Colony to furnish Great Britain with any information regarding prisoners taken by the Boers. President McKinley has forwarded a communication to Pretoria informing President Kruger that the United States insists upon the sacred duty of watching the interests of the British.

The return of the number of courts-martial held and summary punishments inflicted on seamen and marines of the Royal Navy during the year 1898 is chiefly remarkable for the number of offences recorded of striking and attempting to strike a superior officer. Thus we find with, roughly 82,000 men in 1897, we had only 97 tried and punished on this account, while in 1898, with a total of 88,000, we had 149 insubordinate delinquents. It is thought that much of this increase is really due to the increase in the number of stokers lately entered, who have little idea of discipline. So much the more need for their being taught it.

At a town's meeting at Kidderminster, addressed by Mr. M. Ray, a delegate of the Imperial South African Association, a resolution was passed endorsing the policy of Her Majesty's Government in South Africa. Sir Frederick Godson, M.P. for the borough, in supporting the resolution, said his brother, Maj. *Godson, had* Cetewayo in custody when first captured, and the Zulu King said he never could understand why Great Britain interfered between him and the Boers. The Boers were a deceitful, treacherous people, a curse to South Africa, and if he had been left to deal with them he would have eaten them up. As it was, the British had eaten him and his people up, and they would find that the Boers would never rest until the British had eaten them up also. "Now," said Cetewayo, "if you British had let me 'eat the Boers up,' I should never have fought you unless you wanted a fight, and we could have had peace."

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

Amounts received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, on account of the Lord Mayor's fund for the widows and orphans of the officers and men of Her Majesty's forces who may lose their lives from the war in South Africa:—

Sums previously acknowledged..	£45.10 0
	Yen 8,505.45
	Yen.
Mollison & Co.....	250
Alf. Woolley	100
J. Conder.....	100
H. S. Wilkinson.....	100
W. Silver Hall	50
Kaliandas & Co,.....	50
Frank Gillett	50
R.B.M.	50
Dr. E. Baelz.....	50
A. C. Hutton Potts	40
E. Coutts	30
T. Holyoake Box	25
Robt. W. Borthwick	25
An American	25
N. B. Morton	20
"Charley-San"	15
Mike	10
X. X.....	5
"Pudding".....	2.20
	Yen 9,502.65
	£45.10.0
	Yen.
Since received, H. C. Litchfield.	100

AMERICAN TOPICS.

President McKinley is in favour of reviving the grade of Vice Admiral in the U.S. Navy and will elevate Rear Admirals Schley and Sampson to the position.

Mr. Peter A. B. Widener, the millionaire contractor of Philadelphia has announced that he has purchased thirty-six acres of land at Logan, a suburb of Philadelphia, on which he intends to erect and endow a home, hospital and school for crippled children at a cost of $3,000,000.

Among the entries on the Journal of the Senate is the following:—By Hale—For the construction of a Pacific cable by the Navy Department, to be operated by the Post-office Department, and appropriating $11,000,000 for this purpose. It is to run from San Francisco to Manila, via Honolulu, the Midway islands, Guam and Iloilo.

One of the most hopeful signs of a better tendency in the south was furnished in the Georgia house of Representatives when the Hardwick bill, which contemplated the practical disenfranchisement of the Negro voters of the state, was defeated by a vote of 137 to 3. The heartiness and almost complete unanimity with which the lower house ruled the measure out of court are in refreshing contrast to the short-sightedness and thinly disguised hypocrisy that have disgraced some other states.—*Boston Transcript.*

Chicago's municipal pawnshop, authorized at the last session of the Illinois legislature, has been established and is now operated under a charter from the State, at which money will be advanced on personal security at the rate of one per cent. monthly instead of twice that amount, as the private pawnbrokers have been in the habit of charging. At the same time it may be reasonably assumed that the amount advanced will bear a more equitable relation to the value of the pledge than has generally been the case in transactions of this character.

"The rural telephone service," remarks *The Electrical World*, "is said to be far advanced in north-eastern Ohio, and particularly in Geauga county, which is strictly an agricultural district. Not only is there an office in every township, but hundreds of farmers have telephones in their homes. One of the companies in the county named is strictly a farmers' company, it being operated by eight farmers, who own everything from franchise to switch-board. The primary object in constructing the lines was not to build them for an investment, but as a help in the transaction of business, and to give the families some of the social privileges that are too often lacking on the farm."

The law recently passed in North Dakota prohibiting the marriage of persons afflicted with hereditary disease is quoted with approval by the *Revue Scientifique*. It says: "Science makes great efforts, often without effect, to cure and correct diseases and abnormalities. It would be much simpler to prevent their occurrence. Is not prevention in all things a better method than cure? Our era is not accustomed to the radical customs of the Spartans, but they certainly contained much that was good, and without cruelty it is perhaps impossible to arrive at the same result." The trouble with such laws is, of course, that their passage by a single State is ineffective and merely drives diseased persons into adjoining States for the performance of the marriage ceremony.

Pittsburg enjoys the distinction of having the only woman in the States, or even in the world, who is at the head of a large steel and iron works business. The woman who holds this unique position in industrial circles is Miss Y. R. Baumgarten, who is at the head of the Pittsburg office of Joseph Joseph & Bros., of Cincinnati, dealers in rails, scrap iron, and railway supplies, says the Cincinnati *Inquirer*. She is in sole charge of all the business there, which, by the way, is the largest done at any of the branches of the company, and amounts to over a million dollars a year. She buys, and sells, inspects, superintends the shipping, and, in fact, does everything that a man would have to do under the circumstances.

It is a somewhat noteworthy fact, remarks the *American Silk Journal*, that countries which are large producers of raw silk do not, as a rule, figure largely in the manufacture of the same into fabric. The only important silk manufacturing country which is at the same time also a large producer of raw silk is France. Of the other manufacturing countries, such as the United States, Germany, Switzerland and Great Britain, not one is a grower of raw silk. China and Japan, which are very large exporters of raw silk, produce enough tissues for their own consumption and are also able to export; but they supply only light silk tissues, not suited to all uses. Japan especially has made great progress in the last decade as an exporter of silk goods, of which it now sends out several million dollars' worth yearly.

Writing on December 9, the *Literay Digest* said—"Rumours of serious dissatisfaction in Cuba, caused by the fear that the United States will ultimately annex the island, have again drawn public attention sharply in that direction. It is now twenty months since Congress disclaimed any "disposition or intention" to exercise sovereignty or control over the island "except for the pacification there-of"; and declared that when "pacification is completed," independent government is to be granted. A number of Cubans capable of bearing arms now think that pacification is completed, and that our control should be withdrawn; while many prominent men in this country think that if our control were withdrawn now, anarchy, would follow, and the last state of the island would be worse than the first. There are few men whose opinion on the situation would carry more weight than that of Gen. Leonard Wood, but he has made no public utterance on the subject. It is understood, however, that on his visit to Washington he recommended that part of our troops on the island be withdrawn, and that the Secretary of War will adopt this course." As we know by later news, the President is determined to keep his pledges to the Cubans.

What might be regarded as an unerring indication of prosperity in the west is found in the returns of the smaller colleges in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, whose clientele is drawn for the most part from the farm. The tuition fees and cost of living at these institutions are small, which fact, coupled with the increased prosperity of western agriculturists this year, accounts in part for the long list of names on their rosters for the present scholastic year. These institutions are numerous, says the Chicago *Tribune*, Ohio having thirty-nine, Illinois thirty-one, Iowa twenty-three, Indiana fourteen and Michigan eleven, but they do not suffer by the competition of the great universities. Each has its mission in life. Yale and Harvard this year have among their students young men who attended the smaller colleges last year, but who are now able to afford a more ambitious course. At the same time, many to whom a collegiate education was once an impossibility are now able to attend the comparatively inexpensive courses in the smaller college. The cheapness with which students make their way through some of these colleges is amazing. The estimated cost of living expenses, including board, at most of them is not above $150 a year, while at a Nebraska seat of learning it is said that $54 should cover the total expenditure of a student for a year.

United States Senator Monroe L. Hayward died at 6.20 a.m. on Dec. 5. Senator Hayward was stricken with apoplexy in August last and had since remained in a precarious condition. He was 59 years old and had lived in Nebraska City for thirty-two years.

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Although a lawyer by profession, he made his wealth largely through investments in lands in Nebraska and Kansas. His election to the United States Senate was his first appearance in national politics. He was defeated for Governor by Poynter two years ago, reducing the Fusion majority from 18,000 to 3,000. When the last Legislature was found to be Republican, Mr. Hayward announced his candidacy for the United States Senate and the fight which followed was one of the most bitter in the history of the State. The long-drawn-out caucus deadlock finally resulted in his election. But soon afterward he was stricken with paralysis while addressing a political meeting. Senator Hayward was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in the Twenty-second New York Volunteers and later in the Fifth Cavalry. He married Miss Jennie Pelton of Putnam county, New York, in 1870 and his widow and two sons survive him. One of his sons is a surgeon in the United States Army and the other was a Captain in the Second Nebraska Regiment during the Spanish war.

Congregationalism, so far as its range of influence is spread in America, is keenly interested in the retirement from active pulpit life of the Rev. Dr. Richard Salter Storrs. Nor would it be just to say that this interest is confined to Congregationalism alone. All denominations are finding in the letter read from the pulpit of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, matter for much regret. To an extent at least one of the most scholarly lights of the American ministry is passing off the platform of vigorous preaching. While the resignation by no means signifies that Dr. Storrs will be heard no more, it implies that as a permanent force he has left the scene. The loss will be felt to a much greater degree for the reason that he was a scholar, orator, man of affairs, and historian as well as pastor. An historic figure in the American ministry, he was ruler of an historic church, and, what is most remarkable, he has been its sole ruler. There have been several long pastorates in American congregations, but that of Dr. Storrs was probably unprecedented, He came to Brooklyn before Henry Ward Beecher; he was the first, as he is now the last, of that extraordinary group of preachers that made Brooklyn a city of ministers as well as a city of churches some twenty years ago. Steadily for fifty-three years he has kept at his pulpit, making this the first of all, though for over a quarter of a century he has been far more than a local force, a man of public importance from the Atlantic to the Pacific, indeed, an historian of recognized authority. Dr. Storrs, who is a native of Massachusetts, is now 78 years old.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* had the following on Dec. 7:—Captain R. B. Jones, known in many climes as the "Sporting Captain," died at sea on November 29th on board his steamship *Glenogle*, which was returning from Manila, whither she had taken the Thirty-second Infantry. His body was embalmed and brought to this port, where the *Glenogle* arrived yesterday. Captain Jones died after three days' illness with brain fever. He caught a cold in the Philippines. When the *Glenogle* arrived at Manila Jones received permission from General Otis to go to the front, and he spent two days on the firing line with the soldiers he had taken there in his ship. When he returned to the steamer he was ill, but upon his arrival at Nagasaki had so far recovered as to resume his duties. Death came upon him suddenly; Dr. Nicholson, the ship's surgeon, did all he could, but could not stay the disease. Captain Jones was one of the most popular skippers who ever visited this port. He was commander for many years of the steamship *Glenshiel*. He was the oldest English-speaking captain in the Chinese-Japanese trade, and had hosts of friends in every port he visited. Especially was Captain Jones celebrated for his studs of racing horses, one of which he maintained at Singapore and another at Shanghai, at both of which places he had won cups and fat purses. When in port here he always drove fast horses, and was well known to the men who haunt the Park and boulevard. The dead captain was a native of England, 55 years old. His home was at Burton-on-Trent, England, where his widow now resides. He leave two daughters and two sons, one of the latter a chief engineer of a steamship running between Liverpool and Cape Town. The body will probably be shipped to England.

NOTES FROM HOME PAPERS.

The Queen paid a visit of semi-state to Bristol in order to open the splendid Convalescent Home built in memory of her Diamond Jubilee, and was received with the rapture of welcoming loyalty which now-a-days attends all her movements. The whole South-West had precipitated itself upon the ancient and most picturesque city, the crowds were enormous, and the scene as the procession moved amidst rather unusual military display, is described as singularly beautiful. The replies to the addresses were written for her Majesty, who does not, when she writes her own thoughts, talk about "recreative institutions," and therefore they sounded conventional, but even the weather was loyal, and the Queen, who looked gratified, was evidently in fair health. As usual her Majesty did a characteristic thing, sending for an old cornet player who had played before her and the Duchess of Kent when they visited Bristol in 1830, and reminding him kindly of their meeting sixty-nine years ago.

Mr. Rhodes is the subject of Mr. Stead's character sketch in the *Review of Reviews*. Referring to the De Beers Company, Mr. Stead says it is the largest diamond producing company in the world. Since its amalgamation in 1885, it has supplied the world with diamonds which, sold wholesale, brought in no less a sum than £40,000,000. This, however, is by no means the chief distinction of the De Beers concern. It is chiefly notable because in its charter, or Articles of Association, Mr. Rhodes was able to secure the insertion of a proviso authorising the directors to appropriate from time to time such funds as they deemed it advisable to set apart out of profits for political or Imperial purposes. It was introduced by Mr. Rhodes, and assented to by his fellow-directors and shareholders solely out of deference to him. It was one of Rhodes's fads, they said; let him have his way. So he had it—as is his wont.

A tunnel under the Thames from Rotherhithe to Shadwell will provide a useful means of communication; and the County Council, having resolved in April to seek Parliamentary powers to construct the tunnel, could scarcely rescind its resolution in November. But £2,198,250 is a large sum of money, and the Council committed itself to the expenditure without adequate consideration of its other obligations, present and prospective. That latest report shows that the commitments for improvements, bridges, and tunnels exceed £12,000,000, and that an outlay of £3,000 000 for main drainage is imminent. Another item of prospective expenditure is the cost of a new county hall. This on the most moderate estimate means an outlay of £1,000,000 and it is improbable that a suitable site for building could be obtained for anything like the sum.

Mr. George Wyndham in an interesting speech delivered to his constituents at Dover, made a point which should be noted by persons who still believe in the likelihood of a successful invasion of the British islands. He pointed out that Great Britain, with an unrivalled position as to the acquisition of transports, and when the problem of safety from sea attack had not to be considered, had found a certain difficulty in transporting eighty thousand men by sea, and went on to ask what would be the difficulties encountered by a European Power bent on conquering Canada, Australia, or South Africa. In addition, how would a European Power manage to transport eighty thousand men to English shores,—even supposing our main Fleet to have been destroyed or decoyed away. The notion of a "snap" invasion while we had an adequate force, even if our Fleet had gone to the bottom, is a pure delusion.

Mr. Carson, M.P., states that in Dublin "soldiers are forbidden to walk through the streets for fear of offending the tender susceptibilities of the Boer sympathisers. Mr. Carson also calls attention to a little scene at a recent meeting of the Tralee Board of Guardians. A poor old woman presented herself for relief, reporting that her husband had been blind for fifteen years and that their two sons were away fighting the Boers. The Chairman of the Board observed that he believed the husband had worked when he was able, whereupon Mr. Slattery remarked, "But her sons are figting the Boers, and I would not ask a worse character of them." After discussion the applicant was allowed 1s. a week, it being understood that she would have got more but for the fact that she had two sons in the Army.

Sir J. Wolfe Barry recently made a most interesting speech on the congestion of Londons He believes that the "retardation" of business traffic between East and West, more especially coal traffic, costs the trade interests of London £9,000.000 a year, the owners of vehicles £1,189,000, and pedestrians £65,000, or a total of £2,150,000 a year. This he would correct by cutting a single mighty street, 125 ft. wide and 5¼ miles long, from West to East, and this, with its subsidiary connection, would cost £6,120,000. This had been ridiculed when originally proposed, but when the loss was fully understood it would be found that the saving fairly repaid the cost. The arterial street is probably a brilliant dream for the present, but if London advances for twenty years as it has done for the past twenty something very like it will have to be constructed.

The irrepressible "Mr. Dooley" has turned from the Dreyfus case to the Transvaal. In a monologue on the war contributed to the *New York Journal*, he describes President Kruger as follows:—"Kruger, that's th' main guy iv th' Dutch, a fine man, Hinnessy, that looks like Casey's goat an' has manny iv th' same peculyarities. He says, 'All r-right,' he says, 'I'll give thim th' franchise,' he says. 'Whin?' says Joe Chamberlain. 'In me will,' says Kruger. 'Whin I die,' he says, 'an' I hope to live to be a hundherd if I keep on smokin befure breakfast,' he says. 'I'll bequeath to me frinds, th' English, or such iv them as was here befure I come, th' inalienable an' sacred right to demand f'm me succissor th' privilege iv ilictin' an aldherman,' he says. 'But,' he says, 'in th' manetime,' he says, 'we'il have things the way they are.'" Mr. Dooley adds that if he was Kruger there would have been no war: "I'd give thim th' votes, but I'd do th' countin.'" It is evident from this "appreciation" that all Irish-Americans do not see eye to eye with Mr. Davitt in regard to the war.

THE BATTLE OF GLENCOE.

(By "The Times" Correspondent.)

On the arrival of Sir George White in Natal Lieutenant-General Sir William Penn Symons was sent forward to take command at Dundee, and on the outbreak of war the forces at his disposal were the 1st Battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers, the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the 1st Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, the 18th Hussars, the 13th, 67th, and 69th Field Batteries, and small detachments of Natal Mounted Police and Carabineers. A few days after the war began the Boer forces occupied Newcastle, and our patrols began to come into touch with small parties of the enemy. On Wednesday, October 18, it was found necessary to withdraw a picket which had been posted five miles away at Glencoe, the point of junction of the Dundee branch line with the main line to the south. On Thursday the mail train from Ladysmith was fired upon at Elandslaagte, and a second portion of the same train, which was running in two sections, was a little later captured by the Boers. Nothing, however, seemed as yet to portend a serious attack upon our position at Dundee, and

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General Symons, though fully prepared to meet such an attack, certainly did not expect it; though, curiously enough, Mr. Escomb, who was staying at Dundee, told me on Thursday that he had received information from a friendly Dutchman that a commando of 7,000 Boers from the east and a large commando from the north were to make a simultaneous attack upon the following day, information which, in the light of subsequent events, can be seen to have accurately reflected the intentions of the Boer commanders.

As a matter of fact, a large commando from the east under Lucas Meyer, Chairman of the First Volksraad and founder of the new Republic, now the Vryheid district of the Transvaal, crossed the Buffalo River at Landman's Drift on Thursday evening and pressed forward towards Dundee. At half-past 2 on the morning of Friday, October 20, a mounted infantry picket of the Dublin Fusiliers was driven in across Smith's Nek, where the road towards the river passes between the hills on the east of the town, a private being wounded. Nothing was known as to the strength of the enemy, and a company of the Dublins was sent forward to support. On the east of the town the ground slopes down for half a mile to a donga, or river-bed, from which on the other side the long ascent to the top of Talana Hill begins. In this donga the company of the Dublins took up position; hither when the battle began the infantry were pushed forward, and here they were formed for attack. As the dawn grew into daylight we could see the Boers all along the sky line on the top of Talana Hill, which lies on our left of Smith's Nek, and also on another kopje to the right of the Nek. About half-past 5 the Boers opened with their rifles on some of our men who were visible above the banks of the donga, and a few minutes later, to our great astonishment, and to the still greater astonishment of the camp, where nothing serious apparently was expected, the sound of a big gun was heard and a shell passed over our heads and made its way to the camp. Another shell speedily followed and a vigorous bombardment of the camp, at a range of 3,000 yards, at once began. It was now evident that the Boers were in force, their guns appearing to be about half-a-dozen in number. Presently *the cheerful sound* of our guns replying reached *us, one battery*, the 67th, firing from the camp, the others coming into action in forward positions on the high ground to the east of the town, the 13th on our right, the 69th on our left. Later on, as the Boer fire slackened, these two batteries moved down to positions immediately on the town side of the donga, firing at a range of about 2,000 yards. For two hours the battle consisted of a sharp artillery duel, till at 7 30 the Boer guns went out of action, whether disabled or not it is impossible to say. Their range had been excellent, but their shell fortunately defective, never bursting, so that our losses at this stage were insignificant, while our shrapnel, beautifully aimed at the crest of the hill and bursting on the flat summit alive with Boers, must have been very destructive.

Meanwhile, three regiments of infantry—the Dublins, the Rifles, and the Irish Fusiliers—had been moved forward to the donga, the Leicesters and 67th Field Battery being left to guard the camp against a possible attack from the north, and as soon as the Boer guns were silenced General Symons gave the order to assault Talana Hill. The hill rises about 800ft. above the level of the donga, and the distance to the top was more than a mile. The first portion of the ascent is gentle, over open ground, to a homestead known as Smith's Farm, surrounded by a broken wood. Above the wood the ground is rough and rocky, and the ascent steep, and half way up from this point a thick wall runs round the hill, the fringe of a wide terrace of open ground. Above the terrace the ascent is almost perpendicular, and at the end was the Boer position on the flat top so characteristic of South African hills. Altogether the position seemed impregnable, even if held by a small body against large forces; and General Symons must have had extraordinary confidence in his men when he ordered 2,000 to take it in the teeth of a terrible and sustained fire from superior numbers of skilled riflemen. His confidence was fully justified. It is said that he deliberately resolved to show the Boers that Majuba was not the measure of what British infantry could do, and if so he more than succeeded. To find a parallel for the endurance, tenacity, and heroic determination to press forward over all obstacles and at all hazards one has to go back to Wellington's invincible infantry in the Peninsula.

The morning was dull and cheerless, with drizzling rain, and the men had to go through their eight hours' fighting without their breakfast. The wood was the first cover available after leaving the donga, and in the rush for this position the Dublins led the way, though afterwards the three regiments went on practically side by side. The advance of the infantry was covered by a vigorous cannonade from our guns, but the appearance of our men in the open was nevertheless the signal for a storm of rifle fire from the Boers, though our losses at this stage were extraordinarily small. In the wood, which for some time marked the limit of the advance, they were considerable, and here about 9 30 General Symons, who had galloped up to tell his men that the hill must be taken, fell mortally wounded. Throughout the morning he had exposed himself perhaps unnecessarily, his position always being marked by the red flag carried by a Lancer orderly. By 10 o'clock our men, creeping up inch by inch and taking advantage of every available cover, had gained the shelter of the stone wall which serves as a parapet to the terrace, but for a long time further advance seemed impossible. As often as a man became visible the Boers poured upon him a deadly fire, while, whatever their losses from our artillery they rarely afforded a mark for a rifle. About 12, however, a lull in their fire afforded our men an opportunity for scaling the wall and dashing across the open ground beyond, and then the almost sheer ascent of the last portion of the hill began. Here it was that our losses were greatest, the Rifles losing most heavily, and it would seem that if any distinction can be drawn to this regiment belonged the first honours of the day. Colonel Gunning, who was always in front of his men, was shot through the head near the top of the hill; Captain Pechell, who had only arrived two days before from the Sudan and had led his men splendidly throughout the fight, also fell; and out of 17 officers who went into action the battalion lost five killed and seven wounded. The Royal Irish Fusiliers also lost very heavily, the Dublins, more fortunate apparently, in their position, escaping most easily. As our men neared the top our guns were compelled to slacken fire, and the Boers, of course, were enabled to strengthen their rifle fire accordingly. The last portion of the ascent was rushed with the bayonet, but the Boers did not await the charge, the few who had stood their ground to near the end being seen flying precipitately across the top of the hill when our men reached the crest. About thirty dead and wounded were lying on the ground and cases of ammunition and Mauser rifles strewn about showed the hurry of the flight. Boer ponies were galloping about, and one of the humorous sights of the day was men of the Dublin Fusiliers gaily riding back from the battle on these captive steeds. The Rifles captured two Transvaal flags, and a field hospital was found with 70 wounded Boers behind their position.

During the last stage of the fight our guns had been moved up from their second position behind the donga to positions on the flanks of the wood, and when our men emerged on the top of the hill a battery was pushed forward along the road to the top of the Nek. From here the Boer army was visible within easy range retreating across the open country below, and if the opportunity had been promptly seized the whole force could have been annihilated or compelled to lay down its arms: but there was some unfortunate misunderstanding about an armistice, and the opportunity was lost. The defeat of this commando has been a surprise and a salutary lesson to the Boers; the results of its total destruction or surrender would have been incalculable. As it was, however, the victory was well worth the price that was paid for it. The impression made on the Boers both by our infantry and artillery was enormous. One wounded prisoner declared that he had had much experience of Kaffir wars, but this was quite a different business; "It was awful!" Since Talana Hill Lucas Meyer's commando has disappeared and apparently ceased to be a factor in the campaign. The victorious force had afterwards to retire from Dundee, but their opponents of Friday last played no part in the operations that led to the withdrawal.

As we returned from the field rain came down in torrents. All day long we had expected an attack from the Newcastle road or Impati Hill to the north, which fortunately never came; but in the course of the afternoon firing, whose reason no one could explain, was heard towards the north-east. The cavalry had been sent out in this direction in the morning to operate on the right flank of the Boers position and as a squadron of the Hussars, accompanied by Colonel Möller and four sections of mounted infantry, disappeared and were not heard of by us again till we learnt in Ladysmith that they had been captured, it may be presumed that this firing marked the position in which they had been cut off and surrounded.

THE BOER WAR.

A BRILLIANT SORTIE AT LADYSMITH.

London, Dec. 11.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes these dispatches from its special correspondent:—

Ladysmith, Friday, Dec. 8.

The most brilliant piece of work that has been done during the siege was accomplished at an early hour this morning. A column of Light Horse Natal Volunteers, supported by British regular cavalry, went out last night under command of General Sir Archibald Hunter. Before dawn broke they attacked the guns on the hill near Lombards Kop, carried the position, blew up the Boer guns, including a 6-inch Creusot piece and one howitzer, and captured a Maxim-Nordenfeldt quick-fire gun.

The gallant little force left town before 10 o'clock last night and took up a position near the foot of Lombards Kop. At about 2 o'clock this (Friday) morning the advance began. The troops got past a Boer picket in the darkness and were charging several hundred yards up the hill when the picket awoke and the sentry hailed "Wie Goat Daar" (Who goes there?) Getting no reply he fired his rifle and then ran off shouting "Willem, Hans, Marteens. Flee—the English are upon you."

The Boers round the guns fired several volleys at the advancing troops and then fled dismayed down the opposite side of the hill. Our men seized the guns without opposition. Then engineers, men of No. 100 Mountain Battery, blew up the heavy guns with guncotton and carried off the Maxim-Nordenfeldt.

The Boers had built a splendid emplacement on top of the hill, but they bolted before our men like rabbits, leaving everything, even their private letters behind them. One of these epistles said that they had bombarded Ladysmith for a month and nine days, but that the "Rooineks" were going about unconcernedly, and if the town was to be taken the Boers must do it at terrible loss of life.

Our troops brought away the breechlock of the Long Tom, together with the rammer, sponges, sights, friction tubes, and other fittings of the weapons. All the guns on the hill are quite destroyed now and utterly useless for offensive or defensive purposes.

The whole operation, counting from the moment at which the order to charge was given, was carried out in three-quarter's of an hour, with a loss on our side of seven men wounded.

This magnificent piece of work has evidently filled the Boers with dismay, as their guns on Mount Bulwan have practically been silent al day. The success of the attack cannot fail to have an immense effect upon the morale of the Boers.

At daybreak a smart skirmish took place between the Eighth Hussars and the Fifth Lancers and the enemy to the north-west of Ladysmith, near Peworth Hill. Our cavalry had been covering an attack on the guns during the night and the Boers thought that all our troops were engaged at Lombards Kop. They therefore tried to get near the town, but the movement was checked in capital style by the cavalry and our infantry on a long hill. The fighting was over at about 6 o'clock. Our total loss for the morning's work was four killed and seventeen wounded.

SHARP FIGHTING AT KIMBERLEY.

New York, Dec. 6.

A cablegram from Cape Town says: A dispatch from Kimberley, dated November 28th, reports sharp fighting as the result of the reconnoissance in force at dawn of that day. Major Scott-Turner of the Black Watch led the attack on the Boers, who held an intenched position on Lazarette ridge. The British force passed the Boer pickets, who were sleeping, and rushed the redoubts in the face of a hail of bullets. They were unable to hold the position, as the enemy was rapidly reinforced and poured in a terrible fire. Scott-Turner's horse was shot beneath him and he received a bullet in the shoulder.

Scott-Turner's attack was part of a considerable sortie, in which ten British guns and a large part of the garrison engaged. The fighting lasted several hours. The British failed to capture the enemy's laager, which was apparently the object of the sortie, and were not strong enough to hold other positions. They therefore retired. The Boer artillery was excellently served. The British assert that a party of Boers again raised the white flag and fired from beneath its protection. They also, it is said, repeatedly fired on an ambulance. Some of the Boers used explosive bullets. Several wounded Boers were taken back to Kimberley, as were also eight uninjured prisoners. The British losses were slight.

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London, December 7.

The sortie from Kimberley on November 28th appears to have been much more serious than had been supposed. Details are not arriving of a reconnaissance in force by mounted troops under Major Scott-Turner at dawn on a ridge near Carter's farm, where the Boers were strongly intrenched. Finding the Boer pickets asleep, Major Scott-Turner proceeded along the ridge under cover and rushed the Boer redoubts at 5.25 a.m. in the face of the hail of bullets.

The Boers hoisted a white flag and fired at the British under its protection before surrendering. Owing possibly to the exhaustion of their ammunition the British were unable to follow up the attack and to seize a large Boer laager about 300 yards ahead, especially as Boer re-inforcements were seen approaching, and the enemy was keeping up a heavy fire from the shelter of the thick bush.

During the sortie an armoured train reconnoitered north and south, while a considerable force of British, with field guns and Maxims, advanced toward Spytfontein, holding the Boers in check in that direction.

Ten guns were engaged simultaneously, and, viewed from the conning tower, an artillery duel seemed to be proceeding in every direction, except toward Kenilworth, the fusillade being terrific. At 8 o'clock, having no force sufficient to hold the position he had stormed, Major Scott-Turner began gradually retiring his men. He had a horse shot from under him and a bullet went through the fleshy part of his shoulder. Several men had terrible wounds.

It is alleged that the Boers used Martinis and explosive bullets, and they frequently fired at the British ambulance wagons. The British captured twenty-eight of the enemy.

Modder river dispatches say that the Boers are encamped amid the hills half-way to Kimberley; but it is also asserted that a large body of the enemy have gone in the directions of Jacobsdahl. It is possible, therefore, that Lord Methuen may endeavour to clear his right flank as far as Jacobsdahl before continuing his advance. He is still waiting at Modder river for stores, guns, and ammunition.

London, December 6.

The War Office has received the list of casualties during the sortie from Kimberley, November 28th, as follows:

KILLED.

Major Scott-Turner of the Black Watch.

Lieutenant C. W. Wright of the Kimberley Light Horse, and twenty non commissioned officers and men.

WOUNDED

Captain Waldeck, Lieutenants Clifford and Watson, and twenty-eight non-commissioned officers and men.

THE NAVAL GUNS AT LADYSMITH.

A correspondent, writing to *The Times* from Natal, says:—

You may be interested to hear a little about the Navy, who have come to the front as usual and met an emergency. From the first it would seem that what was wanted were long-range guns which could shell the enemy at a distance outside the range of their Mauser rifles, and the Captain of the *Terrible* therefore proposed a field-mounting for the naval long 12 pounder of 12cwt., which has a much longer range than any artillery gun out here. A pair of wagon wheels were picked up, a baulk of timber used as a trail, and in 24 hours a 12-pounder was ready for land service. Captain Scott then designed a mounting for a 4 7in. naval gun by simply bolting a ship's mounting down on to four pieces of pile. Experts declared that the 12 pounder would smash up the trail, and that the 4.7in. would turn a somersault; the designer insisted, however, on a trial. When it took place nothing of the kind happened except that at extreme elevation the 12 pounder shell went 9,000 yards and the 4 7in. (Lyddite) projectile 12,000 yards. Captain Scott was, therefore, encouraged to go ahead, and four 12-pounders were fitted and sent round to Durban in the *Powerful*, and also two 4 7in. guns. People say here that these guns saved the situation at Ladysmith. A naval friend writing to me from the camp says:—"The Boers complain that we are not 'playing the game'; they only expected to fight Roomicks, not sailors who use guns that range seven miles, and they want us to go back to our ships. One of our Lyddite shells went over a hill into their camp, killed 14 men, and wounded 30. Guns of this description are not, according to the Boer idea, at all proper, and they do not like our way of 'staggering humanity.' Had these guns been landed earlier how much might have been saved? It is a peculiar sight to see the 4 7in. fired. Many thought it would turn over, but Captain Percy Scott appears to have well calculated the stresses; there is with a full charge of cordite a slight rise of the fore end, which practically relieves all the fastenings. Hastily put together, and crude as it looks, is really embraces all the points of a scientific mounting, and it wants a great expert to pronounce an opinion on it. The gun is mounted so high that to the uninitiated it looks as if it must turn over on firing, but it does not, and the higher angle of elevation the less strain there is on it. The arrival of our guns practically put the R A. guns out of use, for they can come into action 2,000 yards behind those supplied to the soldiers and then make better practice. Their arrival has, every one admits, quite changed the situation.

Captain Scott has also rigged up a searchlight on a railway truck with a flasher attachment, the idea being to use it for communication with Kimberley and Ladysmith if these places are surrounded. It has been tested at a distance of 40 miles, and proved a great success. I am told, too, that he is now engaged in designing a travelling carriage for a 6in. gun, and has, indeed, converted the *Terrible* into a factory for curiosities in gun mountings.

Each mounting, by the way, has an inscription upon it, presumably concocted by the ship's painter. One, a parody upon the Scotch proverb, runs: "Those who sup with me will require a devil of a long spoon"; another, "For what we are going to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful—Oom Paul"; and a third, "Lay me true and load me tight, the Boers will soon be out of sight." I saw one of these guns fired with an elevation of 24deg. and a range of 12,000 yards, and fully expected to see the whole thing capsize, but it hardly moved. After the firing of several rounds I carefully examined the mounting and noticed that, crude as it might appear, a wonderful amount of practical knowledge was apparent in its construction; the strain was beautifully distributed, every bolt and each baulk bearing its proportionate share. It is in every way creditable to the Navy that when an emergency arises such a thing could be devised and made by the ship's engineering staff in 24 hours.

WAR NOTES.

Lady Sarah Wilson, aunt of the Duke of Marlborough, who was captured by the Boers while acting as a correspondent for the London *Daily Mail*, has been exchanged for a Boer woman who was a prisoner at Mafeking.

"When we had got their position," writes an officer at Elandslaagte, "a man came with a flag of truce in one hand, while he fired right and left with his revolver in the other. Can one wonder if Tommy shoots them, surrender or no?"

The War Office has issued a notice that after January 1st a deduction will be made from the pay of soldiers serving in South Africa—in the case of privates, 4 pence a day for wives and a penny for each child; in the case of sergeants, 8 pence for wives and 2 pence for each child. These sums have thus far been paid by the Government. The order indicates the belief that the campaign will be a long one.

The 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, recently ordered to the front, is a battalion to rejoice the heart of its commanding officer. He leads to the front 1,100 men of over seven years' service, nearly all of whom distinguished themselves in Lyttelton's brigade before Omdurman. This, the old 20th Regiment, is in the 211th year of its existence. The men almost without exception come from Lancashire.

When the army corps first went to Africa, Gatacre was generally regarded in military circles as the strongest of the three division commanders. The best that his admirers can now say, remarks a London paper, is that South Africa has always been a graveyard for military reputations. If Gatacre recovers his prestige it will be because sympathy is excited by premature attacks, like that made by Lord Durham, who in the safe retirement of a fat stock sale luncheon described Gatacre as a man unfit to command troops in South Africa.

The Boers fear the British bayonets. This is illustrated in the full accounts of sorties at Ladysmith. It seems that in Sir Archibald Hunter's sally from Ladysmith to capture the Boer guns, the British did not carry bayonets. While they were storming the hills the Boers, suddenly aroused from sleep, rushed to the edge, and opened an indiscriminate fire upon them. But just before the British secured a footing on the top of the hill, some one among them shouted: "Fix bayonets and give them cold steel!" At this the Boers turned and fled into the darkness.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr. Daniel Tallon, presided at a meeting of the corporation on Dec. 11th called to protest against the Transvaal war. The clerk announced that there was no quorum, but the Lord Mayor insisted on making a statement in which he declared that the war was a wanton and unprovoked aggression undertaken by Mr. Chamberlain and capitalists "against a handful of farmers." He further declared that America was "opposed to this iniquitous war." In the meantime the members present shouted "No quorum!" and "order!" and the tumult in the galleries drowned all the speeches. Eventually the Lord Mayor left the chair with the galleries cheering for President Kruger. No attempt was made to adopt the previously prepared resolution against the war.

The news of General Gatacre's reverse made an immense impression in Paris. Although the afternoon papers predicted the gravest consequences in the disaffected portion of Cape Colony they could not be accused of unseemly exultation over British misfortune. Most of the journals saw in the defeat an undoubted trap laid by Boers working in conjunction with Dutch traitors. The *Journal des Debats* epitomized the general opinion by saying that Sir Alfred Milner had threatened in vain to overwhelm the disloyal Dutch with the thunderbolts of British wrath and that even he must now recognize that race sympathy is stronger than loyalty. It saw in the attitude of the Afrikanders the inevitable result of the tactless language of the British press in referring to the war as a struggle between the British and Dutch for supremacy in South Africa. The *Temps* said: "The story of the ambush at Stormberg reads like a chapter from Cooper's 'The Spy.' The situation resembles that of the American War of Independence, when the colonists devoted themselves to deceiving, misleading, and ambushing the British Generals for love of their country and with the assent of Washington."

The effect of Lyddite shells is to be judged from following paragraph respecting fighting at Spyfontein on Dec. 9th. The naval contingent consisted of four companies of marines and fifty sailors, under command of Captain John E. Bearcroft of the cruiser *Philomel*. They began to fire at the enemy from a ridge facing Spyfontein. They fired fourteen charges of lyddite at ranges varying from 6,700 to 7,200 yards. One shell fell on a Boer tent, which immediately disappeared. Everything in the immediate vicinity was wrecked. Another of the missiles dropped among a bunch of fifteen horses, which were blown to atoms. It is not known whether there were any Boers near the animals. It is believed that the enemy did not see the gun which did the damage, it having been painted the colour of the khaki uniforms worn by the men, and smokeless powder being used. There was scarcely a flash when the gun was discharged. The bluejackets have chalked the name "Joey Chamberlain" near the muzzle of their gun. The first lyddite shell burst over a high point in the range of hills. The area of destruction was enormous. The whole ground appeared to be churned into red dust. The Boers hurriedly left an emplacement which they were preparing for a forty pounder. The emplacement was apparently destroyed.

Discussing the defeat of General Gatacre at Stormberg, the *Daily News* said:—"The reverse General Gatacre has suffered is a sadly emphatic commentary on the peculiar difficulty of military operations in a semi-disaffected country. The enemy's spies are everywhere, and nowhere can we rely confidently on any counter-information. General Gatacre seems to have been completely trapped. Of course he will be immediately re-inforced." The *Daily Chronicle* said:—"There is only too much reason to fear that this is the worst illustration we have had yet of inadequate equipment and insufficient scouting. How far this disaster was due to lack of judgment on his part and how far to lack of artillery is not quite clear, but the patient public cannot help recalling that General Methuen's victory at Modder river was won by artillery re-enforcement at the critical moment, and all they would like to know is how many times this particular lesson is to be learned." The *Standard* considered the event in the highest degree deplorable. "It will tell against us unfavourably in the Free State, among the colonial Dutch, and even among the natives. A great deal of evidence has been accumulating to show how

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deeply the colony, or at least the northern and western portions of it, are honeycombed by disaffection. Our Generals have to cope with a rebel colony as well as with hostile republics and must take measures to lay their plans in accordance with the details."

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

FRANCE.

Shanghai, Dec. 30.

The French Government is to introduce Bills in Parliament assigning 120 million francs for the defence of the coasts and colonies, and 400 millions for the increase of the fleet.

MAFEKING.

News from Mafeking dated the 12th of December says that the enemy is firing daily on all sides, but that the health and spirits of the garrison are good.

ARTILLERY FOR EGYPT.

The Royal Malta Artillery goes to Egypt.

LADYSMITH CASUALTIES.

Later.

A despatch from Ladysmith dated the 22nd says that the British casualties since the beginning of the siege are 70 killed and 256 wounded. There are also many cases of enteric fever.

THE YEOMANRY.

According to an officially sanctioned statement the Government regards the formation and despatch of the Imperial Yeomanry as one of the most pressing needs of the situation. The *Daily Telegraph* says that the Government is now prepared to accept the services of some eight to ten thousand Yeomanry.

Note.—This portion of the message is somewhat obscurely worded. It is uncertain whether "18 thousand "or" 8 to 10 thousand" is meant.—ED. *J.M.*

CHIEVELEY.

The British at Chieveley continue heavily shelling the Boers' positions at Colenso. The Cavalry Brigade made a reconnaissance due west from the Modder River.

SEIZURE OF A GERMAN STEAMER

Shanghai, Dec. 31.

A German steamer, the *Bundesrath*, having on board three German officers and twenty men dressed in Khaki, has been seized in Delagoa Bay and taken to Durban. The Government is convinced that it was not seized without ample justification, and will await the decision of the Prize Court. The captain of the *Bundesrath* declares that he had no contraband, and has appealed to the German Government, who immediately promised interposition.

A BOER STORY.

A Boer despatch says that, on December 25th, the British hotly attacked the Boer fort at Malopo outside Mafeking, and that they lost 109, the Boers losing 9. Cecil Cavendish Bentinck being among the wounded.

LADYSMITH.

White has made a sortie from Ladysmith and captured a hill.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

Shanghai, Jan. 1.

It is stated in Washington that the result of Mr. Secretary Hay's negotiations for securing the open door in China is most gratifying. Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Japan have responded favourably.

SKIRMISH AT DELFONTEIN.

The Volunteers at Delfontein, 29 miles south of De Aar Junction, dispersed a party of Boers from the railway on Christmas Day. There were no casualties among the Volunteers.

FRERE CAMP.

Reuter telegraphs from Frere camp that several hundred Boers were cut off on the south side of the Tugela on Saturday, owing to the river's suddenly rising.

LADYSMITH.

Lieutenant Dalzel, of the Devons, has been killed and others wounded by a shell striking the mess-room in Ladysmith.

CAPE COLONY.

There are reports of increasing disaffections in Cape Colony, but there is nothing like concerted action. The authorities are fully prepared.

THE COLONIES.

Colonial Volunteers continue enrolling at many centres. Another New Zealand contingent sails on the 15th of January, and more will follow.

IRELAND.

The Duke of Connaught has been appointed to the command of the troops in Ireland.

AN AMERICAN ATTACHÉ.

The United States is sending a military attaché to the Boers.

THE LONDON IMPERIAL VOLUNTEERS.

Col. Howard Vincent is to command the infantry battalion of the London Imperial Volunteers.

THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the honorary colonelcy of the Imperial Yeomanry.

BREACH OF NEUTRALITY.

The Times' correspondent at Lorenzo Marques telegraphs that the suspicions are confirmed of close relations existing between the Boers and a foreign consulate in Pretoria. There are persistent rumours in Lorenzo Marques and in Durban of guns and ammunition for the Boers being smuggled through at Delagoa Bay.

BOERS ROUTED AT COLESBURG.

Shanghai, Jan. 2.

The evening papers publish news that French routed the Boers and occupied Colesburg on the morning of the 1st. After a night march the cavalry and light artilley outflanked the enemy, while the infantry and field artillery made a feint of a frontal attack. The Boers were surprised and fled in disorder eastward.

BOER ATTACK REPULSED.

It is reported that 2,000 Boers attacked Dordrecht, but were repulsed.

LADYSMITH.

The officers wounded in the Messroom at Ladysmith are as follows:—

Lieuts. Dent, Twiss, Caffys, Scafe, and Kane of the Devous; Byrne of the Inniskillings; and Tringhan of the Queen's. The enemy's artillery has improved in accuracy and the garrison is feeling the pinch of the siege, but is confident.

RECONNAISSANCE FROM CHIEVELEY.

A reconnaissance made on the 30th from Chieveley proved that the Boers still hold Inlawe.

THE SITUATION AT COLENSO.

Shanghai, January 3.

Correspondents wiring from Chieveley, are unanimous in saying that the task confronting Buller is stupendous. The Tugela is in full flood and the Boers' position is a perfect fortress.

DISAFFECTION IN THE CAPE COLONY.

Ugly rumours are current in Capetown of disaffection in the Victoria West and Clanwillian Districts.

THE SEVENTH DIVISION.

The Seventh Division embarks by the 11th instant.

A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK AT BELMONT.

Later.

An official despatch says that Colonel Pilcher with a force largely composed of Canadians and Australians made a forced march of 22 miles and surprised and completely defeated a Boer commando at near Belmont on the 1st inst., taking their laager with 40 prisoners besides the killed and wounded. The British casualties were Lieut. Adie, of the Queensland Mounted Infantry, severely wounded, and 3 men killed.

THE FIGHT AT DORDRECHT.

The British success at Dordrecht is confirmed.

THE FIGHT AT COLESBERG.

General French with his infantry in wagons, 5 squadrons of cavalry, and 10 guns attacked the Boers at daybreak on the 1st. He shelled the laager from a kopje overlooking Colesberg, silencing their guns, and then took up a position cutting off the retreat of the Boers by the road bridge. The enemy from 5,000 to 7,000 strong, occupied a strong laager near the junction. The British loss was 2 killed and 7 wounded.

IMPERIAL COURTESIES.

The Japanese Minister in Berlin has had an audience with the Emperor William and presented the Order of the Chrysanthemum which the Emperor of Japan has conferred on the Crown Prince.

MORE TROOPS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Shanghai, Jan. 4.

It has been decided to employ outside Great Britain twelve militia battalions, of which seven go to South Africa, two to Malta, two to the Channel Islands, and the destination of the twelfth is undecided.

THE COLESBERG FIGHT.

There is nothing official yet about the Colesberg fight.

RESERVE OFFICERS CALLED OUT.

Later.

An Army order sanctions the employment of a certain number of reserve officers not above the rank of Major to fill vacancies.

GEN. FRENCH.

An official despatch says that General French's position is unchanged; he is still manœuvring. The despatch adds that with small re-inforcements he could dislodge the enemy from Colesberg.

NEW GUNS FOR THE ARTILLERY.

It is stated that the Defence Committee

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of the Cabinet has decided to ask for over 5,000,000 sterling to provide new guns for the Artillery.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

FRENCH COAST DEFENCE.

Saigon, Dec. 30.

When Parliament re-assembles the Government will introduce a Bill appropriating 120 millions of francs for the defence of the coasts and the Colonies. The works will be completed in thirty months.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Saigon, Dec. 31.

The bombardment of Ladysmith continues.

Some engagements have taken place around Kimberley and Mafeking.

Cannon shots are exchanged between the English and the Boers at the Modder River.

SEIZURE OF A GERMAN SHIP.

Saigon, Jan., 1.

An English cruiser has captured in Delagoa Bay a German steamer called the *Bundesrath*, on suspicion of carrying contraband of war. The affair has been submitted to the Prize Court in Durban.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Saigon, Jan. 4.

News from London says that General French has not occupied Colesberg. The battle continues around the town.

The Boers in the morning attacked the English at Molteno.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 454.

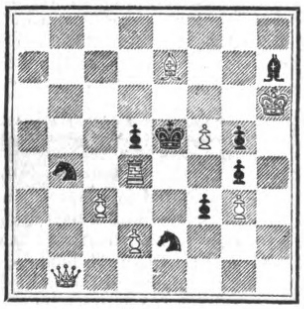
Key move Kt to Q B 5

Correct answer received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 455.

By JOSEF SVEJDA, Prague.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 580.

EVANS GAMBIT.

White—A. C. Kaye. Black—V. Brent.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 Kt Q2	P KR3
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	17 Kt B4	PxKt
3 B B4	B B4	18 P R5	BxBP
4 P QKt4	BxP	19 QxB	Kt B5
5 P B3	B R4	20 R Q2	Kt Q4
6 Castles	Kt KB3	21 Q Kt3	K R2
7 P Q4	Castles	22 Q Q3 ch	K R-q
8 PxP	KKtxP	23 Kt K3	P KKt5
9 Q Q3	Kt B4	24 KtxP	Q Kt4
10 Q B2	Kt K2	25 P B3	P QKt3
11 Kt Kt5	Kt K3	26 P Kt3	B Kt4
12 P KR4	Kt K3	27 Q Q4	P QB4
13 BxKt	QPxB	28 Q B2	QR Q q
14 B R3	R K-q	29 QR Ksq	Kt K2
15 R Qsq	B Q2	Resigns	

NOTE.

White's sixth is, probably, premature. The strongest move is P to Q4. This is the move of all, or nearly all, the great "Evans" players.

Of course, White's sacrifice of Kt is unsound.

GAME No. 581.

To what special faculty are we to attribute the remarkable accuracy of Mr. Blackburne's blindfold play? In one instance it is on record that he announced mate in sixteen moves. And in the following game, played at Hereford in 1897, he not only announced mate in six, but called out "with the utmost rapidity" seven variations which exhaust the position.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

White—J. H. Blackburne. Black—Mr. Collins.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K3	11 Q B2	B B3
2 P Q4	P Q4	12 QR Qsq	Kt Ktsq
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	13 KR Ksq	Kt Q2
4 B KKt5	B K2	14 B Kt5	BxKt
5 BxKt	BxB	15 QxB	Castles
6 Kt B3	PxP	16 Q B6	P QR3
7 KtxP	B K2	16 B R4	P QKt4
8 B Q3	P QKt3	18 B K3	P B-q
9 Castles	Kt B3	19 Kt Kt5	R Q q
10 P B3	B Kt2 ·	20 KtxP(a)	

NOTE.

(a) Mate follows in six. If.....20—K takes Kt; 21—Q takes P ch, K to Kt 3 (b); 22—B to B 2 ch, K to R 4 (c) (d); 23—Q to B 5 ch, B to Kt 4 (e) (f) (g); 24—Q to B 3 ch, K to R3; 25—Q to R 3 ch, B to R 5; 26—Q takes B. If (b)..... 21—K to B sq; 23—Q to B 7 mate. If (c)..... 22—K to R 3; 23—Q to R 3 ch, K to Kt 4; 24—P to B 4 ch, K takes P; 25—Q to Kt 3 mate. If (d).....22 K to Kt 4; 23—Q to B 5 ch, K to R 3; 24—Q takes P ch, K to Kt 4, 25—P to R 4 ch, K any; 26—R mates. If (e).....22—K to R 5; 24—R to K 4 mate. If (f).....23—K to R 2; 24 Q takes P ch, K to Kt 4; 25—P to K R 4 ch, K any; 26—K mates. If (g).....23—P to Kt 4; 24—Q to R 3 mate.

CHESS AND PHRENOLOGY.

To have the power of playing Chess very skilfully, the organs of number and order must be proportionately expanded. Music springs from the same source, and accordingly Chess-players and musicians will ever be found intimately mingled. Philidor was a composer of music; and at the present time we find both of these arts cultivated by the same persons to a considerable extent. The organs laid down by Combe, the phrenologist, as number and order, were largely developed in the head of Philidor. The same conformation of brow was visible in M. Deschapelles. In playing Chess with a stranger, it will not be uninteresting to compare his style of game with the superficial observation you may be enabled to make by glancing at his craniological presentment. Men possessing high, sugar-loafed heads, piercing conically the air in a point, like the Peak of Teneriffe, will, thanks to this preternatural possession of the bump of "firmness" or "obstinacy," contest the game long after hope would have ceased to draw breath in the frames of their fellow-mortals. . . . Another class of amateurs, by way of distinction, may be called, but not invidiously, the "flat-headed"; each cranium of this species being depressed at its apex, constituting a species of tableland like that whereon stands Mexico. Men thus formed are marked through life as waverers. They hesitate, and doubt, and waver, and philosophize, and dream away existence like most true gentlemen. Get them into the slightest scrape at Chess, and they reel instanter; win a Pawn, they sweat blood and water; capture a Knight, and they give up the game. To the credit of the fair sex be it said, that of lady Chess-players by far the majority display the organ of—we dare not say "obstinacy," but may write "tenacity of purpose."

The same organ, or faculty, equally applies to the attainment of kindred subjects of study. Good Chess-players play all games of society better than other people, speaking wholesale; and to their honour be it said, they seldom permit their talent to prostitute itself to the baser objects of gambling. Chess-players take up Whist, Draughts, and similar pursuits; but rarely number themselves among Mammon's votaries who crowd the race course.—*The Chess Players Chronicle.*

CHESS IN VIENNA.

An interesting tournament commenced in Vienna on December 17. To improve Chess in Austria-Hungary, the late Baron Kolisch bequeathed a fund to the Vienna Chess Club for investment, thus endowing the periodical national tournaments, of which the first is to be held now. If the best players will enter it ought to prove an important event. The prizes are 1,000f., 750f., 500f., 400f., 300f., 200f., 150f., 100f., and 50f. Not more than sixteen players are admitted.

CHESS MASTER DEAD.

Dr. Max Lange, the famous German chess-master, theoretician and problemist has died at Leipsic. He was born, in Madgeburg in 1832.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Karlsruhe 1	Tu Jan. 9
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 2	Tu. Jan. 9
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Salazie 3	Tu. Jan. 9
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 4	F. Jan. 12
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 15
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Jan. 15
America	P. M. Co.	Algoa	W. Jan. 17
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of China	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Jan. 29
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th Jan. 25
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Algoa	Th Feb. 25

1 Left Shanghai on the 3rd inst

2 Left San Francisco on the 21st ult.

3 Left Shanghai on the 5th inst.

4 Left Hongkong on the 3rd inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Jan. 10
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. Jan. 10
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	W. Jan. 10
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Karlsruhe	Sa. Jan 13
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. Jan. 13
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 15
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Algoa	Th. Jan. 18
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Salazie	F. Jan. 19
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	F. Jan. 26
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Jan. 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Jan. 31
America	P. M. Co.	Algoa	Sa, Feb 17

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Afridi, British steamer, 2,354, Thos. Golding, 30th December,—New York via ports, and Kobe 28th December, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,881, R. Glegg, 30th December,—Liverpool and Glasgow via ports, and Kobe 28th December, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato, 30th December,—Kobe, 28th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bedouin, British steamer, 2,245, J. H. Middleton, 30th Dec.,—Batoum via Singapore, 16th Dec., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Breconshire, British steamer, 2,323, Elliott, 30th Dec.,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, C B, 8th Dec., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 30th December,—Yokkaichi, 29th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cowrie, British steamer, 3,155, Davis, 31st Dec.,—Batoum via Hongkong, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 31st December,—Yokkaichi, 30th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer 3,797, H. Peterson, 31st Dec.,—Moji, 29th Dec., Coal—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yawata Maru, British steamer, 2,181, A. E. Moses, 1st Jan.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 31st Dec, Mails and General. Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2 992, T. G. Steeves, 1st Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 31st Dec., General.—Butterfield and Swire.

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Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 1st Jan.,—San Diego via Honolulu, 23rd Nov., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 1st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 31st December, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 1st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 31st Dec. Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Commodore T. H. Allen, American ship, 2,216, R. L. Merriman, 1st Jan.,—New York, 1st July, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Bombay, British steamer, 2,048, G. M. Modtford, 1st Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 30th Dec., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 1st Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 13th Dec., Mails and General.—O. & O. S. S. Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 1st Jan,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 31st Dec., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, S. Tsuji, 2nd Jan.,—Kobe, 31st Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 3rd January,—Otaru via ports, 29th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 3rd January,—Hakodate, 31st Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 4th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 3rd Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

On Sang, British steamer, 1,787, J. Young, 4th Jan.,—San Francisco, 5th Dec., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Nunome, 4th January,—Bombay via ports, and Kobe 2nd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Preussen, German steamer, 3,278, R. Heintze, 30th December,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., *Nachl.*

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 30th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 30th December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, T. Tibballs, 30th December,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,709, Wm. Bainbridge, 30th December,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. B. Seabury, 30th December,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 30th December,—Seattle, Washington, via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 3rd January,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 3rd January,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Monmouthhire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 3rd January,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 31st Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, G. Anderson, 31s December,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 31st Dec.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sarnia, German steamer, 2,052, Fuchs, 1st Jan., —Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Shantung, British steamer, 1,835, A. W. Sails, 1st Jan.,—Moji, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 3rd January,—Yokkaichi, General.——Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 4th January,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 3th January,—Bonin Island, Mails and General —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, K. Higo, 4th,—O aru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato 4th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 4th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. A. McCrackin and amah, Miss Isabelle McrCckin, Mr. E. A. Griffiths, Mr. Nagelmachers and servant, Mr. C. Foditi and servant, Mrs. N. Buford and amah, Mr. E Roth, Rev. A. H. Brooks, Mrs. A. H. Brooks and two 2 children, Mrs. Detrick, Master B. Detrick, Mr. R. C. Davis, Mr. W. Pilcher, Mr. H. Golchan, Miss L. C. Thomas, Mr. T. H. Haden, Rev. S. H. Wainright, Mrs. R. S. Petida and servant, and Mrs. Moses, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Mr. J. W. Brown, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Rear Admiral Fitzgerald, R N., and valet, Capt. Hon. S. C. Colville, R.N., and valet, Lieut. Bowden-Smith, R N., Mr. R. C. Baker, R.N, Mr. W. Bodder, R N, Lieut. Com. C Thomas, U.S N., Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. C. A. Phelps, Mrs. F. H. Holmes and infant, Mr. Reichhardt, Lieut. E C. Crosby, R.R N., Rev. H. Jenkins, and Mrs. H. Jenkins, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. B. H. Butler, Mrs. J. C. Dusel, Mr. Chas. Francis, Miss M. S. Francis, Mr Marcus Isaacs, Mr. K. Takeuchi, Mr. J. P. Watson, Rev. J. H. Pettee, Mr. Alex. Pavlov, Rev. F. Y. Edwards, Mr. Wm. Mac Whirter, Mrs. M. A. Nesbitt, Mr. Stafford H. Northcote, Mr. Erasmus Wilson and Mrs. Erasmus Wilson in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. Nelson S. Clark in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mrs. J. Mc E. Hyde, Mrs. H. Thimm, and Mis Hulda Thimm in cabin. For Shanghai:—Miss Minnie Davidson, Rev. Geo. F. De Vol, Rev. Chas. S. Terrill and Mrs. Chas. S. Terrill in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Alexander, Mrs. M. C. Allen, Mrs. J. S. Barber, Mrs. J. M. Bell. Mrs. Geo. W. Bristol, Mr. A. H. Cathcart, Mr. Eugene Coffin, Jr., Mr. D. H. Dulick, Mrs. H. C. Hale, Mrs. W. Hawxhurst, Mr. W. McLaughlin, Mr. C. E. Morse, Mrs. B. F. Patrick, Mrs. H. H. Pattison and child, Mrs. T. H. Slavens, Mr. L. B. Stoddart, Mr. H. R. Sullivan Mrs. E. L. Swift and infant, Mr. Geo. E. Velie, and Mrs. W. J. Watson in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Main, and 8 Chinese, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kagoshima Maru*, from Bombay via ports:—Miss H. C. Crane in cabin and 3 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Master Stanley Allchin, Mr. G. S. Beebe, Miss E. M. Brown, Master Lanchu T. Y. Chow, Miss L. E Case, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Davies, Miss F. M. English, Mr. V. H. Dalmeke, Mr. and Mrs. V. S. Goodfellow, Mr. E. L. Hatchinson, Miss L. Haswell, Miss E. Haswell, Rev. V. R. Lambuth, Mr. C. H. C. Moller, Mr. S. R. McGuade, Miss D. Maclachlan, Mr. V. Petrovsky, Mr. and Mrs. A. Paul, Lieut. M. Philipoff, Mrs. M. Philipoff, child and servant, Lieut. D. Philipoff, Mr. Hong Guan, Mr. C. R. Rusby, Mrs. A. E. Seagreve, Miss Julia Seagreve, Miss Grace Seagreve, Master Gordon Seagreve, Miss R. A. Sellers, Mr. Tao Yuh Sung, Mr. Tao Yao Sung, Mr. E. Tsuji, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Vinton, Lieut.-Col. G. Vannovsky, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wentz, Mr. E. L. Wentz, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Worley, Miss M. M. Worley, Miss F. Worley, Miss G. Worley, Master H. F. Worley, Master R. M. Worley, and Master F. H. Worley, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Preussen*, for Bremen via ports:—Mr. W. B. Brent, Mr. E. Hasche, Mr. B. A. Munster, A. L. Piccardo, Mr. E. Becker, Mrs. and Miss Slade, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sech, Mr. N. Becker, Miss Rosen Ruugen, Mrs. Lamadrid, Freiher von Liliencorn and Mrs. Liliencorn, Mr. and Mrs. N. Gün, Mr. St. P. Koziell and servant, Mr. P. Sübell, Mr. Adolf Weber, Miss E. Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Scheckenhofer, Mr. A. S. Boyle, and 8 German Marines, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Commander S. Uyehara, Mr. R. Hara, Mr. K. P. Johansen, Mr. K. Makino, Mr. E. Hjoushery, and Rev. J. H. Mittwer in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco, via Honolulu:—Mr. R. C. Baker, R.N., Mr. J. W. Brown, Mr. F. Colsmer, Captain Hon. S C. Colville, R.N. and valet, Lieut. E. C. Crosby, R N.R., Mrs. H. B. Detrick, Master B. Detrick, Mrs. H. T. Elliott, Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald, R.N. and valet, Mr. W. Hodder, R.N., Mrs. F. H. Holmes and child, Mr. Adolph Howaldt, Mrs. J. R. Harod, child and maid, Rev. and Mrs. H. Jenkins, Lieut. Kouzuide, I.R.A., Captain Loukianoff, I.R.A., Mrs. A. McCrackin, Miss Isabelle McCrackin, Mrs. C. A. Phelps, Lieut. Bowden-Smith, R.N., Mr. Reichardt, Lieut.-Commander C. Thombs, U.S.N., Mrs. C. Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Vinton and two children, Master Vinton, Mrs. Albert Webber, Miss Webber, Mr. George M. Woolsey, H.E. C. Morla Vicuna and valet, Mrs. Vicuna, four children and maid, and Mr. C. Niinoya in cabin.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hitachi Maru*, from Antwerp, London and Port Said:—Mr. P. A. Davis, Mrs. Davis, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Marie Jossey. Mr. and Mrs. Donovan, Dr. Seizo Hirai, Mr. A. Patterson, Mr. C. Schwabe. Mr. Tomejiro Ochiai and Mr. Totaro Suzuki in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk, shipped per steamer *Preussen*:—

	RAW.			WASTE.		
	Option	Option	Italy	Austria	France	
Nabholz & Co.	206	—	—	—	—	—
Siber, Brennwald & Co.	—	—	—	34	—	21
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	4	28	—
Olivier, de Langenhagen & Co.....	—	—	15	—	—	—

Total—206 bales Raw Silk; 102 bales Waste Silk.

Following were silk shippers per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco, January 3:—

	Bales.
Sieber, Wolf & Co.	257
Siber & Co.....	80
Bavier & Co.	35
Total.....	372

VESSELS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

NAME.	FROM	REPORTED.	
Antenor	Liverpool	Left S'pore	Dec. 12
Asturia	New York	Leaves	Nov. 30
Babelsberg	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Dec. 25
Bengloe	London	Left H'kong	Dec. 28
Benvorlich	London	Passed Canal	Dec. 5
Bergenhus	New York	Passed Canal	Nov. 21
Birchtor	New York	Left S'pore	Dec. 9
Burdon	——	Passed Canal	Dec. 19
Canton	London	Passed Canal	Dec. 19
Eidsvold	New York	Leaves	Dec. 25
Hitachi Maru	London	Left H'kong	Dec. 27
Holsatia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Nov. 28
Glengarry	London	Passed Canal	Dec. 8
Glenluchy	London	At S'hai	Dec. 22
Kanagawa Maru	London	Left Suez	Dec. 23
Karlsruhe	Bremen	Left S'hai	Jan. 3
Hyson	Liverpool	Passed Canal	Dec. 19
Indrapura	New York	Left	Nov. 4
Indrani	New York	Leaves	Dec. 20
Idzumi Maru	Seattle	Leaves	Jan. 4
John Sanderson	New York	Leaves	Dec. 25
Langbarck	New York	Passed Canal	Dec. 19
Lovstakken	New York	Leaves	Nov. 22
Menelaus	Liverpool	Left S'pore	Dec. 21
Morven	——	Passed Canal	Dec. 12
Sachsen	Bremen	Passed Canal	Dec. 19
Salazie	Marseilles	Left S'hai	Jan. 5
Singapore	London	Passed Canal	Oct. 24
St. Bede	New York	Leaves	Dec. 1
Stentor	Liverpool	Passed Canal	Dec. 12
St. Regulus	New York	Passed Canal	Dec. 8
Undaunted	Phila.	At Kobe	Dec. 21
Wakasa Maru	London	Left Colombo	Dec. 22
Westphalia	Hamburg	Passed Canal	Dec. 14
Whitehall	——	Passed Canal	Nov. 14
Wittenberg	Hamburg	At Tsingtau	Dec. 27
Yamariva	Galveston	Passed Canal	Dec. 8

UNDER SAIL.

Abner Coburn	New York	Sept. 15	Kobe
A. J. Fuller	Phila.	Oct. 31	N'saki.
Amazon	Phila.	Sept. 1	Kobe
Cumberland	Phila.	Aug. 20	Kobe
Falls of Ettrick	Phila.	Sept. 11	Kobe
Frangistan	Penarth	Oct. 20	N'saki
Law Hill	Phila.	Nov. 8	Kobe
Lisbeth	Phila.	Sept. 27	Kobe
L. Schepp	New York	Nov. 8	H'date
Najade	Barry	Sept. 3	N'saki

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Nile	New York	Sept. 6	Kobe
Pera	Phila.	Sept. 20	N'saki
Peru	Penarth	Oct. 6	Y'hama
Pinmore	Barry	Sept. 22	N'saki
Prinsesse Marie	Phila.	Aug. 26	N'saki
R. D. Rice	New York	Aug. 20	Y'hama
Renee Rickmers	Phila.	July 28	Kobe
St. John	New York	Oct. 29	Y'hama
St. Mirren	New York	July 13	Y'hama
Sylfid	Phila.	Aug. 5	Kobe

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For AUSTRALIA and New Zealand (from Kobe) Quick Despatch, the "AIRLIE."—Browne & Co.

For KEELUNG via Moji (from Kobe), 3rd and 18th at Noon (every month), the "YOKOHAMA MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For KEELUNG via Moji (from Kobe), 8th and 23rd at Noon (every month), the "OMI MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For VLADIVOSTCK via ports (from Kobe), Jan. 7th, the "SAGAMI MARR."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, viâ Kobe, and Nagasaki, Jan. 10th, at Daylight, the "ROHILLA."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about January 10th, the "NIPPON MARU."—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

For TIENTSIN via ports (from Kobe) Jan. 11th, at Noon, the "NAGATO MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For SYDNEY, and Melbourne, viâ Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki, Hongkong, Thursday Island, Townsville, and Brisbane, Jan. 12th, at Noon, the "YAWATA MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, Jan. 13th, the "NIPPON MARU."—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, viâ Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, Jan. 15th, the "EMPRESS OF INDIA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For HONGKONG via ports (from Kobe). Jan. 17th, the "HAKUAI MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about January 18th, the "ALGOA."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For TACOMA, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Jan. 19th, the "SAINT IRENE"—Dodwell Co., Ltd.

For BOMBAY, viâ Kobe, Moji, Hongkong, Singapore, and Colombo, Jan. 20th, the "KAGOSHIMA MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 26th, the "EMPRESS OF CHINA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For SAN FRANCISCO via Honolulu and San Diego January 30th, the "STRATHGYLE."—Butterfield and Swire.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, Paul, 22nd Nov.,—Petropaulowski, Salt Salmon.—Capt. Powers.

Queen Eleanor, British steamer, 2,270, E. Ritson, 21st December,—Batoum via Singapore, 2nd, Dec., Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

SAILING VESSELS.

Diana, American schooner, 74, ——, 6th October, 1896,—North Pacific, Seal Skins.—Fritz von Well.

Bering, Russian barkentine, 377, Aulin, 1st November.—Petropaulovski, Salmon.—Capt. Powers.

Bobrik, Russian schooner, 119, Yanousky, 22nd November,—Petropaulowski, Salt Salmon,—Captain Powers.

St. Paul, American ship, 1,824, Treat, 13th Dec.,—New York, 20th June, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is still little doing in yarns, shirtings, or fancy cottons, owing to high prices ruling at home, which native purchasers are indisposed for the present to follow.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38¼ yds. 39 inches	$2.60 to 2.90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31¾ yds. 45 inches	3.20 to 3.60
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.90 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.00 to 2.50
Prints—Assorted. 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.50 to 4.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.18 to 0.28

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.40 to 0.60
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.32 to 0.45
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.16 to 0.22
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.85
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.70 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0 62½ to 0.75
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9 50 to 10 00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.70 to 1.10
Turkey Reds—2.0 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.45 to 3.47½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Sineles	$40.00 to 42 00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	44 00 to 46 00
Nos. 42. Doubles	52.00 to 55 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	76.00 to 80.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	92.00 to 98.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	120.00 to 125.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	90.00 to 95.50
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	106.00 to 110.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	135.00 to 145.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.50
Indian Broach	23 50
Chinese	45.00

METALS.

The market is still quiet, Japanese traders doing little or nothing since the New Year.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward	6.20 to 6 40
Iron Plates, assorted	6,10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	12 50 to 13 80
Wire Nails, assorted	7.60 to 7 90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 18 inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

No change in the market. Prices firm.

American	$1.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 1 05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

Market dull.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5 40
Brown Manila	5.70 to 6.45
Brown Daitung	5.50 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8 60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 45

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market has not fully reopened after the Holidays. About 500 piculs Filatures and Reeels were taken for the United States just at the close of the old year, but since then nothing of importance has transpired. Quotations nominally unchanged.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,320 to 1,330
Filatures.—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,270 to 1,280
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,230 to 1,240
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	1,180 to 1,190
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,210 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 2	1,180 to 1,190
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	1,250 to 1 260
Kakedas—No. 1	1,220 to 1,250
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,180 to 1,190
Kakedas—No 2	1,150 to 1,160
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

Market unchanged and prices unaltered. There are signs of some business approaching in Kibiso, but no details have yet come to hand. Probably next week the trade will be more general.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	140 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Good	
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

TEA.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	32 & upwards
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	28 to 29
Fine	26 to 27
Good Medium	24 to 25
Medium	22 to 23
Good Common	20 to 21
Common	18 to 19

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 4.

Silver again ¼ lower from London followed by ¼ decline in sterling quotations from China has caused local rates on China to harden; whilst the Paris cheque rate on London having fallen considerably quotations locally on Paris and Lyons have given way too.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 7/32
— — Bills on demand	2/0 15/32
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 29/32
— Private 4 months' sight	2/1
— — 6 months' sight	2/1 3/32
On Paris—Bank sight	256¼
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	262½
On America—Bank Bills on demand.	49 7/8
— Private 4 months' sight	51
On Germany—Bank sight	208½
— Private 4 months' sight	214
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3 1/2% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4 1/2% dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74½
— Private 10 days' sight	76
On India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Bar Silver (London)	27

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, January 4.

Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 170. Engine and Iron Works are steady at *yen* 215. Grand Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 242 50. Club Hotels are steady at *yen* 85. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 125 A few Founders' shares can be placed at *yen* 300. Langfeldts—Offers for shares are wanted. Helms can be had at *yen* 55. Laundries—Offers for shares are wanted. North and Raes have buyers at *yen* 215. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9 25.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs were sold to-day at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	215 St.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50	170 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	24250 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	85 St.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	125 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Debs.), $108	300 B.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10	9.25 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	95 S.
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., $37 50	60 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	100 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 St.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.H.—S. Sellers, B.—Buyers, Sa.—Sales, St.—Steady N.—Nominal, W.—Weak E.—Enquiries.

Tokyo, December 30.

Redemption Loan Bonds	94.70
War Loan Bonds	94.70
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	97.70
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	423.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.80
Specie Bank—paid up yen 200	272.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	68.80
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	68 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 200	206.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	29.80
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	72.80
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 42	59.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 20.50	25.50
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	122.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	80.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	55.62
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	46.70
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	60.00
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	45 00
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	94.70
Hokkaido Colliery R'w'y, 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	96 00
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	96 00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	49 00

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Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	30.00
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	43 00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	18 0[illegible]
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	36 50
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen38	27 80
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	12 0[illegible]
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13	21.5[illegible]
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	117.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—p id up yen 12.50	205 0[illegible]
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	65 2[illegible]
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25	27.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new paid up yen 10	14 50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	27 0[illegible]
Nippon Shosen Kaish[illegible]—paid up yen 23	20 0[illegible]
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	41.50
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20	13.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	53 0[illegible]
Japan Weavin[illegible]—paid up yen 40	16.0[illegible]
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	137.0[illegible]
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	207 00
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	127.00
Tokyo Mercha[illegible]dize Exchange—paid up yen 25	8[illegible] 70
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	3 0[illegible]
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	51 5[illegible]
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	16.50
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	87 00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 22	56 00
JapanBeer— aid up yen 40	88.50
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50	33.60
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50	55 00
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	57 00
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up yen 25	21.00
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	14.50
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50	45.00

† Ex dividend.

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA AND SHIMBASHI.

YOKOHAMA—5 30, 6.10, 6.45, 7.19, 8.38, 9 10, 9.35, 10 05, 10 50, 11.35, a.m.; 12 20, 12 57, 1.30, 2, 2 36, 3 10, 3.55, 4.35, 5, 5.33, 6.15, 7.16, 8, 9 13, 10, 10 50, and 11 15 p.m.

SHIMBASH —4 50, 5 45, 6.50, 7.25, 7.55, 8.30, 9.05, 9.25, 10 10, 10 45, 11.25 a.m.; 12, 12 30, 1.10, 1 40, 2 25, 3, 3 25, 4, 4.50, 5.25, 6 30, 7, 7 35, 8 20, 9.15, 10, 10 35, and 11.20 p.m.

YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

Leave.	Arrive.
Yokohama ... 6 50 am	Kobe .....10.47 am
Yokohama ... 1.14 pm	Kobe ..... 9 00 am
Yokohama ... 6.30 pm	Kobe .....11.19 am
Yokohama ...10.32 pm	Kobe ..... 6 36 pm
Kobe ..... 6 00 am	Yokohama ...10 05 am
Kobe .. ..12.05 pm	Yokohama ... 8 05 am
Kobe ..... 6 00 pm	Yokohama ...10.50 am
Kobe .....10.00 pm	Yokohama ... 6.13 pm

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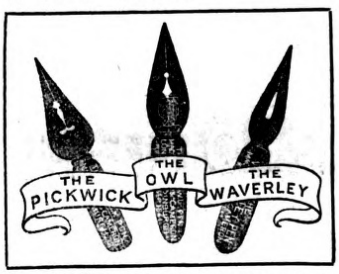

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 13TH, 1900.

DEATH.

At No. 74, Yamate-cho, on the 10th inst., at 4.45 a.m., HARRIET CHARLOTTE (Ettie), wife of A. H. Cole Watson.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Transvaal has refused to allow the American Consul at Pretoria to represent British interests.

THE Imperial Yeomanry for service in South Africa are expected to be a splendid body of horsemen.

THE Vickers and Maxim Company have received orders to manufacture 47 6in. quick firers continuously.

REUTER telegraphs from Lorenzo Marques that Pretoria reports that the police at Kuruman have surrendered. One hundred and twenty prisoners were taken, including 12 officers, besides 70 natives and stores and ammunition.

LORD ROBERTS, the British Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, accompanied by Lord Kitchener, has arrived at Cape Town.

ONE hundred thousand tons of shipping has been already taken up for conveying rice from Rangoon to Bombay for the famine tracts.

THE body of a Japanese, dressed in the clothes of a coolie, was found drowned on Monday evening, opposite the Club Hotel.

A JINRIKISHAMAN, Naito Kamekichi, was found dead on Sunday morning at Kitagata. It appears that he fell from his garden to the road below, a distance of many feet.

ACCORDING to latest advices from England, the total amount then received by the *Daily Mail* from the sale of Kipling's poem, "The Absent Minded Beggar," was £15,000.

TWELVE additional batteries of artillery will leave England before the end of the month The Government has decided to raise six new batteries immediately, but not necessarily for service in South Africa. There will be a further increase later.

A CHINESE Eurasian late in the employ of the Pacific Commercial Company, who forged a cheque in the name of Mr. Salabelle, the Manager, for *yen* 750, cashing it at the Van Tai Exchange, was caught at Fujisawa on the 8th, and brought to Yokohama.

ON Tuesday the British community in Yokohama give an entertainment to raise funds for the widows and families of those who may fall in South Africa. The following week the Tokyo British residents have a similar demonstration at the British Legation.

THE German steamer *Herzog* (which was seized in Delagoa Bay by a British man-of-war and conducted to Durban as having on board contraband of war in the shape of ambulance apparatus from Belgium for the Boers) has been released at Durban.

THREE robbers, one armed with a kitchen knife, and the others with toy pistols, entered the house of a *saké* merchant in Tachibanacho Nichome, Yokohama, on the morning of the 9th and threatened the inmates. They received *yen* 27 and a watch and escaped.

THE Ruby Mines Company, Limited, of Megok, Burmah, is reported to have discovered a fine ruby, which gives promise of being a very valuable stone. It weighs 75 carats and, looked at in the rough state, is perfectly flawless and clear. It is valued now at over £25,000.

THE Boers made a determined assault on Ladysmith last week, and the fighting was fierce on both sides, lasting nearly all day. Several times the Boers held the British trenches, but were finally beaten off with heavy loss. Enteric fever is very prevalent in Ladysmith, 23 deaths occurring last week.

M. PIERRE LOTI is making a tour through India and Central Asia. He visits Cabul on, it is stated, a special invitation from the Ameer. In order to facilitate his expedition, M. Pierre Loti has been given an honorary diplomatic appointment by the French Government.

IT was stated in the Odessa Press a few weeks ago that 10,000 troops were shortly to leave there in order to reinforce the Russian garrison in the Far East. The first detachment was to sail on Dec. 2nd. The despatch of convicts by the Volunteer Fleet was to be abolished from January 1st.

A STRONG reaction in public opinion in regard to Sir George White has set in. His prolonged and successful defence and brilliantly effective sorties from Ladysmith have produced a great impression, and an entire and favourable change has taken place, especially in the comments of the press.

A YOKOHAMA lad named Kumataro, the son of a tub maker, attempted suicide on the 5th with a knife used in his father's trade. The wound was four inches long and one inch deep. The lad had been sick for some time, and as the result of brooding over the matter tried to end his life to save his father further expense.

AN incident of the bombardment of Ladysmith has been the shelling of the Town Hall by the Boers. General White addressed a remonstrance to General Joubert informing him the building was being used as a hospital. General Joubert replied that such a use was unjustifiable in view of the existence of a neutral camp.

THE India famine relief returns for the first week of December show big increases, the totals returned being:—Central Provinces 812,280, Bombay and its Native states 654,468, Baroda 287,547, Rajputana and Ajmere-Merwara 223,496, the Punjab 81,128, and the Central India States 40,808. The cattle generally in Rajputana are described as in a bad plight.

A FISHERMAN named Uchida Ushizo called at the house of Enomoto Kamekichi, Sugita, on the night of the 3rd inst, armed with a sword and further provided with a can of oil, in order to kill Enomoto and Uchida's wife. Finding the house deserted, he set fire to it, but the flames were soon extinguished by neighbours. Uchida's wife, named Hatsu, it appears, had eloped with Enomoto.

THE Court of Appeal has given judgment in the case of the *Times* v. Lane, which raised the point whether there was or was not copyright in the report of a speech delivered in public. In effect the Court decided that the printer or reporter of a reported speech had no claims to its authorship, and therefore none to copyright in it. This judgment reversed the finding of Mr. Justice North in favour of the plaintiffs. It was intimated that the case would be taken to the House of Lords.

A COLLISION resulting in some damage to the quarantine steamship *Minatogawa* occurred off Wada point on Tuesday afternoon, says the *Kobe Herald*. The Hamburg-America steamer *Sarnia* was approaching the harbour, and when off the Point ran into the *Minatogawa*, striking her almost amidships. The quarantine steamer had her plates indented, and one was holed close to the waterline, while the covering board was smashed. The damaged vessel was heeled over to starboard and the hole temporarily stuffed up. The accident, it is said, arose through the *Sarnia* refusing to answer her helm.

THE *Times* makes the following interesting announcement:—We understand that General His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was amongst the first to seek employment in the present war, and was even willing to waive his seniority for this purpose. But it was not deemed expedient that an officer so senior as a General to Sir Redvers Buller should serve under him. In fact, there was no place in the army of South Africa to which a General of His Royal Highness's seniority could be posted. To his great disappointment, therefore, it was not found possible to employ him.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, Jan. 6.

Springfield, in the direction of which, according to to-day's telegrams, Thornicraft's horse made a reconnaissance, is a town lying to the north-west of Frere and almost due west of Chieveley, from both of which places it is at nearly the same distance, namely 18 miles. There is no road, however, from Chievely to Springfield, and the probability is, therefore, that Thornicraft made his reconnaissance from Frere. Whichever was his point of departure, the fact that the Boers followed him for nearly eighteen miles when he retired shows that they are in a resolute mood and in strength. The interesting feature of the news is that it shows the Boers to be in considerable force to the south of the Tugela, for Springfield is 8 miles from the nearest part of the Tugela's course. How is that to be reconciled with the news received a day ago that the Tugela is in flood and quite impassable? It is true that Springfield lies beyond the Little Tugela, but the Little Tugela does not appear to be a serious obstacle, and besides it does not necessarily follow from the telegram that the Boers seen by Thornicraft's horse were in Springfield. They may have been camped on the Frere side. At all events, they were on Buller's side of the Tugela itself. Reuter telegraphed, a few days ago, that several hundred Boers had been cut off by the sudden rising of the river. Then he telegraphed about a reconnaissance which showed them to be still in possession of a place with a curious name which we identify as Inhlawe. If the identification is correct, then the reconnaissance showed the Boers to be on Buller's right flank and south of the Tugela, and this last reconnaissance shows them to be also on his left flank, and south of the Tugela. We may expect to hear, then, of some heavy fighting in Natal before long. If a flooded river divides the Boers' forces, Buller is not likely to lose the opportunity of striking at the columns which happen to be on the south of the river, especially as they are in considerable strength and their annihilation would make a great difference in the situation.

Monday, Jan. 8.

President Steyn's proclamation, as reported by to-day's telegrams, is a measure that can not fail to revolt the sentiment of the civilized world. In the Orange Free State there are thousands of Englishmen who settled there in good faith that they might expect to receive at the hands of the authorities treatment consistent with the ordinary dictates of humanity. The country of their adoption has benefited immensely by their presence, and they have shown themselves peaceful, law-abiding citizens. These persons are now required to take up arms against their own nationals, or to suffer whatever penalties it is within the power of the law to inflict, confiscation of all their property and expulsion from their homes being the least of such pains. The safety of the State is a paramount consideration in the eyes of its administrators, but to compass the safety of a State by such means is to sacrifice its honour. What would be said if the British Government issued a similar proclamation with regard to the Cape Colony, Natal, Griqualand and the other districts invaded by the Boers? The world would raise a scream of horror. It is impossible to conceive any cruelty more revolting. Men who call themselves men could not bear arms against their own country, yet the alternative may be dire suffering, if not death, for their wives and children. After this our only prayer is that the Orange Free State may be crushed as speedily and thoroughly as possible. The brave and stubborn resistance made by the burghers had already excited a feeling of sympathy with them even in the bosoms of Englishmen, who love a stout adversary, and are willing to strike hands of friendship with him after a fight. But this abominably cruel and uncivilized act places the Transvaal Boers beyond the pale of all respect or consideration, and makes us long for the doom which will surely overtake them. Steyn's vile proclamation is, indeed, a sure sign of the straits to which the Republic is reduced, for he himself knows well how such a step will be judged, and as a man whose record shows him to be refined and magnanimous, he must have been terribly tortured before he affixed his signature to the document.

Public feeling in Germany is said to be increasing with regard to the *Bundesrath* affair. Public feeling in Germany has shown itself so hostile to England throughout the course of the South African war that we are not surprised at any new development. Yet the Germans should have begun to reflect ere this. How comes it that hundreds, if not thousands, of their fellow-nationals are now fighting for the Transvaal, and were marshalled in her ranks ready to fight for her before the war broke out? How comes it that Pretoria is garrisoned at present almost entirely by Germans; that the guns of the Republics are trained by Germans, and that the strategy of their armies is suggested by Germans? Were the preliminaries for all these things arranged after the war broke out, or had they not been arranged long before the beginning of the war, and does not the fact prove conclusively that the Transvaal was bent on going to war and that it had the sympathy of many Germans in that programme? One imagines that these things should alter the aspect of the struggle in German eyes, and should convince them that this combat is not an outcome of British aggression, but primarily an attempt on the part of the Boers to drive England out of Southern Africa. There are no signs, however, of such an awakening to the truth. Even the *Bundesrath* incident is exciting public feeling, though there is nothing to differentiate England's action from the procedure recognised by the most ordinary provisions of international law. If the German officers and men found in the *Bundesrath* had pledged themselves in any way to serve the Transvaal, their own seizure and the confiscation of the ship carrying them are strictly within the rights of belligerent England. The whole question turns on the evidence obtainable as to their actual status or their intended status. Concerning that the British prize court may be trusted to give a fair and just decision. There can not be the smallest moral doubt that the officers and men were about to fight against England, but unless some proof is forthcoming, they will be released on giving their parole not to serve for the Republics during the war. Any thoughtful German should be capable of seeing that such incidents are inevitable under the circumstances, and that if England is entitled to protect herself at all, she is entitled to prevent the passage of reinforcements to an enemy in arms against her. But unfortunately prejudice of a very violent nature seems to sway public opinion in Germany at present, and there is a disposition to deny the most elementary belligerent rights to England simply because she is England. The mood will pass, we have no doubt.

The news from Mafeking, though not important as to dimensions, is somewhat disquieting. This, doubtless, is the true version of Boer story that 109 Englishmen had been killed or wounded in an attack upon Molopo fort. Fifty-four is the true number, and the Boers, with their usual veracity, just doubled it, and threw in an extra unit for the sake of appearance. The disturbing feature of the intelligence is that it suggests a somewhat desperate state of affairs at Mafeking. The feat itself is very fine. A party of eighty attempting to carry a fort by escalade, and losing their whole number except twenty-six is an exploit to be applauded in spite of its failure. But we fear that these forlorn efforts would not be made did not the garrison find themselves in great straits. They have made a grand defence, and every day they can keep the British flag flying is a gain, since they thus hold a large force of the enemy beseiging them. But they are evidently hard pressed. Another fortnight might make a great difference in the situation. We hope that they can last so long, but we fear.

Wednesday, Jan. 9.

We do not think it an exaggeration to say that the news from Ladysmith is of great importance. It is not the mere fact of a victory having been gained by the Ladysmith garrison that seems to be of moment. The cardinal points are the reasons which led the Boers to deliver this assault and the consequences of their failure. It is impossible, of course, to speak with any assurance, but everything suggests that Joubert saw a crisis and felt himself obliged to treat it as such. The Boers invested Ladysmith at the end of October. For more than two months they have been trying to reduce it. There can be no doubt that they never anticipated such an obstacle. They believed that they should be able to over-run the whole of Natal and annihilate Sir George White's command before re-inforcements could arrive from England. They believed that, simultaneously, they should be able to over-run the greater part of the Cape Colony, capture the important towns, and gain such an access of strength by combination with their fellow-nationals to the south of the Orange River, that the task of wresting Natal and the Cape Colony from their hands would be altogether beyond England's strength, to say nothing of the invasion of the two Republics. But Ladysmith upset all their calculations. They found themselves unable to capture it, and they dared not push on to Maritzburg and Durban, leaving Sir George White in their rear, even if their experience of the difficulty of successful attack in the face of modern weapons had not already induced them to panse in their career. But their programme, though disturbed, was not altogether defeated. They gained on the Tugela a strategical position of such strength that there was a reasonable pro-

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spect of holding it in the face of any attempt to relieve Ladysmith, and of thus achieving the destruction of Sir George White's force at any rate; an object much smaller than that originally contemplated, but not by any means insignificant. We have always to remember that a campaign against the two Republics from the direction of Natal presents very great natural difficulties compared with an invasion from the Western border. The Boers wanted to make Natal the battle-field. Even if defeated there, they could have fallen back on the Drakensburg range, and held the passes against much heavier odds than England was likely to bring to the assault. Thus, even though they could not reach Maritzburg or Durban, the main part of their purpose would be accomplished if they could so arrange as to make the Tugela River their first line of defence, and the Drakensberg mountains their second. We do not say that their original plan took that form, but we think that their secondary plan followed those lines. Early in December, it became evident that their challenge was to be accepted in part, at any rate. General Buller massed three brigades on the South bank of the Tugela, and, on the 16th, made an unsuccessful effort to cross the river and march to the relief of the beleaguered garrison. Almost at the same time, Methuen's advance to the relief of Kimberley was effectually checked at the Modder River, and Gatacre's attempt to drive the Free-State Boers over the Orange River was signally defeated. The prospect looked then very bright for the Boers. If England continued to divide her troops, sending driblets to reinforce *the three columns* which were "held up" at Colenso, at Maggersfontein, and at Stormberg, and if she also limited her despatch of battalions to the number first contemplated, the Boers might fairly hope to hold their own, though they could no longer hope to drive every Britisher out of South Africa. But it presently became evident that England had determined to approach the task more resolut ly, and, further, that instead of placing her men just where the Boers wanted them, she was going to take advantage of the line of least resistance developed by Joubert's partial failure and march an army of thirty thousand men into the Orange Free State, with a second army of as many more to follow. From the day (29th December) when the Fifth Division landed at Cape Town instead of proceeding to Durban, England's intentions could scarcely be misconstrued. Joubert then had to sit down to think, and very likely his reflections were accelerated by the importunity of the Free-Staters, who saw an imminent risk of their country being invaded while they were detained in Natal bombarding an obstinate camp of Englishmen and guarding trenches from which Buller showed no disposition to oust them hastily. Joubert had not many days at his disposal. Eleven thousand men arrived at the Cape on December the 29th, and at least as many more might be expected by January the 16th. Roberts would then have three Divisions for the invasion of the Free State. Could Joubert afford to keep some thirty thousand men in Natal while such dangers were pending on the Western frontier of the Free State? Had not the time come either to abandon the seige of Ladysmith and carry his forces over to oppose Roberts, or to make one last determined effort to capture the beleaguered town and then to leave Buller sitting on the Tugela? That is how the problem presented itself to Joubert, we imagine. But his choice of alternatives was not quite free. To abandon the siege and retire on the Drakensberg would have involved a retrogressive movement with an army of some twenty thousand men on his heels. The thing might not be impossible, but the Boers like to choose their own positions and to stand entirely on the defensive in shelter-trenches, which advantages they would have to forego in a retreat. Besides, there were the siege guns, which could not be limbered up and whisked off like field-pieces. And then, finally, there was the intense disappointment of resigning the Ladysmith prize. We can not wonder, under the circumstances, that a bold effort to carry Ladysmith by escalade was chosen as the best course. Had it succeeded, Joubert would have been strong enough to draw off his troops at his own convenience, and plant them on the south of Bloemfontein before the 25th instant. The Boers tried to carry Ladysmith by storm on the 9th of November, and lost same nine hundred men in the essay. They can not have had much inclination to renew the attack. At the same time, they doubtless thought that White's soldiers were very tired. Their numbers had been thinned by bullets and by disease, and some of their artillery must have been rendered unserviceable. Altogether, they probably looked considerably less formidable than they did on the 9th of November, whereas the Boers had now twenty thousand men to hurl at them. There is some uncertainty about the time the attack lasted. We can not clearly discover whether it continued for two days or only one day, though fuller details may be received before this is in type. At all events it failed, and apparently there is no intention of renewing it, for White's telegram is dated 2 p.m. on the 7th, and the attack had concluded on the 6th at 7½ p.m. As to the fight itself, we need not say much. The Boers have twice beaten back our men in fair combat, and, although the odds were largely in their favour at Ladysmith, whereas they were largely against us at Colenso and Maggersfontein, we do not think that there is very much cause for exultation on that score. But we do think that this failure has an important bearing on the campaign. Ladysmith may yet fall. Its provisions, if not its ammunition, must be well nigh exhausted. But the evil day has been at least postponed, and with its postponement the Boers' embarrassments seem to have begun.

The *Jimmin* translates the figures compiled by us with reference to the numerical strength of the force that Great Britain is assembling in South Africa, and arrives at the conclusion that England is the only Power in the world which could accomplish anything of the kind. It laughs at the *Tageblatt's* criticism that the day of England's decline has dawned; predicts with confidence that she will annex the two Republics, or, at any rate, that her programme of expansion in South Africa will suffer no check, and points to her Navy which remains the most powerful engine of war in the world, enabling her to make stupendous efforts like this South-African campaign, and to shake all nations by a display of her might.

THE RUSSIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN KOREA.

Saturday, Jan. 6.

It apparently suited M. Pablov's convenience to make the eastward journey, *en route* for his post in Söul, *viâ* America, and he naturally took the opportunity of paying a visit to his colleague Baron Rosen in Tokyo—a simple incident, not at all out of the routine of every-day happenings. But of course the event has furnished food for the sensationalists, who see in it a confirmation of the rumours recently circulated about strained relations between Japan and Russia in Korea. The fact is that Korea sits heavily on the heart of many Japanese. If there were some other country equally accessible which the newspaper reporter of Young Japan could take for a happy hunting ground, we should hear less of Korea. But it constitutes at present the only place where the Japanese special correspondent finds material and a field, and under these circumstances we can not wonder that the little empire receives factitious importance. Naturally Mr. Hayashi Gonsuke has been interviewed, since his return from Söul. He says that a trip home at New Year's time is the obvious privilege of a diplomat whose place of service is not too remote to permit such an indulgence, and that he himself had commenced his arrangements for coming to Tokyo when he received a message summoning him. He hopes to return ere long. He speaks lightly of all the rumours about strained relations, and says that his countrymen ought to think seriously of moving Nagasaki to Masampo—a figure of speech intended to convey an idea of Mr. Hayashi's high estimate of the latter place's capacities.

Wednesday, Jan. 10.

It is insisted by the *Jimmin* that Russia persists in treating the Masampo affair as a diplomatic question, and that Mr. Pablov has asked the Korean Government, first, to punish the Masampo local officials who made an agreement with him which they failed to implement; and secondly, to give some other land by way of substitute for the Masampo lots that should have become Russian property. Our Tokyo contemporary writes in a somewhat vehement strain, and one can easily see that its article is intended to stiffen the vertebræ of the Foreign Office in Tokyo. It is a well-known philosophical principle that the development of the realizing faculty is one of the marks of high civilization, and we often think that if people constantly recalled the principle, their practice would be more likely to illustrate it. Let us try to put ourselves in the place of M. Pablov. Visiting Masampo, he had an interview with the local officials and concluded with them some sort of agreement, or arrived at some kind of understanding, with regard to certain lots of land, which were then and there actually marked out. M. Pablov doubtless left Masampo under the full conviction that he had acquired the land, not can any reasonable person be disposed to deny that his conviction was justified. Bur during his absence in Russia the land was sold to Japanese subjects, the money duly paid and delivery taken. Now it is quite plain that an act of bad faith had been perpetrated at M. Pablov's expense. Not bad faith on the part of the Japanese buyers. They may have known, or they

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may not have known, that M. Pablov had been in treaty for the land, but it was not their business to investigate such questions. Provided that the owners of the land were prepared to sell it, and provided that the local officials were prepared to register the sale, the Japanese purchasers occupied an unassailable position. But the local officials? They had entertained M. Pablov's application and had given him to understand that the land would be his. Apparently no documentary promise was obtained, but there certainly seems to have been verbal consent. Why then did the local officials sanction the sale of the land to third parties? The most probable explanation is that M. Pablov neglected the precaution essential to the conclusion of all contracts in the East—he did not pay bargain money. If that supposition be correct, then it is evident that the local officials were placed in a difficult predicament, for they could not reasonably ask the owners of the land to forego the advantage of receiving ready cash for their property from the Japanese buyers, in order to hold it over on account of a purchaser in the future, whose final action could not be regarded as certain from the standpoint of Eastern custom. M. Pablov should have placed himself in direct communication with the owners, and should have complied with all the preliminaries usual in Korea under such circumstances. Not having done so—we are still going on our assumption—he has no legal ground of complaint. But he surely has a moral ground. He is surely entitled to ask for an explanation of the local officials' conduct, and to expect that assistance will be given him to repair, in some form, the loss to which their ill-considered complaisance exposed him. A Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires*, or a British *Chargé d'Affaires*, similarly circumstanced, would scarcely let the matter rest without protest. Of course it does not concern the Government of Japan at all so long as her subjects are not disturbed in the tenure of property which has lawfully come into their possession. But M. Pablov's remonstrance appears natural, and we can not find any reason for regarding it as unwarranted or aggressive.

THE BUDDHISTS.

The Buddhist agitation against the Religions Bill introduced by the Government is diminishing. It is understood that the friars of the Eastern Hongwan Temple have abandoned their attitude of opposition, and that the campaign is now carried on by the *Dai-Nippon Bukkyo-to Domeikai*, an association of which Mr. Ishikawa Shuntai, the *Yakuso*, or Managing Director, of the Eastern Hongwan-ji is the master spirit, and Mr. Okamoto—formerly a Major in the Army whose mutinous proceedings would have cost him his life had not the Courts admitted a plea of insanity—is a prominent member. The Association is believed to have succeeded in stirring up very strong feeling in Noto, Kaga, and Echizen, the great strongholds of the Shin sect, and its members are credited with the intention of pushing their crusade even to the forced resignation of Count Otani, the *Bussu* of the Sect. We take it, however, that the agitation has lost much of its *vim*.

RECENT COMMENTS ON THE MILLER CASE.

Saturday, Jan. 6.

Mr. Takahashi, who acted as counsel for Miller, has presented a petition to the Throne praying for grace for the murderer. He bases the prayer on three grounds; that Miller was the first to come under Japanese Jurisdiction after the Revised Treaties went into operation; that the murdered women were persons of the most disreputable manner of living; that the murdered man, Ward, also belonged to a very evil category, and that there was consequently some excuse for the sentiment of animosity harboured by Miller toward them; and finally, that Miller showed his respect for Japanese judicial procedure by confessing his crime before the Appeal Court. Mr. Koga, the Chief Procurator of the Supreme Court, is said to have offered no opposition to the forwarding of this petition. We think, for our own part, that there is nothing whatever to extenuate Miller's crime, It is true that the people he murdered were habitually guilty of conduct which might well stir a man to anger. But such an argument has no force whatever unless the feeling of wrath was engendered on a higher plane of morality than that of the wretched victims. There was nothing of that kind in Miller's case. All the evidence, as well as his conduct throughout the trial, went to prove him an utterly degraded and bestial type of person; a worse creature, in fact, than any of those whom he did to death in such a ferocious manner. As to his confession, it would certainly constitute a strong plea for mercy. But we know how it was made and at what instance, and we have seen the mood that followed it. Finally, there appears to us to be not a shred of validity in the treaty-revision court. Having assumed jurisdiction over foreigners, the wisest thing the Japanese can do is to exercise the power without fear, favour or sentiment of any kind. If the punishment of death be warrantable in any instance, it is warrantable in Miller's.

Monday, Jan. 9.

In the interests of the most commonplace justice we enter a protest against the untiring attempts of the *Japan Herald* to bring discredit upon Japanese institutions and Japanese character, and to pervert even the best-intentioned actions of the people of this country into causes of complaint and contempt. Every reader of the columns of the local foreign press has long ago grown weary of this perpetual outpouring of streams of slander and rancorous abuse, and, for our own part, experience has taught us that each attempt to stem the torrent merely has the effect of only turning it into the channel of vulgar personalities. We can not, however, suffer to pass unnoticed the *Japan Herald's* comments on the action of Mr. Takahashi in petitioning the Throne for a reversal of the sentence of death passed on the murderer Miller. We ourselves do not endorse the reasons advanced by Mr. Takahashi, but that he does his simple duty in petitioning the Throne, we can not doubt for a moment. As counsel for the condemned man he must leave no stone unturned in the interest of his client, and since a petition to the Throne is one of the resources indicated by law, he is bound not to neglect it. His untiring and zealous action on Miller's behalf deserves the gratitude of foreigners, and if he had not taken this course, the first to make his negligence a ground for malicious attack would have been the *Japan Herald*, which now abuses him for taking it. Mr. Takahashi's services in this matter must be in great part gratuitous. For giving them in Miller's behalf he undoubtedly merits applause and thanks from foreigners in general, whereas the *Japan Herald* insults him, and does not hesitate to suggest that he and the Japanese who have provided funds for Miller's defence are not personally disinterested in their conduct. It is quite impossible for the *Japan Herald* to attribute human actions to any motive but self-interest. To all the events of life and the doings of men it applies a code of the lowest morality, and even the sentiment of benevolence, or the love of fair play, or the desire to provide all possible facilities of defence for the first Occidental tried by a Japanese criminal tribunal, even these intentions, one and all commendable, are reduced by the *Japan Herald's* vile rule to "personal interest." It is thus that even a pro-foreign impulse on the part of the Japanese is seized by this importunate reviler as an occasion for insulting and attacking them. Nor does the *Japan Herald* content itself with slandering Mr. Takahashi and those of his countrymen who have cöoperated to provide for an American citizen the best protection afforded by law. It twists the affair into a pretext for reflecting on "certain phases of Japanese idiosyncracy" and endeavours to deduce from it a proof that the whole nation is subject to attacks of "spurious sentimentality" and deficient in a sound sense of the dictates of justice. Concerning the sentimentality of the matter, in the first place, Mr. Takahashi, as we have said, is simply discharging his plain duty; and in the second, if any charge of "spurious sentimentality" can be preferred against a barrister who petitions the Throne on behalf of the man he has undertaken to defend, what shall be said of the people of England, where scarcely one notorious criminal mounts the scaffold without evoking, if not a petition to the Home Secretary, at any rate some display of newspaper assistance; or of America, where the most ferocious murderers are usually the objects of the most marked sympathy? It is the total inability of the *Japan Herald* to measure Japan and the Japanese by any standard but its own inveterate hatred, or to pay any attention to the conditions existing in other countries before drawing large condemnatory deductions from those that exist here—it is this ceaseless display of malicious bias that renders its writings a continual means of estranging foreigners and Japanese. Such bias naturally disposes it to accept readily the most damaging statements, however improbable they may be intrinsically. Nine-tenths of the article to which we are referring is based on the assumption that Mr. Takahashi has attempted to estimate Miller's crime by pleading that the victims were, after all, only abandoned characters whose removal was really more beneficial than otherwise to the welfare of the community. Mr. Takahashi has done nothing of the kind. That is another of the reckless misrepresentations for which the *Japan Herald* is notorious; misrepresentations that it never shrinks from making when they can be used to injure Japan. What Mr. Takahashi has done is to urge that these de-

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graded people, in their intercourse with Miller, were more likely to have tried his patience beyond endurance than folks less unscrupulous in their methods would have been. In short, Mr. Takahashi's plea has reference solely to the nature of the provocation Miller received, and does not in the remotest degree seek to minimize the value of the victims' lives. Thus the whole of the *Japan Herald's* elaborate attempt to convict the Japanese of unwholesome and ill-balanced idiosyncracies rests solely upon its own idiosyncracy for reducing all their actions to motives of the grossest character. Moreover, even in an affair like this it can not escape the influence of racial prejudice. Here is a Japanese barrister who gives his services gratuitously to defend a foreign criminal, and who petitions the Throne to commute the murderer's sentence of death, yet the *Japan Herald* asks its readers to believe that Mr. Takahashi is influenced by the thought that "the male victim" of Miller's murderous attack "was only a foreigner." Is it possible to display blinder bias, or to adopt a course more unjust to the Japanese? Finally, the *Japan Herald* asks "why, on the one hand, Miller's crime should arouse such slight reprobation, while, on the other, there should exist an unmistakeable (*sic*) animus against a victim of judicial incompetence." What evidence is there that Miller's crime arouses "slight reprobation" in Japan? The law courts have condemned him to death and not one solitary voice has been raised in his behalf except that of his counsel, who in petitioning the Throne for grace, is *simply completing* the duty which he undertook to discharge when he assumed the charge of Miller's defence. Not the remotest hint has been offered in any quarter that Miller's brutal crime does not receive Japanese reprobation, yet this singularly mendacious *Japan Herald* would have its readers believe that public opinion has made some demonstration in that sense. What evidence, again, is there of "an unmistakable animus" against Kent? Kent's case awaits hearing by the Court of Appeal, and in the meanwhile an eminent Japanese Judge has adopted the unprecedented course of publicly traversing the verdict of the lower tribunal in an essay over his own signature. Is that a proof that unmistakable animus exists against Kent? In the face of violent attacks by foreign local journals against the propriety of Kent's condemnation, not one Japanese journal has attempted to justify it. Two legal experts have discussed the matter in a temperate spirit and with an evident desire to elucidate the truth, but so far from there having been any display of animus, there has been a remarkable absence of such display —remarkable because, had Japanese journals condemned the finding of a foreign court in terms so strong as those employed by the foreign local journals in condemning the finding of the Japanese court that tried Kent, there would most assuredly have been a strong display of resentment on the part of the local foreign press. We entirely disagree with the sentence passed upon Kent, but we have only praise for the demeanour shown by the Japanese public in the matter. Also, we think that if ever a murderer deserved the gallows Miller is the man; but we are persuaded that Mr. Takahashi is discharging his simple duty when he exhausts all available resources in his client's cause, and we have only applause and thanks for him and for the other Japanese who have helped to provide for an American citizen the best machinery of defence when on trial for his life before Japanese tribunals. That such acts should be perverted into a weapon for attacking these persons' nationals and slandering themselves, is not the least disgraceful of the many disgraceful performances which stand to the credit of that perennial slanderer and mischief maker, the *Japan Herald*.

Friday, Jan. 12.

It is stated that much discussion has been caused in Japanese legal circles by the petition that Mr. Takahashi has submitted to the Chief Public Procurator for presentation to the Throne, seeking a mitigation of the death penalty in Miller's case. On the whole, the balance of opinion seems to be that Mr. Takahashi's reasons deserve consideration, but it is thought very questionable whether the petition ought to come direct from the barrister engaged in defending him. We do not, for our own part, see any ground for objection on the latter score. No one is better acquainted with the circumstances of the case than the barrister who conducted the defence, and no one is under a greater obligation to exhaust every possible resource in the wretched man's behalf. But as to the points advanced by Mr. Takahashi, to call them reasons is a singular stretch of courtesy. One point and one point only differentiates the case from the ordinary category, and that is the fact that it was the first trial of a foreigner on a capital charge under Japanese jurisdiction. We do not know how that feature presents itself to Japanese minds, but to foreigners it seems unworthy of a second thought.

THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY'S HISTRIOGRAPHICAL WORK.

Since 1896 the Imperial University has been engaged collecting materials for a history of Japan. It has had a considerable allowance from the Treasury for the purpose, and the plan adopted has been to send the students into the country during their summer vacation, for the purpose of visiting temples and residences of old families. and obtaining copies of documents that help to throw light on matters in bygone ages. The grant from the Treasury terminates at the close of the current fiscal year, but the Diet is to be asked to sanction its extension for another five years, at the rate of 20,464 *yen* yearly. This will not complete the work, however. The present estimate is that 15 years will be required to investigate all the material available. The history, when finished, will be a colossal affair, costing 800 *yen* a copy, according to the forecast published by the press. If so it will find few purchasers and still fewer readers. It will be like the history of Mexico compiled by an English nobleman at a cost of sixty thousand pounds and sold—or offered for sale —at a hundred pounds a copy. We have never met any who had even seen the history, with the exception of an individual whose hobby was to delve among the unused volumes in the British Museum. But of course the University authorities will bring out a library edition of the work. Library editions are much to be desired in many cases. What has become of the magnificent work which the late Mr. Walters of Baltimore caused to be compiled illustrating his celebrated collection at Baltimore? The book must have cost a small fortune, and its chief compiler was the greatest living authority on Chinese porcelains, Dr. Bushell, of H.B.M.'s Legation in Peking. Occasionally one encounters an American millionaire who has a copy of the work in his library. But he can never claim the honour of having read it. All that he has done is to look at some of the pictures. The same may be said of Mr. Heber Bishop's book on jade. A hundred copies were published at a thousand dollars (gold) per copy. Where are they and who has seen them? However, we do not by any means desire to disparage the efforts of the Imperial University. Our object is simply to express a hope that the big book will be rendered accessible to the general public, not after its completion, but by degrees as the compilation proceeds.

TRIALS BY JAPANESE CRIMINAL COURTS.

If only for the sake of not bringing discredit upon foreign intelligence, it is much to be desired that the persons who make a business of showing things to be as bad as they possibly could be in Japan, would post themselves in elementary facts before publishing their criticisms. We make this remark with reference to statistics of persons awaiting trial at the Kajibashi House of Detention. There are 55 persons who have been waiting for 3 months, and 28 who have been waiting for 6 months. Nothing need be said about the cases waiting for hearing in the Appeal Court and the Supreme Court, because delays in such instances are notorious, the world over. But does the record of persons waiting to be tried in open court, their preliminary examination having terminated—does that record justify the criticism of a local contemporary that it is "a melancholy story of the deliberation with which the legal machinery moves in this country," and that it denotes a "practice entirely opposed to all principles of humanity and justice?" We are very far from thinking that Japanese judicial procedure is secure against just accusations of tardiness, but we do not believe that it is much worse than legal procedure in our own country, and, before condemning it in wholesale terms, some comparative statistics should be furnished. The truth is that everybody thinks himself qualified to be a critic in this part of the world. Folks write glibly about subjects that never before occupied their attention in the smallest degree, and their remarks excite merely ridicule among intelligent Japanese.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

A telegram from Peking says that Baron Nishi, the new Japanese Representative, has arrived in that city and presented his credentials. Meanwhile Mr. Yano, Baron Nishi's predecessor, has been interviewed with regard to the rumours of his engagement by the Chinese Government in the capacity of adviser on foreign affairs. He denies the engagement, but says that he is going to pay another visit to China.

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THE REVISED CRIMINAL CODE.

It is expected that the draft of the Revised Criminal Code will be submitted to the Diet on the 20th instant. It consists of 306 Articles, being thus 124 Articles shorter than the present Code. We can not speak confidently of the changes proposed, but rumour says that one of the most important is the abolition of the inferior limits of penalties. The discretion of a Japanese judge is now restricted in both directions. He may not exceed a certain punishment for a certain crime, and he may not give less than a certain punishment. A very striking illustration of the evils resulting from the latter limit was furnished in the *Tamba Maru* case. Even supposing that the court was right in its analysis of the evidence—a supposition which seems to us quite untenable—, such a penalty as six months' major imprisonment was enormously disproportionate to the crime. But the judges had no power to pass a lighter sentence. Having concluded that the offence fell within the purview of a certain Article of the Code, their hands were tied as to the smallest penalty. The Anglo-Saxon system refrains from fixing an inferior limit, and certainly that seems the wiser principle if the competence and integrity of the Bench are assured. We trust that rumour is correct in assigning such an intention to the revisors of the Code. But, at any rate, there can be little hope of the new Code's passing both Houses of the Diet this session. The 19th of February is the closing day, and although the legislature passed the Civil and Commercial Codes without much debate, it will probably have a great deal to say about the Criminal Code. The interval between January 20th and February 19th can not suffice.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN JAPAN.

Of course it is absolutely false to pretend that we deny or have ever denied, the desirability of reforming the system of criminal procedure in Japan in the sense of accelerating trials. In the very notes which are made the subject of this characteristically baseless charge, we stated that changes are a desideratum. What we traverse is the singularly reckless extravagance of the criticisms penned against Japanese methods. Such criticisms simply injure the cause of reform since by their intemperance they excite the indignation of those to whom they are addressed, and by their blundering mis-statements they provoke ridicule instead of suggesting the desirability of improvement. As to *habeas corpus*, we have only to repeat what we have often said and what must be patent to any one sufficiently unbiassed to admit that in this wide world the English systems are not the only ones commendable—we have only to repeat that there are other means of attaining the same end, and that such means were included in the Japanese Code of Criminal Procedure as its compilers imagined. The working of the Code has shown, however, that the machinery it provides is not altogether satisfactory, and that amendments are necessary—amendments which the revisionary committee is understood to have under consideration. Meanwhile it is evident that some of the defects on which we, in common with others, commented strongly two years ago, were due in part to the method of applying the Code not to the imperfection of its provisions. This is shown by the great improvement that has taken place since the present Minister of Justice came into power. Mr. Kioura is a legal expert with full practical knowledge, and has been able to issue instructions which have so greatly facilitated the work of the Judicial officials that the number of cases awaiting trial last December was very much less than the number for the corresponding period of 1898. But the Code itself wants amendment, as all intelligent persons admit.

MARQUIS ITO.

Marquis Ito, interviewed by a representative of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, ridicules the talk of a triple alliance between himself, Count Okuma and Count Itagaki. In the first place, the two latter have political parties at their backs and he has none. It would be as rational to talk of two capitalists associating themselves in a business enterprise with a man who brings no capital whatever to the combination. (The simile is not very happy, for Marquis Ito would bring capital which, though it does not take the precise form of a political following, is at least as valuable.) In the second place, it is thoughtless to talk of a preliminary agreement for composing differences of political views. Such an agreement has little practical value. The differences in question can not be reduced to a general formula: they assert themselves when the occasion for action arises. Passing to the problem of the reform of political parties, the Marquis admitted its necessity, but appeared to think that the chief desideratum, leaders to lead the reform, was not likely to be speedily satisfied. He spoke also of education, and expressed the opinion that, in general outline, the programme should be, not to aim at too high a standard in elementary education, but to provide a sufficiency of good schools, technical and otherwise, where lads who had passed their preliminary courses could, if they so desired, obtain further instruction fitting them to become useful members of society. With regard to the educationists who entertain conservative or anti-foreign views, the Marquis thought that the atmosphere of Annam or Burmah would be more congenial to them than the atmosphere of Japan.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN JAPAN.

Messrs. Kataoka and Ando, prominent members of the House of Representatives, are said to be about to introduce a bill for investing a wife with the same title to protection against extra-marital irregularities on the part of her husband as a husband now enjoys against such irregularities on the part of his wife. These gentlemen will deserve a high place in their country's gratitude if they succeed in establishing the doctrine of reciprocity of obligation in married life. Japan, in that respect, has not advanced much beyond the point where Greece stood in the days of Andromache and Hector, and Rome in the time of Scipio and Tertia Æmilia.

THE PEST.

Saturday, Jan. 6.

Kobe seems to have successfully beaten back the pest. Since the 25th instant there has not been one fresh case there. The total number of sufferers from the outbreak of the malady until the present time has been 55; namely, 27 in Osaka, 23 in Hyogo, and one each in Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Wakayama and Shizuoka. Of these 55 patients only 10 have survived. The physicians engaged in treating the sick are understood to say that Yersin's serum as a cure has little or no efficacy. It is doubtless useful as a preventive, and possibly as a cure if injected in the earliest stage of the malady. But unfortunately the earliest stage never comes within range of treatment. Before the physicians have cognisance of a case, it has usually run for several days, and even reached the point of fever and perceptible swelling of the glands. The doctor who lost his life recently in Osaka attributed the inception of the disease in his case to contact with the saliva of a patient whom he was examining. He felt some uneasiness about the incident at the time, but did not employ the serum. If even an expert shows so little care about taking precautions in time, what can be expected of ordinary folks? In the matter of sanitation, the Authorities have come to the conclusion that one of the most effective measures is to pull down the ceilings of a house where a case has occurred, whether among rats or among human beings. It is a violent measure of precaution, but the people seem to be reconciled to it, and the cost is defrayed out of the sanitation fund. In Tokyo a system of examination will be immediately inaugurated, it is understood, in the case of the lowest classes, whose conditions of life are far from being sanitary. The city has now emerged from its recent operation of cleansing, which rendered the atmosphere very noxious for some time.

Monday, Jan. 8.

There has been another case of Pest in Osaka, and from Utsunomiya comes a report that some dead rats were found there, but the experts have not yet determined whether the bacillus is present in their bodies. Tokyo also has had an alarm in connexion with dead rats; happily a false alarm, for examination failed to detect anything serious.

The latest conclusion that the medical experts have arrived at with regard to Pest is the most disquieting. They have proved beyond doubt that the malady attacks a victim in two ways, either by the course hitherto familiar or by invading the lungs. This lung-pest is an appalling form. Every cough, every breath, of a sufferer sends into the air a crowd of bacilli carrying the disease to healthy people. The record of the Adachi family is a shocking illustration of that fact. Adachi Masa, a girl employed at a factory in Osaka, was taken ill on the 18th of December and died on the 21st. Then her two parents were seized, then her brother, then her elder and her younger sisters, then four of her fellow-workwomen, then the two physicians who had attended the patients, then the wife of one of the physicians, and then the latter's *jinrikisha*-drawer—14 victims in all. We gather from the newspaper accounts that some, at least, of these cases

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were not diagnosed as pest. The girl Adachi Masa herself was supposed to have died of acute inflammation of the lungs, and it was not until several had been attacked that the truth was discovered. Dr. Wakabayashi suspected it and called Dr. Baba to his assistance. Both perished, owing to having conducted their examination without the extraordinary precautions required under such circumstances. Dr. Kitasato is understood to say that a physician called to treat a case of lung-pest will have to cover himself from head to foot, leaving only his eyes exposed. He regards this form of the disease as most alarming, and predicts terrible consequences unless it can be checked.

Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Another medical man has succumbed to the Pest in Osaka, the malady in his case also attacking the lungs. It would seem that two fresh cases have occurred in that city, though the statements published are too confused to be read clearly. The Osaka type of the disease is appallingly fatal. Out of 39 persons hitherto attacked, 36 have perished. The Home Department has given instructions that still more stringent measures of prevention are to be adopted, and the Sanitary Bureau is collecting 300 physicians for the purpose. Meantime a disinfecting apparatus on the most approved plan has been erected in Kobe. Some doctors are said to recommend that people who have to enter places where there is much dust or to travel by crowded trains, should use respirators.

Thursday, Jan. 11.

The wives of the late Doctors Baba and Wakabayashi have both succumbed to the pest and a fresh case is reported from Osaka, an engineer's assistant in the local office. The Sanitary authorities of that city appear to be adopting very strenuous measures to combat the disease. They have voted a sum of 10,433 *yen* for purposes of disinfection and medical inspection, and three hundred additional physicians will soon be at work. As for Tokyo, the project of paying 5 *sen* for every rat brought to the police is to be carried into practice from to-day (11th).

The family of each of the unfortunate doctors who died at Osaka has, in accordance with the official arrangement, been presented with a present of money amounting to five times the salary the deceased used to draw. As each unfortunate inspector had been drawing 100 *yen* a month, this present, says the *Kobe Herald* amounted to 500 *yen*. Besides, another donation of 100 *yen* has been awarded to each family by the local office towards the funeral expenses. The colleagues of the unfortunate gentlemen have also presented 100 *yen* to each family, while the Governor and other local officials are collecting contributions from among themselves and also from others, so that the funeral ceremony of the two martyrs to duty may be performed in a way befitting their services.

Friday, Jan. 12.

Three physicians and the wives of two of them have already succumbed to the Pest in Osaka. We now learn that the wife of the third has been attacked. The disease has no mercy. On the other hand, no fresh case was reported yesterday, and it turns out that the last supposed seizure —an engineer's assistant in the City Office—was not really pest. Possibly the change of weather may help to check the spread of the malady. In Tokyo the carcases of 91 rats, killed or found dead between the 21st and the 31st of December, have been examined by experts, but the bacillus was not found in any case.

THE "LIGHTNING BURGLAR."

Sakamoto Keijiro, known in Japan as the "Lightning Burglar" because of the extraordinarily rapid nature of his movements, was convicted some time ago and sentenced to death. The indictment comprised 31 different counts, all of which were proved against him. Some had involved murder as well as robbery, and few were without the adjunct of "cutting and wounding." It is said that during the period of Sakamoto's operations, the people of Saitama and Chiba Prefectures, where his depredations were mainly carried on, could never rest peacefully at night, for there was no possibility of predicting where the man would next appear, sword in hand, just as ready to commit murder or rape as to steal money. When Sakamoto was convicted, he broke out in Court, and reviled the judge and the public procurator, calling them worse robbers than himself. He appealed against the sentence, but it was confirmed by the Court of Appeal, and the man then carried his prayer to the Court of Cassation, where its fate is now pending. Meanwhile he appears to have made up his mind that all hope is at an end, for he has confessed. In addition to the 31 crimes already proved against him, he charges himself with two robberies attended with murder, eighteen accompanied by cutting and wounding, and twenty achieved by intimidation with ethal weapons. Thus his record is 71 crimes of the worst description.

TRADAL TROUBLES.

Thursday, Jan. 11.

There appears to be a somewhat serious trouble in Yokohama between foreign and Japanese silk-men with regard to weights. We gather from Tokyo newspapers that it has its origin in a desire on the side of the Japanese to correct certain commercial customs which they consider reprehensible. The first of these customs attacked by them is that which has been hitherto pursued in weighing silk. In a parcel of 250 catties it has not been usual to take account of any fraction less than one-quarter of a catty, but the Japanese now insist that anything over one-eighth of a catty must be considered. Such, at least, is the ground of dispute as set forth by vernacular journals, and it is added that the Japanese middle-men are disposed to make much of the fact that the weights and measures in use have been officially fixed, and should, therefore, be observed with absolute accuracy. To outsiders the question seems of the most trivial dimensions, but we presume that it has importance, for both sides are displaying considerable resolution. Treaty Revision is dragged into the matter by a Tokyo journal, but we can not perceive what Treaty Revision has to do with it. The Japanese are acting most unwisely if they allow any romantic notions to obtrude themselves into the domain of commerce. The silk trade seems to have been conducted in a satisfactory manner for many years. It has brought vast sums of money to Japan, and has greatly enriched many Japanese merchants without conferring anything like commensurate profits on the foreign middlemen, who appear to have managed the business in a most efficient and economical manner, taking all the risks on their own shoulders and giving the bulk of the gains to the Japanese. Why there should be a disposition to disturb such a state of affairs we can not understand, and if several important British and American firms agree that a certain course is just and expedient, the probabilities are immensely in favour of their being right. It is not to be denied that some of the methods pursued in the silk export trade of Japan differ from those pursued in other countries, and are distinctly objectionable from a Japanese point of view. But there are excellent, though not, we hope, permanent, reasons for them, and at any rate, this petty question of one-eighth or one-fourth of a catty does not belong to the category of solid grounds of dispute.

Friday, Jan. 12.

The dispute between the foreign buyers and the Japanese sellers of silk in Yokohama continues. According to vernacular newspapers, the difference of weight represents a value of 1.30 *yen* in a hundred catties, and that difference, when applied to all the parcels of silk now contracted for, would aggregate 572 *yen*. The monetary total is a mere bagatelle, but the Japanese claim that, in the course of years, it would amount to a very substantial figure.

THE LAW OF ELECTIONS.

The old dispute about the amendment of the Law of Election will occupy the attention of the Diet almost immediately after its re-assembly. The Government's proposals are these:—(1) That every town (*shi*) shall return one member, and that if its population exceeds 80,000 it shall return two members, provided that the excess is more than 30,000. This rule would apply to all multiples of 80,000, so that a town with a population of more than 190,000 would return 3 members. For rural districts, one member would be returned for every 120,000 of population, and one for every additional fraction of that number above 60,000. This method would increase the membership of the House from 300 to 426. (2) The system of voting to be unsigned ballots, uninominal. (3) The monetary qualification for the franchise to be the payment of 5 *yen* of annual taxes. (4) The qualification for candidates for election to be an age of 30 years. (5) That teachers in elementary schools, Government contractors, and officers of juridical persons undertaking Government contracts shall not have the franchise. (6) That these amendments shall become operative from July 1st, 1900. On the other hand, there is a bill, introduced by a Liberal member, which (1) makes no distinction between the urban and the rural populations, but gives to every 100,000 of the people the right of returning one member, thus raising the total membership to 442; (2) provides for multinominal voting with unsigned ballots; (3) makes the age of candidates 25 years; (4) gives the franchise to school teachers and Government contractors; and (5) postpones the operation of these changes until the date of the next general elections.

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MR. HAYASHI ON KOREA.

Mr. Hayashi Gonsuke, Japanese Representative in Söul, who is now on a visit to Tokyo, denies that his return has any political significance. Speaking to a representative of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, he outlined a very sensible and moderate programme for Japan in the peninsular Empire. Competition in the field of politics, he said, is not her object. To obtain political influence it would be necessary to join hands with some other Power. It is her wish to stand aside from all interference in the domestic affairs of the peninsula, and to limit herself to pushing the commercial and industrial interests of her nationals. To enter the political arena would involve collision with other States, whereas in the field of commerce and manufactures all may work peacefully side by side. If other Powers attempt to interfere with her lawful rights in the latter field, she must defend herself, and if other Powers undertake any territorially aggressive programme, she must resist it vehemently as a matter of self-defence. But otherwise there need be no friction. Japanese and foreigners may live amicably in the same settlements, and Japan need not be troubled as to what State's boundaries are conterminous with her own. She does not seek any monopoly, but she holds a special position in Korea, and foreign States can not fail to recognise the fact. They recognise also that the presence of her soldiers in Söul is essential to the preservation of public peace and good order. Owing to the fact that the line of telegraph from Söul to Fusan is in her hands and has been guarded by her gendarmes, a new road has been built and general benefit has resulted. Some publicists have urged that the line of Japan's natural expansion lies in a southerly direction, and that she ought to follow it in preference to choosing the Korean field. Mr. Hayashi does not share that view at all. He would make Korea a prime object, and devote remaining capacities only to southerly enterprise.

SUBSIDIES TO STEAM-SHIP COMPANIES.

It is stated that the annual subsidy of 880,000 *yen* granted to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is to be reduced to 620,000 *yen*, and that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha will receive 180,000 *yen*, the Treasury thus reducing its total payment by 80,000 *yen*. There is a strong disposition in Japan at present to improve the steamship communications between this country and Northern China. The *Jiji Shimpo* remarks that, in 1899, the foreign trade of 19 out of the 22 Chinese treaty ports—those of Northern China being excluded, namely, Tientsin, Chefoo, and Newchwang—aggregated 469 million taels, and grew to 610 millions in 1898; whereas the corresponding figures for the three northern ports were 62 millions and 132 millions respectively, thus showing a much more rapid rate of increase. The greater part of the trade of the three northern ports goes to Shanghai, and the idea is that if the goods could be carried direct from Kobe a considerable saving would be effected. The Osaka Shosen Kaisha is showing considerable enterprise in connection with the Kobe-Newchwang-Tientsin-Amoy service, and the Yusen Kaisha is urged to adopt a similar policy.

THE BOOK-SHELF.

Mr. de Ryke on the Yellow River; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Mr. DE RYKE, who has served for many years as Hydrographic Engineer to the Imperial Home Department of Japan, and given many proofs of high ability in his profession, publishes a brochure containing "Comments on a report made by M. A. Rouffart, under date of January 24th, 1899." The Yellow River has probably wrought more destruction to life and property within historical times than any other river in the world. If the task of restraining its devastations had been within anything like easy reach of human efforts, the Chinese would doubtless have grappled with the problem long ago. But they have never been able to achieve more than a very temporary measure of relief, and the question now is whether Occidental science can help them. We must confess that on reading Mr. de Ryke's very lucid and convincing statements, statements which seem to assert a conclusive claim to attention and belief, we detect little ground for hope. That the river could be brought under control and kept under control if men like Mr. de Ryke were given *carte blanche* to deal with it, there can not be much doubt. But there is equally little doubt that the Chinese Government, so long as it retains its present characteristics, will never give *carte blanche* to any one, and that it will not be encouraged by learning from these comments by a competent authority that that in order to discover how to deal with the Hoang Ho scientifically, a preliminary survey costing a million of taels and requiring three years' labour is necessary. The perplexing features of the Yellow River are the extraordinary quantity of solid matter contained in its water—it is so turbid that a piece of white cloth dipped into it immediately assumes a rusty-red colour—, and the fact that throughout a considerable part of its course its bed is at a commanding height above vast areas of plains through which it runs, so that, when it bursts its banks, devastating floods sweep resistless over huge expanses of country. The Chinese have been ridiculed for making secondary dykes on each side of the river, at a distance of a mile to two and a half miles from the first dykes, or real flood banks, which secondary dykes, useless in any case for restraining the river, are left in a neglected condition. Mr. de Ryke, however, shrewdly points out that these secondary dykes are not intended to control the river at all. Their object is to protect the people living within from inundations coming from the land side; inundations caused by a break in the river's banks at some point higher up. Such inundations would not advance with any great pressure and consequently the dykes for keeping them back need not be very solid. In other respects, too, Mr. de Ryke shows that the Chinese have not been without shrewdness in their manner of dealing with the river, but they have never seriously tried, probably they never had the power, to prevent the injury and neglect to which the mountainous basin of the Hoang Ho has been subjected by the dense population living on its banks, and grasping eagerly every aid to survival without consideration for the consequences to unborn generations. Certainly these consequences are stupendous enough. To regulate the stream in Shantung alone, that is, to regulate it through a distance of 252 miles out of its total length of 2,500 miles, Mr. Rouffart estimates an outlay of 32 million taels, and Mr. de Ryke declares that the double of that sum would be needed, giving, moreover, reasons which seem to establish his point conclusively. Mr. de Ryke, indeed, brings to his task of comment remarkably lucid conceptions and expert ability evidently of a high order. The subject he has to treat is dry enough, but he manages to make it quite attractive by the quality of his knowledge and the method of his reasoning. His remarks about *reboisement* are in themselves sufficient to repay perusal of the whole pamphlet, for people are wont to talk of afforestation as though it were an easily applicable remedy, whereas by the time that afforestation is urgently needed, the very causes operating to make it a desideratum have also operated to invest it with immense difficulties. The injury wrought by ill-regulated mining operations is also very clearly set forth in this brochure, and the author illustrates his remarks by reference to the working of the copper mines in the Mozumi valley of Hida in Japan, an illustration which shows that Japan also is sowing tares of trouble for her children in the future. Not in our generation, nor yet in the generation of our sons or of our grandsons, will the Hoang Ho monster be chained. It will continue to exact its yearly tale of thousands of lives and millions upon millions of property. It is one of the flails with which Providence chastises China for her unprogressiveness.

KOBE HARBOUR.

A telephonic message from Kobe says that it has been decided to carry out the extensive scheme of harbour improvement recently planned for that place. The outlay involved is 26,143,880 *yen*, of which total the Treasury is to be asked to give 14,950,000 *yen* in ten yearly instalments, commencing from the current year. With regard to the remaining sum, 699,880 *yen* will be raised by municipal taxes, and a loan of 10,494,000 *yen* will be floated. The interest on the loan is not stated, but we presume that it will be 6 per cent. The loan, we gather, is to run unredeemed for 10 years, and to be thereafter redeemed in 69 years, the redemption ending in the 111th year of *Meiji*. If the rate of interest is 6 per cent., this should prove a very tempting investment.

THE DAIKOKU CASE.

We learn from Tokyo journals that an amicable arrangement has been effected between the German and Japanese firms which, last summer, found themselves disputing about the right to use a trade mark in the form of *Daikoku* on bottles containing brandy. The German firm, as we understand the facts, duly applied for and obtained the registration of its mark. But the Japanese firm had been using a similar mark for some time previously, and thus the difficulty arose. The settlement arrived at is that the Japanese firm takes over the German business. Dr. Lönholm is said to have represented the German firm.

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TAXATION IN TOKYO.

Monday, Jan. 8.

The Tokyo Municipal Authorities are said to be casting about for ways and means to meet next year's outlays. Faced by a deficit of six hundred thousand *yen*, they have decided to raise the house tax, on the one hand, and, on the other, to impose special taxes on the Tram Company, the Electric Light Company, and the Gas Company. The method to be pursued in taxing the Tram Company is not mentioned, and the public are not likely to object, for the company presents the invidious spectacle of an enormously profitable business whose directors think only of enriching themselves and their shareholders, and pay no concern to the comfort or convenience of the citizens. But the taxes on the Electric Light Company and the Gas Company are expected to take the shape of imposts on each pole erected by the former and on each length of pipe laid by the latter. The two taxes may produce nine or ten thousand *yen* per annum. We did not know that the Municipality had power to put such burdens on special concerns, but presumably the City Assembly is omnipotent within the bounds of the city.

Thursday, Jan. 11.

It seems that there is to be a large increase of municipal taxation in Tokyo. The following statement embodies the proposed changes:—

	Rates for 1900-01.		Increase as compared with 1899-1900.
Land Rate (*chiso*).	½ of	Land Tax.	Unchanged.
House Tax (*kaoku-zei*).....	9 *sen*	per unit.	+ 2.7 *sen*
Income Tax (*shotokusei*).....	40/100	of State Income Tax.	+ 5/100
National Business Tax (*kokusei-yeigyosei*).....	40/100	of State Tax	+ 18/100
Local Business Tax (*chihosei-yeigyosei*).....	40/100		+ 20/100
Miscellaneous Tax	50/100		+ 20/100

Tokyo has hitherto been much the most lightly taxed city in the Empire, and the most backward in every respect. We trust that this increase of taxes means a general improvement of the municipal system.

Friday, Jan. 12.

We stated in our last issue that the Tokyo Municipality had decided to make certain increases in the rates of taxation for the approaching fiscal year—April 1st, 1900, to March 31st, 1901. Our vernacular contemporaries now give the exact figures. They are these:—

	1899-1900	1900-01	1899-1900	1900-01
Land Rate ...	39,056	38,909	½	½
House Tax ...	703,332	1,100,971	6-3 *sen*	9 *sen*
Income Tax...	183,120	160,000	35/100	40/100
Percentage of National Business Tax	21,455	327,068	20/100	40/100
Local Business Tax	19,710	26,360	20/100	40/100
Miscellaneous Tax	80,067	134,845	30/100	50/100
Other sources of Revenue...	—	181,000	—	—
Totals.....	1,626,364	1,877,956		

N.B.—It will be observed that the table is arithmetically incorrect, but we reprint it as it appears.

Concerning the reason for this increase, it appears that a sum of about two hundred thousand *yen* is required for the repair of the streets, and the remainder of the additional income is for the expenditures of the City and District Offices and for a reserve fund. But further outlays have to be anticipated. If the Bill relating to scavengering improvements becomes law, it will involve an expenditure of something like a hundred and fifty thousand *yen*, and a further sum of twenty thousand must be allowed for purposes of special sanitation. It is to defray these last two items that the idea is mooted of taxing the trams, the electric lighting companies, the gas companies, and the street railways—whenever they come into existence—, but the revenue thus derived would still be insufficient, and the Municipal Authorities are said to be considerably perplexed. They will probably end by an additional house tax.

OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE BY FOREIGNERS.

Tokyo newspapers contain an interesting statement. The Head of the Hokkaido Administration, they say, seeing that the development of the districts under his control would probably be much promoted by encouraging foreign enterprise and the investment of foreign capital, applied to the Home Department urging that juridical persons who had complied with the requirements of Japanese law, should be allowed to own real estate, whether they consisted entirely of foreigners, or were organized by foreigners and Japanese in combination. The Home Department replied that, according to the provisions of Japanese law, there was no obstacle to the ownership of real estate by juridical persons composed of foreigners. A ruling upon this point having been already obtained from a Court of Law, the declaration of the Home Minister was scarcely necessary, but it will help to reassure the doubters and to silence the cavillers who are quite determined to show that even the privileges granted by Japanese law are illusory and of small value.

"SHAMEFUL STATISTICS."

"Shameful statistics" is the term applied by the *Japan Herald* to certain figures recently published by Tokyo journals with reference to the number of persons confined in the Kaji Bashi House of Detention on the 15th of last December. The *Japan Herald* displays in this instance its invariably reckless disposition to construe in the worst possible sense everything relating to Japan. It says that "in one prison alone no less than 292 prisoners are all awaiting trial, none of whom has been incarcerated for less than three months." It calls this a "crying scandal," and it writes as though all these people were still without trial. But the truth is that out of the 292 persons, no less than 209 have been actually tried, found guilty and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. What they are awaiting is, not their first trial, but the result of appeals made by themselves to higher tribunals. To put the matter more accurately, 49 of them having been found guilty by courts of first instance, and having been unsuccessful on appeal, are now awaiting the result of their final recourse to the Court of Cassation; and 160 having been found guilty by courts of first instance, are awaiting the hearing of their cases on appeal to the Appeal Court. Only 83 are awaiting their first public trial, and of that total 55 have been waiting for three months and 28 for six months. Moreover, the "one prison alone" spoken of by our contemporary is the house of detention for all Tokyo with its population of a million and a half. Out of all the lawbreakers in that big city, only 55 have not been brought up for public trial after 3 months' delay, and only 28 after six months' delay. All have been duly examined by magistrates and remanded for trial. Such are the statistics to which the *Japan Herald* applies the term "shameful," and such is the state of affairs which it calls "a crying scandal." How many prisoners, we should like to know, lie awaiting trial for 3 or 6 months in British jails. In the most populous circuits of England there are three assizes each year, one in spring, one in summer, and one in winter; but in the other circuits there are only two assizes in the twelvemonth. Even in London, therefore, a prisoner, after he has been remanded for trial, may have to wait for three or four months, and one-fourth of all the prisoners remanded have to wait at least three months on the average, while any prisoners whose cases are not disposed of at the first assize, must wait four months longer. In country circuits one-sixth of all the prisoners remanded have to wait for five months, and such of them as are held over have another six months of delay before them. Not the slightest thought is given by the *Japan Herald* to those elementary facts. It sees, as it imagines, an opportunity to vilify Japanese institutions, and it rushes blindly to the attack, the only result being to create a sense of indignation and unfair treatment among the Japanese, and to add another to the already innumerable proofs of its own vindictive bias.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

There seems to have been a very heavy snow-fall throughout the country. In several places—notably in Hokkaido and on the Gan-yetsu line (Iwashiro-Echigo)—the railway services have been interrupted by the drifts.

It is stated that the *Morgan City*, which went ashore last summer at Ounoichi in Bungo, can be raised at a cost of 65,000 *yen*, and that her repairs subsequently will cost 80,000 *yen*. The question of undertaking the work is now under consideration.

The *Chugai Shogyo Shimpo* estimates that during the year which has just commenced Japan's payments abroad will aggregate fifty million *yen*; namely, 30 millions by the Naval Department, 6 millions by the Department of War, and 14 millions by the Department of Communications.

The *Chiwo Shimbun* says that, according to intelligence received by the Authorities in Tokyo, the Queensland Government has decided, in deference to the suggestion of Her Majesty's Ministry, to postpone for one year the operation of the new law for excluding Japanese immigrants.

There are to be naval manœuvres on a large scale next April. Two fleets will

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operate; one composed of the Standing Squadron and the Yokosuka Squadron; the other, of the Saseho and Kure Squadrons. The manœuvres are expected to last for six days, and during the latter three days the Emperor will inspect them, Vice-Admiral Viscount Ito acting as *Baishin-kwan*, or assistant judge.

The American and English ladies of Tokyo are getting up a concert in aid of the fund for the widows and orphans of soldiers who lose their lives in South Africa. Some of the most talented of the Yokohama amateurs have promised their cöoperation, and with the combined forces of Tokyo and Yokohama there will doubtless be an excellent programme. Eight o'clock on the evening of the 24th instant is the time chosen, and the place will be the British Legation, Her Majesty's Minister having informed the Committee of Arrangement that his salons are at their service.

The bandits of Formosa, regarding the New Year festivities as a good opportunity to make a raid, broke into the *Bemmusho* at Mato, and finding most of the inmates under the influence of *sake*, abstracted 3,400 *yen* from the safe. The Japanese rallied and turned upon the marauders, who numbered 80 or 90. Bent mainly upon plunder, the bandits sought rather to escape with their booty than to injure life or property. They succeeded in getting away with the money, but three of them were captured, having been disabled by wounds. Two Japanese also were wounded.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* has a telegram to the effect that the British Representative in Söul has presented a species of ultimatum to the Korean Government, in the sense that unless a definite answer be given by the 27th instant, with regard to the mining concession sought by Mr. Prichard Morgan, it will be taken for granted that the Korean Government has tacitly consented, and mining operations will commence at once. We do not believe this as it stands, though very likely strong pressure is being exercised to expedite matters in Söul.

The Tokyo Tram Company paid a dividend of over 30 per cent. when it last rendered accounts to its shareholders, and we now read in a vernacular contemporary that its customers and their fares on the 1st and 2nd instant were as follows:

PASSENGERS.		FARES.	YEN.
Jan. 1, 1900.....	108 900	Jan. 1, 1900.....	4,040
Jan. 1, 1899.....	96,700	Jan. 1, 1899.....	1,690
Jan. 2, 1900.....	107,400	Jan. 2, 1900.....	3,780
Jan. 2, 1899.....	89,600	Jan. 2, 1899.....	3,230

Meanwhile the Company goes on calmly destroying the streets and making no adequate effort to mend them. Wonderfully phlegmatic folks truly are the citizens of Tokyo! What has become of the electric railway, too?

His Majesty the Emperor, in accordance with the usual custom, received the Ministers of State and ex-Ministers of State and the Foreign Representatives in the Palace on the 5th instant, and entertained them at luncheon. The viands are said to have been entirely in Japanese style, and after luncheon there was a display of *Dakiu* and old-style dancing in the Park. The Emperor, observing the brevity which distinguishes all the utterances of the Sovereign in Japan, welcomed his guests and wished them the compliments of the season, and Marquis Yamagata, on behalf of the Ministers of State, and Baron d'Anethan, on behalf of the Foreign Representative, acknowledged His Majesty's gracious words in fitting terms.

A GERMAN OFFICER'S OPINION.

The following is the remarkable letter addressed by a German Officer to *The Times* on the 20th of November, a letter which has been amply justified by events:—

Sir,—Aided by a thorough personal knowledge of the military conditions existent in England, and that to an extent perhaps possessed by very few non-British officers, notwithstanding the latters' proneness to most exhaustive criticism, I am naturally following your military operations in the Transvaal with the greatest interest, so much the more as circumstances have, during the past few years, afforded me an accurate insight into the affairs of South Africa. Several points occur to me from a military side which I am persuaded are not sufficiently taken into account in England. I take it as granted that you sufficiently understand at home the immense gravity of the war as regards the continuance of the British Empire as *Weltreich*, and that you are consequently resolved on victory, cost what it may in time, life, or money sacrifice. Assuming the foregoing, there can be no doubt that England, with its exhaustless sources of power, will be able to achieve its end, even should the whole of Southern Africa rise rebelliously against her might. The other and the real question is, however, whether England is not again, as has so often previously occurred, underrating her opponent and proceeding against the foe with too few forces, and this I am convinced is the case in the present issue, notwithstanding the extent of the forces which at first sight seem to be in employment. One is apt to overlook that just as little as the conditions of the South Africa of to day can be contrasted with those of a decade ago, much less is the military power of the Boers in 1899, with their Mauser rifles, their quick-firing guns, and strategical science comparable with that displayed by them in 1881 and 1884, when those aids were wholly wanting. Again it appears that England is wholly deceived as regards the number of efficient combatants at the disposal of the Transvaal and Orange Free State of to-day. You continue to appraise their number at 35 000 to 40,000 men, when it actually amounts to at least 60,000. This body of armed efficient opponents you expect to defeat with a force of, all told, including the Cape and Natal Volunteers, say, at the most favourable estimate, 80,000 men. I use the words most favourable with the fullest possible consideration, as in the case of Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking being taken before the British reliefs can raise the sieges of those places the numbers quoted will be very materially diminished. From these 80,000 troops have to be deducted those required for keeping open the requisite base lines as well as the forces necessary for checking risings in the Cape Colony and in Natal and those needed for garrison duty in the chief centres. I am of opinion, one which is freely shared by my brother staff officers, that not less than 40,000 to 45,000 will be absorbed by such considerations and necessities, leaving no more than 35,000 to 40,000 for active military operations. It has further to be taken into account that the majority of the men are unused to the climate, and that an unusual percentage of sickness may therefore be expected; that the local geography is a sealed book to most, and that an unusual number of reserve men have been reworked into the military condition necessary for such a campaign. I do not consider that our German view is unjustified—viz.:—How can England expect to crush a force of at least 50,000 Boers with an army comprising at the outside 40,000 men available for offence? Consider that these 50,000 Boers are acclimatized, they know every yard of the country and all its capacities for traps for the bravest, most competent European troops. They shoot admirably, they are manœuvred with astonishing strategical ability, already revealed in the trifling operations hitherto carried out; they can ignore questions of food and encampment to a degree out of the question with British-fed troops, and they are contending for their rotten oligarchy with the courage of despair, which has, however, been heightened by success of a certain nature up to the present. They have found time during their advance south to put their rear route in an able state of defence; they have spies innumerable at their service in every quarter of the operations, and, moreover, are assisted by the code telegrams which foreign representatives and Powers are still allowed to exchange, and which these "friendly" Powers are persistently abusing; they are in possession of vast accumulations of food, weapons, and ammunition to an extent which will enable them to prolong the war for an indefinite period. Finally Pretoria has been fortified in such an able manner that an almost insignificant defensive force will be able to hold the place, whilst the main army can be devoted to other duty. Taking all the foregoing into due account, the conclusion has to be arrived at that if England means to come out victorious she will have to be represented in South Africa by an immensely increased numerical force, at any rate one quite beyond the proportions of anything as yet conceived by the public. Happily for her she can easily double or treble her power in South Africa without in any way reducing her power in India or in her colonies. I mean thereby the thousands of trained men in all parts of her Empire who are able and willing to proceed South. Judiciously mixed with your able Regulars they would be quite efficient for garrisoning the chief places in Cape Colony and Natal, for keeping touch between columns and bases, and for overcoming any treachery of the natives, white or black. Such judicious strengthing would have the result that the regularly trained and seasoned men could be dispensed from such duties and would be available for the offensive operations of your Regular Army. Such men are to my knowledge to be had in England and in your various colonies in thousands, and an appeal from your Queen to her people in all climates would convert thousands into hundreds of thousands, from which only the best material might be chosen.

And when one takes into account the tremendous balance which is at stake on this war for England, surely the increased expense of transport and such like is justifiable. The fitting out and payment of an additional 50,000 or 60,000 of such men ought not to be considered for a moment; certainly such expense will be vastly less than will result if England continues to push on the war with her present insufficient troops, all too good to be exhausted slowly by an immediate imprudent parsimony. As is well known, nearly all England's military mishaps during the present century have to be ascribed solely to her persistent under-estimation of her opponents' resources. Will your leaders repeat the fault in view of an enemy furnished with every modern advantage of war, or has she at last realised the advantages and responsibilities which attach to the government of 400,000,000 of British subjects—the latent power at her disposal with which to safeguard the latent possibilities of a nation of nations? Upon this decision hangs neither less nor more than the whole future and destiny of the British Empire. An untoward end of the present military operations in South Africa is the beginning of the dismemberment of the whole nation, a fact, it is hoped, clear to every Briton, as it is at least to every thinking European. An England which is impotent to reduce and hold South Africa is destined not only to become the scorn and victim of all other nations, but is safe to lose all her colonies and fall to the rank of a third class State. I remain, &c.,

Berlin, Nov. 14. A GERMAN OFFICER.

FEAR AND DEATH.

(An Arab Legend).

The Spirit of the Plague entered the gate.
One, watching, asked, "How many wilt thou slay?"
"A Thousand," spake the Spirit, "is my quest."

The Plague made end. The Spirit left the gate.
The Watcher cried, "Ten thousand didst thou slay."
"Nay, One," the spirit said; "Fear killed the rest."

—R. R. Bowker in the *Century*.

Hirai Kiichi, aged 30, a well-known Hote thief, was arrested on Wednesday night by the Isezakicho Police. While staying at a Hotel in Hongo, Tokyo, in December, he robbed visitors of goods to the value of some *yen* 200.

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A MARTYR TO ITS OWN METHODS.

THE *San Francisco Chronicle* has an amusing article on the subject of "Japan and China." One of the charms of the essay is the bewildering nature of its statements. It declares that "if China should come under Japan and her people be impregnated with the spirit of Japan, the West would be menaced with something far more serious than a collision of its leading Powers. It would be confronted by an Oriental combination which, if intelligently directed, might strike a severe blow at Western civilization." So, then, the San Francisco Journal believes that the spirit of Japan is inimical to Western civilization. We have been accustomed to think differently. We have been accustomed to think that Japan had adopted Western civilization with a thoroughness which surprised the world. Certainly that is what she has been doing in a most wholehearted manner for the past thirty years, and the Powers of the Occident have publicly acknowledged the genuineness of her efforts by admitting her to their comity and placing their nationals under her jurisdiction. We have also been accustomed to think that China's proclivities lay in the other direction. We have been accustomed to think that China eschewed Western civilization with a persistent aversion which has aggravated the world. *Certainly* that is what she has been doing in the most unequivocal and obstinate manner for the past hundred and thirty years, and the Powers of the Occident publicly proclaim their appreciation of the fact by discussing whether they shall proceed to cut her into pieces and divide the portions among themselves, or whether they shall combine to force upon her the policy of abandoning her seclusion and admitting all to free and equal privileges. Yet we now learn from the *San Francisco Chronicle* that if China should become imbued with the spirit of Japan, a severe blow would be struck at Western civilization. That is bewildering. Reading on, we detect a strange confusion in the mind of the American editor; a confusion between the interests of individual Occidentals and the interests of Occidental civilization. He evidently thinks that if Japan succeeded in carrying on her foreign trade without the invention of the foreign middlemen who now reside in her territories, Occidental civilization would suffer. Well, so it would, in the sense that Japan would be deprived of a good many useful object lessons. But that is not what the writer in the *San Francisco Chronicle* really means. What he means is that Japan is at heart hostile to foreign civilization and that she would go back to her old ways were it possible to do so. There is no basis for discussing such a question. We leave the San Francisco newspaper in honorable possession of its wild suspicion, and pass on to note the quaintest part of its article. Here, as might have been expected, we find the trace of the subtle old Yokohama serpent which, by untiring ejection of venom, occasionally succeeds in poisoning somebody's mind. Quoting from that disseminator of delusions, the *San Francisco Chronicle* says:—

> In its issue of November 15th that journal prints a gloomy account of the "Heavy Taxation and Troubles Arising From the Revised Treaties," in which it says that so far as foreigners are concerned "Japan is becoming, if it has not already become, an excellent country to live out of, rather than to continue to endeavour to reside in it." This disposition is induced by "the weight of taxation which foreigners now find they are being called upon to bear," and which is undermining profits and individual incomes. A long list of vexatious imposts to which business men are subjected is furnished, and the writer concludes with the remark: *Thus by various overreaching ways Japan is, by its narrow-minded policy and the number of enactments which have been made, rendering this country Japan) as undesirable place for business purposes or for foreign residence.*"
>
> Clearly this policy is inspired by the "Japan for the Japanese" idea, which also finds expression in the absolute prohibition of mining, lands owning and farming to foreigners. *Since the revised treaties have gone into effect a persistent effort has been made to render the position of foreign traders untenable in Japan.*

We recommend special perusal of the italicised portions of this extract—italicised by ourselves. Do they not plainly suggest, and are they not intended to suggest, that since the Revised Treaties went into operation, the Japanese Authorities have adopted various measures having for their object the embarrassment and annoyance of foreigners? The Yokohama slanderer leaves himself a narrow bridge to escape from this charge of false representation. But it is a bridge which no ordinarily truthful person would think of crossing, for when Japan is charged with rendering the country undesirable for business purposes or foreign residence by various over-reaching ways and by the number of enactments which have been made, and when the article containing this charge is headed "heavy taxation and troubles arising from the revised treaties," no reader could doubt for an instant that the intention is to accuse this country of taking advantage of its newly acquired jurisdiction to drive foreigners out of the land. The San Francisco journal naturally interprets the article in that sense, for it says explicitly that "since the revised treaties have gone into effect a persistent effort has been made to render the position of foreign traders untenable in Japan;" and the Yokohama journal endorses that interpretation by reproducing with approval its American contemporary's comments. What, then, is the "persistent effort" that has been made "since the revised treaties went into effect?" What are the "number of enactments that have been made rendering this country an undesirable place for foreign residence?" What is the "heavy taxation arising from the revised treaties?" The whole thing is a myth. The "persistent effort" is a pure delusion. The numerous enactments are a figment of the imagination. Not a single tax has been imposed on foreigners to which the Japanese people also are not subjected, and to which the Japanese people were not subjected long before the new treaties went into operation. Are we asked to suppose that the Japanese Government, several years ago, devised and enforced a heavy system of taxation for their own nation of forty millions of people in order that, by and by, a couple of thousand foreigners might equally suffer from the impost? Was the EMPEROR'S gracious Edict one of the "persistent efforts made to render the position of foreign traders untenable in Japan"? Were the liberal and statesmanlike Instructions issued by the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Minister of War and the Minister of Education,—were these documents among the numerous "enactments which render Japan an undesirable place for foreign residence"? There is something which tends to make Japan an undesirable place for foreign residence and to render the position of foreign traders untenable, and that is the untiring flow of false accusations and venomous misrepresentations that emanate from the journal quoted by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, for let the Japanese be never so patient and discerning, they can not but learn to dislike people who tolerate and support the dissemination of such flagrant injustice.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

Subscribers to the Patriotic Fund in Yokohama will no doubt be interested to know how their money will be spent. From a statement in a recent issue of *The Times* it would appear that the fund will be applied to the best possible purpose. *The Times* states that the section of the Lord Mayor's Fund for which these subscriptions are collected will be administered by the Royal Commission of the Patriotic Fund, 53, Charing Cross, but will be held apart from the ordinary Patriotic Fund. The statement proceeds as follows:—

The Transvaal war section will be devoted exclusively to the relief of sufferers from the present war, and only such proportion will be invested as actuarial calculations may eventually show to be necessary to meet future claims. Provisionally, allowances are being made as follows:—Immediate relief to the amount of £5 for a widow and £1 for each child; then 3s. 6d. a week for the widow and 1s. 6d. a week for each child of a private soldier; 4s. a week for the widow and 1s. 6d. for each child of a corporal; 4s. 6d. a week for the widow and 2s. for each child of a sergeant; and 5s. a week for the widow and 2s. a week for each child of a colour-sergeant; such payments being made quarterly in advance. That no time is being lost, too, in the affording of relief is shown by the following illustration:—On October 25th, the fund heard from the War Office that one of the Gordon Highlanders who had been killed was a married man. By post the same night a money order for £5 was sent to the widow together with a form for her to fill up as a preliminary to a permanent allowance. On the form being returned it was found she had one child. Thereupon an additional £1 was despatched, and on November 9 she received payment of her pension up to the end of the year, when her regular quarterly allowance will begin. Such allowance is continued to a widow so long as she does not marry again, while in the case of boys it is paid up to the age of 14 and in that of girls to 16. Whether or not it will be possible to increase these allowances will depend on future developments.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BRITISH FORCES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I enclose (a) An estimate of the Troops that were in South Africa at the end of September last; (b) A tabular statement of the movements of Transports completed during September and October; and (c) A short diary of the salient events of the war up to the end of October.

The first is compiled from the Official Army List; the two latter from the Journal of the Royal United Service Institution.

Together they may perhaps serve as a convenient means of reference for such of your readers as are interested in the course of the war in South Africa, and, if they have the effect of supplying a want, I shall endeavour to add to them from time to time.

I remain, Yours faithfully,

A. G. CHURCHILL, Lt.-Colonel.

Tokyo, January 7th, 1900.

TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Cavalry.—5th Lancers.
18th Hussars.

Artillery.—13th, 67th and 69th batteries R.F.A.
10th Mountain battery.
14th and 23rd companies Western Division R.G.A.

Engineers.—7th and 23rd (field) companies.
8th (railway) company.
29th (fortress) company.

Infantry.—1st Manchester.
1st Royal Munster Fusiliers.
1st Liverpool.
1st Leicestershire.
1st Loyal North Lancashire.
2nd Berkshire.
1st Kings Royal Rifle Corps.
2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Army Service Corps. 5th, 22nd and 41st companies.

MOVEMENTS OF TRANSPORTS.

Transport.	Left.	Arrived.	Troops.
Gaul ...Eng.	Sept. 16	Natal Oct. 7	1st Nor' Fusiliers 3 co'panies A.S.C.
Tantallon Castle..Eng.	Sept. 16	Natal Oct. 3	& 1 com. A.O.C., Sir Geo. White & Staff.
SecundraEng.	Sept. 17	Dur'n Oct. 3	42nd bat. R.F.A.
LalpooraInd.	Sept. 18	Dur'n Oct. 2	21st bat. R.F.A. & 1 com. of the Field Ho'tal corps.
Purnea ..Ind.	Sept. 18	Dur'n Oct. 5	2nd King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Boolddana ...Ind.	Sept. 19	Dur'n Oct. 5	53rd bat. R.F.A.
Jelunga .Eng.	Sept. 23	Dur'n Oct. 26	A section of the Tele. bat. R.E. & 2nd Rifle Brigade (via Crete).
HensadaInd.	Sept. 20	Dur'n Oct. 12	An Ordnance park & Field Hospital.
Sutlej ...Ind.	Sept. 21	Dur'n Oct. 5	4 companies 1st Devonshire.
City of London..Ind.	Sept. 21	Dur'n Oct. 5	4 companies 1st Devonshire.
Vadala ..Ind.	Sept. 21	Dur'n Oct. 7	Squadron 19th Hussars.
Pandura Ind.	Sept. 22	Dur'n Oct. 5	Squadron 19th Hussars.
Palitana Sirsa ... Warora	Ind. Sept. 23	Dur'n Oct. 7 Oct. 9 Oct. 9	2nd Gordon Highlanders and Squadron 19 H.
Avoca ...E'gt	Sept. 24	Dur'n Oct. 12	1st Royal Irish Fusiliers.
Indian...Ind.	Sept. 25	Dur'n Oct. 9	1st Gloucester.
Wardha Nowshera .. Nairung	Ind. Sept. 25	Dur'n Oct. 9 Oct. 10 Oct 10	9th Lancers.
Lindula.Ind.	Sept. 28	Dur'n Oct. 11	Squadron 5th Dragoon Guards.
Zibeugh la & Zayathla	Eng. Sept. 28	Cape town Oct. 30 Oct. 25	18th, 62nd & 75th batteries R.F.A.
Sumatra.M'ta	Sept. 28	Cape town Oct. 22	1st Border.
Nevassa India	Sept. 28	Dur'n Oct. 12	Ammunition col. & Field Hospital.
Kinfauns Castle	Eng. Sept. 30	Cape-town Oct. 16	Balloon section R.E., 1 company A.S.C. & a Remount company (500 horses).
Gaika...Eng.	Sept. 30	Cape-town Oct. 17	Special ammunition column.
Braemar Castle..Eng.	Oct. 6	Cape town. Oct. 26	1 General Hospital corps, 3 companies A. O. C. & 20 companies A. S. C.
Mexican.Eng.	Oct. 7	Cape-town. Oct. 24	4 com., A. O. C.
Virawa & Patiala..Ind.	Oct. 8	Dur'n Oct. 24	2 squadrons 5th Dragoon Guards.
Dunottar Castle...Eng.	Oct. 14	Cape-town. Oct. 30	Sir R. Buller & Staff & Army Post Office Corps

Note—The contractions are:—Eng., England; Ind., India; Dur'n., Durban; M'ta., Malta; E'gt., Egypt.

SHORT DIARY.

Sept. 8.—A Cabinet Council was held at which it was decided to demand from the Transvaal Government a definite reply to the British proposals, and to despatch 10,000 additional troops to South Africa.

Sept. 18.—A reply was received from the Transvaal Government rejecting the British proposals.

Sept. 21.—President Steyn of the Orange Free State counselled the Raad to take part with the Transvaal in the event of hostilities.

Sept. 22.—A Cabinet Council was held and a despatch forwarded to the Transvaal Government stating that the British Government would now formulate its own proposals for a settlement.

Sept. 28.—The Orange Free State resolved to support the Transvaal Government.

Sept. 29.—A Cabinet Council was held to decide on the situation in the Transvaal.

Oct. 7.—A proclamation was issued calling out the first class Army Reserve.

Oct. 9.—The Transvaal Government despatched an ultimatum to the British Government containing the following demand: (1) All points of difference shall be submitted to arbitration; (2) The British troops shall be instantly removed from the borders; (3) All re-inforcements landed in South Africa shall be withdrawn in a reasonable time; (4) Troops now on the high seas shall not be landed in any South African port.

Oct. 10.—The British Government declined to discuss the terms of the ultimatum.

Oct. 11.—The British Diplomatic Agent, Mr. Conyngham Greene, left Pretoria for Capetown.

Oct. 12.—Boer troops entered Natal in 3 columns, by way of Laings Nek, Botha Pass, and Wakkerstrooms Pass. An armoured train was derailed by the enemy at Mafeking, the wreckage shelled, and Lt. Nesbitt, with 15 men and 2 guns, captured. Lt. Nesbitt and 14 of the men were wounded.

Oct. 13.—Reconnaissance in force by Sir G. White from Ladysmith towards Acton Homes. The Boers declined battle. Newcastle was evacuated by the inhabitants.

Oct. 14.—Col. Baden Powell made a sortie from Mafeking. British casualties 17. Boer loss said to be heavy, some accounts] giving it as 300 killed. Wires south from Kimberley and Mafeking cut.

Oct. 15.—Newcastle occupied by the Boers. In an armoured train action at Spytfontein, the Boers were repulsed with a loss of 5 killed. No British casualties. Vryburg was betrayed to the Boers.

Oct. 18.—The Government announced the calling out of the Militia and Militia Reserve.

Oct. 19.—Boers captured a train at Elandslaagte with some Officers and men, and civilians.

Oct. 20.—Battle of Dundee. British loss 239 killed and wounded, including Genl. Symons mortally wounded. Boer loss 500 to 600 killed, wounded and prisoners. A squadron of the 18th Hussars was captured.

Oct. 21.—Battle of Elandslaagte. British loss about 250 killed and wounded. Boer loss 100 killed and wounded, 200 missing, 300 prisoners.

Oct. 23.—Major-Genl. Yule evacuated Glencoe and marched South to join Sir G. White at Ladysmith. Major-Genl. Sir W. P. Symons died at Dundee.

Oct. 24.—The Kimberley garrison engaged the enemy at Riverton Road Station; the Boer force was dislodged and Commandant Botha killed. British casualties 24.
Sir G White defeated the Boers at Rietfontein. British casualties 110 Boer casualties 280.

Oct. 26.—Major-Gen. Yule joined hands with Sir G White at Ladysmith.

Oct. 27.—Proclamation by H. M. The Queen calling out the Militia and Militia Reserve.

Oct. 30.—Sir G. White made a reconnaissance in force from Ladysmith.
The British casualties were 300, and a force, consisting of the 10th Mountain battery, and 10 companies of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers and 1st Gloucester Regiment, having been detached to a flank, was surprised and cut off, and, having previously lost its ammunition, was forced to surrender.
Boer loss about 600.

Oct. 31.—Boer attack on Mafeking repulsed with heavy loss.

THE KENT APPEAL.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—In view of certain press comments, it seems just that the public should be informed authoritatively, that the defence of Mr. Kent, though not undertaken gratuitously, has not, nor will, cost him or any foreigner anything whatever.

Yours faithfully,

LOWDER & AKIYAMA,
Counsel for the Defence.

Yokohama, January 8th, 1900.

THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" SHILLING FUND.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—At a Committee Meeting held on the 3rd inst. of the St. George's and St. Andrew's Societies, combined for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of sufferers from the war, attention was called to a paragraph appearing in *Truth* of the 2nd November in which the writer criticises the administration of funds by the Patriotic Commission, by stating that amounts received on former occasions were captalized and not disbursed in full.

In view of the objection of some would-be Subscribers to the Mansion House Fund, which it is understood will be handed to the Patriotic Commission for distribution, it was decided to open a subscription list under the auspices of the above Societies in connection with the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund.

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Donations will be received by the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank; Chartered Bank, I. A. & China; and National Bank of China; or by H. A. Stewart, Hon. Secretary St. Andrew's Society; and H. J. Sharp, Hon, Secretary St. George's Society.

Yours faithfully,
W. F. MITCHELL,
President St. Andrew's Society.
W. W. TILL,
President St. George's Society.

Yokohama, 8th January, 1900.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—To elicit information as to the disposal of subscriptions to this fund, we telegraphed our London office as follows:—

"Subscribers to the Mansion House Fund are very anxious to know if the whole amount obtained will be divided amongst the Widows and Orphans."

and have this morning received the following reply:—

"In reply to your telegram—Yes. Will not be capitalized."

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully
J. C. BUDD, Agent,
Chartered Bank of India Australia and China.

Yokohama, 9th January, 1900.

THE "TAMBA MARU" CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Since, by the publication of the able article on the peculiar features of this case in your issue of Dec. 31st, you appear to recognize it now as public property, may I be allowed the privilege of a little space in your columns to put before your readers some few further comments *which may* perhaps prove of interest?

Let me say at the outset that I cannot help agreeing with you in thinking that we, as foreigners, should dismiss from our minds any idea of *racial prejudice* having been a factor in the two extraordinary judgments lately delivered on the parties concerned. Surely, with the words of the recent Imperial Rescript yet sounding in their ears, words which we are asked to believe are held by Japanese as almost Divine utterances, we might reasonably expect that, if any discrimination were allowed to interfere with the pronouncement of the judgments, it would at the present time, in the minds of officials, at any rate, tend to be exercised rather in favour of the foreigner than against him?

You have commented, in scathing terms, on the apparent injustice done to the third officer in the rejection of evidence tendered in his favour, as being unworthy of credence, while on the other hand it would seem as if the Quartermaster's unsupported testimony had been to a great extent accepted as fact, notwithstanding that, in the matter of the biting, it would appear absolutely plain to any reasonable mind he was lying through thick and thin!

There is, however, yet another point I think worthy of attention, and it is this. Commenting on the medical evidence as to the incapacitation of the quartermaster for work for 20 days, you write: "The notion that a black eye should incapacitate a man for 20 days sounds extravagant to Englishmen. *But there again the medical testimony was clear and the judges had to be guided by it.* There are black eyes and black eyes. Such a question is for a physician alone to determine. Thus we may condemn the law, and we may query the doctor's diagnosis, *but the Court's decision does not seem open to objection on those scores.*" (The "italics" used above, as well as those found later on, are mine, and intended to emphasize the points I am trying to make.)

Now here, Sir, I have to join issue with you. Reference to the report of testimony adduced during the trial of the Quartermaster, as published in the *Japan Mail* of December 22nd, will show the following evidence given by a certain physician, Fujii Yukio, which I will give verbatim. "He deposed to having examined Mr. Kent on December 13th, and given him a certificate as to his wounds. These were probably caused by a bite, but, as some two weeks had elapsed, it was hardly possible to determine the point with precision. There were three other wounds, but these might have been caused by a *fleabite*, or *by a cockroach!* Witness saw Mr. Kent's trousers, but *they were not in any way torn, nor was there any hole such as a tooth might cause!* Witness got the impression of the accused's tooth, but *it was impossible to say that the wound had been caused by a bite.*"

Now, Sir, it would seem to be apparent that the judges had accepted the two medical testimonies, both as to the "black eye" and 20 days' skulk, and also the foregoing, as worthy of all credence. In the "reasons for the judgment" passed on the Quartermaster I find the following in the *Japan Herald* of Dec. 23rd, which I presume may be taken as a fair translation: "In the Chiho Saibansho Kent stated the accused bit him while the latter was standing, whereas in this Court he stated that he was bitten while sitting. Thus *there is a discrepancy of evidence on a most important point.* Also Kent's statement that the accused *continued his biting, in spite of his being struck in the eye!* Again this is hardly credible, for *the blow in the eye must have temporarily incapacitated him!*" (Oh! that these learned judges might have had the privilege of witnessing even one of our latter-day so-called "champion fights," with light gloves, and how much more so one of the good old days of fair fighting, with bare knuckles, right to a finish, as in Tom Sayers' days!) Later on, in the same statement, it is made plain that, although the judges felt bound to admit that Kent had been bitten, it was not absolutely clear whether the injuries were self-inflicted, or were inflicted by others.

Now comes the question, are Japanese judges so hedged in by the laws that they are not allowed to discriminate, or to exercise their own discretion, on medical evidence tendered, or is it that the average Japanese legal mind, which in such a case we may surely consider was fairly represented, is incapable of such ordinary common-sense discrimination? Here in the first case we have the medical evidence that a strong able-bodied man is absolutely incapacitated for work for 20 days or more through a blow in the eye! Did it occur to these sapient judges that, allowing him even the best of all good intentions, and belief in what he stated, the doctor may have been very much, in such a case, in the hands of his patient? Let the latter state daily that he experienced fearful pains at the back of his head, very bad singing in the ears, or such like, and that he could not possibly work, how is the doctor to prove this true, or absolutely false? Have such things never been known as a man "skulking" from work, as the outcome of some slight accident or small injury? I am glad to recognize that, in the robuster minds of most foreigners, there is more of a general tendency to make light of, than to magnify, slight injuries, and in most cases "skulking" for such a cause would be regarded with scorn, although be it said in all fairness many instances to the contrary have been recorded, and brought to light, in English courts before now. But can it be said of the Japanese that, in such cases, there is no general tendency to "skulk"? Does he not, in this respect, generally follow the lines of most Orientals—*When hit fall down and die, when sick, cave in,* and *think of his lot in the Cemetery*? I appeal to your own and your readers' experience on this point with confidence.

Now, turning to the medical evidence about the biting of Kent, the doctor made a point by saying he *could find no holes in the trousers Kent had worn.* Did these sapient judges expect that the quartermasters in the N.Y.K. service were specially fitted out with fangs which might adorn the jaws of a beast of prey? It is to be presumed that the trousers worn by Kent were of some ordinary woollen cloth, and it might have been interesting and instructive had it occurred to one of these wise judges to test in open Court, either on the person of the learned doctor, or on one of their own number, whether if, biting on to a similar garment, with a leg inside of it, they could manage to *bite holes in the cloth*, without making the other party "squeal," or begin to think he was being bitten!

But enough of this, Sir, except to say that within your recollection, as of mine, there must be scores of cases wherein medical testimony has been adduced for and against a certain point, all apparently in good faith, but of an absolutely contradictory nature.

Now, however, I would like to turn to a far wider and more extended view of the whole question, and one which I do not remember having been commented upon, in the public press any way, and it is this.

Are there not very good grounds for concluding that, in dealing with a question like this, or in fact any question, be it a moral, social, political, legal, business one, or what not, the average European (especially, perhaps, the Anglo-Saxon) and the Japanese *approach it from altogether different standpoints?* Must we not, in commenting on what appears to us utterly illogical reasoning on any certain facts or questions at issue, take into consideration the possibility, nay I would say the probability, *that the Japanese mind is affected by entirely different planes of thought to our own*, and that to expect from them any similar conclusions from what they may consider perfectly logical reasoning, would be futile?

Is the "Gilbertian" idea of "topsey-turvey-dom" in Japan altogether farcical, or is it unreasonable to think that perhaps, just as the Japanese carpenter, in using a plane or saw, exerts his greatest force in the pull towards him, and the Japanese writer works from right to left, while our custom is exactly the reverse in both cases, so it may be that the Japanese thinker, in considering any question on its merits, starts from a different basis, travels by a different route, and naturally arrives at a very different conclusion from what we should expect?

My own experience here, extending as you know over a good many years, has led me to this conclusion, that their methods of thought *are entirely different from our own*, and, although I must confess often strongly against the grain, I have many times been led to acknowledge this practically, by making allowances in their favour on questions which to my own mind admitted of but one reasonable conclusion, and *that certainly not theirs!* Just to give your readers one or two most familiar examples of what I mean. A servant in your employ, who has nothing against you or his place, everything apparently being comfortable for him, as on the other hand his work is satisfactory to you, finds out that he can get, it may be, a little better wages or a slightly easier billet elsewhere. Now, although he knows himself that his leaving you at short notice may put you to inconvenience, does it occur to him as a general rule to come to you to explain the position, giving you at any rate the option, as one who has the prior claim to his services, of bettering his position by, say, either higher pay or easier work? No! you will hear that "His aged grandmother has fallen very sick, and his constant attendance seems to be necessary," or it may be; "His father is very ill in Tokyo, and he has been telegraphed for to go up there at once"; or some such urgent excuse, which it may be noted generally comes about the end of the month or towards "pay day," and so he leaves you with very kind expressions of regret and thanks for all your kindness, while you on your part express great sorrow at the bad news received, sorry to part company, etc., etc.

In a few days you hear that he is employed in the same capacity at a near neighbour's, and soon after you meet him in the street, and he greets you with a pleasant bow and smile, which seems to convey the impression

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that he is pleased to see you looking so well, and bearing up under the blow which the termination of his faithful services must have inflicted!

Here again is another common case: In your employ as head servant is a man who has been with you for many years, has had gradually a very great deal of the entire household control and management left entirely to his care, and has proved himself, as far as you can judge, a thoroughly tried and trustworthy servant, and you would think and expect devoted to your interests. For a few months you have employed as an extra hand, probably even got in through the old servant first named, a man whom you gradually come to suspect of petty acts of dishonesty, and eventually decide to dismiss. During the time you may probably have discussed over and over again the things you have suspected with your head servant, but could never obtain any satisfactory proof, although perhaps he would concur in the desirability of dismissal, but when once the obnoxious one is "fired out," and fairly off the premises, you find evidence crowding in upon you that your trusted servant knew all the time of the truth of what you suspected, and also of many more peculations which had never come to your notice at all, and he will explain that, although manifestly very sorry you had been victimised, he *could* not bring it all to your notice before, while the other one was still in the same employ! To put a somewhat bigger, but, I think, relatively parallel case. What would be said of an Accountant of, say one of the foreign Banks here, who, knowing that one of the staff under him had been systematically embezzling from the Bank for months past, yet failed to report it to his Manager, or to make it known in any way until one particular act was discovered, and the culprit dismissed?

The foregoing are, I am convinced, "common or garden" experiences to many householders here, and will read like truisms. You, Sir, may say, as I think I have seen virtually in your writings before, "Oh! Yes! but you are dealing in Yokohama with a low class of Japanese,—the sort who, like parasites, attach themselves to foreign settlements." Well, that may be so, although I have yet to learn that, in their dealings of a similar nature with Japanese employers, servants act and behave differently. Any way, if it be so, all I can say is, so much is the case the worse for the Japanese, for whereas I would make some allowances for them for what I believe to be different modes of thought and reasoning, you would in that case pluck away even that shred of decency, and leave them bare indeed, convicted of the most barefaced deceit and low cunning!

Now for just one more instance of a business nature, not probably so familiar as the foregoing to the majority of your readers, but still I think very noteworthy, and I can assure you, from my own personal experience, absolutely true. We will say that negotiations have been instituted by telegram for the importation of certain goods from the home side at the instance of a Japanese dealer, which have at last resulted in the settlement of price, etc., leaving me a small working commission, but at which he only consents to take half the quantity offered, advising me to take for myself the other half, or I may feel fairly confident about the risk and say—"Oh! very well, if you only care to take half I will chance the other half myself, and see what comes of it." Soon the market for these goods goes up considerably both at home and here also, and the little lot which I have taken at my own risk I determine to put by as a "plum," waiting further developments, my friend the dealer having meanwhile resold his at a fair profit, but this, whether or no, does not affect the sequel. Eventually the goods arrive here, my lot, still unsold and on my hands, being amongst them, the market meantime having still further risen, and on the current market value showing me a very handsome profit: What the profit means the dealer who first negotiated for the other half knows within a few cents practically, and probably others in the same "guild" know too. Now, will he be content himself, or allow others if he can help it, to let me make that fair profit on goods entirely at my own risk, which the improved market value enables me to expect? No, Sir! unless he can get *a bite out of my plum* by endeavouring to make me let him have them at something decidedly under proper value, he will not only decline to buy himself, *but* he will do his level best to keep others from buying, and will even go so far as to buy from my neighbours goods of a similar character, at even a higher price than he will offer me, knowing that they are at the time getting only a working commission on theirs, whilst I should be making a good substantial profit! I might instance, did space permit, many more examples of a like nature in support of my theory of differences of standpoint, thought, reasoning, and resulting conclusions, and in support also of what I believe myself to be the logical deduction therefrom, which is that, certainly not for a very long time, if indeed ever, are we likely to see that community of thought and interests which some of the "rose-spectacled" fraternity seem to think may be reasonably looked for as the outcome of Treaty Revision, Mixed Residence, etc., between the natives and European sojourners here! As to what may be adduced as reasons for this, to my mind, strong line of demarcation, is, I feel, a much wider matter again, and one to which far more space might be devoted than I can ask for now, even if competent to approach it. Just one point, however, may be perhaps permitted to me to notice. In the case of the foreigner there may be apparent perhaps the influence of heredity, of inborn respect for a gradual common-sense observance of law and order, founded in the main on the justest system of equity, and with as a base the grand old Golden Rule, "*Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you.*" It is a great satisfaction, any way, to remember, as we all must do, that in the earliest years of a boy's training at school, there is sure to be instilled into him, if he has it not already, the conviction that to do or say certain things, proscribed by a recognized although unwritten law, would be "caddish," "mean," "snobbish," or the like!

Has the Japanese youth any such guide and influence? Have they such feelings amongst themselves in their early years, apart entirely from what teachers may inculcate? If not in themselves, are their teachers now, or likely to be for generations to come, of a kind who could be expected to thoroughly inculcate such principles?

Now, Sir, allow me just a few closing lines to "come down out of the clouds," and suggest a few practical lessons, for us foreigners, especially, to be drawn from these recent *Tamba Maru* cases. It has certainly been a maxim previously for Europeans here, Anglo-Saxons more especially, *Don't begin hitting if you can help it, but if you do, hit hard!*" Now this would seem to have to be altered, and some mature consideration be given, if absolutely forced to hitting, whether you shall hit hard enough for the effects to last for 5, 10, or 15 days, or go the "whole hog" for the 20 days limit.

Then, again, on the other side of the question, if unfortunately mixed up in a fray, and hit yourself, it would seem most imperative that, if you desire to see your assailant laid by the heels properly, and given the benefit of a little time wherein to work for his country and abstain from acts of violence towards the community, *you must be quite incapacitated for at least 20 days!* Let all of pugilistic tendencies take these hints to heart, but meanwhile perhaps there may be many of a more pacific nature who would sooner avoid all rows if possible, and, like your correspondent, prefer, even it may be at some cost in self-respect, to purchase

"PEACE AT SUCH A PRICE."

Yokohama, 2nd January, 1900.

STATE PURCHASE OF RAILWAYS.

The Editor of the *Kokumin* asked me to contribute a few lines on the subject of State Purchase of Railways in Japan, but, finding that what I wrote was too long for publication in this number, he requested me to give here a short sketch of the original article:—

Many reasons are brought forward in favour of State administration of the railways of Japan.

1. It is said to be necessary as part of one consistent scheme of national *defence*.

[Now, though this necessity may be admitted in the case of an inland state like Germany, hedged round by foes, it is not so obvious in the case of an *island* like Japan. In France the lines (with one exception) belong to private companies, while in Italy and Holland the State lines are leased to private companies to work them. The England of the West, facing a chorus of enemies, has a crowded complexity of private lines alone.]

2. It is feared that *foreigners* might come into possession of the railways unless the State secures them.

[Might not this caution apply to many other important things besides Railways?]

3 *Business men* support State purchase, in the hope of obtaining thereby lower rates or greater facilities.

[The lowest rates in the world are those charged by the private companies of the United States; in Prussia, the most successful instance of State management, rates are low, but speed and other items of service are so inferior that they would not be tolerated by the business-men of England or America; yet Prussia should be an ideal country for good service, being so centrally situated and so densely populated. Apart from wounded pride, it would be a good thing for the business-men of Japan if their railways were owned and managed by foreigners.]

4. State ownership would be good *fiscal* policy: the Government would draw a large amount of revenue from them (in the case of Prussia 6,000,000 yen a year), and might also count on this revenue showing an increase year by year, owing to the future growth of trade and population.

(But does not this argument cut across the hopes of the business-men as to lower rates, etc.? And is not railway transport such a necessary of life that Government should aim at making it as cheap as possible rather than at managing it so as to extract revenue. Develope industry; then revenue will come of itself. Again, the revenue from railways would be uncertain: periods of depressed trade, crises, or war, might overthrow the estimates of the Finance Minister. Lastly, some future invention might appear which would supersede the present methods of railway transport; then the State property would be much depreciated, the revenue might disappear, and national credit might be injured.]

5. It is said that large combinations of industries under one management are beneficial to the ordinary public, as shown by the experience of *Trusts* in United States and Germany.

[There is difference of opinion on this matter in the U.S., but, supposing the conclusion were admitted, it must be remembered that a Trust is not quite the same as a State monopoly: if the Trust abuses its opportunities, the nation arises, with the State to enforce its protest; but there is no such safeguard when the State goes wrong. And to manage a large Trust successfully requires the very highest business ability: can the Japanese Government command such ability among its own people? The *Prussian* higher officials are men of exceptional ability.]

6. There is the temporary reason, that State purchase would remedy the present *scarcity of capital*; in exchange for their shares the individuals would receive foreign capital or Government bonds, and thus they would be able to develope much new business.

[Would this new business prove a better investment for the individuals than the various railways which they now control? A sudden

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flush of capital in their hands would probably excite reckless speculation and a crop of foolish enterprises. Scarcity of capital is best remedied by a national habit of *saving*, which avoids the additional taxation inseparable from State Purchase.]

7. It is urged (by Lieut. C. I. Osawa) that the competition of private railways *favours large towns* at which competitive lines meet, but that small and intermediate towns are unjustly treated, receiving poor service and paying higher mileage-rates. Thus they intensify inequalities already existing; they give to those who already have, and neglect those who have not. (But Government does the same when it grants money-aid to successful students, and leaves the weaker ones without assistance.)

[This complaint is often heard in England; yet small English towns receive better treatment than similar towns in Prussia, though, since large English towns are *so much better* served than large towns in Prussia, the *relative* injustice seems greatest in the land of private railways. But the consideration of Col. Osawa's argument belongs to the discussion of the next one.]

8. Even if State management does not provide lower rates or better facilities than private companies yet is *more just*. *Transportation is a necessity* of industrial life, and should therefore be administered with absolute justice, with no favouritism of one district, town, or individual, in preference to another. Such strict impartiality can only be secured by State ownership.

[This argument deserves patient hearing because if it is impossible under a régime of competitive companies to manage without causing serious injustice, then the State should undertake the task.

But there are difficulties. *Towns on the sea-coast* have the advantage of very cheap competitive service by ship, and therefore they enjoy *specially* low railway rates: would the *State also* purchase the *shipping* in order to neutralize this natural advantage? or, leaving things as they are in the maritime industry, would it offer to inland towns the same low mileage-rate which private companies now give to sea-coast towns. If the latter, what becomes of a large annual revenue which is promised with State management? If the former alternative is chosen we are starting on a great journey.

Again, *Rice* and other grain are necessaries of life: shall the State therefore manage their production and distribution? The coal and iron and other industries, should they come under the same protecting arms?

From the high stand-point of Justice we see vast horizons open, too vast for the practical contemplation of any Government. All capitalistic production is accompanied by injustice. Sincere men who base their advocacy of State railways on *Justice* must extend their argument to the advocacy of general *State Socialism*.

"And why not?" it may be asked.

The people of Japan must answer for themselves, having the experience of the world to guide them. The future of Japan depends on their answer: do they wish to take a great step towards the establishment of bureaucracy, with its rigid *uniformity*, or will they encourage the growth of that mental *variety* which is the product of healthy freedom. The world has risen to civilisation through the fact of *variation*, and those nations have risen most whose institutions and political instincts allowed most opportunity for variation. State administration is essentially *against* variation. Japan has only recently been delivered from an almost fatal imprisonment, during which she remained beautifully stagnant, with scarcely any variation, for 250 years. Does she wish now to construct another subtle web of bondage?

The two strongest nations are those in which individuals have always done most, and Government least. We sometimes hear that Japan aims at becoming "the England of the East." Is that likely to happen if she adopts a general policy antagonistic to that which developed the prosperity she admires?

"But," it may be replied, "the Japanese are not Anglo-Saxons, and a policy which developed prosperity among the latter race may not be good for the former. At any rate, in the present critical stage of Japanese history, it will be a prudent measure for the State to assume management of the *railways*. That step need not be followed by others in the direction of general State Socialism; it will be simply the establishment of one particular State Trust justified by the special circumstances of the case. Why this animus against State administration?"

An Anglo Saxon would answer, "Out of concern for the *future vitality* and *higher development* of your nation. A minutely-managed bee-hive is an admirable spectacle, but a community of discontended competing humanity is on the whole a more promising sight.']

* * * * *

Thus it is not State Purchase in itself which is so important, but the fact that such a measure indicates the *tendency* of the national disposition to drift into complete State administration.

At present there is no political necessity for State railways, and the scheme of purchase might, by increasing the amount of Government obligations, impair the national credit, and so render it less easy to raise the next foreign loan. Just now the management of railways offers a useful training-school for Japanese individuals; they manage railways better than export or import trade. The State should insist on proper maintenance of permanent way and rolling stock, and should veto any action of private companies which is unpatriotic or seriously unjust. Meanwhile the two systems, State and private railways, improve each other by rivalry. Let the State management prove by greater success than it has yet attained that it can make Railways a source of national strength: then at a later date it could absorb the other lines without any loss of credit.

E. Foxwell *in the Kokumin.*

DROWNING FATALITY IN YOKOHAMA HARBOUR.

A Board of Trade enquiry was held at the British Consulate on Friday by Mr. E. Hobart Hampden, Vice-Consul, into the disappearance and supposed death of Andrew Nicholson, quartermaster of the British steamer *Cowrie*.

Mr. D. J. Davis, master of the *Cowrie*, read the following entry from the log:—"January 3rd, 1900. About 9 p.m. reported by police that quartermaster Nicholson fell out of sampan in which he was proceeding to the ship and was drowned. He was coming on board from shore leave."

Mr. Davis said he last saw Nicholson on the morning of the 3rd and gave him 24 hours' leave. Nicholson had not been on board since. Witness had every reason to believe that Nicholson was the man reported drowned by the police.

Emanuel M. Antonio, a quartermaster on the *Cowrie*, stated that he came ashore with Nicholson on Wednesday morning. Witness last saw him at about 4.15 p.m. the same day. Nicholson went into a hotel close to the Consulate. Witness asked him to come aboard, but he did not seem to take any notice. He was not very drunk and could walk well enough. He came as far as the police box at the foot of the pier and then went back to the hotel, saying he did not want to go aboard with witness.

The enquiry was adjourned.

Shanghai papers given some details of the murder of Mr. S. M. Brooke, an Anglican Missionary, belonging to the S. P. G., who was seized by the "Boxers," a turbulent set of natives now giving a good deal of trouble around Taianfu, which lies south of Tientsin. He was seized and had a rope put round his neck and dragged through the streets. The matter was at once reported to the Governor who took the matter in hand. Foreigners are warned that it is dangerous for them to travel in Shantung.

BUSINESS NOTES.

The *Shogyo* is extremely pleased at the steady development of the silk trade of Japan, and gives the following comparative figures for the past two years:—

	32nd year of *Meiji*. Bales.	31st year. Bales.
Carried over	1,076	7,351
Arrivals	96,820	80,403
Sales	53,088	45,703
Direct export	21,549	11,519
Reshipped	10,131	6,347
Stocks	13,127	24,184

Thus an increase of over 20 per cent. is noticeable in arrivals for the last year. The increase of 16 per cent. in sales and 90 per cent. in direct export is remarkable.

According to the *Mainichi*, funds to be collected and distributed during the month of January are as follows:—

	Yen.
National taxes—	
Dry and wet fields and rural house lots	8,322,725
Urban house lots	810,725
Mixed *saké*	76,284
Alcohol business tax	36,401
Patent medicine business tax	53,002
Total	9,299,134
Calls on shares of various companies	476,250
do do railway companies	776,000
Debentures	85,500
Total	1,357,300
Dividends of banks and companies—	
Banks	9,244,700
Companies	3,231,496
Railway companies	1,128,798
Interest on Industrial debentures	130,500
Interest on coal mining and railway company's debentures	30,000
Redemption of Industrial Bank's debentures	81,240
Total	13,846,734

According to the *Nichi Nichi* the aggregate total of imports and exports from January to December 25th this year reached 423,000,000 *yen*, the excess in imports being over 5 millions. Compared with the previous year the figures stand as follows:—

	Up to Dec. 25, 1899. Yen.	1898. Yen.
Exports	209,303,480	116,454,625
Imports	214,343,125	268,856,906
Total	423,657,605	430,311,531
Excess in imports	5,050,645	107,402,932
Export of specie	10,440,202	86,603,932
Import of the same	20,015,864	42,487,095
Excess of export	—	44,116,837
Excess of import	9,575,662	—

FIRE ON THE BUND.

Fire broke out some time after 11 o'clock on Friday night in the compound of No. 13 Bund, occupied by Messrs. Oppenheimer Frères. The building containing the servants' quarters was the scene of the outbreak, and this was completely destroyed, but though the sparks and flames emitted were sufficient for a much more serious conflagration the actual amount of damage was not heavy—some 2,000 *yen* in all, which is covered by insurance in the Union Fire Insurance Company (Mr. P. Sarda Agent). The results, however, might easily have been much more serious, for just adjoining the blazing building were the offices of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and also of Messrs. Oppenheimer. Fortunately the wind was favourable, a good water supply could be obtained, and the Brigade men worked with such good will and smartness that all danger of the fire spreading was soon averted. The upper floor of the C. P. R. building, occupied by Mr. Masujima and the Chamber of Commerce, was slightly scorched on the outside, a plate glass window was broken, and some slight

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damage was done by water. The fire is attributed to the carelessness of a servant.

Superintendent Morgin sends the following statement:—

At 11 o'clock on Friday night I received an alarm from one of our night patrol men of a fire at No. 13 Bund. I immediately turned out with our Brigade men, 2 hose reels with stand pipes, and a steamer. On my arrival I found a single storey servants' quarters belonging, as I understood, to Messrs. Oppenheimer Freres was enveloped in flames. We immediately began to play with water from the hydrants, and with the assistance of the Police Brigade we managed to put the fire out without using the steamer. I am glad to say that only the servants' quarters in which the fire originated were destroyed. At No. 14, the next door, a wooden Venetian shutter facing No. 13 caught fire and it looked rather dangerous at one time, but as soon as I had a hose through it was put out with comparatively little damage. The cause of the fire so far is unknown.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

At the battle of Graspan, Major Plumbe, of the Marine Infantry, was shot while leading his command up the steepest kopje. As he staggered to fall never to rise again he exclaimed, "Forward, men, never mind me."

Those who think that it is wrong for a bishop to make a joke will not be pleased with the Bishop of Winchester. At a recent ecclesiastical luncheon party one of the clergymen present unctuously observed, "Now to put a bridle on our appetites!" to which Dr. Davidson at once retorted, "Now to put a bit between my teeth!"

A robber named Tanaka Shoichi broke into the house of Irisawa, a silk merchant in Fukushima Ken, on the 2nd inst., and stole 21 pieces of habutai silk—valued at *yen* 480. He sold the same to a man for *yen* 180, this purchaser thinking to make a great profit by bringing the silk to Yokohama. Before he could dispose of the goods, however, the police were informed of the theft, and he was arrested on Wednesday morning by the Isezakicho Police.

The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have just received from a lady whose name is not made public a costly gift, consisting of an exact copy of the robes worn by Thomas à Becket, now deposited in the Cathedral at Sens. They are of scarlet and interwoven with gold and silver, and decorated with pearls and other precious stones. They comprise cope, chasuble, stole, &c., and make a very magnificent and interesting collection.

Washington dispatches state that it is positively decided to appoint Mr. Meiklejohn, assistant secretary of the War Department, as Governor-General of the Philippines when the war is over. General Otis has had such an arduous time that he will undoubtedly be glad to get away as soon as he can be relieved, though he will not say a word about wanting to go as long as he is needed. His time for retirement from the army is not far off.—*Manila Times.*

Colonel P. F. Robertson, late of the Gordon Highlanders, tells an interesting story of the Boer Commandant Joubert and of General Hector MacDonald's sword, which was one of the Boer trophies of the day at Majuba:—"I told Joubert of the promotion of Hector MacDonald from the ranks and of the claymore that the officers of his regiment had presented him with. The General was much interested, and said, 'That brave officer must have his sword back again. I will search the Transvaal for it, and offer £5 reward for it.' General Joubert recovered Lieutenant Hector MacDonald's sword from a Boer farmer, who, when he heard the particulars, declined to accept the offered reward, and General Joubert handed his sword back to Lieutenant MacDonald at Newcastle."

Kobe papers state that Mr. Bardens has, by advice of his counsel, again appealed against the judgment ordering him to pay a fine of thirty *yen* in the matter of the accidental striking of a child with a whip. This case first came before the Kobe Ku Saibansho, which dismissed the charge; it was carried by the Procurator's appeal to the Chiho Saibansho, when the defendant was convicted and fined 30 *yen*; the defendant then appealed to the Koso In at Osaka, where the judgment of the Kobe Chiho Saibansho was quashed on a point of law; and the case was then re-tried by the Osaka Chiho Saibansho, which confirmed the judgment of the Kobe Chiho Saibansho and again ordered the defendant to pay a fine of 30 *yen*. It is against this last judgment that appeal is now being made.

The *Echo de Chine* prints the following interesting letter from M. Bonin, the explorer, dated the 20th of September last at Kanchou, a city in the far north of Kansu, just within the Great Wall:—"I am peacefully continuing my travels in this province, which is admirably calm; only the Mahomedans are taking advantage of the departure of the troops for Peking to make a little trouble. They have only succeeded so far in killing the magistrate of Haichêng; but everything would be spoilt if, as is reported, the present Viceroy were replaced. Tao-huang (? Tao Mu) is a man of wide mind, active, who understands European methods, beloved of the people for his justice, and hated by the *literati* for his intelligence. His replacement, doubtless by a Manchu, would be a misfortune for Kansu. I have come back from the banks of the Kokonor after an excellent but difficult journey across the eternal snows of the Nanshan mountains, which bound Tibet on this side. I am now about to visit the Lobnor across Gobi on camel back; thence I shall reach Russian Turkestan, where I expect to find myself at the end of the year, if all goes well."

CHINA NOTES.

Shanghai experienced wet weather on Christmas Day, a phenomenon unknown since 1883.

It is stated that a Belgian syndicate has recently petitioned the Bureau of Mines and Railways at Peking for permission to construct a railway from T'ungchou, near Peking, to Kalgan, the object being to facilitate the transport of brick tea to Siberia.

A fire of unknown origin broke out at four a.m. on Jan. 2nd in a cook house on the upper storey of Nos. A 103 and 104 Broadway, between the Woochang and Astor Roads, Shanghai. The premises were used as a tavern and went by the name of "The Naval Club." The upper storey was badly burnt and the adjacent houses Nos. A 102 and 105 were considerably damaged by water. The buildings were insured in the Royal for Tls. 500. The contents of the tavern were insured for Tls. 3,000 in the China Fire Insurance Co. and No. A 105, a compradore's store, for Tls. 7,000. The latter, however, sustained minor damage. The cold was so intense that the water froze as it fell.

News has been received of the death in England of an old and most popular resident of Shanghai, Mr. Edward W. Batt, who was about 65 years of age. He came out to Shanghai at the end of the fifties or beginning of the sixties as silk inspector to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., and in 1870 became a partner in George Barnet and Co., afterwards Dyce and Co., going home some 20 years ago to join the London firm of Elias and Co. He was a very prominent member of Shanghai society in the sixties and seventies. He largely helped to lay out the present cricket ground, was for many years one of the pillars of the Rowing Club, and was a most valuable member of the old Philharmonic Society and the Amateur Dramatic Club. His wife, to whom he was deeply attached, deed before him. They had no children.

The *China Mail*, in its account of the recent great fire at West Point, Hongkong, says:—It is roughly estimated that damage to over one million dollars has been done. The different insurance offices are not yet able to ascertain the extent of their losses, as the stock was of the nature classed as "floating." As far as we can learn, however, the following companies hold lines on the contents:—Commercial $55,000; North German $10,000; Transatlantic $10,000; Sun Insurance $10,000; South British $43,000; Union Assurance Society; $10,000; Tung On, $110,000; Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's agencies, $80,000; China Fire, $30,000 (on block and contents); Hongkong Fire, $10,000; North British $10,000; Messrs. Reuter, Brockleman's agencies, $9,000; Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.'s agencies, $4,000; Chun On $30,000; Yee On, $20,000.

Following upon the footsteps of their co-nationals in the United States, the Straits Settlements and Java, the Chinese in Siam have, it appears, lately also sent a petition by wire to the Tsungli Yamên praying the Empress Dowager to restore the reins of government to his Majesty Kuang Hsü "as this is the dearest wish of all loyal Chinese not only throughout the Chinese Empire but also of those trading in the myriad Kingdoms of the earth." The petition was signed by a special Committee of four of the richest Chinese merchants of Siam "on behalf of over 32,000 of his Majesty's most faithful subjects." That the telegram will be suppressed by the Tsungli Yamên goes without saying, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*, for when they presented the petition of the merchants of San Francisco, Singapore and Java, they proved such bitter pills for the Empress Dowager that her Ministers trembled lest her wrath would fall upon some one near her.

Say the *N.-C. Daily News*—The local mandarins received on the 24th December a telegram from Ningpo announcing the sudden death, on the afternoon of the day before, from apoplexy, of H. E. Baron Li Kuang-chin, Provincial Judge and Generalissimo of the Chêkiang Army of Defence, at *headquarters* camp, near Chinhai. The unexpected death of Baron Li will be a great loss to the Chinese Government, as he possessed the confidence of his troops, had seen active service both in Tonkin and Manchuria against the French and Japanese, and was considered one of the best General officers at the disposal of the Imperial Government. The deceased official was a native of Hunan, and will be remembered as Taotai of Shanghai for a short time last year when he came as successor to Tsai Taotai, although already destined for a much higher post, which he accepted within three months, after being installed in the Taotai's *yamên* in the native city.

The following Peking telegram, says a Shanghai contemporary, was received on Dec. 28, by a high Chinese official:—It having come to the knowledge of the Empress Dowager that a deep-seated dissatisfaction exists among high civil and military officials and the masses throughout the country who claim to be of Chinese descent, with regard to her recent policy of transferring all civil and military power to men of Manchu descent, Her Majesty has been constrained to send for H.E. Viceroy Liu K'un-yi of Nanking, as the most widely-known and best respected official of Chinese descent in the Empire, one who also has had the largest experience of active military service; [H.E. Liu received his first baptism of fire during the Taiping rebellion] to come up to Peking with all haste in order that she may learn from his own lips how matters actually stand, and whether this dissatisfaction is true or not. Should it actually exist within the knowledge of Viceroy Liu, the chances may be that H. E. will be retained in the North at present as Coadjutor to Jung Lu, the Generalissimo of the Grand Army of the North. This move, it is presumed, will remove the idea of the Chinese throughout the empire that the Empress Dowager specially favours Manchus to the detriment of Chinese, for, as she never fails to say, 'Manchus and Chinese—all alike are my subjects and all equally beloved and trusted by me."

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H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

TUESDAY, January 9th.

Before His Honour Judge WILKINSON.

A KOBE WILL CASE.

RE THE WILL OF JAMES JOSEPH ENSLIE, LATE OF HIOGO.

(Trustee's petition.)

This was a petition by Harold Catmur Brushfield, of Kobe, trustee of the will of the late James Joseph Enslie, formerly of H.B.M. Consulate at Kobe, for direction as to the disposal of the trust under the will. The respondents were Kozawa Tori, of Tokyo, and Elizabeth Harriet Enslie and Lydia Mariani Enslie, of The Hague, Holland.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for the trustee, and Mr. Walford for the respondent Kozawa Tori.

Mr. Litchfield read the Trustee's petition, which was as follows:—

In H.B.M. Court for Japan, Kanagawa, the 13th day of July, 1899.

In the matter of the goods of James Joseph Enslie, late of Hiogo, deceased, and in the matter of the trust of the will of the said James Joseph Enslie, and in the matter of the Trustee Act, 1893.

The petition of Harold Catmur Brushfield, of Kobe, Japan, shows as follows:—

1. James Joseph Enslie (hereinafter referred to as the testator), formerly of Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Kobe, Japan, died on the 14th day of June, 1896, having first made his will, dated the 25th of May, 1896, by which he appointed William Devine, of Nagasaki, Ernest Alfred Griffiths, of Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Service for Japan, and Harold Catmur Brushfield, of No. 16, Concession, Kobe, to be the trustees and executors of the said will.

2. The said will was proved and registered in Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Hiogo and Osaka, Japan, on the first of July, 1896, and administration of the personal estate of the testator was granted Harold Catmur Brushfield aforesaid, one of the said trustees and executors, power being reserved of making the like grant to William Henry Divine and to Ernest Alfred Griffiths, the other executors.

3. The testator by his said will, after the bequest of certain legacies (which have been paid), bequeathed the residue of his estate and effects to his trustees upon trust for conversion thereof and directed the payment thereout of a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars to one Kozawa Tori (which sum has been paid to her) and further directed as follows, that is to say: "The principal sum of six thousand dollars together with interest at the rate of five per cent per annum due by me to the said Kozawa Tori and confirmed by my note of hand dated the 11th day of January, 1892, shall be paid to the said Kozawa Tori as a debt due by my estate, and I request that my trustee will conform to my wishes expressed in the said note of hand."

4. By the said note of hand (a copy of which is appended) the testator stated his intention, and the wish of the said Kozawa Tori "that unless paid sooner, the principal sum with accruing interest having been paid as a debt due by my estate, these monies shall be dealt with by my trustees in manner similar as monies under the Trust in my will."

5. After the foregoing directions the testator directed the trustees to invest the residue of the said monies or any other monies forming part of the trust estate under the said will and to pay out of the income therefrom 1,500 dollars a year to the said Kozawa Tori during her life. And the testator further directed that during the continuance of the trust his trustees should each retain from and out of the income of the trust estate or otherwise the said trust estate and funds the sum of 250 dollars annually as some compensation for their trouble.

6. The testator further directed that after the death of the said Kozawa Tori his trustees should pay the whole of the corpus of the trust estate to his sisters Elizabeth Harriet Enslie and Lydia Marian Enslie of Beerkade, The Hague, in the Kingdom of Holland.

7. The income arising from the residence of the estate of the said testator is insufficient to pay the annual sum of 1,500 dollars to Kozawa Tori and the annual sum of 250 dollars to each of the trustees.

Your petitioner therefore prays that this Honourable Court may direct:—

1. In what manner the sum of six thousand dollars is to be paid to the said Kozawa Tori.

2. What amount of interest, if any, is to be added to the said principal sum of six thousand dollars.

3. Whether the gift of the said sum of six thousand dollars and interest is an absolute gift or otherwise.

4. In what order and out of what fund the annual sums of 1,500 dollars to the said Kozawa Tori and the sums of 250 dollars each to said trustees are to be paid.

5. In what manner the costs of this petition shall be paid.

The respondents to this petition are Kozawa Tori, of Tokyo, Japan, Elizabeth Harriet Enslie, and Lydia Maran Enslie, of Beerkade, The Hague, Holland.

NOTE OF HAND REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING PETITION.

Out of love and affection I, on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty four, gave Kozawa Tori, my housekeeper, for her sole use and benefit the sum of six thousand Mexican dollars, but at her earnest request I have, for the better safety of the same, retained the said sum of money in my possession, it being understood, and I do promise to pay interest from date of gift at the rate of five per cent. per annum. On the above date no acknowledgment was given, but I now place on record the gift, and also my intention and the wish of Kozawa Tori that, unless paid sooner, the principal sum with accruing interest having been paid as a debt due by my Estate these monies shall be dealt with by the Trustees in manner similar as monies under the trust in my will— J. J. Enslie.

Kobe, January 11, 1892.

On the request of the Judge the will was produced and handed into Court.

Mr. Litchfield said he had prepared an affidavit as to the accounts of the estate and other matters, but that Mr. Walford had suggested a doubt as to whether it was admissible to receive them in that petition. He (Mr. Litchfield) had therefore decided not to tender them, but he could state that the net value of the estate was over 35,000 *yen*. The exact amount was 35,768 *yen*.

His Honour—The annuity of 1,500 *yen* has been paid out of this?

Mr. Walford—We have not received the full annuity. There is a capital sum which is not affected by these payments out of interest, which amounts to something above 35,000 *yen*.

His Honour—The annuity of 1,500 *yen* has been paid in part.

Mr. Walford—Yes, leaving a deficiency for each year.

His Honour—Out of interest?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, out of income.

His Honour—The income is about how much?

Mr. Litchfield—The capital sum bears interest at the rate of only three per cent. per annum. Since the beginning of 1898 it has been invested with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Up to that time the income produced by the investments amounted to 2861 *yen*. From January, 1898, to 31st December, 1899, the interest received by the petitioner amounted to 1496 *yen* or 748 *yen* per annum.

His Honour—You say it is deposited in the Hongkong Bank. What interest does the Bank allow?

Mr. Litchfield—It is deposited on six months deposit, I suppose in order that the interest may be paid half-yearly as directed in the will.

His Honour—What is the maximum interest the Bank gives?

Mr. Letchfield—Three per cent.

His Honour—No, it does not. We all know better than that.

Mr. Litchfield—Three per cent.

His Honour—No, no.

Mr. Litchfield—That is what the executors have received.

His Honour—No, no. The money is in a Bank that gives more than three per cent. What does that Bank give?

Mr. Litchfield—It gives 5 per cent. per annum if the money is deposited for more than six months.

His Honour—Then you tell me that the estate can not raise 1,500 *yen*. That is wrong. You can deposit it for 12 months. If you can get five per cent. for the year from the very same people on the same security with the exception that you deposit for 12 months instead of six months it seems to me you ought to get it, and that that particular difficulty you come here to get cured does not exist.

Mr. Litchfield was understood to point out that if the 6,000 *yen* had to be deducted from the 35,000 *yen* there would be a difficulty.

His Honour—That is not what your petition states. It simply states that you can't raise 1,500 *yen* a year and 250 *yen* a year and it appears to me from your own statements that that is exactly what you can raise. Look at paragraph 7 of the petition (His Honour read the paragraph). There is only one trustee acting, is there not?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes.

His Honour said he took it then that this trustee would henceforward invest this 35,000 *yen* in such a manner as to produce the higher rate of interest. Was he to understand that the sum would be insufficient to raise the stated income if the sum of 6,000 *yen* were deducted from it?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes.

His Honour—Then I want the petition made right. We have in a matter of this kind to get our documents very accurate. I quite accept your statement that the income is at the present moment insufficient.

Mr. Litchfield—I have advised the Trustee that the income ought to be more.

His Honour—That is very good advice.

Mr. Litchfield said the trustee had made him some explanation that he had invested the money on six months deposit in order to guard himself.

His Honour—Have you any list of the investments?

Mr. Litchfield—Of the present investments no. It is all deposited in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on six months deposit.

His Honour—I should like you to procure a list of the investments.

Mr. Litchfield asked for leave to amend the petition as suggested by his Honour, and this was agreed to.

Mr. Walford stated for the information of His Honour that there was 450 *yen* in hand at the present time in addition to the capital sum.

After the discussion of some other more or less technical points the amendment of the documents was left over till after adjournment, the case proceeding on the assumption that they had been amended.

In answer to His Honour Mr. Litchfield said part of the annuity had been paid to Kozawa, but not the whole. No part of the allowance to the Trustees had been paid. The difficulty the trustee found himself in arose out of the interpretation put upon the direction in the will of the testator to pay to Kozawa Tori 6,000 dollars and accumulated interest. The direction as contained in the will was clear enough up to a certain point. The testator directed that the principal sum, together with the interest, should be paid as a debt due from his estate. If he had stopped there it would have been clear that there was a confirmation of the so-called debt, or it would be a direction to the trustees to treat what he admitted as a debt in the light of a legacy and direction to pay the sum to the absolute use of Kozawa Tori. But the testator further stated that he requested that his trustees would "conform to his wish," thereby, he (Mr. Litchfield) submitted, raising a difficulty of interpretation as to the meaning of the words in the note of hand: "I now place on record this gift and also my intention and the wish of Kozawa Tori that, unless paid sooner, the principal sum with accruing interest having been paid as a debt due by my estate, these monies shall be dealt with by the Trustees in manner similar as monies under the trust in my will." The directions in the will were conflicting. There was first a direction to pay absolutely; then a direction incorporated in the note of hand that this money should be dealt with in a manner similar to that adopted in the lifetime of the testator, viz., that the interest on the sum should be a first charge on the residuum and that the capital should remain in the possession of the trustees, as it had remained in the possession of the testator during his lifetime.

Mr. Walford—My instructions are that no interest was paid during the lifetime of the testator.

Mr. Litchfield—I am instructed not. I am instructed that nothing further was done in the matter than expressed in the note of hand. The money was not actually handed over. The document seemed to be of a peculiar nature, but the Court might take it that it had been confirmed by the will, so that there was no necessity for discussing what the effect of such a document would be in the presence of opposing creditors. It was either an absolute gift of the money and arrears of interest or a direction to the trustees to deal with it in the same way as the testator dealt with it in his lifetime—as a gift of annual income. The difficulty of interpretation had been increased by the fact that the testator's direction as to the payment of the sum came before the direction for the investment of the residuum, so that he (Mr. Litchfield) failed to find any direct authority for his proposed interpretation of the two documents taken together. It was an interpretation to be given on the words themselves—that was to say, if the trustees were to conform to the wishes expressed in the note of hand they were to deal with the sum of money as part of the residuum. As to the point of the petition which asked for direction as to the amount of interest to be added to the principal he submitted that if interest was to be allowed it should be from the date of the note of hand, 1892, and not from the date of gift, 1884. The reply to the other questions must

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depend on the directions given on the first point. It was obvious from the state of the account that at present there was a sufficient capital to produce an income capable of paying 1,500 *yen* as well as the allowance to the trustees, if, that was to say, the sum of 6,000 *yen* remained part of the trust. If it did not there would be an insufficiency of income. In that case he submitted that the acting executor had a right of retainer to his annuity.

His Honour—I take it that the absent parties have no interest whatever in the distribution of the balance of the income if it is less than 1,500 *yen*.

Mr. Walford—I think it lies entirely between my client (Kozawa Tori) and the petitioner.

Mr. Litchfield said he should claim priority for the trustee in case of the insufficiency of the fund.

His Honour enquired of Mr. Walford what would be the points of his argument.

Mr. Walford said with regard to the first point he contended that upon the words of the will this sum was to be paid to her as a debt due from the testator. He also contended that the existence of the debt was evidenced by the document of 11th January, 1892, which was in fact a declaration of trust. To the second point regarding interest he replied that this should be paid from January, 1884, at the rate of 5 per cent., and also that, this being trust money, they were entitled to compound interest. The note of 1892 dated back the trust to 1884 and made the interest payable from that date. The note also contained an express promise to pay from January 1st, 1884, and that promise was confirmed by the will. Was the gift of the sum of 6,000 *yen* an absolute gift or otherwise? He (Mr. Walford) said that so far as the will operated at all it was an absolute gift, but that the money belonged to Kozawa Tori independently of the will under the declaration of trust. In reply to the fourth question he said that the annuity of 1500 *yen* was a first charge on the annual income of the estate and that if necessary the assets should be marshalled in such a way as to make it a first charge. As to costs he should argue that they were payable out of the general estate and not out of the particular fund.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

On resuming Mr. Walford proceeded to elaborate his arguments at great length. He contended that the note of hand was a declaration of trust, and quoted several cases in support of this contention.

His Honour pointed out that in all these cases particular funds had been set aside by the persons forming the trust. In the present case, His Honour took it, this was not the fact. Could Mr. Walford quote any case parallel to the present one?

Mr. Walford said he could not at the moment. He quite saw that the point was of importance in a case where there were creditors claiming in competition with the beneficiary. In that case the beneficiary would be on the same footing as the creditors. But in this case there was no such consideration.

His Honour, referring to a case quoted by Mr. Walford, said he thought as far as it went it was favourable to his contention.

Mr. Walford proceeded with his argument that the testator had occupied the position of a trustee from 1884, and that interest on the trust fund was due from that date. With regard to the other point, that the sum of 6 000 *yen* was an absolute gift, he claimed that his client could if she wished have claimed the 6,000 *yen* from the testator in his lifetime or after his death. He also argued that interest was due from 1884, and that compound interest should be paid for some period at any rate.

His Honour did not treat the latter argument very sympathetically, as also the argument in favour of marshalling the assets so as to make the annuity of 1500 *yen* a first charge.

Mr. Walford also argued that the costs should be borne by the residuary estate.

The case was adjourned to next Wednesday.

GREAT BRITAIN'S COVETOUSNESS.

The following extract from a speech recently delivered by Mr. A. Balfour deserves to be studied by the slanderers of England :—

I am told by the same class of critics as those on whom I have already animadverted that we have been moved to adopt this military and aggressive policy by the influence of South African capitalists. I do not understand this distinction between capitalists and workmen. If anything we are doing is for the interest of the South African capitalists, it is also for the benefit of the South African workmen, chiefly men of English blood, English descent, English language, and English nationality.—(Hear, hear.) But with regard to those who make these charges, whether it be that we are influenced by the employers or by the employed, have they reflected how serious is the charge against the Transvaal Government which this accusation against us implies? For please mark this. The critics tell us that we are making this war to please the owners of the South African goldfields. Those owners, by the very fact that there is war, have seen their property threatened, their mines shut up for an indefinite period, and they have been told in language as plain as one of the greatest masters of plain language could speak—I mean the Chancellor of the Exchequer (cheers)—they have been told in perfectly plain language by him that, when the war is concluded, the mines, in common with other forms of property in the Transvaal State, will undoubtedly be burdened with some of the charges connected with the war.—(Cheers.) Therefore the accusation against the Transvaal Government, not against us, comes to this, that the Government is so bad, it has so iniquitously used its powers to strangle a legitimate industry, that it pays the industry and is for the advantage of the industry that for the time being its workers should be swept to the four winds of Heaven, that its mines should be shut up, and that it should be finally saddled with a heavy charge in consequence of the war—(cheers): and, after submitting to all those charges, it pays them because there is some chance of their being put under a good administration instead of the administration under which they have so long groaned.—(cheers.) I cannot imagine a more severe commentary upon the Transvaal Government than this argument which is entirely used, so far I know, by those whose boast it is that they support that Government.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, Jan. 6th :—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000 000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15.836.663
Amount of convertible notes issued...	238,006 348
Government deposits	69,887,812
General deposits	9 383 991
Exchange liability	38,617
Total	363,153 434
Cr.	
Discount notes	83 373.001
Foreign discount notes	15.965 421
Loan to Government	22,000.000
General loans	70.864.500
Exchange liability	2.322 081
Government bonds	56 100,606
Property...	2.005 143
Bullion and Specie	110,522.678
Total	363.153.434

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week :—	
Amount of convertible notes	241.258.784
Bullion and Specie :—	
Gold	102.937.508
Silver	6 000.000
Total	108 937 508
Securities :—	
Government bonds	22.249.288
Government certificates	22 000,000
Government bills	12,304.592
Commercial notes	75 767.396
Total	132.321,276

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	360,146
Silver	—	100,200
General loans	363 609	—
Government deposits	—	1,004.535
General deposits	3 960.950	—

The race of huge feeders has not entirely died out, for Hans Kessler, of Munich, exercises the profession of "Modern Gargantua." Recently Kessler ate 300 fried sausages in an hour and forty minutes. before a crowd of spectators who had assembled to see him perform the feat for a wager.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, January 5.

General French's artillery forces the enemy to keep concealed among the hills.

The Boers have occupied Molteno and Cyphersgap, but retired subsequently on Gatacre's advancing, after some fighting.

Typhoid and scurvy are increasing in Kimberley.

Thornicraft's horse yesterday reconnoitred towards Springfield. They saw a large Boer force, and retired. The Boers maintained their fire until the British camp was reached. It is reported that a lieutenant and five men have not returned.

Later.

At Frere yesterday the Boers' trenches were shelled and smashed with lyddite. The enemy shifted their position.

Germany has protested against the seizure of the *Bundesrath*, and negotiations with regard to the incident are proceeding in London.

Reinforcements have been sent to General French from De Aar Junction.

A German mail steamer is detained at Aden and is being searched.

A Boer despatch says that six horsemen have escaped from Ladysmith. They are believed to include Colonel Rhodes and Dr. Jameson.

Some natives have been caught at the Modder River signalling information to the Boers from the British lines.

Shanghai, January 6.

The Boers retired from Molteno on Gatacre's advance with the Cape Mounted Infantry and Artillery.

An Army Order directs the embodiment of sixteen additional battalions of militia.

President Steyn has issued a proclamation making every white man in the Orange Free State liable for military service, irrespective of nationality.

A despatch from Renesberg, dated the 4th, says that the enemy unexpectedly attacked French's right wing that morning and were repulsed. They then occupied the hills on the north, but were eventually driven thence by shelling. Nevertheless they still hold the hills immediately surrounding the town, thus checking the British advance. The Boers lost about a hundred.

Later.

A despatch from Mafeking dated the 26th Dec. says that a British storming party of 80 desperately attacked an impregnable fort and were repulsed, losing 21 killed and 33 wounded.

Major Harvey, of the 10th Hussars, has been killed at Colesberg and Major Alexander wounded. By special request from General French, the Household Cavalry, a field battery, and the first battalion of the Essex Regiment have been despatched to him temporarily.

The feeling in Germany is increasing with regard to the *Bundesrath*.

Mr. Waldorf Astor has contributed £5,000 towards the equipment of the London City Corps.

Shanghai, Jan. 7.

A despatch from General White dated the 6th instant says that the enemy attacked Caesar's Camp, south of Ladysmith, that morning in considerable force. They

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were everywhere repulsed, but fighting continues.

The authorities at Aden have renounced further search of the German mail steamer.

The Bourses are flat owing to a semi-official announcement in Saint Petersburg that the authorities view the recent reports as alarming with regard to the situation in Afghanistan.

(Note.—This part of the telegram is obscure. It does not show whether the "semi-official" announcement comes from Saint Petersburg or London.—Ed. *J.M.*)

Russia has sent troops from Tiflis via Baku and Krasnovodsk by rail to Kuskh Province.

(Note.—Krasnovodsk Bay is opposite Baku on the Caspian, and Kuskh is to the north of Herat.—Ed. *J.M.*)

There is a possibility that these troops may be the van guard of an Army Corps reaching Kuskh from the Caucasus in eight days.

Saigon, Jan. 6.

A Decree of the French Government places the territory of Kwang-chou-wan under the authority of the Governor-General of Indo-China.

The Boers occupied and then abandoned Molteno.

The situation at Colesberg remains uncharged.

M.M. Buffet and Déroulède, condemned to ten years' banishment, were conducted this morning to the Belgian frontier. M. Guerin will undergo his punishment in France.

Saigon, January 7.

A violent combat recommenced in the morning around Colesberg.

(*We imagine* that this refers to the action on the morning of the 4th, already reported by Reuter.—Ed. *J.M.*)

Shanghai, Jan. 8.

White heliographed yesterday that the attack was renewed and that he is very hard pressed. The Boers are now in great number. Buller sent all available troops yesterday to demonstrate at Colenso, where the enemy occupied all the trenches.

Reuter telegraphs from Lorenzo Marques that Pretoria reports that the police at Kuruman have surrendered. One hundred and twenty prisoners were taken, including 12 officers, besides 70 natives and stores and ammunition.

French reports that the situation at Colesberg is much the same, but that a serious accident has befallen the 1st Suffolks. Four companies attacked a low hill about one mile from the camp. Colonel Watson ordered a charge, and was immediately wounded. The order for retirement was given, it is said by the enemy. Three-quarters of the troops retired to the camp. The remainder held their ground until overpowered, and then surrendered. There were 70 prisoners, including seven officers.

The German steamer *Herzog*, having a Belgian Ambulance for the Transvaal on board, has been seized and brought to Durban by a British warship.

Shanghai, Jan. 9.

General White heliographs under date of the 7th at two o'clock in the afternoon that the Boers' attack continued until 7.30 p.m. on the evening of the 6th. The enemy were in great force. They were repulsed everywhere with very heavy loss.

Later.

General White says that the enemy pushed the attack with the greatest courage and energy. Some of the British entrenchments were thrice captured and retaken. At one point the British position was occupied by the enemy for the whole day, but they were driven out at dusk by a gallant bayonet charge of the Devons. Earl Ava was dangerously wounded. The casualties in the Suffolks were 7 officers and thirty men killed. About 50 Boer prisoners were taken.

Shanghai, Jan. 10.

The Transvaal has refused to allow the American Consul at Pretoria to represent British interests.

The Eighth Division begins sailing on the 11th inst.

[Note.—The telegram is quite distinct as to the word "Eighth," but we hitherto supposed that it was the Seventh Division that was to start on the 11th.—Ed. *J.M.*]

Twelve additional batteries of artillery will leave before the end of the month. The Government has decided to raise six new batteries immediately, but not necessarily for service in South Africa. There will be a further increase later.

The London Scottish will furnish a detachment to serve with the Gordons.

The Committee of the Imperial Yeomanry has received a gift of £50,000 from Wernher and Beit.

The Vickers and Maxim Company have received orders to manufacture 47 6in. quick-firers continuously.

Reuter telegraphs from the Modder River that the Boers are still strengthening their works at Maggersfontein, but they are reported to be withdrawing a portion of their men to reinforce the Boer force at Colesberg.

The casualties to the Suffolks on the 6th instant at Colesberg were :—

KILLED.

Col. Watson, Lieuts. Wilkins, White, and Carey.

MISSING.

Captains Brett, Thomson, and Brown, Lieuts. Allen, Wood-Martin, and Butler.

24 men killed, 26 wounded, and 107 missing.

French's casualties from the 1st to the 4th were: Lieut. West of the Berkshires and 11 men killed and 14 wounded.

Great Britain has replied to the German note protesting against the seizure of ships, but the purport of the reply is unknown.

Shanghai, Jan., 11.

The German steamer *Herzog* (which was seized in Delagoa Bay by a British man-of-war and conducted to Durban as having on board contraband of war in the shape of ambulance apparatus from Belgium for the Boers) has been released at Durban.

Gatacre has reconnoitred the Boers' position at Stormberg where the enemy is in strength. After a few shots had been exchanged the reconnoissance withdrew.

Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener have arrived at Cape Town.

There were 23 deaths from enteric fever last week at Ladysmith.

It is stated that the British reply to Germany maintains the legality of searching vessels plying to neutral ports.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France in Tokyo.)

Saigon, January 5.

The High Court has rendered its judgment in the affair of the conspiracy. M. M. Buffet and Déroulède are condemned to ten years' banishment; M. de Lur-Saluces receives the same sentence for contumacy, and M. Guérin is condemned to ten years' detention in a fortified place. All the others are acquitted.

Saigon, Jan. 8.

Twelve hundred aggressors, belonging to Insalah, attacked the Flamant Mission in the oasis of Tidikelt. They were repulsed with a loss of 50 killed and 64 prisoners. Insalah has submitted.

Saigon, Jan. 10.

The re-opening of the Chambers has been effected without incident.

News from London is to the effect that a fierce combat took place around Ladysmith on Saturday. Many entrenchments were taken and retaken. The Boers were finally repulsed. Both sides lost heavily.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News.")

On Sunday the "Boxers" murdered Mr. S. M. Brooke, an Anglican missionary belonging to the S.P.G., at a place fifty miles south-west of Chinanfu.

(From the "N.-C. Daily News" ex the "Hongkong Volunteer Gazette.")

Hongkong, Dec. 24.

Three Chinese godowns at West Point were burnt on Friday night, and there were several severe explosions. The damage amounts to one million dollars. The China Fire is interested to the extent of $30,000, the Hongkong Fire $10,000, and home offices largely.

Hongkong, December 26.

General H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught renewed his application to be allowed to go to the front and obtained the consent of Lord Roberts to join his staff, but the Government refused their approval.

The Boers' official account of the battle at Tugela River puts their loss at thirty killed and wounded.

Colonel Villebois and Colonel Braun, the French and German military attachés who were present at the battle, declare that European armies could not have done better.

Belated accounts of the battle show that the artillery fought for two hours exposed to a withering fire. They only abandoned the guns when the ammunitton was exhausted and most of the officers had fallen.

The Boer defences were most scientific; even the drifts (fords) were filled with submerged barbed wire.

Both Lord Methuen and General Gatacre have ordered the prosecution of severe measures to exclude spies from the vicinity of their camps.

Hongkong, Dec. 29.

The Boers have mounted guns on Inlwawe Hill, from which they may annoy the British camp at Chieveley.

[Inlawe Hill is far out of range of Chieveley, even with 110-ton guns.—Ed. *J.M.*]

It is reported that they have constructed a wooden bridge near Pieters to facilitate their passage to and fro.

Meanwhile they are strengthening their positions north of the Tugela River enormously, and constructing a bomb-proof tunnel from their position to the Ladysmith Road.

The Boers at Modder River are entrenching night and day, and constructing works which will enable a comparatively small force to hold the position, sheltered access to all parts being provided.

The *Times* states that Armstrongs are making in hot haste a battery of twelve new-pattern fifteen-pounders.

An Army order has been issued making provision for exceptional enlistment into the army, especially the re-enlistment of discharged soldiers.

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The *London Gazette* contains a proclamation warning British subjects against in any way aiding or abetting the enemy.

(From the "China Mail.")

Colombo, December 29.

A British cruiser has brought into Port Elizabeth another American steamer laden with stores for the Boer Governments.

Six Marconi telegraph instruments intended for the Boers have been seized by the British authorities at Cape Town.

Commandant de Meillon, one of the Boer prisoners, escaped from custody at Cape Town, intending to return to the Boer army, but was re-captured in the suburbs of the town the same evening.

Mr. Winston Churchill, who was more successful in escaping from Pretoria, in the State School of which he had been confined with Captain Haldane and other officers, gives an interesting account of his escape. He climbed the wall of his prison, and walked along the railway track towards Delegoa Bay for six nights. Finally, he hid under some sacks in the truck of a goods train, and was thus enabled to escape the vigilance of the Boer troops on the frontier.

(From the "China Gazette.")

Colombo, Jan. 3.

General French's programme worked without a hitch. The British continued to keep the enemy moving on Saturday and Sunday. Then the cavalry, artillery, and infantry, the last-named in waggons, started a night march, arriving at daybreak within striking distance. The infantry and field batteries feinted a frontal attack while the cavalry and horse artillery got round the enemy's right flank. The Boers, utterly surprised, fled eastward, leaving Colesberg in our hands. In the Scout affair Milford was cut off owing to an incorrect report, but was rescued by Captains Goldsworthy and Montmorency. When the ammunition was failing the Boers tried the white flag with Milford, the usual volley following, but we killed two, including the bearer of the flag.

H.M.S. *Barfleur* has been ordered South unexpectedly. It is supposed she has gone to assist in the suppression of Mat Salleh.

London, Jan. 3

The British captured a laager at West Belmont, forty Boers being taken prisoners. Douglas has been reoccupied.

Enteric fever at Ladysmith is greatly increasing.

Colombo, Jan. 5.

The military prisoners in the hands of the Boers at Pretoria are considerately treated by their captors. But the South African Irregulars at Pretoria are lodged in the ordinary gaol and are only fed with the diet prescribed for criminals.

Surgeon-Major Daly and forty-one men of the Army Medical Corps who had to be left behind in Dundee in October to take care of the wounded (including the late General Symons) after the British evacuated that position, have just been released from Pretoria by the Boer Government.

Ninety-five volunteers have been enrolled for the Ceylon Company of Imperial Yeomanry (for service in South Africa) 125 are wanted.

A theft of an extraordinary character is reported by the Kobe police. On Thursday morning Mr. Takai Kakutaro, of the Banri Bank, Himeji, took 10,000 yen to be deposited with the Mitsui Bank in Sakae-machi. Removing 7,000 yen from his pocket he handed the notes to the Bank, tying the balance in a silk handkerchief with the view of taking it to Osaka, whither he was to proceed. He left the packet on the counter at his side for a short time and when he turned to remove it the handkerchief, notes, and all were missing. The cash had apparently been stolen. The *Kobe Herald* says no trace of the thief had been found up to Thursday evening.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 52, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 453.

With regard to problem 453, we agree with "East Anglia" that it is essentially a bad composition, as the following solution shows:—

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to K B 4 ch	1—If K takes Q

Then mate at once by Kt to Q 3.

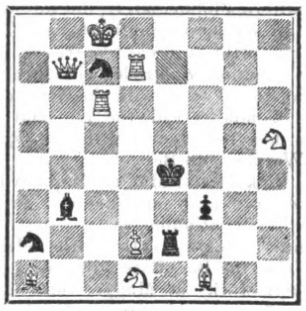
Therefore	1—K to Q 5.(forced)

There are now two methods of effecting the mate, viz:—

2—P to K 5 ch	2—B interposes
3—Q takes B mate or	
2—K to Q sq ch	2—Kt interposes
3—Q takes Kt mate	

PROBLEM No. 456.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

GAME No. 582.

The following game from the recent London International Tournament furnishes an instructive Pawn Ending:—

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

White—Pillsbury.		Black—Mason.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P KB4	32 R R8	K B2
2 P QB4	Kt KB3	33 R(K5) Kt8	P K4
3 Kt QB3	P K3	34 B K q	P K5
4 P K3	B K2	35 B R5	K K2
5 B Q3	Castles	36 K B2	R Q6
6 Kt B3	P QKt3	37 BxKtch	R(K q)xB
7 Castles	B Kt2	38 RxR	RxR
8 Q K2	Q K q	39 RxR	KxR
9 P K4	PxP	40 K K3	K K2
10 KtxP	KtxKt	41 KxP	K K3
11 BxKt	BxB	42 K B4	K B2
12 QxB	P B3	43 K Kt4	K B q
13 B B4	Kt R3	44 K B4	K B2
14 KR K q	Q R4	45 K K5	K K2
15 B Kt3	QR K q	46 K Q5	K Q2
16 Kt K5	P Q4	47 K K5	K K2
17 Q K3	Kt Ktsq	48 K B4	K K3
18 KtxP	B Kt4	49 K K4	K B2
19 P B4	KtxKt	50 K Q5	K K2
20 PxB	PxP	51 K K5	K B2
21 Q K4	Kt Q q	52 K Q6	K B q
22 P KR4	Q K 3	53 K K6	K K q
23 QxQ	PxQ	54 P Kt4	K B q
24 KR QB q	P Kt4	55 P R5	K Ktsq
25 P R4	P R3	56 K K7	K R q
26 PxP	PxP	57 K B8	K R2
27 R R6	R B4	58 K B7	PxP
28 P Kt3	PxP	59 PxP	K R q
29 R Ktsq	R Q4	60 K K6	K Kt q
30 RxKtP	RxQP	61 P R6	K Rsq
31 RxKtP	R Q2	62 PxPch	Resigns

NOTE.

There is not much in the game to criticise. Black has somewhat the inferior position, which he necessarily should have with the P to K B 4 defence. Dr Tarrasch, who was tempted to try it against Steinitz in the Hastings Tournament, said he never tried it before, and never will try it again. Black might have played 8...Kt to K 5 to prevent the advance of the K P. Afterwards nothing noteworthy occurred till 17...Kt to Kt sq. He should have played first 17...B to Kt 5; 18—K R moves, then Kt to Kt sq. White was enabled to capture a Pawn in consequence of this omission, and, changing pieces after having broken up Black's Pawns, he thought of remaining with an ending that should be won easily, instead of which it turned out to be a remarkable drawn position, had Black played correctly, so the interesting part really commences after Black's 41st move. It is an instructive ending, Mason playing right enough till 55...K to Kt sq, which is the losing move, whereas 55...P takes P; 56—P takes P, K to Kt sq would have drawn. If 57—K to B 5, then 57—K to B 2; 58—P to Kt 6 ch, K to B sq; 59—K to K 6, K to Kt sq and draws.

GAME No. 583.

The following game, from Mr. Blackburne's "Games of Chess," is interesting from the fact that on this occasion originated the beautiful variation of leaving a Rook *en prise* for the attack. Tchigorin is very fond of this variation, and played it successfully on various occasions notably at the Hastings Tournament against Pillsbury:—

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Blackburne.		Black—Anderssen.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	22 PxP	RPxP
2 P KB4	B B4	23 B R2	R Q2
3 Kt KB3	P Q3	24 B Kt4	Q Q q
4 Kt B3	Kt KB3	25 Kt xKt	BxKt
5 B B4	P QR3	26 Q B5	Kt Ksq
6 P Q3	Kt B3	27 K K2	R B3
7 P QR3	B KKt5	28 Q R7	P B4
8 P R3	BxKt	29 B Q2	P K 5
9 QxB	Kt Q5	30 RxR	QxR
10 Q Kt3	Q K2	31 R KB q	Q Q3
11 K Q q	P B3	32 Q K 8	R K2
12 PxP	PxP	33 RxP	K Q q
13 R B q	R KKtsq	34 R B8	K Q2
14 B KKt5	Castles	35 B QB4	Q QKt3
15 P QKt4	B R2	36 Q Q5ch	K B2
16 P QR4	QxP	37 Q R8	K Q2
17 B Q2	Q K2	38 B Kt3	Kt B3
18 R QKtsq	P KKt4	39 B R4ch	K K3
19 Q B2	R Kt3	40 Q B8ch	Kt Q2
20 P Kt4	P R3	41 BxKtch	RxB
21 Kt K2	P Kt4	42 Q K8ch	Resigns

NOTE.

Mr. Blackburne says that the variation commencing with 10—Q to Kt 3 occurred to him on the spur of the moment, and took Professor Andressen by surprise. He did not venture upon Kt takes P ch and Kt takes R, as he naturally assumed Mr. Blackburne had sprung upon him a variation well considered beforehand. The capture of the Rook, however, is not an unalloyed pleasure either, as Black is subjected to a most violent attack, in which White can temporarily disregard the absence of the Queen's Rook. Black had a good enough game afterwards, but he compromised it with the advance of the K Kt and Q Kt Pawns, and White manœuvred very skilfully against his formidable opponent. The latter part of the game, commencing with 28—Q to R 7, is well worth careful study. He cleverly pinned Black's Kt at K sq, drew off Black's Queen from the defence by threatening 36—B to Kt 5 ch, and brought his Bishop into play by force after 37—Q to R 8. The game was then easily won.

NOTES.

In addition to the cable match, England *v.* America, for the Newnes trophy, there is likely to be another contest shortly between the English and American colleges, by telegraph, for Professor Rice's trophy, which it will be remembered, was won by Oxford and Cambridge last April.

The championship Tournament, City of London Chess Club, has produced some remarkably interesting contests. Mr. T. F. Lawrence, who has usually been successful in recent years, has four clear wins. Mr. Harold Jacobs has four wins and one loss to his account. Other good scores are:—Mr. T. Physick, three wins, one draw, one loss; Mr. Ward, three wins and one loss; Mr. Loman, two wins and one loss; Mr. E. O. Jones, two wins and two draws; Mr. Herbert Jacobs, two wins and two losses.

A Reuter telegram from St. Petersburg states that the celebrated Russian chess-player, M. Schiffers, has just been sent to the St. Nicholas

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Asylum for the Insane at St. Petersburg. He was engaged in a Tournament at Moscow, where he won the second prize, and it was after the conclusion of the contest that the first distressing symptoms manifested themselves. While M Schiffers was travelling to St. Petersburg from Moscow the malady assumed a violent type.

It will be remembered that Steinitz also went mad after his match with Lasker in Moscow; so chess-players may take it as a warning that if they wish to preserve their mental equilibrium they should give the place a wide berth.

Is genius required to produce a Chess-master? To become a Morphy, a Zukertort, or a Lasker one must be "born," as the Germans say; but there are others; a most notable example being Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch, of Nuremberg. Were acquired knowledge the dominant factor in the game Dr. Tarrasch would be the greatest player that ever lived. In positions that have been handled by the books he is supreme; but let something arise wherein native wit is required, and it is almost a dollar to ninety odd cents that either Lasker, Blackburne, or Janowski would outwit him. Pillsbury has been known to do it in a comparatively simple end-game. There is no doubt that this consciousness of inherent lack of Chess wit has resolved the big Doctor not to tempt "Chess fortune" again.—*The Times*, Philadelphia.

The Russian National Tourney at Moscow resulted, as was, of course, expected, in the first prize going to M. Tchigorin, who lost only one game, to M. Lebedew, of St. Petersburg. M. Schiffers came in second, and M. Levitzky was close behind him as third prize-winner. As a result of the closeness of their scores, a match between them s about to take place at Moscow. The fourth prize went to M. Lebedew, who distinguished himself by winning his game with M. Tchigorin, and was only half a point behind M. Levitzky. Next below the prize-winners, at again half a point distance, was M. Jankovitch, of Rostoff-on-the-Don, who adopted the tourney name of "Alexewjew." We append the scores:—

	Wins.
M. Tchigorin (1st prize, £40)	10
M. Schiffers (2nd prize, £30)	7½
M. Lewitzky (3rd prize, £20)	7
M. Lebedew (4th prize, £10)	6½

The game of chess is constantly being improved, each section of the chess world doing its allotted work in its own way. The professional players of the effete East are elaborating and refini g the splendidly dull openings of P to Q4 and the Knight's game of Luy Lopez. But the West, the glorious, the wild and woolly West, produces novelties of a more startling kind. Not long ago Dr. Philips of Chicago electrified Pillsbury and others with his Razzle-Dazzle Gambit (1—P to K4, P to K4; 2—Kt to KB3, Kt to QB3; 3—Kt takes P), and beat the champion with it in a simultaneous performance. Now Charles Reed of Puget Sound (at present a guest of the Franklin Club) has brought another novelty with him in the gambit openings, the Siwash Gambit, called after a tribe of Indians, next door neigh bours of Mr. Reed's home.

The moves of the new gambit run.: 1—P to K4, P to K4; 2—P to KB4, P takes P; 3—K to B2. This is the key move to the new gambit. The idea is to gain a speedy development through Black's probable checks. We will pursue the idea for some moves: Q to R5 ch; 4—P to Kt 3. P takes P ch; 5—K to Kt2, Q takes KP ch; 6—Kt to B3, P to Q4; 7—P takes P, B to KKt 5; 8—B to K2. Giving an outline of the opening, which is not strictly sound, but forms, nevertheless, an agreeable (?) variety in the way of opening the game.—*Philadelphia Times.*

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 1	F. Jan. 12
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India 2	M. Jan. 15
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 3	M. Jan. 15
America	P. M. Co.	Algoa	W. Jan. 17
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Tu Jan. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R Co	Em. of China	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	O & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Jan. 29
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 4	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	M. M Co.	——	Th. Jan. 25
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Algoa	Th. Feb. 15

1 Left Nagasaki on the 9th inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 1st inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 8th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 6th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Karlsruhe	Sa. Jan. 13
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. Jan. 13
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. Jan. 15
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Jan. 17
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Algoa	Th. Jan. 18
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Salazie	F. Jan. 19
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rosetta	W. Jan. 24
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	F. Jan. 26
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. Jan. 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Jan. 31
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	M. Feb. 5
America	P. M. Co.	Algoa	Sa. Feb. 17

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Silesia, German steamer, 3,318, S. Behrens, 5th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, and Shanghai; 31st Dec., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 5th January,—Kobe, 4th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,327, M. H. T. Jackson, 5th Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 4th Jan., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 6th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, 30th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dorothy, British schooner, 21, Albert Bruce, 6th Jan.,—Guam, Ballast.—Capt. J. T. Harrison.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 6th Jan.,—Kobe, 5th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 6th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 5th Jan., General, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 6th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, 30th Dec., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 8th January,—Kobe 6th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 8th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 7th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 8th January,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 21st December, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 9th January,—Nagasaki 5th January, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Karlsruhe, German steamer, 3,189, G. Dannemann, 9th January,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe 8th January, Mails and General. —H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 9th Jan.,—San Francisco via San Diego, 2nd Dec., General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer 771, J. Arakawa, 9th January,—Yokkaichi, 8th January, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

J. B. Walker, American barque, 2,105, J. W. Wallace, 10th January,—Manila, P.I., 27th November, Ballast.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791. K. Kato. 10th January,—Kobe 8th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salazie, French steamer, 2,089, Allegre, 10th Jan., —Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 9th Jan., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 10th January,—Yokkaichi, 10th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hikosan Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,150, P. Halstrone, 11th Jan.,—Java, Sugar.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Grant, U.S. Army Transport, 3,646, B. M. Buford, 11th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 21st Dec., General and 48th U.S. Vol., Reg't (Colored).—U.S. Government.

DEPARTURES.

Caledonien, French steamer, 2,093, C. Boulard, 5th Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. S.S. Co.

Afridi, British steamer, 2,354, Thos. Golding, 5th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, T. G. Steeves, 5th Jan.,—Hongkong via Moji, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Breconshire, British steamer, 2,323, Geo. Eliott, 5th January,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

On Sang, British steamer, 1,787, James Young, 5th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Cowrie, British steamer, 3,155, Davis, 6th Jan., —London and Rotterdam via ports, General.— —Samuel Samuel & Co.

Macduff, British steamer, 1,881, R. Glegg, 6th Jan.,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Queen Eleanor, British steamer, 2,270, E. Ritson, 6th Jan.,—Kobe, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 6th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 7th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 7th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 7th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 8th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 8th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manauense, U.S. Army Transport, 976, Barneson, 8th Jan.,—San Francisco, Ballast.—Browne & Co.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,327, M. H. T. Jackson, 9th January,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Silesia, German steamer, 3,138, S. Behrens, 9th January,—Marseilles via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Bombay, British steamer, 2,048, G. M. Montford, 10th January,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, January,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 10th January,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 10th January,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 10th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 10th January,—Otaru via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 11th Jan.,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 11th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Dr. Harbere, Mr. Donovan, Mr. G. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. Schnale, Mr. F. Vovweck, Capt. and Mrs. Yagi, Mr. Tojio, Mr. A. Becker, Mrs. Donovan, Mr. C. Kipp, Mr. A. Pellessan, Miss Jossey, Miss Lewis, and Mr. Muragaki, in cabin, Mr. Sawai, Mr. Asai, Mr. Hakata, Mr. K. Yatsui, and Mr. Ching Pang, in second class; thirty-three, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. M. Yamaguchi, Mr. H. Mizuta, Mr. H. Matsui, Mr. B. W. Chang, Miss M. E. Phillips, Mr. A. Hope Doeg, Mr. H. Schleifenbaum, Mr. P. S. King, and Mr. W. J. Treat in cabin. For Hongkong:—Miss R. Schallenberger, Mr. Dickson, Mrs. H. H. Sargeant, Mrs. M. F. Steele, Mr. N. G. Van Sant, Mr. G. Van Sant, Mrs. C. Goodman, and Mr. T. S. Holt in cabin.

Per German steamer *Karlsruhe*, from Bremen via ports:—Mr. E. C. Ogden, Mr. Mumejiro Kimura, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Church, Miss G.

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Esdale, Mr. W. H. Dullau, Mr. Kistermacher, Mr. Vehling, and Mr. E. Hasche, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Belgian King*, from San Diego:—Mrs. W. H. Beck and maid, and Master Claude Proctor, in cabin; 38 Chinese, in steerage.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. J. Cohen, Mrs. Ba, Mr. Loo Yan Chee and servant, Mr. Pon Tuk Mon, Mr. Man Fook, Mr. Chan M. Kok, Mrs. Oyon and 2 children, Mr. Shutte, Mr. S. Donnenberg, Mr. Yasutomi, Mr. Dentici, Mr. Martinolich, Mr. Wassiliel, Miss Joubert, and Mr. J. Israel in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Caledonien*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Foukouba, Mr. Paul Lefizelier, Mr. N. Hagura, Mr. H. Oita, Mr. T. Shinkai, Mr. George A. Adams, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Pavlow and boy, Mr. and Mrs. G. Tauson, 3 daughters and 5 boys, Mr. S. U. Sheung, Mr. Lo, Mr. Loo, Mr. Pot Men, Miss R. Correa, Mr. Moriya, Mr. Cheong, Mr. Wongkai Fun, Mr. Wong Shi Lo, Mr. Lee, Mr. Sup Chee, and Mr. Chan Ning Cum and boy, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Tedlie, Mr. Geo. Holden, Mr. S. Bean, Mr. Wm. Taplin, Mr. O. Cashman, Mr. W. Ware, Mr. R. Joycey, Mr. R. Jeffries, Mr. Lean Kai Tean, and Master Chan Chue Ko, in cabin; 9 Chinese and child, and 1 Indian, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. C. F. Pope, Mr. Lantsu Liu, Chinese Legation, Mr. Chang Yem Yam, Mr. Wong Chut, Mr. Ch. Downs, Mr. F. Burtons, and Mr. Richter, in cabin; 19 in steerage.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakasa Marn*, from London via ports:—Mr. Shiokichi Okuda, Mr. B. H. Chamberlain, Mr. Tsunejiro Shima, Mr. Tsunego Fukushima, and Dr. Ukuchi Ozaki, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, from Bremen via ports:—Mr. G. Werckmeister, Miss Louise Amor, Miss Rebecca McCormac, Dr. N. B. Ariga, Prof. Dr. K. Florenz, Mr. R. B. Coke, and Mr. E. C. Ogden, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Monmouthshire*, for Portland, Oregon:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES
Hongkong	1,497	—	—	216	—	1,713
Yokohama	602	—	700	—	—	1,302
Total	2,099	—	700	216	—	3,015

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 3 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 37 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *America Maru*, Captain P. H. Going, reports:—Left San Francisco the 21st December at 1.40 p.m., Honolulu the 28th at 8.51 a.m. Arrived at Yokohama the 8th January at 8.58 p.m.

The British steamer *Belgian King*, Capt. T. L. Weiss, reports:—Sailed San Francisco on Dec. 2nd, sailed San Diego on Dec 11th, and arrived at Yokohama on Jan. 9th. Passage, San Diego to Yokohama 28 days 15 hours. Heavy S.W. and Northerly gales throughout. Experienced two severe hurricanes Dec. 20th to 23rd and Dec. 29th to January 1st, hove to 50 hours, no damage.

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA AND SHIMBASHI.

YOKOHAMA—5.30, 6.10, 6.45, 7.19, 8.38, 9 10, 9.35, 10.05, 10 50, 11.35, a.m.; 12.20, 12 57, 1.30, 2, 2.36, 3 10, 3.55, 4.35, 5, 5.33, 6.15, 7.16, 8, 9.13, 10, 10.50, and 11.15 p.m.

SHIMBASHI—4 50, 5.45, 6.50, 7.25, 7.55, 8.30, 9.05, 9.25, 10.10, 10 45, 11.25 a.m.; 12, 12 30, 1.10, 1.40, 2.25, 3, 3.25, 4, 4.50, 5.25, 6.30, 7, 7.35, 8.20, 9.15, 10, 10.35, and 11.20 p.m.

YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

Leave.	Arrive.
Yokohama ... 6 50 am	Kobe .....10.47 am
Yokohama ... 1.14 pm	Kobe ..... 9.00 am
Yokohama ... 6.30 pm	Kobe .....11.19 am
Yokohama ...10.32 pm	Kobe ..... 6.36 pm
Kobe ..... 6.00 am	Yokohama ...10 05 am
Kobe .....12.05 pm	Yokohama ... 8.05 am
Kobe ..... 6.00 pm	Yokohama ...10.50 am
Kobe .....10.00 pm	Yokohama ... 6.13 pm

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The transactions in all lines during the past week have been of an insignificant character, the market not being yet recovered from the New Year demoralisation. Quotations are nominally the same as last week.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.60 to 2 90
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31½ yds 45 inches	3.20 to 3.60
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.90 to 2.00
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards 42 inches.	2.00 to 2.50
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.50 to 4 00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 52 inches	PER YARD. 0.18 to 0.28

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.40 to 0.60
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.32 to 0.45
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.16 to 0.22
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 0.85
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.85 to 1.00
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.70 to 1.00
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.62½ to 0.75
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9 50 to 10 00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.70 to 1.10
Turkey Reds—2 0 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Reds—3 8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.45 to 3.47½

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos 16/21, Singles	$40.00 to 42 00
Nos. 28 32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	44 00 to 46 00
Nos. 42 Doubles	52.00 to 55 00
Nos. 2 60, Plain	76.00 to 85.00
Nos 2 80, Plain	92.00 to 98.00
Nos 2 100, Plain	120 00 to 125.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	90.00 to 95 50
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	106.00 to 110.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	135.00 to 145.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.50
Indian Broach	23 50
Chinese	45.00

METALS.

Practically nothing has been doing, the market still suffering from the effects of New Year.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward	6.20 to 6 40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized iron sheets	12 50 to 13 80
Wire Nails, assorted	7 60 to 7 90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 1⅛ inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

No change in the market. Prices firm.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market is quiet at last quoted prices.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.40
Brown Manila	5.70 to 6.45
Brown Daitong	5.50 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.68
White Refined	7.80 to 9 45

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A small business has been done during the week for the United States market. As to Europe the situation remains unchanged, and no orders are placed on this market for that destination.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,320 to 1,330
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,270 to 1,280
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,230 to 1,240
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	1,180 to 1,190
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,210 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 2	1,180 to 1,190
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	1,250 to 1,260
Kakedas—No. 1	1,220 to 1,230
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,180 to 1,190
Kakedas—No 2	1,150 to 1,160
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

There has been a little trade in Joshu Noshi and Filature Kibiso at full rates; but prime quality is scarce, and holders indifferent as to whether they sell or no.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	110 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best / Noshi—Bushu, Good / Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 11.

London silver 1/16 lower and discounts there having eased down to 3/32 to 1/8, local rates of exchange have been recast accordingly.

Sterling—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 3/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4
— — 6 months' sight	2/1
On Paris—Bank sight	256½
On Lyons—Private 4 months' sight	262
On America—Bank Bills on demand.	49⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	51
On Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	214
On Hongkong—Bank sight	3 3/32 % dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4 3/32 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	74½
— Private 10 days' sight	76
On India—Bank sight	151⅛
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Bar Silver (London)	27 7/16

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, January 11.

Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 170. Engine and Iron Works are steady at *yen* 215. Grand Hotels—A small number of shares can be placed at *yen* 242 50. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 80. Oriental Hotels were sold to-day at *yen* 130. Founders' shares changed hands at *yen* 350. Langfeldts—Offers for shares are wanted. Helms can be had at *yen* 55. Laundries—Offers for shares are wanted. Bretts are obtainable at *yen* 9.25.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs can be placed at *yen* 108. Orientals—a few debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Star Ferries changed hands again to-day at $20.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., $50	215 St.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. *yen* 50	170 S.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., $100	240.50 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., $100	130 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. (Wdrn.), $125	350 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel Ltd., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., $10	9.05 S.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., $100	95 S.
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., *yen* 50	60 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7% Deb., $100	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7% Deb., $100	102 S.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7% Deb., $100	108 S.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, January 11.

Grand Hotels have sellers at *yen* 250. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Langfeldts are obtainable at par. Brett & Co. Debentures are obtainable at par.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	215 Sales.
Grand Hotel	250 Sellers.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	130 Steady.
Langfeldt & Co.	100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	170 Sales.

Tokyo, January 11.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	95.80
War Loan Bonds	95.20
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	99.50

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Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	135.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	67.50
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	272.50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	67 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	109.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	28.50
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	73.80
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 42	50.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	25.40
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45 x	120 00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 x	78.50
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 x	55.70
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	47.50
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 x	61.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40 x	47 00
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	96.80
Hokkaido Colliery R'w y, 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	77 50
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	92.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50 x	47.00
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	30.00
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	39 00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	18.00
Hokuetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	38.00
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	28.90
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	19.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13 x	83.50
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	236.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	213.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	67.00
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25	27.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 20	14 50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	29.40
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	20.00
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	39 50
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20	52.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	38.00
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	14 50
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	248.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	222.00
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	148 50
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25	92.50
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	8.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	51 50
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	85.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	92 00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 28	55 70
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40	88.50
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 18.50	20.00
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50	52 00
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	8.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	45 00
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up yen 25	22 00
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	24.50
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50	45.00

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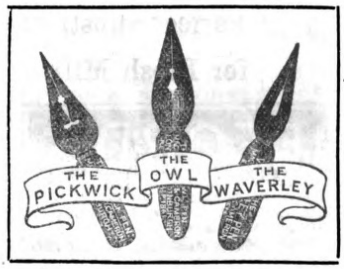

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAISCE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH, 1900.

DEATH.

On the 13th inst., at 4 a.m., Miss FUSA, elder daughter of Mr. Tamamura Kozaburo.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MILLER was executed in Tokyo on the 15th inst.

GENERAL WOOD has entered the Orange Free State, crossing the Orange river.

THE news of the Pest near Osaka and neighbourhood is more hopeful this week.

THE New Zealanders at the Cape are winning high commendation for their fighting qualities.

THE Imperial Yeomanry now being raised in England and the Colonies seems a very popular movement.

LORD STRATHCONA'S offer to equip and maintain in the field 400 mounted Canadians has been accepted.

SIR CHAS. WARREN has been given the command of the Irregular Forces and Volunteers in South Africa.

A LIGHTER belonging to the *Chuo Kaisoten*, having on board 24 tons of coal, for the U. S. Transport *Grant*, capsized at 4 p.m. on Sunday owing to the heavy swell. The men in the lighter, three in number, swam to the launch which was towing them, and were rescued.

GREAT BRITAIN has to release the German steamer *Bundesrath*, seized at Durban, and pay an indemnity.

THE *Daily News* understands that the details for the composition of another infantry division have been completed.

DOWN to the 28th December, a sum of $3,878 had been collected in Manila for the Transvaal War Relief Fund.

REAR ADMIRAL BRUCE, Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald's relief, arrived in Hongkong on Dec. 23rd by the P. & O. steamer *Massilia*.

PRESIDENT KRUGER, in a stirring speech, has declared that Providence is on the side of the Burghers and that they must win.

KING HUMBERT has invited the German Emperor and Queen Victoria to meet in Rome next April, and both are said to have promised to go to Italy.

YOKOHAMA amateurs are busy rehearsing "Dandy Dick," Pinero's comedy. The Choral Society will shortly put in practice the "Ballad of Carmilhan."

THE correspondent of the *Globe* at the Modder River states that the last words of General Wauchope were, "For God's sake, men, don't blame me for this."

IF the trials of H.M.S. *Glory* prove satisfactory, that vessel is expected to arrive in Hongkong about the end of March to relieve the *Centurion* on this station.

NEWS from South Africa is very meagre. Fighting continues at Ladysmith and some skirmishes have occurred at Colesberg. Mafeking was safe at the end of the year.

A FIRE occurred on Monday at 1.10 p.m. at No. 81, 9 chome, Hanazakicho, Yokohama. It originated at the house of a straw mat dealer, and 16 houses were destroyed before the flames were finally extinguished.

A VERY successful entertainment was given at the Public Hall on Tuesday in aid of the funds now being raised on behalf of the widows and orphans of men who may fall in South Africa. Some 1 500 *yen* were realised.

EMIGRANTS for Honolulu to the number of 600 left on the 13th by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha steamer *Nippon Maru*. They were despatched by the Kumamoto, Fukushima, and Morioka Emigration Companies.

UCHIDA UCHIZO, who tried to commit murder and arson on the 4th at the house of Enomoto Kanekichi, who had eloped with his (Uchida's) wife, hanged himself on the night of the 12th, with his *obi*, taking advantage of the changing of the prison guards.

THERE are eighteen transports now lying in Manila harbour, waiting to convey troops from that port to San Francisco, and more ships are to follow. The majority will, on their arrival in America, be returned to the various shipping lines from whence they have been drawn.

JUDGE BABA, Mr. K. Kosaka, a Chief Procurator, and Mr. Nakashoje who have been in London, inquiring on behalf of Japan into the administration of the English law, were interviewed by a Press representative. Mr. Kosaka said that he thought there was no serious danger of a conflict between Russia and Japan. Russia, he thought, was obviously in the wrong in the latest Korean difficulty. Mr. Kosaka says Japan will not stand meekly by if Russia attempts to take the land by force.

THE U.S. transport *Thomas*, with the body of the late General Lawton on board, left Nagasaki on Thursday for San Francisco. The funeral will take place at Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D.C., and will probably be of a public character.

THE British Government has decided that food-stuffs carried by neutral vessels and destined for neutral ports are not liable to seizure as contraband of war unless there is reason to believe that they are intended for the enemy's troops.

THE Mitsu Bishi Shipbuilding Yard, Nagasaki, will commence work on the construction of two sister ships, each of 6,000 tons, one at the end of this month and the other in June next. The vessels have been ordered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for its American line and will cost more than one million *yen* each.

AT 1.20 a.m. on Friday two robbers entered the house of a sugar merchant, No. 13, Suyeyoshicho, Nichome, kept by one Yoshikawa Benjiro. They broke though a skylight, and one, armed with a dagger, threatened the inmates. The men obtained some clothing, 2 portmanteau, and two silver watches, in all valued at some *yen* 50. They are still at large.

THE Higher Marine Court has quashed the judgment against Capt. Young, of the *Saikio Maru*, who was on Sept. 18th, considered guilty of culpable negligence in reference to a collision between his steamer and a fishing boat, and had his certificate suspended for one month. An appeal was made, and the result is that the judgment is reversed and the captain pronounced free from any blame.

THE thieves who broke into the house of the Compradore of the P. & O. S. S. Co. at No. 185 Settlement, on the night of the 13th inst., and stole jewellery and other articles valued at *yen* 120 and *yen* 15 in cash, were arrested on Monday morning by the Kagacho Police. They were two Chinese named Tong Sai and San Chow, aged 13 and 23 respectively. All the articles were recovered, but the cash had been spent in dissipation.

SPORT in Peking has received an impetus this winter from the establishment of a Sports Club the object of the Club being to raise funds and make general arrangements for gymkhanas, paper hunts, point-to point races, football, ice hockey, &c. The new Club has received the warmest support from the sporting community in the Capital, and within three weeks from the date of formation of the Club, over 60 members had been enrolled. A point-to-point race and Gymkana have already been held.

UPWARDS of 40 school children were drowned on December 22nd, in an ice accident at Frelinghem, Belgium, near the French frontier. The school children of the district had been given a holiday, with permission to play on the frozen River Lys. When the merriment was at its full height, the ice broke suddenly, and the children disappeared. A few were rescued half dead, but the majority were drowned. Thirty-six bodies have been recovered. The catastrophe spread consternation through the town, where nearly every family suffered loss.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, Jan. 13.

Detailed news by the last American mail seems to show that we correctly read the telegrams about the intentions of the War Office on receipt of the news of the disasters at Maggersfontein and Colenso. The idea was to form at once a mounted infantry corps, by taking one company from each battalion in the field; to replace these companies by volunteers from England, and further to organize a body of Imperial Yeomanry. It still remains uncertain, however, whether the total strength of the mounted troops thus organized will be ten thousand, or whether it will be ten thousand plus the companies taken from the battalions in the field. The telegrams further say that General Buller, before he started from South Africa, placed on record his opinion that a large body of mounted infantry was essential to success in South Africa. That is easily comprehended when we remember that the Boers are all provided with horses, and that, so soon as they find themselves unable to hold a position, they retire to their horses, mount and ride away so rapidly that the enemy, unless he happens to be extraordinarily strong in cavalry, can not turn his victory to full account. Strong in cavalry, however, is just what the British Divisions are not. They are, on the contrary, lamentably weak, and we wait impatiently to hear that the organization of the new corps, whether ten thousand or fifteen thousand strong, has been accomplished. Of course an army consisting entirely of mounted men has a point of great weakness: it is very defective for purposes of attack. Splendid manœuvres may be made by rapid changes of positions, tending to disturb the enemy's order of attack, or to cut him up piece-meal. Take the case of an affair like that of the Suffoks under Colonel Watson at Colesberg. They attacked a hill, but, finding themselves unexpectedly under fire at close range, had to abandon the attack and retired. One company, however, failed to take part in the retrograde movement, and thus found itself separated from the main body. Had the Boers been infantry, it is probable that the segregated company could have fought its way home, with heavy loss doubtless, but still without surrendering. A foe having the use of horses, however, can easily throw an overwhelming force between such a company and its base, thus rendering prolonged resistance useless. These things have to be remembered when we criticise the conduct of the war by British officers. Over and above the patent fact that our men are obliged to undertake big tasks with inadequate numbers, thus exposing themselves to risks which a cautious strategist would never brave, there is the less apparent fact that they are waging a war under unprecedented conditions — conditions to which the stereotyped rules of strategy and tactics do not apply. But when we say that if some advantages attach to an army composed of mounted men, there are other and very grave disadvantages, our meaning is that such an army will nearly always be found tactically on the defensive. The men learn to rely on their horses, and will not consent to be separated from them in the manner demanded by an advance to the attack. It is obvious that a forward movement on horseback in the face of a vigilant enemy must cease at about 4,500 yards, or, say, 2½ miles. Within that range mounted men would offer a sure target for shrapnel. The Boer, then, if he wants to attack, must abandon his horse at a distance of 2½ miles, and from the moment that he becomes an infantry soldier, every forward pace that he takes is a pace away from the animal on which he has learned to place his reliance. Fighting at a distance of 2 miles or 2½ miles from his horse, he knows that, if compelled to retreat, there is great danger of never recovering his seat in the saddle of refuge, but being caught on foot and slaughtered. He wants, all the while, to have his horse within easy reach —behind a hill or hidden in a friendly kopje—, and if that can not be managed, his palate for the fight is not keen. If any one considers carefully the operations of this South African war as hitherto reported, he will see that the Boer is in a most anomalous position; strategically he is on the offensive but tactically he is on the defensive. He has invaded British territory, but he never attacks. He simply sits down and waits to be attacked. He defeats an English column sent to attack him, but he never makes any resolute attempt to reap the fruits of his victory. We confess that after the news of Maggersfontein we held our breath. Cronje had the game in his own hands then. He could have converted Methuen's position into a second Ladysmith, and we should have had the pleasant spectacle of the Guards Brigade and the Highland Brigade "held up" by the Boers just as Sir George White's Division is held up beyond the Tugela. But the Boers had become slaves to the necessity of acting on the defensive. They shrank from undertaking a movement which would have placed Methuen almost at their mercy. The feat at Ladysmith did not constitute an exception to the rule. Ladysmith is invested completely. There was not the least apprehension of White's assuming the offensive even if he succeeded in beating back his swarm of assailants. That this anomaly in their military methods will ultimately tell against the Boers, we can not doubt, and if our readers will take the trouble to think out the position at Maggersfontein, they will probably agree that the first serious discomfiture of the Boers will take place there, supposing that they hold their ground a little longer.

Messrs. Wernher and Beit, who have subscribed fifty thousand pounds sterling to the equipment of the Imperial Yeomanry, are both Germans, and thus we are confronted by the pleasant incident that by far the largest contribution to the fund for prosecuting the war has been made by Germans. An ounce of fact is worth a pound of theory. It may be urged, of course, that the material interests of these two gentlemen are at stake; that they have immense investments in South Africa which are directly concerned by the issue of the War. Doubtless that is the case to some extent; but it must not be forgotten that, as Germans, they could reasonably hope not to be the victims of any discrimination which the Transvaal Government might make against British subjects if the war ended unfavourably for Great Britain. Their contribution is therefore to be regarded as an unequivocal evidence of sympathy with England, and it is doubly welcome since it comes at a time when the fortunes of our arms are distinctly clouded. There has been a great deal of bitter writing in the press with reference to this war. Many Germans undoubtedly think that England is in the wrong and that her claims were in excess of her rights. But many more—and to the latter class belong, we think and hope, the best men of the country—are now convinced that for some years there had been a deliberate plan on the part of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State to oust Great Britain from South Africa, and that extensive preparations to that end were steadily and secretly pursued, all the while that England, with the ineffable self-assurance which is the most unlovely and one of the most dangerous traits of her character, was sleeping calmly on the volcano. The critical party, as in the nature of things, makes its voice most loudly heard, but in the end it will doubtless be found that Germany is with us. Certainly the most valuable warnings and hints about the war have come from her military experts, who, had they been ill-disposed, would have held their peace and rejoiced in silence. There have been scathing and unamiable comments also, but they will probably prove wholesome.

Wednesday, Jan. 17.

The news received by last mail still leaves us in some uncertainty about the 8th Division. It is plain, however, that the telegrams have been misleading. What the wires have told us is that the 6th Division sailed on Christmas Day and the 7th Division on the 11th of January. Now we learn from *The Times*, on the authority of the War Office, that four battalions of the 6th Division embarked on Sunday, December 17th, and that the remainder were to embark during the week ending Saturday, 23rd. It is plain, therefore, that the whole of the 6th Division must have reached the Cape by the 13th or 14th of January at latest. The first half of the Division doubtless reached its destination by the 6th, and the second half probably began to arrive on the 10th or 11th. As to the 7th Division, its immediate mobilization had been approved on December 14th, after the news of Methuen's reverse at Maggersfontein, and we incline to the belief that it embarked on January 4th as originally announced. Farther, the strong probability is that when the news of Buller's defeat at the Tugela reached London on the 16th December, orders were at once issued for the mobilization of the 8th Division. If that be so, its embarkation on January 11th, as announced by telegram, would have been within the range of easy possibilities. What is certain, thus, is that since Methuen's reverse at Maggersfontein, two new Divisions—the 5th and 6th—have reached the Cape. What is uncertain is whether two other Divisions, or only one, is now *en route*. If two, then one of them, the 7th, will have disembarked by about the 25th of this month, and the other, the 8th, by about the 31st. But if there be only one Division (the 7th) *en voyage*—which we do not believe—, then it sailed on the 11th instant and will not be at the Cape till the end of the month. At all events, Lord Roberts has now two fresh Divisions, or some 20,000 men, at his command. Methuen had about 14,000 at Maggersfontein, and if we deduct a thousand for

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casualties, it results that the total force of regulars available for operations against the south-west of the Orange Free State, independently of the Cavalry Division under French, is 33,000 of all ranks. Evidently Methuen, though not able to drive the Boers from their position at Maggersfontein, can hold them there, and Roberts will therefore be free to move a column of 20,000 men due east from the Modder, turning the Boers' position at Maggersfontein and threatening Bloemfontein. It is possible, of course, that he may prefer to advance from the direction of Colesberg. As to that we have no grounds for expressing a confident opinion, but since the troops can be carried by rail to the Modder, where they will be within a short distance of their objective, that route seems preferable. Of course we do not mean to suggest that Roberts can make an immediate advance. The whole of the 6th Division can not be ready to go to the front before the 20th instant. Our original calculation was the end of the month, but we know now that one half of the Division left England by December 17th, instead of December 25th.

It is evident that Buller must have a very considerable force now under his command. He himself, when last heard from, was at Springfield, which is about 18 miles westward of Chieveley. He had doubtless established his head-quarters there temporarily, pending the completion of arrangements for crossing the Tugela at Potgieter Drift, which we believe to be about 11 miles from Colenso, just above the point where the Little Tugela joins the Tugela itself. Shortly before this western column had occupied the southern *bank of the Tugela*, which happened on the morning of the 11th, General Warren was despatched eastward, with a force of eleven thousand men, his orders being to march by the road which passes through Weenen and crosses the Tugela at a point some 18 miles east of Colenso. Meanwhile General Clery probably commands the central column, which remains at Frere. Warren's men seem to consist mainly of colonials and irregulars. If it be true that he has 11,000 in his column, the total force now engaged in operations for the relief of Ladysmith can not be much short of twenty-six or twenty-seven thousand men, including four thousand re-inforcements from India which recently arrived at Durban. Buller has probably ten thousand at Potgieter's Drift, and Clery has six or seven thousand at Frere. The programme is based on powerful flanking movements. At the moment when the western and eastern columns cross the Tugela, they will be separated by an interval of some 29 miles, but we presume that by the aid of wireless telegraphy they will be able to synchronise their movements, which, thereafter, will begin to converge. The rumours sent across the wires on the 15th instant, to the effect that a battle was raging at three points on the Tugela, were evidently founded on a knowledge of the fact that this scheme of combined operations was in progress, and on an expectation that the Boers would be found in strength at Springfield and Grobler's Kloof. It will be remembered that reconnaissances made some days ago showed the enemy to be in strong occupation of both places, as, indeed, might have been expected if they desired to prevent flanking movements on the part of the British. But they had withdrawn on each side and crossed to the north of the Tugela before the arrival of Buller's eastern and western columns. The state of the river may perhaps account for their retirement, but another hypothesis suggests itself, namely, that they are preparing to withdraw altogether from the neighbourhood of Ladysmith. A very few days must now show some vital developments. The fact that Warren's scouts found Colenso deserted has no special significance, for Colenso lies about a mile to the south of the Tugela, and it does not seem to have been occupied by the Boers in force at any time. We can not conceal from ourselves that this forward movement of widely divided columns, in the face of an enemy so mobile as the Boers, has its perils. But Buller probably reckons on the defect which the Boers have now abundantly displayed, incompetence for purposes of tactical offence. A French or a German army of mounted infantry as numerous as Joubert's forces would never allow two comparatively weak columns to perform flanking movements like those now in progress from the Tugela. It is true that Ladysmith greatly hampers Joubert's freedom. White is watching him intently, and if he attempts to lead twenty thousand men to an attack on either of the flanking columns, his absence will surely be taken advantage of by the vigilant garrison of Ladysmith. On the other hand if he allows the columns to get within easy striking distance, his defeat is tolerably certain. It is not oversanguine to say that the position in Natal has very greatly improved.

PROVINCIAL ZEALOTS AND THE RELIGIONS BILL.

The zealous disciples of the Shin sect in the Hokuriku districts have allowed themselves to be worked up to a state of intense excitement over the Religions Bill, now before the Diet. Monster meetings have been held in Kaga and Etchiu, and resolutions have been passed vehemently supporting the attitude assumed by the Higashi Hongwan Temple. It appears to us that this may almost be called an agitation against the Constitution, for, after all, the Bill does nothing more than translate into the form of legislative enactments the principle of religious liberty enunciated by the Constitution. Of course, we should be greatly wanting in one of the essentials of civilization—intellectual sympathy—if we failed to see that the Hokuriku folks have a point of view. If the British Government had asked Parliament, a century ago, to pass a Bill placing Buddhism, Brahminism, Mohammedanism, &c., on the same footing as Christianity *vis-à-vis* the law, Hyde Park and other places convenient for popular demonstrations would have been kept very busy. There is, in fact, absolute freedom of conscience in England and America, since every body of believers, whatever their creed, are at liberty to have their own place of worship and live in accordance with the tenets of their own faith, and the law extends to them precisely the same protection as it affords to Christians. But English prejudices had to be ground for a long time in the mill of education and enlightenment before they became sufficiently impalpable to permit such liberality. This is one of Japan's hard problems. We sincerely hope that she will be able to solve it calmly and satisfactorily.

Representatives of the Japanese Christians have had a meeting for the purpose of considering the Religions Bill, and have decided that, on the whole, it deserves support. They wish, however, to obtain some relaxation of the veto against religious ministers and teachers taking part in politics. Their view is that the veto should be limited to cases where the teacher or minister is a member of a political party. They also desire that the right of appeal to the Administrative Court should be provided in the event of dissent from a decision of the ordinary Authorities. Finally, they desire to remove the provisions relating to a religious council, and to the religious disability of persons who have been deprived of public rights.

The agitation continues against the Religions Bill. Its opponents are sending deputations to wait upon Ministers of State, and to threaten that, if it is pushed in the Diet, an extensive demonstration will be fomented in the provinces. Meanwhile Count Okuma has been speaking about it to a newspaper representative. He approves of it on the whole, but seems disposed to condemn some of its provisions as tending to carry administrative interference too far. Evidently the Bill is destined to be one of the problems of the time.

PRISON EXPENDITURES.

The *Official Gazette* publishes the newly passed Law, duly approved by the Sovereign, for transferring the Prison Expeditures to the charges of the Treasury. It is a matter for sincere congratulation that this much desired reform has at length been accomplished. One of the very first measures submitted by the Government to the Diet on its opening in 1891 was a Bill in this sense. The Authorities explained that their action, ten years previously, in making each commune pay for the prison in its district, had been necessitated by financial conditions connected with the resumption of specie payments. Theoretically they did not approve of the step, but had been obliged to take it, and they invited the House of Representatives to assist in inaugurating a sounder system now that the Treasury's affairs permitted it. But the House of Representatives, having no thought for anything at that time except the reduction of the land tax, witheld its consent, and although the Government introduced the Bill again session after session, only now in the fourteenth session has it been passed. However, better late than never. Unfortunately the funds at the Government's disposal do not allow it to make up for the lost time by vigorous action now that the prisons are transferred to its care. The new law becomes operative from the 1st of next October, but the means of giving effect to its provisions are not distinctly provided for on the revenue side of the Budget and will have to be found "some how or other." The Government will, therefore, have to go slow, but from next year we may hope that marked improvements will commence.

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LAND TENURE IN THE FORMER SETTLEMENTS.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.

It appears that the foreign land-holders of Yokohama are by no means satisfied with the arrangement that has been made for the registration of transactions of sale, mortgage, or transfer. They have decided to hold a meeting for the purpose of considering the question. The difficulty seems to be that the Prefectural Authorities, on being asked to register a transfer, are understood to contend that they must convert the title into a superficies, inasmuch as the law makes no provision for its registration under the form of a perpetual lease. We imagine that there must be some misunderstanding in this matter. It was certainly the intention of the Authorities to get rid of all difficulties by the issue of the recent Ordinance, which removed the function of registration, in the case of these particular leases, from the Local Office to the Prefectural Office, and empowered the latter to register the title as a superficies qualified by the term "perpetual lease" in brackets. That, it is true, seems a somewhat round-about way of accomplishing a simple thing. It may reasonably be contended that if the Authorities were absolutely bound by the terminology of the law as it now stands—in other words, if they were obliged to devise a parenthetical method of differentiating the perpetual leases of foreign land-renters from the perpetual superficies of Japanese superficiaries—, the most satisfactory and straightforward plan would have been to submit to the Diet a new law making special provision for the registration of the Conventional perpetual lease as such. But if we look at the matter a little more closely, the present difficulty assumes very small dimensions. The Conventional land-lease is really a tripartite agreement, the parties being the Japanese Government, the lease-holder, and the Government of the latter's country. The Japanese Government, which owns the land, is bound by international contract—the treaty—to leave the foreign lease-holder in perpetual possession of the land without alteration of the terms of his tenure. Hence any attempt on the part of the Japanese Government to effect an alteration would be a breach of its contract with the foreign Governments. But unless the Japanese Government deliberately makes such an attempt, the foreign lease-holder can never be disturbed. That becomes at once evident if we consider the process that would be required in order to impose any legal restriction upon the perpetual leases. The Japanese Government, in its capacity of owner of the laud, would have to make formal application to a court of law, praying to have the terms of the perpetual lease reconsidered with a view to reducing it from perpetuity to a period not exceeding 50 years. Such application would at once constitute a violation of the Japanese Government's contract with the Government of the lease-holder's nationality, and is, therefore, out of the question. If the owners of the former Settlement lots were private individuals, then there would be a valid objection to registering the titles as "superficies" even with the parenthetical addition of "perpetual lease." But since the Japanese Government is the owner, all danger seems chimerical.

This argument applies equally, we think, to the mortgaging of land. The law provides that, in order to be valid against a third party, a mortgage must be registered. Hence, if a foreign lease-holder desires to obtain money from a bank on the security of his title, the bank may require, for its own protection, that the transaction be duly registered. In that case the land-holder, if we read the Ordinance aright, has only to hand the lease to the Prefectural Authorities, whose business it then becomes to enter the mortgage on the lease, and further to register the fact in the local office. There should be no tampering of any kind with the lease. It remains in its original form—a perpetual lease protected by treaty against all alteration for all time. The special terminology "superficies (perpetual lease)" has been devised, as we understand, simply for the convenience of the local registrars. If it be true, as rumour asserts, that the Prefectural Authorities, when application is made to them, refuse to effect any register unless the nature of the title be changed to "superficies" and the lease re-drafted accordingly, they are undoubtedly acting in violation of the treaties. But we are persuaded that some misunderstanding has arisen, and that the Prefectural Authorities do not intend to advance any such contention.

STATE RAILWAYS.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.

We presume that the question of the state acquisition of private railways will be again brought before the Diet this session. The advocates of the measure are not likely to let the matter rest, since, by the action of the House last session, the Representatives, at all events, stand pledged to the principle of State ownership. It is not easy to perceive the necessity for such a step, except on the single ground that it would be a method of freeing large sums of fixed capital. That the Japanese were destined to find themselves inconvenienced, sooner or later, by the steps they inaugurated some years ago in the matter of railway construction, every thoughtful person must have foreseen. They nevertheless chose the wise course, since the question lay between not having railways at all and having them on terms more or less embarrassing. Cheap foreign capital would have been the convenient alternative, but cheap foreign capital was not procurable, and so there was really no room for choice. If it is now found necessary to restore to circulation a part or the whole of the capital thus fixed, State purchase may be advisable. But the strategical reasons advanced in support of the scheme do not appear to possess much value. Japan has no more occasion than England has to trouble herself about strategical railways. We observe that the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* strongly advocates a speedy decision, its argument in favour of expedition being that the railway companies, anticipating the transfer of their roads to the State, are deliberately neglecting all repairs, and thus, when the Government takes over the lines, it will find itself committed to a heavy initial outlay for the purpose of getting them into order. Each month of uncertainty that passes evidently increases the difficulty on that account. We do not doubt that the facts are as the *Nichi Nichi* represents them, but surely the Government, in taking over the railways, would have due regard to their condition? It seems to us that the danger foreseen by our contemporary could be obviated by the common-place precaution of examining the object of purchase before fixing the price.

Wednesday, Jan. 17.

There is a movement on foot for the formation of something like a very big trust among the railways of this country, The projectors of the scheme would probably object to have it described in such terms. Thay call it a "mixed organization" (*Kongo soshoku no Dai-tetsudo Kaisha*), and speak of it as a gradual means of realizing the programme for the State purchase of private railways. But to us it seems to resemble a plan for giving a fictitious value to railway shares in the interests of their holders. Briefly stated, the plan is that all the principal private lines in the empire should be at once amalgamated with the Government roads, the purchase price of their shares being fixed definitely with regard to their assessed value. The Government should then undertake to buy up the shares of any share-holder who desired to realise, paying ready money to the extent of the difference between the assessed value and the market value, and giving bonds for the remainder. In this arrangement the State lines would be capitalized, and their shares, similarly assessed, would be placed on the open market. There are other details, but what we have written will suffice to give an idea of the gist of the plan. It has been embodied in a Representation which will come before the House of Representatives in a few days with, it is understood, the support of the Liberals.

WHAT CENTURY?

Quite a keen controversy is being carried on by the vernacular press with reference to the nomenclature of the current century. Is it the nineteenth century or is it the twentieth century? That is the question about which the disputants do not seem able to make up their minds. There must be some solid basis for the contention of those who argue in favour of the twentieth century, but we have never been able to appreciate their point of view. Yet it appears to us that the matter is very simple, and that the demonstration is convincing. We have only to ask ourselves when the first century began. Did it begin with the year "0" or with about the year "1"? There can not be any doubt about the answer. No one ever heard of a year "0." Unquestionably the first century began with the year "1." And when did it end? Obviously with the year "100," for if it ended with the year "99," then the so-called "century" contained only 99 years. The first century, then, ended with the year "100," and the second began with the year "101." Similarly the third begun with the year "201"; the fourth with the year "301," and so on, until we come to the twentieth, which necessarily will begin with the year "1901." To say that the twentieth century begins with the year "1900" is to affirm that some one of the preceding nineteen centuries must have consisted of only 99 years.

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THE SILK TRADE DISPUTE.

Saturday, Jan. 13.

The dispute between the Japanese and Foreign silk dealers in Yokohama is attracting some journalistic attention. It now appears that the question of excluding or including a fraction of weight represented by 0.125 of a catty, is only one of the counts in the quarrel. There are seven others, relating to inspection fees, weighing charges and so on, the whole constituting what the Japanese are disposed to regard as tradal abuses which ought to be remedied in connexion with Japan's recovery of her judicial and fiscal autonomy. The foreign merchants have replied to the Japanese communication in the sense that they can not agree to the proposed change in the matter of weights, and have postponed the consideration of the remaining points, but the Japanese want a comprehensive answer, and so there is something very like a deadlock. The *Shogyo Shimpo* laughs at the difficulty about such a bagatelle as 0.125 of a catty, but is disposed to maintain that the methods of conducting the trade need reform. though it deprecates heroic measures For our own part, the procedure of the Japanese seems to us more romantic than practical. It is all a question of charges. Then why not adopt the remedy which they have the power to apply at any moment, raise their selling prices by whatever fraction is necessary to cover the disadvantages under which they now claim to be labouring? Would not that be much wiser than to attempt a sweeping change of methods which have become habitual?

Monday, Jan. 15.

We learn from vernacular newspapers that an agreement has been arrived at by the foreign and Japanese silk-men of Yokohama on the basis of a compromise. Both sides would have suffered severely by anything like a deadlock. The loss to the Japanese in the matter of interest on silk sold but not yet taken delivery of, would have been about 450 *yen* daily, and the foreigners would have been unable to make the shipments contemplated by them.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.

It appears that the foreign merchants of Yokohama are not nearly so excited as the Japanese on the subject of the dispute in the silk trade. A member of the *Japan Mail* staff called yesterday on the representative of one of the chief export firms, and was assured that the matter was of very little real consequence.

"It is true," said the gentleman, "that various little attempts have been made recently to throw small obstacles in the way of trade. But they do not trouble us at all. For example, we have hitherto, in buying waste silk, been accustomed to have an allowance of 5 per cent. for dust and dirt. It is now proposed to discontinue this allowance. What is the result? Say we have hitherto offered 100 *yen* per picul for waste, with a 5 per cent. allowance for dirt and dust. Well, if that allowance is abolished, it will simply mean that we shall offer only 95 *yen* for the same quantity. It will be as broad as it is long.

"It is the same thing with regard to this other question of weights. Up to the present, the scales on which we weigh the silk were graduated to one quarter of a pound English. Say a lot of 248 lbs. of silk turned the scale at 248¼ lbs.; we paid for the extra quarter of a pound. If it scaled slightly under the quarter, we reckoned 248 lbs. Now since the first of January, instead of buying in pounds, and converting the total afterwards into piculs, we weigh it on Japanese scales registering by the catty, and graduated to a quarter of a catty. Now they want us to have fresh scales graduated to the 8th of a catty. Thus on, say, a transaction of 200 catties they would be able to charge us with the 8th of a catty instead of a quarter. It does not really matter two pins, so long as the rest of the trade agrees to it. If they try to squeeze us a little bit in that way, why, we simply offer them a rather smaller price. If we get an order from Europe to buy at 20/- the pound, we have to make allowances here so that we can make a profit at that figure, and that alone regulates the price we can offer, despite all these little attempts to squeeze here and there. It is simply another evidence of the peculiar ingenuity of the Japanese in creating small difficulties and haggling about trifles. It is in no way important."

Wednesday, Jan. 17.

It is reported that a decision has been arrived at with regard to the chief points of the dispute in the silk trade. With regard to the question of loss of weight from moisture the Japanese, it is said, agree to accept the proposal to refund all excess over 2 per cent. of loss in weight in conditioning. It is agreed that paper shall be weighed separately, and that ¾ per cent. shall be allowed for ties, instead of 1 per cent., which the foreign firms at first demanded. The foreigners, however, reserve the right of reopening this question. The question of discounts for cash payments is left open for the present, the Japanese demanding payment on the same terms as hitherto. The proposals as to scales are accepted by both parties, and the foreign firms have agreed to the Japanese demand for the abandonment of the custom of one skein in a picul free of charge. A separate committee of waste silk dealers has been formed to consider the proposed abolition of *gomikin*, or allowance for dirt and dust in waste silk.

LOCAL EXPENDITURES IN TOKYO.

In spite of the announcement that the Tokyo Municipal Authorities have decided to raise the rates of local taxation all round, leaving the Land Rate alone unaltered, since by law it is unalterable, there is a disposition in some quarters to urge the imposition of still higher taxes. The fact is that Tokyo, even after the proposed changes have been made, will still be more lightly taxed than Osaka—which city is beginning to be regarded as its rival—whereas, of the two places, Tokyo stands in much greater need of improvement. The *Shogyo Shimpo* roughly estimates that to accomplish the necessary works of drainage, harbour construction, road-making, and so forth in Tokyo, a sum of a hundred million *yen* would be required. Probably that is an over-liberal figure, but Tokyo has accomplished so little up to the present that one is perplexed to calculate the outlay lying before it, assuming that the citizens resolve to undertake reform in a really resolute spirit. The Municipal Authorities have not yet reached the limits allowed by law. They might take 50 per cent. of the State Income Tax and Business Tax, whereas they propose to take only 40 per cent. We are inclined to suspect that a different system of management would accomplish many of the reforms required without exposing the citizens to any additional levies. There is, of course, the difficulty that the city covers an immense area compared with the density of its population, and that, consequently, a great length of streets has to be kept in order with the taxes levied from a comparatively small number of residents. That is unfortunate, but it is an embarrassment that every year tends to diminish, for the limits of the city do not grow in proportion to the growth of its population: it is becoming more densely peopled every year. Meanwhile an incomparably greater drawback is the fact that the city authorities have not yet recognised the truth of the old proverb, "a stitch in time saves nine." No attempt is ever made to repair a road until an operation equivalent to remaking is necessary. Of course there never can be good roads so long as the present method of making them is adopted. But that is another question. If a regular and competent system of inspection was organized, and if small repairs were made immediately on the appearance of necessity for them, the city would have fairly good streets at a fraction of the present outlay.

TOKYO AND OSAKA.

Osaka is certainly making wonderful strides in the matter of population. Tokyo, also, is increasing very rapidly, but Osaka is at present distancing the northern city. The *Jimmin* publishes the following statistics showing the yearly growths of the two places since 1894:—

	1894.	1895.	1896	1897.
Tokyo.....	28.111	31.011	33.315	38.194
Osaka.....	5.996	16,506	249.635	59.311

The extraordinary figure for Osaka in 1896, a figure representing an increment of more than one-half of the total population in one year, was doubtless attributable to the effects of the war, which were felt much more vividly in Osaka than in Tokyo. The increment for 1897 was not so remarkable, comparatively speaking, but when we remember that the population of Osaka is now only half a million, in round numbers, the fact that it is growing at a rate which would double its total figure in less than nine years is sufficiently striking. There are, indeed, some folk who talk of moving the capital to Osaka, but as yet their suggestion is not seriously taken. It is, however, a matter of simple arithmetic that if each city maintains for 25 years the rate of increase recorded for 1897, both will have populations virtually equal, namely, 2 millions of souls. The *Jimmin*, doubtless with good reason, attributes the comparative slowness of Tokyo's development to want of enterprise on the part of the citizens. Thirteen years have elapsed since Mr. (now Viscount) Yoshikawa, then Governor of Tokyo, caused a Dutch engineer to compile a scheme of harbour improvement, yet to this day it remains uncertain what, if any, plan will be adopted, and in the meanwhile Osaka has progressed far with the building of its harbour, and Kobe is on the threshold of commencing. As for street railways, a crying need, the Municipality will neither permit the citizens to construct them, nor construct them itself. The *Jimmin* may well invoke the spirit of the old *yedokko*. It has, apparently, lost all vitality.

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THE MILLER CASE.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.

A writer in the *Nippon*, signing himself "Morning Monkey," severely censures Mr. Takahashi for petitioning the Throne on behalf of the convict Miller. The petition claims, it will be remembered, that due allowance was not made by the law courts for the provocation that Miller doubtless received at the hands of persons so degraded as the two women and the man whom he murdered. "Morning Monkey," being able to read the petition in the original Japanese, does not fall into the error committed by some foreign critics, who, not being equally well informed, inferred that Mr. Takahashi invites the Emperor to commute Miller's sentence on the ground that the lives he took were comparatively worthless. Mr. Takahashi's plain intention is to contend that in intercourse with persons of that class, a man is likely to be excited beyond control, and that the fact should be taken into consideration in estimating the degree of his guilt. The writer in the *Nippon* points out that the principle alleged by Mr. Takahashi is totally unpractical. It would introduce a dangerous element of sentiment into the procedure of law courts. A tribunal of justice has to consider facts, not to speculate on motives. If it applies itself to the latter task, its functions become illimitable. "Morning Monkey" is very severe—rightly severe, we think—upon the other contentions advanced by Mr. Takahashi; especially upon his plea that as this event occurred on the very morn of the operation of the revised treaties, there had not been time for Miller to make himself acquainted with the laws of Japan. Mr. Takahashi advances that plea in a very tentative, half-hearted manner, and well he may. However, without further following the line taken by the writer in the *Nippon*, we desire to enter a protest against a statement made by him incidentally, that it is fruitless to think of the effect of these things on foreign sentiment, since in every case where a foreigner is on his trial, the foreign press is quite sure to pronounce him in the right and the Japanese in the wrong. Now it can not be denied that the writing of a section of the local foreign press warrants a Japanese in arriving at such a conclusion. But on behalf of foreigners in general we emphatically deny its justice. The writer in the *Nippon* is to some extent influenced by the criticism the Kent case evoked. Does he defend the verdict of the Court in the Kent case? Does he pretend for a moment that there was not a gross miscarriage of justice? Racial prejudice is very hard to put aside. We frankly admit that, as between a foreigner and a Japanese, the sympathies of foreign newspapers would, by first impulse, be on the side of their own national. Similarly, the sympathies of the Japanese would be on the side of theirs. But in neither case, we believe, would that racial feeling be suffered to obscure the ultimate verdict between right and wrong. It is not by attributing to foreigners in general the extreme prejudice of which a few are the victims that a broader and more liberal frame of mind can be educated.

Wednesday, Jan. 17.

In connexion with the Miller case an interesting point is raised by Judge Sato. It appears in a letter—seemingly an open letter—addressed by him to Mr. Kodama, Chief Judge of a Section of the Tokyo Court of Appeal. The Court of First Instance, in its judgment at Miller's trial, declared that the murdered woman had been carrying on a clandestine trade in the sale of liquor under the ægis of a foreigner's name, as was constantly done in Yokohama prior to the operation of the Revised Treaties and the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction. The Court of Appeal quashed this part of the finding, on the ground that the lower tribunal had not received any proof of the existence of such a state of affairs. Judge Sato ridicules such an objection. He says that the prevalence of this illicit trade in the Settlements is just as much a notorious fact as the defeat of Kusunoki Masashige at the battle of Minato-gawa or the tenure of the post of Minister President by Marquis Yamagata. Judge Sato is undoubtedly right. The question of licensing publicans pursuing their trade within the limits of the foreign settlement of Yokohama was one of the perennial difficulties of the old system. The very worst kind of abuses were practised in defiance of police authority, because a satisfactory solution of the problem of jurisdiction could not be found. It goes without saying that all foreigners of the better class condemned and regretted this state of affairs, and regarded "Blood Town" as a flagrant disgrace to an otherwise remarkably well conducted community. We trust that, under the new conditions, a more wholesome atmosphere will permeate the sinks of iniquity.

Thursday, Jan. 18.

The murderer Miller was executed on the 16th instant. The intention of the authorities to carry out the sentence of death at half-past nine on the morning of the 16th was not intimated to the Kajibashi House of Detention until half-past three on the afternoon of the 15th. It does not appear to have been expected, but the necessary steps to inform the prisoner and make all preparations were at once made. Miller received the fatal message with composure. He was very speedily visited by the Rev. Mr. Evans, who has attended him frequently since his condemnation. Mr. Evans remained with him a considerable time, praying and exhorting. According to the *Fiji Shimpo's* account, Miller groaned twice between nine and eleven o'clock, but thereafter passed a quiet night. He rose at six in the morning, as usual, and at half-past six, a breakfast of beef-steak, soup, and bread was served to him at the charges of the chief warder. Mr. Evans arrived soon afterwards, and accompanied the convict to Ichigaya Prison, where the execution was to take place. The party arrived there at eight o'clock, and proceeded to a waiting room in the immediate vicinity of the gallows. There the chief warder asked Miller whether he had any last message. Miller replied that he had no complaint to make as to his fate, but that he wished to leave a letter for his younger sister in America. He did not know her address, however, and he therefore begged that Mr. Evans would take charge of the letter and contrive to have it delivered. Writing materials were supplied, and he indited the letter, not without tears. Its text has not been made public, but Miller is understood to have written that, owing to his misdeeds in his own country, he had been long separated from his family and had not seen his sister for years. Now all hope of seeing her in this world was over, but not the hope that after his life of sin he might be born again into another existence and re-united with her and the other members of his family. After writing this letter and entrusting it to Mr. Evans, the unhappy man seemed to become more cheerful. He shook hands earnestly with the chief warder and Mr. Evans, and for a few minutes bore up bravely, but presently the tears that became his softened mood flowed freely. Grasping Mr. Evans' hand he passed to the fatal platform. Exactly at the appointed hour the veil was drawn over his head, and ten minutes later his lifeless body was placed in the shell for conveyance to Setagaya Jail cemetery, where it was interred. He left a sum of 2.07 *yen* to be distributed among the poor, and there is every reason to hope that through the ministrations of Mr. Evans he had been led to repent sincerely of his terrible crimes. It does not appear that the petition presented by Mr. Takahashi reached the Throne. If it did, the Emperor wisely rejected it. An impression had become prevalent that efforts were being made to postpone the execution of Miller's sentence until March, when an amnesty may possibly be proclaimed in connexion with the marriage of the Prince Imperial. In the interests of justice we can not but express satisfaction that the project failed, if, indeed, it was seriously entertained in any quarter.

Friday, Jan., 19.

Judge Sato continues to discuss in newspaper columns the decision of the Court in the Miller case, so far as it was adverse to his own judgment in the lower court. He makes some good points; as, for example, when he traverses the finding of the Appeal Court with reference to the circumstances of Ward's murder. The Yokohama tribunal concluded that Miller first struck Ward as the latter lay asleep, the blows being delivered on the left side of his head; and then, as Ward fell off the couch, further blows were planted on the back of his head. These further blows seemed of much importance in the eyes of the Appeal Court, and it reversed that particular part of the lower tribunal's finding on the ground that no proof had been forthcoming of the delivery of the blows as described. Mr. Sato naturally ridicules such extreme attention to minutiæ, but to us, as onlookers, the whole discussion seems trivial, not to say undignified. There is a tendency, we think, on the part of the Japanese to lose themselves in details; to allow their mental horizon to be narrowed unduly by formalism. Every one is agreed that substantial justice has been done in Miller's case: the petty details are unimportant. We doubt, too, whether the columns of the newspaper press are the best place for conducting judicial controversies, though we do not fail to appreciate the spirit of keen analysis which Japanese judges are evidently bringing to the discharge of their duties. Perhaps, too, these discussions will have a wholesome effect in directing public attention to the procedure of the law courts. One of Japan's greatest administrators, Hideyoshi, the *Taikō*, maintained that a knowledge of the law was superfluous for every-day folks. Only those that applied the laws were required, according to his theory, to know anything

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about them. The Tokugawa Government acted on the same principle. It made no attempt to compile an intelligent system of laws, but merely issued edicts, from time to time, containing such vetoes as the needs of the moment dictated. Under those circumstances a Judge had to be guided, for the most part, by the dictates of innate justice and common sense, rather than by the letter of the law, and the general body of the public took no interest whatever in legislative questions. In some respects it was a happy state of affairs, but that it was altogether wholesome can scarcely be maintained. Perhaps Judge Sato wants to awaken his fellow-countrymen from their mood of indifference. If so, we admire his courage, for he must know that his discretion will be seriously questioned.

ICHI-I NO TSUBONE.

It is announced that Lady Nakagawa, generally known at Nii-no-Tsubone, mother of His Majesty the Emperor, is dangerously ill. She was attacked by influenza ten days ago, and in spite of the efforts of several eminent physicians, among them Dr. Baelz, the disease invaded the lungs. On the 15th instant, a gazette appeared raising her to the rank of *Jiuichi-i* (second grade of the first class) and the honour is interpreted to mean that the case is hopeless, if, indeed, it has not already ended fatally. Lady Nakayama is in her sixty-sixth year. She is the second daughter of Marquis Nagayama Tadayoshi, representative of one of the great families of the Court Nobility; a family in which the high office of *Dainagon* was hereditary for many generations.

We are informed that Madame Ichi i no Tsubone did not die, as was generally supposed, on Wednesday in Tokyo. On the contrary, a slight improvement took place in her condition on the 17th instant, though she is not by any means out of danger.

THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS SENT ABROAD

It may be remembered that, some months before the date fixed for the operation of the Revised Treaties, a number of Japanese Judicial officers were sent abroad for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the procedure of foreign tribunals of justice. They visited India, France, Belgium, Italy, and England, and some returned *vâ* the United States. One of these travellers, Mr. Nagamori, Public Procurator, has just reached Tokyo, and the others are expected in a few days. It is understood that they have collected much useful information on their tour.

INTERVENTION.

A telegram, set in doubly leaded type, is published by the *Asahi Shimbun* to the effect that Germany, France, and Italy are showing a disposition to intervene in the South African war, in view of its becoming protracted. There does not appear to be any valid ground for such a rumour. We should certainly have heard about it from other sources had it been upon the tapis.

THE PEST.

Monday, Jan. 15.

The implacable Pest has now attacked the mother of the third physician who fell a victim to the malady. She is a lady 66 years of age, and her chances of recovery are slender. It is further stated that a concubine of the same doctor shows suspicious symptoms. The three physicians, their three wives, the mother and the concubine of one of them, the *jinrikisha*-drawer of another—evidently the disease is not to be checked when once it gains a footing.

Since writing the above, news arrives that the old lady has died of the disease. Thus the three doctor, their three wives, and the mother of one of them have perished. But no fresh cases are reported from Osaka.

Wednesday, Jan. 17.

The Chief of Police in Tokyo has issued instructions to the managers of all the railways within the limits of the *Fu*, in the sense that stringent precautions must be adopted against the advent of the Pest. Very minute regulations accompany the order; regulations which, if carefully observed, ought to prove effective. Meanwhile we are happy to say that no fresh case is reported from Osaka or Kobe.

One of the Japanese physicians engaged in combating the Pest at Newchwang reports a very unusual case. A boy of 15, serving as attendant in the sanitary office, developed a small swelling under the arm. For twenty-four hours he remained entirely without fever or inconvenience of any kind. Then violent fever suddenly declared itself, and he soon died. The *post-mortem* showed bacilli in the swelling, but none in the blood. The exceptional feature of the case is that, under ordinary circumstances, no swelling makes its appearance until after high fever has set in.

Rats sent to the various police stations in Yokohama since the regulations came int force are :—

Bluff Police Station	120
Kotobukicho Police Station	68
Isezakicho Police Station	15
Kagachu Police Station	32
Water Police Station	6
Total	241

Tokyo newspapers are very emphatic in their expressions of gratitude for the benevolent conduct of the Governor-General of Indo-China. We stated in a previous issue that, at the suggestion of His Excellency M. Harmand, the French Representative in Tokyo, the Governor-General had forwarded a considerable quantity of anti-Pest serum for use in Japan. This consignment was made at the expense of the Governor-General himself. Subsequently the Japanese Sanitary Authorities signified their desire to procure a further large quantity of the serum and solicited the good offices of M. Harmand for that purpose. M. Harmand at once telegraphed to Saigon, and received a reply that a considerable quantity of serum was already on its way to Japan; that it had been shipped free of charge to the Japanese, and that all future needs would be supplied on the same generous terms. We congratulate M. Harmand and the Governor-General on the thoughtfulness and sympathy that have marked their action in this matter, and also on the satisfaction they must feel in being able to render substantial assistance at such a crisis.

Thursday, Jan. 18.

Osaka has now had four days without any recurrence of the Pest. Hopes are entertained that the disease has spent its fiercest energy. Dead rats whose carcasses contain the bacillus are still found, however, so that confidence would be premature. Osaka's record since the presence of the plague was definitely recognised has been 42 cases and 41 deaths. We have never previously heard of such a rate of mortality. It is probable that many cases occurred before the diagnosis announced Pest, and that they were attributed by ill-informed local practitioners to acute inflammation of the lungs or some other of the comparatively ordinary maladies.

A report comes from Mito that a suspicious-looking bacillus has been found there in the bodies of dead rats. We are not sufficiently familiar with the subject to be able to estimate the significance of a "suspicious-looking bacillus," but we find it difficult to conceive that the Pest should have made its way so far north as Mito without invading any place *en route*.

THE MITSU BISHI BANK.

The accounts of the Mitsu Bishi for the second half of 1899 show the following figures :—

	Yen.
Gross Profits	825 716
Brought forward from last account	766 874
Total	1,592.590
Expenditure and Losses	668,014
Net Profit	924.576
Dividend	50,000
Carried to next account	874,576

This statement has attracted considerable attention as showing the extraordinarily conservative character of the Bank. With a net profit of 157,702 *yen* for the half year, only 50,000 *yen*, or less than one-third of the total, is taken for dividend, and the remaining 107,702 *yen* is carried over to the next half-year, so that the accumulated profits now aggregate 874,576 *yen*. Such methods can not fail to obtain public confidence, and that they have attained it is shown by the amount of the Bank's deposits as compared with those of any other institution in Japan :—

Deposits.	Yen.
First Bank	1.452,500
Third Bank	3 376 355
Fifteenth Bank	9.109.577
Twentieth Bank	1,177.292
Twenty-seventh Bank	1,044,106
One hundredth Bank	5.208 195
Mitsu Bishi Bank	10.411,688
Mitsui Bank	8 518 010
Yasuda Bank	7.874,692
Imperial Industrial Bank	7,848.772

These figures are made up to the 13th instant. It is noted with regard to the Mitsu Bishi Bank that it has been chosen as the depository of the two million *yen* put up by the American firm interested in the Tobacco Trust of Murai Brothers.

For the convenience of soldiers in South Africa, a "Field Correspondence Book" has been invented by a London Wesleyan minister. It consists of a batch of perforated sheets in card covers, and gummed so as easily to be made up in a letter. The Queen's printers are supplying the books, which have been welcomed by the War Office authorities.

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"SOLICITED RELICS OF JAPANESE ART."

The second part of this magnificent publication has now appeared, and will be heartily welcomed by all lovers of Japanese art, or, indeed, of art to whatever nation or clime it belongs. The editor, Mr. Tajima, has changed his plan of procedure, as the following notice shows:—

In the introductory notes to the first volume we stated that in arrangement we should observe the following general order: 1. chromo-xylographs, 2. photographs from statues and paintings of sacred Buddhist subjects, 3. works illustrating the history of Buddhism, 4. portraits and paintings of landscape or natural objects, 5. architecture, mostly from Buddhistic temples. But we now think it better to arrange all the reproductions according to the dates of the originals. As to some of uncertain date we follow the general opinion of connoisseurs. The order in the last 500 copies of the first volume has been altered according to this plan. Purchasers of the earlier copies will receive gratis the new list of contents at the completion of the publication.

Opinions many differ as to the wisdom of this change. Of course, the ideal arrangement would be to have each subject treated separately and chronologically, so as to exhibit its gradual development on independent lines. But we admit that the method now chosen by Mr. Tajima has many advantages, and, at all events, there is no room for criticism in the presence of this beautiful and most attractive volume. It contains 39 full page pictures, five of which are chromo-xylographs and the remainder collotypes. They range from the celebrated mural paintings of Horiuji, to some of the master-pieces of Kano Tanyu and Ito Zyaku-chu. Several works by great Chinese artists are shown. They add much to the interest of the collection and assist the reader to trace the immense, the dominant, influence, that Chinese art exercised in some spheres of Japanese. We observe that Mr. Tajima has no hesitation in tracing the mural paintings of Horiuji to a Korean. That is the tradition, undoubtedly, but it is a tradition that we have never been able to credit in the complete absence of any evidence that works of similar merit were ever executed by Korean artists in their own country. The same readiness to accept tradition has led to a theory that many of the noblest glyptic specimens of the Tempyo and Nara epochs were the work of experts from the neighbouring continent. But is it not difficult to suppose that if Chinese and Korean artists possessed this admirable skill, they never exercised it in their own countries? Before the Chinese painter we bow with all reverence. He had no equal, in some respects, the world over. But why should the only great sculptors that China or Korea ever produced, have come to Japan and bequeathed to this country the unique results of their genius? That is the question we have to answer before we accept the doctrine that the noblest master-pieces of ancient Japan were from foreign hands. When anything comparable is found in China and Korea, there will be less difficulty in applying this doctrine of oversea provenance to the genius that enriched the temples of antique Japan. However, without pursuing that difficult question, we confine ourselves to saying that this volume, which owes, perhaps, as much to the beauties of Mr. Ogawa's photography as to the discriminating choice made by its editor and his excellent descriptions—concise yet full of information—will be a revelation to many whose acquaintance with Japanese art has been confined to the *Ijin-muki-shina* seen in the Settlement marts and to the specimens displayed at the periodical exhibitions of "art industry." We heartily congratulate all those concerned in the work, not forgetting the Tokyo Tsukiji Type Foundry, which has done the printing in admirable style. Some of the English composition of Volume I. was open to criticism, but no fault whatever can be found with Volume II. on that score.

FORMOSA.

Monday, Jan. 15.

Formosa is again unquiet. The telegraph recently reported that a raid had been made by Formosan bandits upon the local office at Mato and that they carried off a sum of over 3,000 *yen*. Their success appears to have inspired imitators, for it is now stated that no less than three localities in the south of the island are in a disturbed condition, and that the authorities contemplate what is called a *dai-sōji*, or big cleansing. There have been many *dai-sōji* already, but the cobwebs of lawlessness and disaffection seem to accumulate almost as rapidly as ever after the operations. There is something amiss. Persons who have a right to be considered competent judges say that the Japanese are attempting an impossible task—impossible, that is to say, unless it is to be consummated by measures of extermination which can not be seriously contemplated. The Japanese are trying to organize an efficient system of government without the cōoperation of the local Chinese. That is certainly not what the British would do had they to deal with similar conditions, and the British have been fairly successful in their methods of colonial government. The Japanese seem determined to discover a new route to salvation, and while we have respect for their ability to solve problems of finance and administration generally, we can not but think that to follow the well-trodden path of precedent would make for the greatest happiness of the greatest number in Formosa.

Thursday, Jan. 18.

The rebels of Formosa have the credit of devising one of the quaintest reasons hitherto advanced in justification of insurrection. They applied to the Japanese Authorities for a loan of 40 rifles, and, on being refused, announced their intention of attacking the local office. They had not carried out their threat at the date of latest advices, but the neighbourhood of Ako, where they have their habitation, is said to be in a very disturbed condition. It is a mixed story, and we strongly suspect that it was the peace-loving section of the people who asked for the rifles to protect themselves against the bandits.

Considerable success seems to be attending the Japanese Government's experiment of enrolling its Formosan subjects for military service. The plan is to take the men in a tentative way at first, and if, after a certain period of trial, they give promise of justifying permanent employment, they will be duly drafted into the corps which has acted as their training school. The first announcement of the project did not elicit much response, but when the time came for closing the list, there was a rush of applicants, and the Authorities had ample latitude of choice. Two hundred and seventy-five have been enrolled, 100 for the First Brigade, 80 for the Second, and 95 for the Third.

KOREA.

Various rumours are circulated about Korean affairs. They are based on the fact that Mr. Kim Jo-il has been despatched on a secret mission to St. Petersburg. Some say that Kim is authorized to ask for a Russian guard of from three thousand to ten thousand troops, who shall be stationed in Korea; others, that all the coast from Hangyondo to Chollado is to be thrown open, Russia receiving two or three ports there; others that a loan is to be sought from Russia, one of the Korean provinces being pledged as security, and so forth and so on. We need scarcely say that none of these tales can be considered worthy of credence.

Another and less sensational statement is to the effect that the Russian local Authorities have been approached with reference to the fishery privileges enjoyed by Japanese subjects in Russian waters. At present a Japanese has to pay 7 roubles for a license which a Russian can procure for 5, and the right of priority is also given to the Russian in all cases. The Japanese Government naturally desires to obtain equal privileges for its people.

It appears that the Minister of Foreign Affairs is to be the object of attack by the Progressists so soon as the Diet opens. A series of questions are to be propounded by the Progressists—what steps are contemplated with regard to the Sōul-Fusan Railway, one half of the time covered by the concession having already expired; what measures are adopted for promoting the interests and protecting the lives and property of the twenty thousand Japanese subjects now in Korea; what is the state of affairs with regard to Masampo: how Japanese fishery rights in Korean waters are guaranteed; what is being done to further the progress of military organization in China; why no steps are taken to assist the development of Japan's newly acquired settlements in China; whether, in view of the activity shown by European Powers in obtaining privileges in China, precautions are adopted to guarantee Japan's interests, and so on. In fact the Progressists seem disposed to open up the whole question of the Cabinet's policy *vis-à-vis* China and Korea. It is supposed, we presume, that some good results will ensue from this process of questioning, but generally the business seems to end in a mere interchange of generalities and bootless protests.

The present idea with regard to the Sōul-Fusan Railway is to get the Government to guarantee 5 per cent. interest on the capital—25 million *yen*—and to raise the money abroad, the Japanese shareholders taking one tenth of the amount by paying up 5 *yen* on each 50-*yen* share. The *Asahi Shimbun* insists that the Treasury would be put to very little expense by this arrangement, as each section of the line would certainly pay immediately on being opened.

The projectors of the Sōul-Fusan Railway, headed by Messrs. Shibusawa Eiichi

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and other prominent men, have put up a sum of sixty thousand *yen*, and are resolved to proceed with the preliminary surveys, so that they may have definite bases for an appeal to public opinion in Japan. The Government shows much disinclination to assume any financial responsibility in connexion with the line, and without some sort of guarantee for the Treasury, there is, of course, very little hope of obtaining the necessary capital.

THE KOBE WATER WORKS LOAN.

Vernacular newspapers announce that the efforts of Mr. Yamamoto, President of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce, to effect a compromise in the matter of the loan of one million *yen* contracted for by Mr. J. R. Morse for the use of the Water-works, have proved unsuccessful, and that nothing now remains except to carry the case into Court. We sincerely trust that no such suicidal course will be adopted. The facts of the complication, so far as we are familiar with them—and we have every reason to believe our knowledge accurate—do not leave room for the remotest doubt that right is on the side of Mr. Morse, and that if the question be carried before a legal tribunal, and thus submitted to the verdict of the public, incalculable injury will be done to Japanese credit. We do not mean to suggest for an instant that the Kobe Authorities acted deliberately in bad faith. On the contrary, we are quite persuaded that their intentions throughout were perfectly straightforward and upright. But they made an agreement which they could not obtain official *sanction* to implement, and if they attempt to enforce one side of the covenant after failing to carry out their own, the consequences will be serious for their reputation. We speak without favour or partiality, and of course we do not pretend that our judgment is infallible. But we have no hesitation in saying that the facts as we know them are incontrovertible, and that we should be acting a very unfriendly part to the Japanese if we failed to warn them of the impression that must be produced on foreign opinion by carrying this affair into the law courts.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture telegraphs that a hundred Korean castaways have reached Obama in Wakasa. No other particulars are given.

Two appeals made by foreign merchants of Yokohama against decisions of the Customs Authorities in matters of tariff, have been decided against the appellants by the Finance Department. The first related to the import duty on combs; the second to that on Italian cloth.

There is talk, apparently authentic, of Count Matsukata's making a trip to Europe and America after the Diet rises next month. It is added that His Excellency will conduct investigations into the financial administration of the various Courts of Europe during his tour.

The keen competition that has been carried on for some time between the Osaka Shosen Kwaisha and the Douglas S.S. Company on the Formosa-Amoy line, has terminated in the withdrawal of the Douglas Company. So, at least, Japanese newspapers affirm, and they add that the Douglas Company has offered its steamers for sale to the Osaka firm.

The Welcome Society has issued a beautiful New Year's souvenir in the shape of a miniature desk screen, decorated with chrysanthemums on one leaf and cherries on the other. The drawing and colouring of the pictures are excellent.

Last year, the great Mitsui firm sent abroad ten students to study the commercial conditions existing in China. This year, ten more are to be sent. They must be graduates of a Middle School, or of some institution having a corresponding educational status.

The Directors of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha are about to ask the shareholders' permission to raise the capital of the company to eleven millions of *yen*, and to sanction the raising of 2 millions on debentures. They also propose to establish branch offices in Takow and the Pescadores.

We have received the Calendar of the Alliance Marine and General Assurance Company, which has its head office in Chapel Court, London, was founded in 1824, is represented in Yokohama by Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, and has for President the Right Hon. Lord Rothschild.

It is stated that the Budget Committee of the House of Peers has now completed its investigations, and that the House will be advised to pass the Budget in the form of its adoption by the Representatives without any amendments. If so, the Government will be able to congratulate itself on having carried its financial measures with unprecedented ease.

We observe with satisfaction that the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Chuo Shimbun* combine to inaugurate a vehement campaign against the officials charged with the management of Tokyo's municipal affairs. They call the capital nothing but a huge country village, and declare that its condition is a disgrace—criticisms which no one can deny.

Under the heading "Important Instructions to Mr. Hayashi," the *Japan Herald* publishes what professes to be a verbatim transcript of instructions given to Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister to Korea. The story is a pure invention, and we can not but express astonishment that statements which obviously carry their own refutation should have been thus deliberately advanced as genuine.

We are asked to give notice that there will be a slow bicycle run to Ichikawa and back—the round journey making about 20 miles, on Saturday, the 20th. Any lady or gentleman desiring to join is cordially invited. The start will be from No. 8, Tsukiji, at 2 p.m. sharp. On the following Saturday (27th), there will be a run from Yokohama to Tokyo, starting from Yokohama Station at precisely 2 o'clock.

According to Japanese journals the arrangements for the tobacco trust in Kyoto are now complete. The capital is to be 10 million *yen*, of which the American firm puts up one half. Mr. Murai Kichibei will be the head of the concern in Japan, with a salary of thirty thousand *yen* annually, and there will be an American business manager and a Japanese business manager. This is the first example of a big combination between foreigners and Japanese for commercial purposes, and the course of the experiment will be watched very closely.

We learn that Mr. A. R. Brown is on his way out to Japan. The news will be welcome to his many friends. A number of years have passed since he left Japan, and during that time he has acted as the chief agent of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha in England, adding always to the high reputation he already possessed as a competent man of business.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a telegram from Söul which says that the Korean Budget for the next financial year shows an expenditure of 6,900,000 *yen* and an income of only 5,200,000 *yen*. There is no apparent means of making good the deficiency, and it has therefore been decided to abandon or suspend all the new undertakings. Korean finance must be very badly managed if only five hundred thousand pound sterling can be obtained annually for the uses of the State. We presume that this deficiency is responsible for the rumours recently circulated as to an application from Söul to St. Petersburg for a loan.

Reports of heavy snow-falls come from Naoyetsu and Iwate. In the former prefecture interruption of railway traffic and the derailing of a train took place on the 15th instant, but there do not appear to have been any accidents to life or limb. In Iwate the date of the fall was the 10th instant. The snow is said to have accumulated to a depth of 4 feet, a fall unprecedented for many years. Roofs were crushed and telegraphs broken. The Governor's message—delayed, doubtless, owing to the latter cause—says that investigations are in progress to ascertain the amount of damage.

We invite our readers' attention to the fact that a charity concert is to be given in the Central Tabernacle, Tokyo, on the evening of the 20th instant, and that the proceeds will be applied to the work of the Tabernacle. We have so often alluded to this institution and the admirable work done by it that no further description is now necessary. From the advertisement which we publish elsewhere, it will be seen that the Meiji Ongakukai furnishes most of the programme, assisted by Mr. Cowan, Mr. Gauntlett, Mr. Nishi of the Imperial Household Department, and others.

According to the *Asahi Shimbun*, there is a strong tendency among the Liberals to reorganise the Party with Marquis Ito for President and Count Itagaki for Vice-President. This idea is said to be favoured alike by Mr. Hoshi Toru and Mr. Hayashi Yuzo; in other words, it has the approval of the rival sections. Very likely it has, but we can not choose but smile at these re-iterated projects for disposing of Marquis Ito. Their details vary in a not uninteresting manner, but their results have a wearisome sameness—Marquis Ito won't.

We learn from the *Jiji Shimpo* that of the 12 Torpedo-destroyers ordered by Japan in accordance with the *post-bellum* programme, six have already joined her navy, and five others will very soon arrive. Among the latter, the *Akebono* has nearly completed her outward voyage; the *Sasa-*

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nami, when last heard of, was in the Indian Ocean: the *Kaguro* had reached Perim; the *Oboro* was preparing to leave England, and the *Niji* was almost ready to be handed over to the crew sent to navigate her out. The *Usugumo* alone will be a little delayed.

The *Fiji Shimpo* says that the Russian Authorities have made application to the Foreign Office in Tokyo with the object of ascertaining whether and on what terms Japanese labour could be obtained for the construction of the East China Railway—*i.e.* the line through Manchuria to Port Arthur. The Foreign Office is reported to have replied that there would probably be no difficulty in obtaining labour, but that, as to terms, the best plan will be to ascertain them in the localities whence the labour is drawn. It will be a curious turn of the wheel of fate if the Japanese lend practical assistance to secure Russia in the occupation of the territories from which this country was ousted by the same Russia four years ago.

There appears to be quite a strong agitation against the Government's proposed amendment of the Game Law. A meeting of persons interested in the pursuit and preservation of game was held on the 11th instant in Tokyo, and was attended by representatives from shooting clubs all over the empire. About a thousand were present, and the unanimity of their proceedings amounted to a very pronounced demonstration. They want to have the present game law not only left unaltered but also strictly enforced. We have not heard what is the nature of the changes contemplated by the Government, but we presume that the matter will be re-considered in view of this protest on the part of persons who must be presumed to have an intimate knowledge of the subject.

Interviewed by a representative of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, the Prime Minister states that he has no intention of resigning at present. From the time that he accepted office, he has always been ready to resign at any moment should it appear that he was occupying the post to the exclusion of younger and abler men. But it does not seem that there is any one to-day ready to accept the responsibility of leading the Cabinet, and, until such a person presents himself, the Marquis deems it his duty to discharge the functions entrusted to him by the Sovereign. The legislation successfully carried through the thirteenth session of the Diet was of a nature to place the programmes of Army and Navy Expansion on a sure footing, and it is now the Prime Minister's desire to push the solution of the religions' problem to an equally thorough solution.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* advances a singular statement. It says that the object of the Minister of Education in issuing his celebrated instruction with reference to religious teaching in private schools was to embarrass the schools of the Greek and Protestant Episcopalian persuasions, rather than to put obstacles in the way of the schools of other sects, which, by comparison, are approved. But the practical operation of the instruction has defeated that purpose, for the faculties of the Greek and Protestant Episcopalian institutions have adroitly contrived to evade the veto, by making their religious teaching an individual matter, outside of school hours and courses, whereas the others, more honest—"foolishly honest" is the exact expression—have closed their schools in despair, or are preparing to close them. Where is the rationale of such talk? How can it be imagined that the Minister of Education expected his instruction to have discriminating effects in favour of one sect against another.

It is stated that a machine for making Japanese paper has been invented. The process at present adopted is to dip a sieve into the lye, of which a sufficient thickness is thus detached. The sieve is then dried, and the paper is removed sheet by sheet, hand-labour alone being employed. This is the *tegoshi-kami*, or hand-sieved paper, sold as *hanshi* and *minogami*. The new machine dispenses with hand-labour. It draws a band, 6 sheets in width for *hanshi* and 5 sheets for *mino-gami*, to a length of 360 yards, and the result is a cheapening of manufacture by 25 per cent. The inventors are Mr. Iwade Tosui, a mechanical engineer who has been educated in the United States, and Mr. Hirai Nakakichi, a working artizan. They have taken out patents, and talk of organizing a company with a capital of half a million *yen*.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Out of the Nest; *A Flight of Verses*: by Mary McNeil Fenollosa.

THIS book has given us almost unalloyed pleasure. We do not say absolutely unalloyed pleasure, because Mrs. Fenollosa has two moods, and both are not equally attractive. She sometimes paints word pictures in the style of Swinburne, and sometimes chooses the limpid simplicity of Longfellow. We prefer her greatly in the latter vein. Swinburne is gifted with power to show a gleam of rainbow thought reflected among the threads of a rushing cascade of words, the glory of the idea and the swirl of the language enhancing, not confusing, each other's effects. But even Swinburne is occasionally turgid and not always free from artificiality. We find the same defects in Mrs. Fenollosa's Swinburnian verses. For example:—

"Sing me a song of the human soul,
Bound fast to a rolling year,
The living breath of a baffled death,
The wick of a rimless sphere;
Great memories writ on a fading scroll,
Pale pangs of a nameless need!
Sing me a song of the human soul!"—
I gave him a lotos seed.

We have the torrent of words here, but not the rainbow of thought. At all events, if it be there, the colours escape ordinary observation, for, look as closely as we may, "the wick of a rimless sphere" conveys nothing to our understanding, and we can not but wish that whatever is "writ on the fading scroll" were indited a little more lucidly. Turn, however, to Mrs. Fenollosa in her other mood, and see how delightful she can be:—

ENVY.

They laid her in that narrow, sunken bed,
Fair daughter—sister—bride,
And I—unloving and unwed,
I stood beside.

The piteous cries of those assembled near
But mocked her peace.
I thought, "Alas! were I but lying there,
All tears would cease."

I almost hated her, that she should lie
So mute and still,
Filling a grave she could not crave, that I
So longed to fill.

They left her there, beneath the flowers' perfume,
Hallowed f·rever more.
I crept back to my solitary room,
And locked the door.

As an expression of simple, unaffected pathos this seems to us most effective. The lines have a sound of genuine suffering. And again this, the last poem in the volume:—

THREE WOMEN.

I know three women. One is brave, and strong
To lift calm eyes beside her chosen king.
Upward they toil, nor scornful whispering,
Nor dull indifference, nor suffered wrong.
Can baulk their striving; but, the way is long.
The next is wild and free; and, as a wing
May cleave the azure of a prairie's ring,
Her mateless soul would cleave the rim of song.
The third is gentle, hushed in quiet needs,
A brooding bird among the water-reeds.
Love is her heaven; and, where it mirrored lies,
Lean the blue blossoms of her children's eyes.
"Clear types," you say, "and strangely set apart."
Look deeper, friend, 'tis but one woman's heart.

Do not these verses come straight from the heart? If they are inspired by the mere romance of the singer, she has a wonderful insight and a wonderful power of seeming to take the reader into her confidence.

Apart from its purely poetic merits this little volume has a special interest for us in Japan. Mrs. Fenollosa's sojourn in Tokyo has suggested thoughts which find expression in several of her pages. She gives us a few verses "from the Japanese"—verses deliciously turned though not easily identifiable. Two of them, however, are perfect in their way; true reflections of those swift, delicate little sketches, those fragments of fancy, which constitute the bulk of Japanese poetry:—

PARTING.

(*From the Japanese*)

That night we met, to meet no more,
The very moonbeams listened.
Was it the dew upon her sleeve?
Or tears,—or tears that glistened?

A FRIEND.

(*After the Japanese*)

The drooping plum-tree meekly bears
The snows that mock her coming bloom.
But, ah, her friend, the nightingale,
Leaps to her bough, and sings perfume.

We must confine ourselves to two more quotations from among many pieces of varying beauty:—

TO A JAPANESE LADY OF HIGH RANK.

Fragile waxen dream of woman,
Cold, inscrutable, unhuman;
Ivory skin too dense for veining,
Hair like deepest shade remaining,
Tiny lips gold-tipped with silence,
Sealed to feminine beguilance;

I can dream that men may love thee.
But will all their loving move thee?
Can a heart sincere or tender
Beat beneath that garment's splendor?
Rich with gold the gorgeous sheathing;
Is it warm above thy breathing?

Art thou made of dew, and shimmer
Of the moon where snow crests glimmer?
Wrought of pure and scentless flowers
Stilled in hush of starlit hours;
More than these, the smile mysterious
'Neath the level lids imperious.

THE SAMISEN

Pensive she marks them as they go,
Her mother, sisters,—all
With happy heart and voice to join
The village festival.
Meek were the looks O Kiku wore
At time of starting, when
She plead to stay, that she might play
Her little samisen,
Plink! Plunk!
Her little samisen.

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Alone within the quiet home,
Her samisen on knees,
She bends a tiny listening ear
To tune its vibrant keys.
She sings a lay of chivalry,
Of spring, of flowers, and then
A song of love she breathes above
Her little samisen,
Plink! Plunk!
Her little samisen.

The bamboo fence is thick and tall,
The gates are all of stone.
Besides, how could young Tora know
That she sang there alone?
Yet wondrous are the ways of maids,
And stranger those of men.
In little space, a boyish face
Bends o'er her samisen,
Plink! Plunk!
Her little samisen.

And life holds love in harmony
Until the scrape and clack
Of sandals at the outer door
Proclaim the revellers back.
And, coming in the room, they see,
As modest as a wren,
O Kiku fair, a playing there
Her lonely samisen,
Plink! Plunk!
Her little samisen.

The Nonsense Blue Book; London, *The London Letter* Office.

THE *London Letter* has re-printed, in book form, the "lear-ics" which appeared in its pages from time to time during the past year. The resulting "Nonsense Blue Book" is capital fooling, and that it is appreciated by the British public appears plain from the fact of its having already run through four editions. Of course the fun of the "skits" depends to a considerable extent on the illustrations, but even without seeing the picture of the stolid, imperturbable John Bull, who, seated on a box containing his "policy," is shrieked at, raged at, and stormed at by furious foreigners, one can laugh at such a verse as :—

"There was an old insular sage,"
"Who grew cusseder still in old age;"
"When they shrieked 'Are you dumb?'"
"He only said, 'Hum!'"
"Till they burbled and blithered with rage."

There is a page that our American friends also will appreciate. It represents Uncle Sam performing a *pas seul* on a particularly ricketty chair. He wears a garment made of stars-and-stripes stuff, and a waistcoat on which are embroidered "Cuba, Philippines." Two of the usual Book-of-Nonsense type of individuals are pointing at him wonderingly, and the legend runs :—

"There was a young man of the West,
"Who tried on a colonial vest;
"When they said, 'Does it fit?'
"He replied, 'Wait a bit,
"I guess it ain't had a fair test."

England and China of course find a place in the volume. A daily paper having stated that "British claims at the present day are greeted with roars of laughter by the Tsungli Yamen," the "Nonsense Blue Book" remarks, underneath a picture of Lord Salisbury presenting a copy of the Anglo-Russian Agreement to a crowd of laughing Chinamen :—

"There was an old Downing-street Derry,
"Who loved to see Chinamen merry;
"So he showed them a book
"And with laughter they shook
"At the claims of that Downing-street Derry."

Scenes du Theatre Japonais; Tokyo, Mr. Hasegawa.

DR. KARL FLORENZ, Professor in the Imperial University of Japan, has added another to his many admirable works illustrating the literature and customs of the Japanese nation. He has translated the celebrated drama, *Tera-Koya*. This is probably one of the most harrowing pieces ever put upon the stage. It involves the sacrifice of a child of nine with the consent of his mother in order to save from the same fate the son of Fujiwara no Michizane, and it involves the identification of the little fellow's head by his own father who has planned the sacrifice. Japan saw many inexpressibly cruel events in ancient times, when the terrible system of "comprehensive punishment" prevailed, wives and children suffering the same fate as their husbands and fathers, and when fealty to a liege lord required that a vassal should subject all his natural affections to the stern sense of duty. When one sees the Japanese of our own day, living quiet peaceful lives, busied chiefly with ledgers and factories, and devoted to the study of science and philosophy, it is easy to forget the sufferings and sacrifices they had to endure not so many years ago. We sometimes wonder whether their sympathies were not permanently seared by the often-applied iron of pain, and whether generations of close association with the cruellest trials have not produced a congenital callousness euphemistically termed *sang-froid*. It is not certain whether the incidents represented in the *Tera-Koya* are historical, but every Japanese recognises that they might have occurred, and fidelity to possibilities is all that is required of a drama. Dr. Florenz has done his work as a translator with great skill—if we may be permitted to express an opinion. He has preserved the form of the original without adhering to the idiom, as some translators are irrational enough to do. The result is a simple, forceful, and highly artistic rendering, which, we venture to predict, few will be able to read with dry eyes. The book is beautifully printed and illustrated, and does much credit to the publisher, Mr. Hasegawa. The cover is particularly pleasing, being in the genuine *Kōrin* style of decoration. We strongly recommend the volume to any one interested in the Japanese drama, and who is not?

"The Chillingfield Chronicles," Miss Helène Gingold's latest work, will be published by Mr. Fisher Unwin. It is a presentation of English life during the reign of Queen Anne. The story is told by an English country gentleman of good family, and the record of his life and the lives of those near and dear to him is drawn against a background of the frivolous, fashionable life of the period. The central figure, however, of the story is not the teller of it, but the heroine Dimondo Verulam, whose acquaintance the narrator, Francis Chillingfield, makes when quite a youth. She grows up peerless in beauty and wit; the theme of the story is her various love affairs, or rather the love affairs of those who fall in love with her. Although primarily a character study, the novel, nevertheless, deals copiously in incident and exciting adventure, and is the most complete, as it is the most extensive, effort Miss Gingold has yet accomplished. The volume is to contain a photogravure portrait of the authoress.

IMPERIAL DIET.

MONDAY, JAN. 15TH.

The House of Peers did not meet.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at the usual time and sat for two and a half hours, but the proceedings were without special interest. A Question having been presented by one of the members with regard to the number of judges of the Administrative Court, the following business was transacted :—

BILLS HANDED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

A Bill for expediting the construction of railways required for strategical purposes.

A Bill (private) for extending the scope of the law relating to Associations of Dealers in principal Staples of Export.

A Bill (Government) for amending the Law relating to Pawnbrokers, in the sense of bringing it into uniformity with the Civil Code.

A Bill (private) for amending the Barristers Law.

A Bill (private) for amending the Law of Election. This Bill is framed in opposition to the Government's proposal that additional representation should be given to urban populations. Mr. Nemoto, the introducer of the Bill, spoke at great length in support of it, but the House paid little, if any, attention to him.

A Bill (sent down from the Upper House) for amending the Law relating to defaulting tax-payers.

A Representation urging that an additional grant of fifty thousand *yen* be made to pay the expenses of merchants and manufacturers visiting the French Exhibition.

BILLS PASSED.

Bill for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases among Cattle.

Representation in favour of increasing the grant made by the Treasury for purposes of riparian works. The grant has hitherto averaged from 2½ to 3½ million *yen* annually, but it has suddenly been cut down to 1½ millions.

Representation in favour of establishing a High School in Shikoku, where, with a population of 3 millions and a large number of lads gradulating every year at Middle Schools, there is not one High School.

On Thursday's proceedings in the Diet were of the tame, uninteresting character which has now become habitual. Various Government Bills relating to amendments of the Postal and Telegraph Regulations, the Drugs Regulations, and Expenditures over and above the Budgetary appropriations for the current fiscal year, were handed to Special Committees. The only measures that provoked any discussion were two Representations, one urging that a grand combination of State and private railways should be made under official control; the other, that a High Commercial School projected by the Government should be established in Osaka, not in Hyogo. The former Representation was handed to a Special Committee, but the latter was rejected by the slender majority of one, 70 voting for it and 71 against it.

YOKOHAMA ENGINE AND IRON WORKS, LTD.

The usual half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works, Ltd., took place on Monday at 3 o'clock in Keil's Building. Mr. J. F. Lowder occupied the chair and there were present, Messrs. F. S. James J. Johnstone, A. Woolley, B. Gillet, C. Braccialini J. Dodds, C. Guissani, G. Philip, E. B. S. Edwards and W. Friedlander, Sec.

The Chairman addressed the meeting, saying that although their regulations did not require it, the accounts had been printed for convenience sake and were laying before them. They would see from the accounts that everything was in a satisfactory condition, and the Directors took great pleasure in declaring an interim dividend of *yen* 10 per share.

No questions being asked, the meeting adjourned.

Lieut. Edward Taylor, 12th U.S. Infantry, died from injuries sustained on the railway at Paniqui on the 25th December. Scared by an approaching train, his horse bolted across the line, and threw him in front of the train. His skull was fractured and his right arm cut off. He leaves a widow and one child.

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DEATH AND LIFE.

IT has been asserted by a learned authority that there are creatures which never die. That startling allegation is founded on the fact that death is a destruction of cöordination among the cellular elements. Hence an unicellular organism does not die. There is no cöordination and there can be no destruction of it. The single cell merely divides, after a certain time, into two parts, each of which goes on living, and each of which divides again in due season, so that there are four living cells where there was originally only one, the process being repeated *ad infinitum*. Such was the theory enunciated by Dr. WEISMANN of Friburg. Reason revolts against it, and one is not surprised to find that later authorities condemned it, their view being that the process of division ultimately gives rise to imperfect individuals which are incapable of reproducing themselves, and so the inevitable corpse makes its appearance after all. But this does not disturb the definition of death, namely, that it is a destruction of the cöordination of cellular elements, for even in the case of the unicellular organism, death results from the destruction of the cell's correspondence with the nutritive elements in the surrounding medium. Dr. LEON MEUNIER, who has recently written about these questions, re-adopts the old formula that at death the soul separates from the body. The soul, we gather from his view, is the will, and "death begins with a condition of the organs which renders them incapable of following and manifesting their master's will;" in other words "death becomes definitive when the cellular elements, profoundly altered, are postively unable to obey any longer," But what, then, becomes of the will? And what is the will? Dr. MEUNIER makes no attempt to answer these questions. On the other hand, Professor LOEB, of the University of California, claims to have discovered the way of producing life. He has chemically fertilized the eggs of sea-urchins and has hatched these fertilized eggs. The feat was achieved by subjecting the unfertilized eggs to a solution of sodium and magnesium. It follows that the union of two elements is not necessary for reproduction: any cell may divide and reproduce. In fact, we learn that an immaculate conception is not a miracle at all. Professor LOEB says, "We have drawn a great step nearer to the chemical theory of life, and may already see ahead of us the day when a scientist, experimenting with chemicals in a test-tube, may see them unite and form a substance which shall live and move and reproduce itself. It will be the first protoplasmic cell, the origin of all life, which was produced in the test-tube of nature ages ago by the union, in the course of the world's evolution, of the same chemical substances with which he will have worked." In this theory we lose sight of the soul altogether. It does not come in.

COUNT INOUYE ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

(CONCLUDED).

RAILWAYS, TRANSPORT, AND SPINNING.

The Japanese loan bonds floated on the London market this year amount to 10 million pounds face value, but the actual receipts do not exceed £8,600,000. Of this amount some portions were brought home in cash, some were deposited with the Bank of England and the Specie Bank, some transferred to the Indemnity account some appropriated for the purchase of debentures issued by the Treasury of England, and the remainder reserved for future calls with regards to warships. From these facts I may infer that a balance of about three million *yen* may remain available for domestic use. Under these circumstances how is the basis of national economy to be consolidated? How is the credit of the nation to be placed on a sounder basis? In the present condition of affairs the bankers are engaged in lending money on security rather than in the legitimate functions of their profession. Yet the circumstances justify their conduct, for commerce is not in a position at present to command credit. The mortgage of public loan bonds and industrial shares is thus made absolutely necessary. Even these are liable to fluctuation. Railway dividends are extremely irregular, the rate varying from 4 to 10 per cent., and there is no guarantee of steadiness from year to year. An increase of public confidence in commercial shares is a matter of great moment. Facilities of transport must be improved. There is no proper connection at present between land and sea. Look at Yokohama and Kobe. The former indeed has a railway near the harbour, but any cargo landed at the Customs House has to be transported to the station by means of *jinrikisha* or drays. Neither is there storage room at the station. Such cargo takes almost two weeks after it is landed to reach Tokyo. The inconvenience is much more serious in Kobe. From 1897 to the autumn of 1899 losses incurred in connexion with landing goods (especially cotton). through fire, gale, or flood, have, I was informed at Kobe, amounted to no less than 2 million *yen* in value. Again, in transporting raw cotton from Kobe to Osaka, the same is inspected at the Custom House, stored in warehouses, and then shipped to Osaka. The expenses resulting from these tedious processes of transport are estimated to be from 45 *sen* to 50 *sen* for each bale of three piculs. With reference to Osaka it is also to be noticed that the price of coal is extremely high, owing probably to excessive rates of of freight. The freights from Moji or Wakamatsu to Osaka are the same as those to Hongkong and Singapore. Why? After I inspected the harbour building works in progress, I proceeded to the upper Ajikawa, where I was surprised at finding a large number of ships on both sides. On enquiry I was informed these ships were all laden with coal. I was reminded that Osaka does not possess a coal depot, and is compelled to use ships instead. Vessels carrying coal from Moji or Wakamatsu must therefore spend forty days on the average before they return to the ports mentioned, and about ten days are sacrificed in performing duty as a coal depot. The prices of commodities can not be lowered while facilities of transport remain as imperfect as at present. Now as to spinning: it is not altogether improbable that an American Trust will establish a factory somewhere in Chefoo. How will it be possible to export Japanese cottons to China in face of this competition? The introduction of foreign capital and the assistance of the Government can only effect this object.

CHINA.

Attention to the Chinese markets is also as necessary as the adjustment of domestic industrial conditions. Japanese business men are very little in evidence in China. This is not because of the inefficiency of our diplomacy, but to the want of enterprise on the part of our commercial classes. The merchants in China are unworthy to be called merchants; their transactions are petty. In the case of England, the efforts of merchants precede action by the Government. Representations are made to the Government by business men or corporations, such as the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, or the China Association, or Jardine, Matheson & Co., urging the Government to secure railway and mining, concessions, &c. The English Government then gives instructions to its representative in Peking to open negotiations with the Chinese Government for attaining the object in view. But in the case of the Japanese no such representations have ever been forwarded. If Japan wishes to keep pace with other nations her business community must prove more alive to its opportunities.

INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL.

The idea was formerly entertained that the revision of the treaties and the opening of the country to mixed residence would have the effect of inducing foreigners to come to Japan to engage in various industrial enterprises and to buy land. Yet since the revised treaties came into operation no single instance of the purchase of land by foreigners has come to our notice. It was expected also that foreign money would flow into the country. The fact, however, has proved the contrary. Specie needed in the interior has had to be borrowed from abroad. The recent loan amounted to 100 million *yen*, for which 4 per cent. interest has to be paid annually. Four million *yen* in the form of such interest is therefore destined to go abroad irrespective of the balance of trade. There are, besides, consols and war bonds aggregating 43 millions of *yen*. on which interest to the amount of no less than 6 millions must also flow out of the country in specie every year. While such is the case views are still expressed by a majority condemning the foreign ownership of land and shares as detrimental to the interests of the country. The narrow-mindedness of the Japanese has prevented foreigners from investing their capital in industrial enterprises with any sense of surety; their disinclination to invest seems to be owing to their inability to acquire full rights over land in this country. The only way of introducing foreign capital therefore in the present condition of affairs, is by a loan. The abolition of extraterritoriality has really militated against the inflow of foreign funds. The interests of Japan demand that efforts should be made to secure intimate relations between the government and business community with a view to allowing foreigners to engage in any enterprise in the interior with the utmost confidence and safety. Unless such an arrangement be made in future, native capital alone can not achieve much. The Russian Minister of Finance, at a recent meeting of the Cabinet, showed in his speech that conditions in parts of Russia are somewhat analagous to those in which Japan is now placed. In the Caucasus territory, which is noted for the abundant production of petroleum, English capital is invested to a considerable amount. With unfriendly feelings towards the English some of the Russian Ministers attempted to put restrictions upon them with a view to preventing them engaging in any enterprise whatever. These steps, however, were vehemently opposed by Mr. de Witte, who insisted that Russia could not develope herself without having recourse to foreign capital. Sometime ago a certain Englishman wished to establish a factory in Nagoya for refining sugar cane from Formosa but he was deterred from doing so by his inability to acquire a superficies. If this factory had been established, Japan would have benefited to the extent of the outlay incurred in connexion with it, and the employment it afforded to labour. So long as

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the only means of introducing foreign capital is by obtaining a loan, it is hardly possible to strengthen the foundations of the national economy or to secure the systematic development of commerce and industry. The adoption of a more liberal policy is absolutely indispensible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PLAGUE OF 1665-79 AND OF 1899-1900.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Now that visits from Sanitary Inspectors are quite the order of the day in Tokyo, Yokohama, and the towns to the southward, it is interesting to turn up Defoe's wonderfully realistic "Journal of the Plague in London"—the Great Plague, the remembrance of which will never fade from the thoughts of Englishmen. Of course, it has now been fairly well established that the plague of Carolean times was similar to the dreadful Black Death of 1348, which wrought such havoc in England—carrying away half the population, it is computed—and the scars of which can be traced to this day in the names of some of the more ancient streets of hoary East Anglian towns. One thorough-fare in Ipswich to this day carries down a story of those dreadful days which all who run may read. For in it every one died, man, woman, and child, and when the visitation had passed, there were none to lay claim to either houses or chattels. So the worthy Port Reeve renamed the street as a remembrance, calling it Silent Street, by which name it is known even in this year of grace. Pest House Lane also bears witness to the plague in the same old town.

But the lessons taught by the Edwardian experiences had almost been forgotten by the time of Charles II., and for a little while the greatest panic prevailed in London. Then the *Lord Mayor* and Aldermen, as is their immemorial wont, bravely came to the front, and on July 21st, 1665, issued an admirable series of Sanitary Regulations which, at this time, read curiously in advance of the medical knowledge of the day, in their practical common-sense. After providing for Examiners, Searchers, Nurse-keepers, Watchmen, and Chirurgeons, it was enacted:—

> For better assistance of the searchers, forasmuch as there has been heretofore great abuse in misreporting the disease, to the further spreading of the infection, it is therefore ordered that there be chosen and appointed able and discreet chirurgeons besides those that do already belong to the pesthouse * * * and forasmuch as the said chirurgeons are to be sequestrated from all other cures, and kept only to this disease of the infection, it is ordered that every of the said chirurgeons shall have twelve-pence a body searched by them, etc.

It was further ordered that notice of the sickness must be reported by the master of a house within *two* hours; that the sick should be sequestrated from the healthy; but *not removed* from the house where they were taken ill; that all goods and apparel which should have come in contact with them be well-aired by *fire* before use again; and if possible entirely burnt; and that the dead should not be burned until after sun-setting. We know, too, that all infected houses were immediately shut up and their inhabitants were confined within, while on the doors was painted a red cross, a foot long, with the words, "Lord have mercy upon us," printed above. The surgeons and search parties all had to announce their official standing by carrying a red wand, three feet long, in their hands, as in Japan to-day visiting sanitary officials are wearing a yellow band around the arm or hat.

The orders for street cleansing were very stringent, every householder being obliged to cause "the street to be daily prepared before his door, and so to keep it clean swept all the week long." Every day these "rakings" were removed beyond the city limits. Public feasts and entertainments were entirely prohibited, and "no wandering beggars" were "suffered in the streets of this city in any fashion whatsoever." For some time, too, huge fires, some of coal, others of resinous or other perfumed woods, were lighted in the principal streets to further assist in the work of fumigation.

Defoe, quoting from contemporary records, speaks of similar cases to those which have recently occurred in Osaka, and which have so startled Japan. He writes:—

> Here, also, I ought to leave a further remark for the use of posterity, concerning the manner of people's infecting one another; namely, that it was not the sick people only from whom the plague was immediately received by others that were sound, but the well. . . . By the well I mean such as had received the contagion, and had it really upon them and in their blood, yet did not show the consequences of it in their countenances; nay, even were not sensible of it themselves, as many were not for several days. These *breathed* death in every place, and upon everybody that came near them. . . . These were the people that so often dropped down and fainted in the streets; for oftentimes they would go about the streets to the last, till on a sudden they would sweat, grow faint, sit down by a door, and die. It is true, finding themselves thus, they would struggle hard to get home to their own doors, or, at other times, would be just able to go into their houses and die instantly; other times they would go about till they had the very tokens come out upon them and yet not know it, and would die in an hour or two after they came home. . . . .These were the dangerous people.

The first manner of the plague's coming to London, to follow Defoe's quaint English, "was by goods brought over from Holland, and brought thither from the Levant." In the first house stricken died four persons. A visitor, hearing of the illness of the mistress of the house, called to see her, was infected, and died, as did all her household. "A Minister called in to pray with the first sick person in the second house sickened immediately and died, with several more in his house." And in Osaka at the present day history is repeating itself.

I cannot encroach further on your kindness, though the temptation to continue quotations is very strong, so I will close by recalling a remark of my father's, a widely travelled man, who was out in China, principally near Canton, in the early forties. He was confident that he then saw cases of plague among the sick in the city prisons, and used to quote Defoe's descriptions of the discolorations and swellings of the dead as being precisely similar to the marks he noticed on various dead Chinamen. How true his observation was, has been borne out by the visitations which Hongkong has suffered in recent years. I can only pray that his great fear may not be realised—the fear that the plague (again striking southern Europe in the countries bordering on the Mediterranean) will from thence spread to our dear England.

Yours truly, GYPPESWYK,

Yokohama, January 14.

HOUSE TAX IN THE FOREIGN CONCESSION.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—A concrete example will help to make plain this puzzling question. However, a few words on the method of making estimates.

All houses in Tokyo are divided into 12 classes; and these 12 classes contain 115 grades. This is a great mystery,—the way these 115 grades are obtained. For example, Class No. 8 contains grades from 71 to 80. Houses in Tsukiji come in this 8th Class.

But how are the taxes estimated? I shall use a concrete case as an example and cut off fractions of figures to simplify matters. Here is a house which covers 133 *tsubo* ground floor. The up-stairs floor has 65 *tsubo*. For taxation the up-stairs is estimated 1 *tsubo*=$\frac{7}{10}$ of the down-stairs *tsubo*. This makes the up-stairs 65 *tsubo*=44 *tsubo* down-stairs. Add this 44 *tsubo* to 133 *tsubo*, and we get the whole number of taxable *tsubo*=177 *tsubo* for the house. *But this is not the real tsubo.*

There are 8 Classes, and 115 grades, as I have said. In the region of the Bank of Japan the 1st Class is located. There 1 *tsubo* for house tax must be counted as 5$\frac{1}{2}$ *tsubo*; 10 *tsubo*, as 55 *tsubo*. In Tsukiji (8th Class, and 72 grade) 1 *tsubo* for taxation must be counted as 3$\frac{4}{5}$ *tsubo*. The *rationale* of this I have not heard. According to this the Tsukiji house of 177 *tsubo* up-stairs and down-stairs is estimated as 672 *tsubo* for taxation. This is 3$\frac{4}{5}$ times the size of the house!

I shall now try to calculate the tax on this house for 5 months,—the period from the operation of the treaties to the end of the first six months' period for which the tax is collected.

	Yen.
Local Tax (School, Police, Hygienic), per *tsubo* .0.098×672 *tsubo*=	6.586
City Tax, per *tsubo* .038×672=	21 28
Special Tax, (Improvement of City), per *tsubo*=.00392×672	2.195
Ward Tax, per *tsubo* .00.345×672=	1.932
Expenses of Collections, per *tsubo* .001×672=(minus 1 month).....	.56
	32.553

This is the House Tax for only 5 months on a house covering 133 *tsubo* in Tsukiji, Tokyo. For one year, at the same rate, this tax will amount to *yen* 78,128; or .5.874 *sen* for every *tsubo* the house covers; or .153 *sen* on each *tsubo* of the lot (511 *tsubo*).

Now, remember that the land tax, or rent, in the Concession of Tsukiji is .28 *sen* a *tsubo*. This lot of 511 *tsubo* is taxed according to treaty 142 *yen* a year. Keep this in mind till I can explain the land tax. Just across the canal outside the Concession in Odawara-cho No. 10 is a lot of 913 *tsubo*. The land tax is as follows for one year:

	Yen.
Imperial Gov. Tax=	42.824
Local Tax, $\frac{1}{4}$ of $\frac{1}{3}$ of Imp. Tax Gov. (42.824)=	7.137
City Tax, 15 per cent of $\frac{1}{3}$ of Imp. Gov. Tax (42.824)	3.211
Special Tax, $\frac{1}{3}$ of Imp. Gov.Tax (42.824)=	21.412
	74.584

This makes the land tax just outside the Concession a fraction over .08 *sen* a *tsubo*; while inside the Concession the foreign residents must pay .28 *sen* a *tsubo* on the land, and an additional, .153 *sen* a *tsubo* for the house. This makes a total of .433 *sen* a *tsubo* on the Concession land; while just beyond the treaty limits it is but little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ as much.

If this House Tax is imposed upon residents inside the Concession, there is urgent need for a revision of the treaties; for certainly it is unfair and oppressive for such inequality to exist. If the taxes outside the Concession (but contiguous) had been excessively high, while the taxes in the Concession had been exceedingly low, the same necessity for a revision of the treaty would have existed.

It might be replied that a comparison between the Concession and Odawara-cho is not just. Then we should like to know on what ground the classifications are made. Certainly the Concession to-day is quite a different place from what it was when not a foreign house existed in it. We understand that the house tax is estimated according to the Class (one of the 8 Classes), and these Classes are valued according to the estimated value of the land. If so, it would appear that this House Tax is assessed on the land value. We are not, however, contending against a house tax; but against the amount of this house tax. It is out of proportion.

Very truly, E. SNODGRASS.

Tokyo, Jan. 9, 1900.

[Without disputing Mr. Snodgrass' conclusions, we desire to point out that his manner of using decimals is quite novel. A tax of 28 *yen* per 100 *tsubo* means 28 *sen*, not .28 *sen* per *tsubo* and the Odawara-cho land pays not .08 *sen*, but 8 *sen*, per *tsubo*.—Ed. *J.M.*]

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A LIBERAL OFFER.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Enclosed I beg to hand you a cheque for *yen* 100, and, with your approval, I propose to send you a similar amount each mouth, so long as there shall be war in South Africa.

I offer this donation as a monthly addition to your account, my object being to enable you to supply the community with extra telegrams during the war.

The sum is in itself small, but I have reason to believe there are others willing to follow my example.

You are at liberty to mention the donation but not the name of the donor.

I am, yours faithfully,

SUBSCRIBER.

Yokohama, Jan. 16th. 1900.

[We desire to complete some inquiries before definitely replying to this most generous offer.—Ed. *J.M.*]

IS THE GOVERNMENT TO BE BLAMED FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA?

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In your issue of the 23rd ult., you quote a paragraph from the *Japan Times* in which the editor says that England might have been saved her present humiliation if her rulers had proceeded with more prudence and foresight. In reply to this I would ask the editor whence he derived the notion that England feels humiliated. Careful reading of the London papers is enough to convince any one that England considers it no disgrace to be defeated when fighting under such diverse disadvantages as those under which she has laboured up to the present. The victories she has won have abundantly shown of what her troops are capable under anything like favourable circumstances. I deny that England feels humiliated, or that she has cause to feel humiliated.

As regards the action of the English Government it was next to impossible for them to proceed otherwise than they did, circumstanced as they were. They could have forced the situation at any moment and sent out a large body of troops. But by so doing they would have exposed themselves to the charge of having precipitated war. They would have given the Opposition a splendid chance of making out a formidable case against them, and would have rendered themselves liable to be misunderstood on the Continent. The patience with which the Boers were treated, the refusal to accuse them of treachery and of harbouring sinister designs until they had declared themselves in their true colours in the most unmistakable manner, had the effect of enlisting for the English Government the sympathy of the whole English people and of all impartial judges of the situation in foreign countries. The editor of the *Japan Times* does not seem to realise that no English Government can make war in these days unless it is backed by public opinion. As the *Saturday Review* puts it: "Had the Government despatched the Army Corps in the summer, the feeling in the country would have been against not for it, and we should have presented the dangerous spectacle of a divided nation. The desire to avoid this was not a cowardly fear of the Opposition, but a recognition of the conditions of modern statecraft." It is very doubtful whether a divided England could deal with the present grave crisis. But it is the belief of most Englishmen that a united England could surmount far greater difficulties than confront her in South Africa. It was expected by the nation that the Boers should be treated with patience and consideration as though they were a civilised people, and thus they were treated till the impudent ultimatum put an end to the farce. It is correct to say that no war that Great Britain has ever waged has been more popular than the present South African Campaign. Hence it is that an almost unlimited amount of money and number of men are placed at the disposal of the Government. It is England's way not to be in a hurry to appeal to the sword. The English Government hoped up to the last that war might be avoided, not knowing then what they know now, that the Boers meant to fight anyhow if they were forbidden to treat Englishmen as inferiors. England will lose nothing in the long run by having proceeded with such extraordinary deliberation.

I am, yours, &c. W. D.

Dec. 28th, 1899.

THE RIKU-GUN CHIU-SA.

(A romance of the Koyo-kwan.)

Let me summon my Muse
(Who will try to excuse
My readers' attempts to abuse her)
To tell how a *Geisha*
Whose name was Acacia,
Once married a Riku-gun Chiu-sa.

Miss Acacia was fair,
But her beautiful hair
Resembled the poppy in hue, Sir,
And Dame Nature's blunder
Excited to wonder
A rollicking Riku-gun Chiu-sa.

Their first time of meeting
Was whilst he was eating
And wishing his waistcoat was looser;
At raw fish, rice, saké,
Beer, daikon, and baccy,
Few vied with this Riku-gun Chiu-sa.

A sigh of repletion
Now nearing completion
Extended the jaws of our booser,
When an eye-scorching view
Of Acacia's cheveux
Quite sobered the Riku-gun Chiu-sa.

With his mouth opened wide,
With his sigh but half-sighed,
He gazed at this modern Medusa,
Whilst the maid for her part
Treasured up in her heart
The sigh of the Riku-gun Chiu-sa.

He supposed it must be
An attack of D. T.
And vainly endeavoured to lose her;
But it entered her head
That she wanted to wed
This good-looking Riku-gun Chiu-sa.

So the "san-san ku-do"
She suggests to her beau
Who doesn't know how to refuse her;
And that's how a *Geisha*,
The red-haired Acacia,
Became Mrs. Riku-gun Chiu-sa!

WATAKUSHI.

THE PATRIOTIC CONCERT.

There could be no mistaking the strong British savour that permeated the entertainment given in the Public Hall on Tuesday evening in aid of the funds now being collected almost everywhere throughout the world—at any rate everywhere where two or three Britons are gathered together—in aid of the widows and orphans of those who may unfortunately fall in the service of the Queen in South Africa. And it was only seemly that it should be so. Patriotism was the order of the evening from start to finish, intensifying in its glow as the long programme proceeded. The "meteor flag of England" waved over the stage, was festooned over doorways, and draped around two handsome medallions of Britannia and St. George. Nor were other signs wanting to emphasize the fact that the evening was organized by the Overseas Men of Great, and Greater, Britain in a worthy attempt to add to the funds so sadly needed in the dear Home Land.

A small but efficient chorus conducted by Mr. J. T. Griffin (with Mr. W. Karl Vincent at the piano) led off with the National Anthem—using Sir Michael Costa's setting—the last verse of which was taken up by the packed house with rousing effect. Then Miss Lloyd Thomas sang with exquisite feeling, the pathetic Irish melody "The Last Rose of Summer," and followed on with "Home, Sweet Home." She was in excellent voice. After a dainty cello solo by Mr. E. C. Davis, a rousing soldier-song—"Guard the dear Old Flag"—was given by Mr. Somerton and was encored, the vocalist responding with "Tommy Atkins," the chorus of which the house took up lustily. Next Mrs E. W. Maitland made her *debût* on the local concert stage with Clay's beautiful song—"She wandered down." Tender feeling, allied with graceful delivery and a pure-toned voice, rendered this item one of the gems of the evening. Mr. Brady's recitation—"The Midnight Charge"—was given with all the fervour which the piece demanded; indeed, it was one of his best performances among this community. Mr. W. Karl Vincent's musical accompaniment (his own composition) was most appropriate. Two dances, one a Sailor's Horn-pipe by Master Ewan Steele, whose performance was so excellent that he was called on for a repetition, and the other the Highland Fling by Master Hutchison, (also capitally done and rewarded with an encore) brought the first part of the programme to a close. Both dances, it should be added, were in costume.

After the interval Miss Helena Page led off with a spirited rendering on the violin of the "March of the Men of Harlech," and was rapturously applauded. The song and chorus, "Hearts of Oak," was well rendered; while Mrs. Irwine's selections, "Kathleen Mavourneen," and "Caller Herrin," drew all hearts. Kipling's now famous ballad, "The Absent-Minded Beggar," roused great enthusiasm, losing nothing of its dramatic qualities in the hands of Mr. H. J. Sharp. "The Deathless Army" was finely given by Mr. E. W. Maitland and was encored, as was also Mrs. W. T. Payne's song—"Now Thou art Mine." Then Mr. G. G. Brady appeared in character and gave with inimitable gusto "When I was a boy at School," with the inevitable result. Next came the chorus, "God Bless the Prince of Wales," which should have brought a highly successful evening to a close, but the audience loudly demanded "Rule Britannia," the first verse of which Mr. Townley very kindly sang. Cheers for the Queen and the Home Land were given ere the audience dispersed.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

The first meeting in the New Year of the Yokohama Literary Society took place on Friday evening at the Van Schaick Hall, when there was a fair attendance of members and friends. Mr. W. B. Mason's essay on "Two Ancient Japanese Monasteries," Kinkwa-zan and Mitsumine-san, proved most delightful and was greatly appreciated. It dealt with the past glories of these ancient fanes and their associations, so strangely contrasted with their present day decadence. But if these houses of prayer and contemplation erected by human hands have by human neglect and change of fashion fallen so sadly into decrepitude and almost desolation, the natural beauty of their incomparable sites remains as lovely as ever. Mr. Mason has keen eyes for the beauties of nature and happily a special art of conveying to home-staying folks some of the impressions which flooded his mind when visiting these old-world monasteries, that lie so comparatively near and yet so far from the heart of modern Japan. After the paper the following musical programme was gone through:—

Piano Solo .....(a) "Melody" .....Paderewski.
(b) "Arabesque" ..... McGowan.
Miss Moulton.
Vocal Solo....."Berceuse".....Godard.
Mrs. E. C. Irwine; violin obligato, Mr. H. A. Poole.
Violin Trio... "3rd Divertissement" ..... Franz.
The Misses Page.
Song ....."Echo"..Lord Henry Somerset.
Mrs. E. C. Irwine.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan was held at the Parish Buildings No. 54, Tsukiji, on Wednesday, December 13th, 1899, at 3.30 p.m. Dr. E. C. Greene, Vice-President of the Society, was in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read.

It was decided to dispose of the business of the annual meeting before proceeding with Mr. Lloyd's lecture on "Buddhist Anthropology." The Recording Secretary read the Report of the Council for the past year, and the Hon. Treasurer read the Treasurer's Report, both being approved.

NEW COMMITTEE.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Committee for the ensuing year:—

President:	Sir ERNEST SATOW, K.C.M.G.
Vice President	Dr. E. C. GREENE,
,,	J. F. LOWDER, Esq. (Yokohama)
Treasurer:	J. McD. GARDINER, Esq.,
Librarian:	Prof. E W. CLEMENT,
Record. Sec:	ARTHUR HYDE LAY, Esq.,
,,	Rev. EUGENE BOOTH (Yokohama)

Members of Council:
Prof. CLAY MCCAULEY,
Rev. A. LLOYD.
RANSFORD S. MILLER, Esq,
W. B. MASON, Esq.,
B. H. CHAMBERLAIN, Esq,
R. J. KIRBY, Esq.,
R. MASUJIMA, Esq.,
Dr. H. WEIPERT,
H. G. PARLETT, Esq.,
Rev. W. J. WHITE.

The Chairman reported that the delays in the printing of the Society's Transactions, which had caused so much complaint in the past, no longer occurred, and that the work of printing *was well up to date.*

The Rev. A. LLOYD then gave an interesting lecture on "Buddhist Anthropology" which was the substance of a paper prepared by him for the German Asiatic Society.

The lecture was mainly an analysis of a book entitled *Bukkyō Jinsei ron*, published in book form by Mr. Takada Dōen, a priest of the Sō ō Sect, about the end of 1898, though it had appeared some years before, as a series of magazine articles, in a journal entitled *Tsūzoku Bukkyō*. The book is written throughout in the popular language, with a very plentiful use of *kana*; it is catechetical in form, though toward the end the answers extend themselves into very long sermons. It is based almost entirely on the Buddhist Scriptures, quotations being found on every page, and a great part of the book consisting of commentaries from these quotations which are extracted from 121 books.

Buddhism, says the writer, is almost entirely taken up with the doctrine of the life of man. Man is the centre of the Universe to Buddhism—man, not as he was or will be, but man as he is. Buddhism does not trouble itself much with theories of creation, nor yet with Gods. It is neither monotheistic, polytheistic, pantheistic nor atheistic. It knows of a great mind behind all theological speculations, but it is not practical wisdom to discuss these points.

Buddhism claims therefore to be a religion of man,—but the very term religion implies the supernatural. Has Buddhism, the religion of man, nothing of the supernatural? Yes, but not as Christianity. In the latter miracles are relative—the operations of certain laws beyond our ken for the time being, which cease to be miraculous as knowledge grows. In Buddhism, the miracle is absolute—the whole thing is one great miracle, and the knowledge by which we reach to the miraculous is in itself miraculous.

It has been objected to Buddhism that it is pessimistic. The writer asserts that not only is Buddhism pessimistic, but that pessimism is the necessary basis of all religion or progress. We must feel that things are very bad before we want salvation or improvement, or care to enquire about means of salvation.

In working out for us a scheme of the means of salvation, Buddhism presents us with two forms of teaching—the *seken-kyō* or cosmology, and the *shusseshakkyō*, or soteriology.

The former establishes the fact of the three worlds—the world of desire (or matter), the world of form (or thought), and the formless world which lies in the abstract region beyond our thought. Of this third world we can affirm nothing, but of the two lower worlds we know that the one is the abode of pure beings who are free from desire, and that the latter is peopled with beings more or less material who are all of them under the influence of desire.

This lower world is divided into six spheres, 1 Heaven. 2. Man. 3. Violent devils, 4 Hungry devils, 5 Beasts, 6. Hell. None of these are permanent states, and the soul (if the term is allowable) may spend one existence in the highest heaven, and be after a few more existences a denizen of the coldest hell. There are some very unscientific passages in some of the Buddhist Scriptures—passages which speak of men who reach to the height of 75 feet, and attain to an average age of 200 years,—and the writer has to tread softly in commenting on these passages.

Through all these spheres of existence, life is always rising and falling in the struggle for existence. Nothing is at rest, except the *Is-shin*, the one great mind, which is at the back of all thought and all existence. As we consider this *one mind* we see that it too is capable of division. It presents itself to us as thought, emotion, synthesis, and analysis. Creation begins at the other end:—first analysis, then synthesis, then emotion, then thought; and these four compose existence.

The rise and fall of the individual soul is regulated by the law of Karma. Karma is a "resultant of forces": all the acts of former existences, modified by the acts of the life that is, form the Karma which regulates the life of the world to come. Death is analysis: when a man dies he is analysed into his component parts. Life is synthesis: when a man comes to birth, it is a putting together of the disintegrated faculties. Between life and death, and again between death and life are two intermediate states, which are really states of transition.

In these intermediate states, the soul in which desire is extinct passes from the world of desire into the world of thought, and thus comes no more amongst men: the soul in which desire reigns yearns for a new birth and seeks for itself parent and a body. As soon as it unites itself with flesh in the womb of its mother, the soul loses its former likeness, the flesh acts as a veil which shuts out all remembrance of the past, as well all fore-knowledge of the future. As soon as the child comes to the birth life is consummated, but in that moment death begins to work; disease, &c., make their appearance from the moment of birth and special mention is made of a passage from the Nehankyo which speaks of the countless insects (*mushi*—bacteria?) that infest the human body.

In the meantime the soul in which desire has ceased passes into what is known as Nirvana. Is Nirvana a state of consciousness or not? The author does not decide. Nirvana is a state about which nothing can be affirmed, not even the fact that nothing can be affirmed.

The practical value of the book lies in the author's exhaustive treatment of Karma. Without a careful consideration of Karma education is valueless; a just estimate of character is impossible. Karma is not heredity, though heredity is a part of Karma. We do inherit from our parents, because their Karma must have fitted them to have us as their children. But at the same time our Karma fitted us to have them as our parents, and this Karma is quite independent of heredity. Many pages are devoted to describing the signs by which we may know what this Karma has been in any particular man. "If you see a pair of turtle doves cooing, you may know, says the book, that in a former existence they were married people whose conjugal relations were not very harmonious!"

Dr. GREENE thanked Mr. Lloyd for his instructive lecture and regretted the absence of the President who would no doubt have been able to contribute some valuable remarks on the subject of "Buddhist Anthropology." It would be interesting if the lecturer could make up his mind how far the "Jinseiron" of Mr. Takada Dosu was influenced by Western thought. He (the Chairman) was increasingly impressed with the westernizing influence operating upon the people of Japan. It was a very great mistake to imagine that the Japanese were merely superficially influenced by Western methods of thought as casual observers believed. The deep seated change which had taken place was impressed upon his mind every day.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The past session compares favourably with many of its predecessors. An increased interest has been shown in the proceedings and the number of papers contributed to the Society has been much larger than during the previous session. Eight papers were read at general meetings, two of them being given by the President Sir Ernest Satow. Other papers were contributed by Messrs. Chamberlain, MacCauley, Aston, Clement, Gubbins and Florenz.

20 new names have been added to the list of members; 4 members have resigned; and 2 have died.

The finances of the Society are in a flourishing condition as will be seen from the Treasurer's report. In the library, Transactions in Stock number 9,758 vols. Gen. Index 1607.

HONORARY TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH ASIATIC SOCIETY IN JAPAN.

1899. Dr.			
Dec. 12.			
To Balance from last year			2,275.62
,, Entrance fees		35.	
,, Annual Subscriptions		161.00	
,, Life Subscriptions		288.60	
,, Sale of Transactions (through Librarian)		339.54	
,, Interest at Banks		134.74	958.88
			3,234 50
Cr.			
By Printing XXV.	284.58		
XXVI.	310.78		
XXVII. pt. 2	162.91	758.27	
,, Librarian's Account, For Books	4.80		
Assistant in Library	77.00		
Postage, etc.	101.93	183.73	
,, Corresponding S'ecy, Postage, etc.	8.97		
Advertising meetings, and Directory	10.31	19.28	
,, Treasurer, Postage stamps and blank receipts		17.50	
,, Rent and caretaker.		106 00	
,, Insurance		100.00	1,184 78
,, Balance, M.B G.K. and Specie		1609.83	
Chartered		314.43	
H.K. & S. B. ,,		29.	
Cash		96.46	2,049.72
			3,234 50

E. & O. E.

J. Mc. D. Gardiner, Hon. Treasurer.

Examined and compared with vouchers and found correct.

RICHARD J. KIRBY.
A. W. THOMPSON.

THE SEAMAN'S MISSION.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1899.

Early in the year the Chaplain accepted the very kind invitation of Captain King-Hall, R.N., to be his guest on the homeward voyage of H.M.S. *Narcissus* to pay off out of commission, arrangements having been made, with the full approval of the Bishop of the diocese, for Mr. Mark Finch to act as his *locum tenens*. The Chaplain left by the s.s. *Moyune*, Captain Conradi, transferring at Hongkong to the *Narcissus*, and, after a pleasant voyage, landed at

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Portsmouth on the 26th of May. Leaving England on the 9th, of October on the German Mail steamer *Kônig Albert*, he, with his wife and family, arrived safely back at Yokohama on the 27th of November.

Mr. Finch, who had proved to be a most efficient and acceptable worker among the seamen during Mr. Austen's absence, returned to England by the same steamer *Kônig Albert*, taking with him a testimonial, signed by a large number of the residents of Yokohama, bearing witness to the faithfulness with which he had discharged the duties he had voluntarily assumed as the acting chaplain of the Seamen's Mission for a period of nine months.

During the summer months a number of American army-transports, conveying thousands of soldiers, visited the port. The American ladies of the community gave the troops a very hospitable welcome and did a great deal in the way of ministering to their temporal needs. A number of the American missionaries kindly assisted Mr. Finch in ministering to their spiritual wants, holding meetings for them at the Mission rooms, as well as on board the vessels, where they had very large attendances. The soldiers were very grateful for the privileges thus afforded them and many were the bright testimonies given of work done for the Master while in heathen lands.

On Christmas day a dinner was provided in the Mission at one o'clock for eight poor men, who work principally on the steamers tallying cargo. At six o'clock our annual Christmas dinner was provided for the seamen in port, covers being laid for sixty-four. After dinner various round games were played, and at the close of the evening Christmas hymns were sung in the prettily decorated chapel of the Mission, the men returning to their ships between ten and eleven o'clock on the mission-launch *Gleaner*. The Chaplain and his wife visited the two naval hospitals on Christmas morning and distributed Christmas gifts to thirty-eight patients.

On New Year's Eve the usual watch-night service was held at the Mission.

On Thursday, the 4th of January, 1900, a meat-supper and Christmas-tree, bearing a gift for each one, were provided for the seamen from the balance remaining over from the Christmas Fund. Forty-six were present and thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment, the *Gleaner* conveying all back to their vessels safely.

Our best thanks are very heartily given to all the subscribers to the Mission funds, also to the proprietors of the various magazines and newspapers that have been donated free, and, last but not least, to the ladies and others who have so kindly assisted at the various services and meetings held at the Mission.

Statistics.

Visits to merchant vessels	1,420
„ to men of war	8
„ to naval hospitals	63
„ to consular prisons	77
„ to sailor homes, etc	365
Services held at the Institute	103
„ held at the naval hospitals	53
„ held at the consular prisons	39
„ held afloat	10
Administrations of Holy Communion	4
Temperance meetings, magic lantern entertainments, etc.	27
Attendances of seamen at services	5,812
Attendances of seamen at meetings	641
Attendances of seamen at Holy Communion	13
Visits of seamen to the Institute	12,768
Officers and men carried by the "Gleaner"	916
Parcels of reading matter given away	272
Temperance seamen enrolled	7
Mission Helper enrolled	1
No. of copies of the Holy Scriptures sold.	5
Officiated at burial services	9

(Signed) W. T. Austen, Chaplain.

Financial Statement.

Seamen's Free Reading Room Fund.

Receipts.	Yen.
Balance from 1898	21.13
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	12 00
A. J. Wilkin, Esq.	12 00
H. M. Bevis, Esq.	12.00
J. C. Nicholson, Esq.	12 00
Walsh, Hall & Co.	12.00
Robison & Co.	12 00
P. M. S. S. Co.	12.00
O. & O. S. S.	12 00
Findlay, Richardson & Co.	12.00
F. O. Stuart, Esq.	10 00
Butterfield & Swire	12.00
Standard Oil Co.	12 00
J. Colomb & Co.	6 00
A. Woolley, Esq	12.00
W. T. Payne, Esq	12 00
Samuel, Samuel & Co.	12.00
H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.	12.00
Averill & Co.	12.00
Bruhl Freres	12.00
Cornes & Co.	12.00
Dodwell, Carlill & Co.	12.00
Illies & Co.	12.00
Lane, Crawford & Co.	12.00
Flint Kilby & Co.	12.00
Carl Rohde & Co.	12 00
W. M. Strachan & Co.	12.00
Browne & Co.	12.00
A. S. Garfit, Esq.	12.00
H. P. Wadman, Esq.	12.00
H. C. Litchfield, Esq.	10.00
Rev W. T. Austen	12 00
China & Japan Trading Co., Ltd.	12 00
Siber Brennwald & Co.	12 00
Dell' Oro & Co.	12 00
C. V. Sale, Esq.	12.00
Nabholtz & Co.	12.00
Boyes & Co.	12.00
Bowden Bros. & Co., Ltd.	12 00
H. S. Wilkinson Esq.	12.00
H. A. C. Bonar, Esq.	12.00
C. & J. Favre-Brandt	12.00
Smith, Baker & Co.	12 00
Hutchison & Co.	12.00
Otto Reimers & Co.	12 00
M. Raspe & Co.	12 00
Frazar & Co.	12.00
S. Strauss & Co.	12 00
Bavier & Co.	12.00
Hunt & Co.	12.00
F. Retz & Co.	12.00
Fraser, Farley & Co.	12.00
Winckler & Co.	12 00
Hellyer & Co.	12.00
J. F. Gowey, Esq.	10.00
E. Whittall, Esq.	12.00
A. Le Prevost, Esq.	12.00
Sir Ernest Satow, Tokio	12.00
Mrs. A. E. Buck, Tokio	12 00
Offertory, St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokio	26 89
Offertory, Union Church	32.08
Offertory, Christ Coist Church	50.12
Missionary friends, (38)	100 00
The Chaplain, H.M.S. "Narcissus"	7.60
Reading-room box	1.50
Penny-in-slot machine	5.85
Returned by Yoko Water-works on account of the new rates	4.00
Balance from "Xmas Fund" 1897	4.13
	934.85

Expenditure.	Yen.
Rent	360.00
Light	79 12
Fuel	40 91
Water	20.50
Magazines & Newspapers	105 52
Scavengers	16 75
Wages	108 00
Insurance	6 75
Printing	24 05
Furniture	44.55
Sundries	12 94
Balance forward to 1900	115 76
Carried forward	934.85

Examined with vouchers and found correct,
(Signed) P. E. Fred Stone.
Yokohama, January 6th, 1900.

Steam Launch Fund.

Receipts.	Yen.
Balance from 1898	3.11
S. V. "George Scolfield"	12 00
S. V. "Albyn"	23.00
S. V. "Haddon Hall"	49 00
S. S. "Moyune"	10.00
The Rev. A. F. King	5 00
The Rev. J. Cooper Robinson	5.00
The Rev. A. E. Webb	5.00
The Rev. W. T. Austen	100.00
S. V. W. J. Pirrie"	5 00
Mrs. Webster	8 00
Martin Schellenberg, Esq	5.00
Miss Amy Scott	1.00
Clarence Griffin, Esq.	5 00
Miss M. E. Williams	1.00
Per Miss M. M. Kuhns	15 00
Per Mark Finch, Esq.	15.00
Mrs. Warren & Miss Ritson	5 00
A friend of the "Mission"	124 84
Robert Wilson, Esq.	48 97
Mrs. Knight	29 38
Mr. Peters	48.97
Sailors' Friend	48 97
E. G. Freyer, Esq	10.00
	583.24

Hire of "Gleaner."

Dr. Tripler	572 00
J. McArthur, Esq	5 00
C. Guinness, Esq.	5.00
	1,165.24

Expenditure.

Wood	3.60
Coal	402 75
Water	33.00
Packing & Waste	12 04
Oil	23.26
Repairs	130.21
Paint	16.33
Sundries	16.62
Wages	515 50
Balance, forward to 1900	11.93
	1,165.24

Examined with vouchers and found correct,
(Signed) P. E. Fred Stone.
Yokohama, January 6th, 1900.

Dormitory Account

for the year ending December 31st, 1899.

Beds let, 80 @ 25 *sen*	20.00
381 @ 30 *sen*	114.30
	134.30

Expenditure.

Insurance	6 75
Matting	6.96
Washing	14.16
Sundries	.77
Wages	96.00
Balance forward to 1900	9.66
	134.30

Examined with vouchers and found correct,
(Signed) P. E. Fred Stone.

Christmas Entertainment Fund, 1899.

Receipts.	Yen.
Mrs. Jackson	10 00
Mrs. Woolley	10.00
Mr. Holgate	10.00
Mrs. Buck	5.00
Mrs. James	5.00
Mrs. Johansen	5.00
Mrs. Kilby	5 00
Mrs. Mitchell	5 00
Mrs. E. J. Moss	5 00
Mrs. Parsons	5.00
Mrs. Retz	5 00
Mrs. Sale	5.00
Anonymous	5 00
Captain Hodnett	5.00
Messrs. Kelly & Walsh	5 00
Mrs. Hoskyn	3.00
Mrs. Thompsen	3 00
Mrs. W. B. Walter	3 00
Mrs. E. B. Clarke	2.00
Mrs. Irwine	2.00
Mrs. Ross	2 00
Mrs. D. Scott	2.00
Mrs. E. A. Vincent	2.00
A. Friend	2 00
Mrs. C. D. Moss	1.00
Mrs. St. John	1.00
Mrs. Ure	1.00
	114 00

Expenditure.

Christmas dinners and meat-supper to 110 seamen and 14 others	60.86
Gifts to 38 patients in the hospitals and to 46 seamen	39 84
Decorations and Christmas-tree	10.80
Printing and postage of circular-letter	2.50
	114 00

Gifts in Kind.

Mrs. Bathgate, Jno. O. Hall, Esq., A. Le Provost, Esq., Messrs. Lane, Crawford, & Co., Messrs. Meida-ya.

Examined with vouchers and found correct,
(Signed) P. E. Fred Stone.
Yokohama, January 6th, 1900.

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SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS.
For the year ending December 31st, 1899.

Account.	Balance from 1898. In Hand.	Balance from 1898. Deficit.	Receipts in 1899.	Total.	Balance to 1900. In Hand.	Balance to 1900. Deficit.	Expended in 1899.	Total.
Reading Room.....	21.13	—	913 72	934 85	115.76	—	819.09	934 85
Steam Launch	3.11	—	1,162.13	1,165.85	11.93	—	1,153.31	1,165.85
Christmas Fund ...	—	—	114.00	114.00	—	—	114.80	114 00
Dormitory Fund ...	—	—	134.30	134.30	9 66	—	124.64	134.30
Total.....	24.24	—	1,324.15	2,348.39	137 36	—	2,211.04	2,348.39

W. T. AUSTEN, Chaplain.
Yokohama, January 10th, 1900.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

Amounts received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, on account of the Lord Mayor's fund for the widows and orphans of the officers and men of Her Majesty's forces who may lose their lives from the war in South Africa.

Sums previously acknowledged	£45.10.0
" "	Yen 9 602.65
C. J. Strome	100.
L. Harlow	50.
E. Whittall	50.
H. Keswick.....	50.
Ernest Toxwell	35.
Bishop Awdry.....	30.
Mrs. L. Harlow	25.
J. W. Heaver	10.
E. H. Holmes.....	10.
H. R. Barnard	10.
C. R. I. B.	7.
	Yen 9.979.65
	£45.10.0
" P.".....	5.00.0
	£50.10.0

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Aguinaldo's engineer corps arrived in Manila on the 18 h December, and surrendered with their horses and equipment.

The Young Men's Photographic Club, which was burnt out last summer, has secured new premises at Yoshida-machi, Nichome. Started two years ago, the Club is now a flourishing concern and has two or three foreign members.

About half-past six on the evening of the 15th inst. fire broke out in Nakano, Tsukui District, Kanagawa Prefecture. Some thirty houses were destroyed. Mr. Kuroiwa, Chief of Police, and Mr, Kobomura have left for the scene of the fire.

The four armed robbers who entered the house of a *sake* merchant in Tobe on the night of 8th inst., and stole watches, clocks, etc., were arrested on the evening of the 12th at a house of ill-fame by the Isezakicho Police. They were in the midst of a debauch. Their names are Suzuki Kentaro, age 18, Kimura Eitaro 18, Mizuno Tanejiro 17, and Takeuchi Kumejiro 16.

The steamer *Pakhoi*, Capt. Williams, which arrived in port on Sunday afternoon, picked up on Jan. 13, a junk dismantled and flying flags of distress, when off Toba harbour. The *Pakhoi* rescued three men. It appears that the junk belongs to Akimoto Yoshimatsu of Shinshu.

The Italian flagship *Carlo Alberto*, with Rear-Admiral Grenet on board, arrived at Nagasaki on Jan. 8th, from Shanghai. The flagship will undergo repairs at the local Mitsu Bishi Dockyard, and will thence proceed to Yokohama by way of Kobe.

The decision of the Court of Inquiry which was appointed to investigate into the wreck of the U.S. cruiser *Charleston*, has been rendered. The captain and officers are exonerated from blame. The court recommends, however, that several men who gave evidence at the enquiry, be tried for perjury.

A suggestion has been mooted—and meets with great approval—that a Saturday Smoking Concert should be organized in Yokohama in aid of the Widows and Orphans of British Soldiers and Sailors who may fall in South Africa, the programme of which should consist entirely of British patriotic airs, songs, ballads, and recitations.

Mr. W. W. Till, in taking stock of wines in his cellar on the 14th inst., missed 5 cases of champagne and four cases of hock, port, etc., valued in all at *yen* 270 *yen*. He at once reported the matter to the Bluff Police, and the culprit was arrested on Tuesday. His name is Nishimaki Tsuneju, age 28. He was in Mr. Till's employ some time ago, and had been stealing the wines since October, disposing of them to various retail wine stores. The wines have been recovered.

The Accountant of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Yokohama writes:—We have received a wire from Hongkong office, informing us of the result of half-year ending 31st December, 1899. Subject to audit it will be as follows:—

Dividend	30/- per share.
Added to Reserve	$5 lacs.
Carried forward	$965,000
Bonus to Shareholders	10/-

Inaga Inosuke a coolie, while walking in Chitose-cho, Yokohama, on Sunday night was struck on the back of the head, with a blunt instrument, by one of a party of volunteers from the transport *Grant*. Four volunteers named Hill, Roberts, Cotton and Geder, were arrested and taken to the Kotobukicho Police Station, but were eventually released. The coolie's wound is severe. Several cases of petty theft by coloured volunteers are reported.

According to the *Hochi*, a Commercial Samples Museum under the name of *Teikoku Gonikwai*, is shortly to be establisbod with a capital of one million *yen*. The promoters of the scheme are mostly members of the *Gonikwai* Association, presided over by Mr. Mayeda Masana. The *Gonikwai* was organised some years ago with the object of raising the level of commercial morality. The institution now under contemplation has for its object an exhibition of articles produced by the members of the *Gonikwai* and other industrial corporations, each article being labelled with the name of the manufacturer as a guarantee of good quality.

The *Kobe Herald* learns that the Northern Pacific Company's agents have received intelligence that their chartered steamer, the *Energia*, has gone aground at a point in the Obree Channel about 50 miles from Nagasaki. Capt. Carew was in charge as pilot. It is learned that the vessel is somewhat badly ashore, her forehold being full of water. The steamer was on her way to Hongkong via Nagasaki from Kobe, and she was about to finish her charter with the N P. Company. Assistance in the way of pumps, &c., has been sent from Nagasaki, but the exact prospects of salving ship or cargo are not known here yet. Capt. Chaplin is master of the vessel, which has a register tonnage of 2,064. She left Kobe on the 12th instant.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn, *The Royal Navy List Diary and Naval Handbook for 1900*, which is issued in conjunction with Lean's very admirable *Royal Navy List*. The work should be in the hands of every Naval man and others interested in the senior branch of Her Majesty's service. It contains historical and statistical information respecting the Royal Navy, its administration, strength, stations, and cost, and other statistical abstracts of all matters concerning the service; astronomical notes and tables, with an account of the astronomical phenomena of the year; tables of tides and tidal constants; calendar, and complete obituary of the year, besides a great deal of other useful information. It costs 3 shillings.

The barque *Silicon* recently arrived at New York from the Arctic regions. Her commander, Captain Jansen, reports finding a deserted Russian ship of old-fashioned pattern floating aimlessly about. He and some of the members of the crew of the *Silicon* boarded the ship and found the hatches battened down and the doors fastened. They forced an entry and discovered that the vessel had a cargo of furs in fine condition, while the log and letters on board stated that the vessel had been abandoned in 1848. The supposition is that the vessel had reached high latitudes, and, having been frozen in by the icebergs ever since, had only just thawed out. Captain Jansen possesses many interesting relics brought from the vessel.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has received a telegram to the effect that the *Tamba Maru*, which left London for Japan on the 9th inst., collided with a Norwegian steamer on the 10th. No longitude is mentioned, but the affair took place in the Channel. The sailing of the *Tamba* will be delayed three weeks. There are no details as to the damage done. The *Tamba Maru* is a singularly unfortunate vessel. She was engined at the time of the great strike, and much of the work was carried out by apprentice labour in a fashion which made a large expenditure in renewals and alterations necessary on her arrival in Japan. She broke down twice on her first voyage to Japan, and there was rather serious trouble with the crew, culminating in wholesale arrests at Hongkong. The name of the vessel has latterly been brought into unpleasant prominance by the Kent case.

CHINA NOTES.

An attempt is being made to float in Shanghai the China Steam Laundry, a limited joint stock company, organized under German law. The capital is Tls. 20,000, of which one-half is offered for subscription in shares of Tls. 100 each, and the necessary buildings are to be completed before the end of March next.

A sad accident occurred on H.M.S. *Barfleur* at Shanghai the other day. A bluejacket named Rodwell was aloft engaged in the Christmas preparations, when he lost his hold and fell to the deck, the fall proving fatal. In consequence of this accident, which threw a gloom over the ship's company, the decorations were abandoned.

The *N.-C. Daily News* gives publicity to the statement that the Tsungli Yamên has sent a circular dispatch to the various high provincial authorities, authorising them to send abroad a large number of students for the purpose of studying one of three professions, *viz*:—Scientific Agriculture, Mechanics, or Commercial Affairs. Six years are to be allowed each student to complete his studies, and the expenses are to be defrayed by the Imperial Government. The student who wishes to take advantage of these conditions must first apply to his own local authorities who,

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in turn, will petition the Viceroy or Governor of the province, the latter to report the matter to the Throne for approval before sending the student a broad. Proclamations in regard to the above will soon be posted in the various Treaty ports, prefectural cities, and towns, and it is estimated that before the end of 1900 some 1,000 to 1,200 students can be thus sent abroad to the various countries of Europe and America.

The *Kuo-wen-pao* publishes some extraordinary statements (which remain to be confirmed) in connection with German railway construction at Tsimo. Its correspondent states that the Germans are only paying half the proper price for land, and are forcing the villagers to work on the line without pay, etc. The same paper announces two railway concessions to the Belgian Syndicate. The one represents a branch line from Lu-kao-chow to the west of Peking (which gate is not decided), and the other a line from Kai-fong in Honan, to Ho-nan-fu with the right of ultimate extension to Signan. This is the first railway running due west through Honan into Shense which has been granted, and forms a branch of the Luhan line running parallel with the Yellow River and South of it. It commands practically the only mountain pass for a great distance either north or south, and if carried to Signan will be brought in contact at that point with a network of trade routes radiating in all directions. The line, moreover, completely encloses the coal districts of Shanse, in which so much interest has been centred.

Referring to the disturbances in northern China, the Tientsin paper says:—In the Chih-ping and Kao-t'aug districts there are no converts that have not been pillaged. The Governor pays no heed to the missionaries' representations, and the local officials following his lead ignore their demands for protection. The former with a great flourish sent out troops a couple of weeks ago, giving the rioters five days to scatter. They not only did not scatter but went on pillaging. Their contempt for the soldiers is shown by their looting one small encampment and stealing all their guns. The courage of the rioters, however, is not proof against a resolute defence. The Catholics at Han Chuang gathered together all their force with such native weapons of offence and defence as they had, old Chinese fowling guns, etc., and gave the Big Sword people a warm reception, causing them to retire with a loss of twenty-three men. At another place a leader of the small band of soldiers started in on his own account to settle a score he had with the Big Sword Society and killed thirty of them. But such sporadic attempts at resistance will mean nothing unless they are sustained, and with such an invertebrate Governor they will not be sustained. He is so much in sympathy with the rioters that he would like to see their object accomplished, if it can be without too much loss of official prestige and money.

A storm of devilry, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, has been sweeping over two districts adjacent to Lin ching on the east and making sad havoc among the scattered members. The idea that all followers of the "foreign teaching" may be raided with impunity has been adopted very widely and with brilliant success. Officials and neighbours have remained passive, the latter usually protesting against the firing of houses lest their own should be burnt, but being quite willing to act as middlemen over the question of the amount of ransom money to be paid. The district officials have in several instances affirmed their inability to protect either Christian helpers or members. The Hsia chin official has been visited by several hundred of the Boxers who asked him for a flag with their motto, Hsing-ch'ing Mieh Tang—"Up with the ch'ing (dynasty) and down with the foreigner." He asked them how they were going to carry out their programme and they answered by giving him a performance showing how they were able to stab themselves without injury, in fine, that they were quite immortal. It appears, however, that remnants of mortality still survive among them and if we are rightly informed, this same official, though he did not bestow a flag, did send to the temple which they are occupying 200 catties of bread and 70 strings of cash. Probably all the district officials are obliged to humour these hungry assemblies, as they all thus far, so far as we can learn, are without instructions from Chi-nan. We are glad to learn that the Lin-ching official has received notice of the arrest of the head of their Immortal Chu Hung-teng. He is said to be a young man, a native of the province. He is an ex-soldier.

THE BUSINESS TAX.

It is well known to everyone that a consequence of treaty-revision is that the taxes paid by Japanese are now leviable on all foreign residents, and a brief summary of the various laws and ordinances may be found useful. With regard to the Business Tax, which will affect foreigners greatly, this impost is an annual tax which comes into operation so far as they are concerned from the beginning of this year. As this is the first time that foreigners have been subjected to Japanese taxation the Yokohama Revenue Administration Bureau has compiled in book form an English translation of the various Japanese tax laws and has distributed copies to the different foreign public and private corporations. Any person can obtain a copy of the book from the same Bureau on payment of the cost of printing. A person under obligation to pay the business tax is required to send a statement of his basis of assessment to the Yokohama Taxation Office on or before the 31st inst. There is no fixed rule as to the forms of reporting such basis of assessment, but for the sake of convenience printed forms are provided in the Taxation Office, copies of which may be obtained on application. Still further, any explanation required in regard to various national taxes will also be given by the Revenue Officials. As to the report of the basis of assessment forwarded by tax-payers, the authorities will observe the utmost secrecy, and there is no apprehension of anything being divulged.

Persons carrying on business falling under some of the following heads are liable to business tax:—

SALE OF GOODS.—Any person who sells goods by wholesale or retail for an amount exceeding a thousand *yen* ($1,000) during the previous year must report the place of business, amount of goods sold, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in the business, and also any branch establishments.

BANKING.—Any person who carries on the business of banking must report the amount of capital, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in the business. Provided that in the case of persons who have main or branch offices in foreign countries the estimated amount of capital employed during the previous year at the Yokohama Office only is to be reported.

INSURANCE.—Any person who carries on an insurance business must report the amount of capital, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in the business. Provided that in the case of persons who have main or branch offices in foreign countries, they shall report the estimated amount of capital employed in the previous year at the Yokohama office only.

MONEY LENDING.—Any person who has carried on the business of money lending with a capital of over five hundred *yen* ($500) in the previous year must report the amount of capital and rental value of buildings; and shall, when he has separate offices among which the capital is divided, report separately, but if it is not so divided he should report collectively.

LETTING OF GOODS.—Any person who has carried on the business of letting of goods with a capital of over five hundred *yen* ($500) in the previous year shall report the amount of capital, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in the business, but shall, when he has separate offices among which the capital is divided, report separately, but if not so divided report collectively.

WAREHOUSING.—Any person who receives warehousing fees or any kind of compensation for storage, where established, warehouse, and goods to be received, shall report the amount of capital, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in business, but shall, when he has several places of business among which the capital is divided, report separately, but if is not so divided report collectively.

MANUFACTURING.—Any person who has established a place of manufacture and employed workmen in manufacturing or partly manufacturing goods which he sells or which he receives fees, and has also a capital of over fine hundred *yen* ($500) and has employed more than two workmen in the previous year, shall report the amount of capital rental value of buildings and persons engaged in the business, but shall, when he have several places of manufacture among which the capital is divided, report collectively.

PRINTING.—Any person who carries on a printing business and has employed more than two workmen in the previous year, shall report the amount of capital, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in business, but shall, when he has several places of business among which the capital is divided, report separately, but if it is not so divided report collectively.

PHOTOGRAPHING.—Any person carrying on the trade of a photographer, who has employed more than two workmen in the previous year, shall report the amount of capital, rental value of buildings, and persons engaged in business, but shall, when he has several offices among which the capital is divided, report separately, but if the capital in not so divided report collectively.

DRAYAGE.—Any person who receives freight or fees for conveying passengers or forwarding them, and has employed more than two men in the previous year, shall report the amount of capital and persons engaged in business. Provided that if he have main or branch offices or stores in foreign countries, he shall report the estimated amount of capital used in the Yokohama office only.

CANAL TRANSPORT.—Any person who receives passage money or fees from vessels which pass through a canal constructed by him shall report the amount of capital and persons engaged in the business.

LANDING PLACES.—Any person who receives passage money or fees from persons passing over, or goods which will be discharged or shipped from or at a pier constructed by himself, shall report the amount of capital and persons engaged in business.

DOCKS.—Any person who receives fees for repairing vessels at a dock established by him shall report the amount of capital and persons engaged in business.

MOORING SHIPS.—Any person receiving payment for the mooring of ships, the fees being based on the cargo capacity; or for dredging inside or outside a harbour, must report the amount of capital employed and the persons engaged in the business.

WHARFS FOR LANDING GOODS.—Any person who receives fees according to the quantity or number of goods landed on reclaimed land inside or outside a harbour shall report the amount of capital employed and the persons engaged in the business.

BUILDING CONTRACTORS.—Any person who carries on the business of a building contractor where the amount of the contracts is more than one thousand *yen* ($1,000) during the previous year, shall report the amount of the contracts and the persons engaged in the business at each office or place of business he has under his orders.

LABOUR CONTRACTORS.—Any person who has carried on the business of contractor for the supply of labourers, and whose contracts have exceeded one thousand *yen* (*yen* 1,000) must report the amount of contracts and persons engaged in the business at each office or place of business.

LETTING OF ROOMS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.—Persons who receive rent or any kind of remuneration for letting rooms for guests, or as meeting places, and whose rental has been more than 50 *yen* in the previous year, must report the rental value of the building and the persons employed.

RESTAURANT KEEPERS.—Persons engaged in this business, and who have employed more than 3 persons, or have let rooms to guests and sell drink on food, must report the rental value of buildings and the persons engaged in the business.

INN KEEPERS.—The same regulation as quoted above applies to Inn-keepers.

Oyakenaru Shusengyo (PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICES).—Any person who keeps a public place of business and receives commission for the discharge of any business for others must report the amount of commission and persons engaged in the business; separately, when places of business are situated apart.

D ibengyo (AGENCY),—Any person who receives commission under the name of agency or any kind of remuneration for transacting commercial business for others must report the amount of commission and the persons engaged in the business; separately when the office of business are separately established.

Nakadachigyo (INTERMEDIARIES)—Any person who receives commission for transacting commercial business for others, or for acting as a middleman between parties, must report the amount of commission and the persons engaged in the business; separately if there are branch establishments.

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Nakagaigyo (BROKERAGE).—Any person who receives commission for transacting commercial business for others in his own name shall report the amount of commission and the persons engaged on the business; separately when there are different branch offices.

N. B.—Every person engaged in the businesses enumerated above must be reported, whether permanently or separately engaged, or living in the premises (the family of the proprietor excepted.)

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

WEDNESDAY, 17th Jan.

Before His Honour Judge WILKINSON.

THE ENSLIE WILL CASE.

Re the will of the late J. J. Enslie, of H.M. Consulate, Kobe.

The hearing of this case, in which the executor, Mr. H. C. Brushfield, petitioned the Court for directions as to the disposal of the property under the trust, was resumed.

Mr. H. C. Litchfield appeared for the Trustee, Mr. H. C. Brushfield; Mr. A. B. Walford represented Kozawa Tori, the chief beneficiary under the will.

His Honour remarked that at the last hearing Mr. Walford had concluded his argument. Since then an amended petition had been put in; did Mr. Walford propose to speak to the amended petition?

Mr. Walford:—I should like to call attention to one or two cases.

His Honour directed that the amended petition should be served on the two sisters of the deceased, who were joined to the cause as respondents, but said the case might proceed as if the petition had originally been presented as amended.

Mr. Walford then continued his argument at great length, citing cases to show that the annuity of 1500 yen to his client should be a first charge on the income, and that if the income proved insufficient, it should be a charge on the corpus of the estate. It had been held in cases which he quoted that an annuity which was directed to be paid out of income was held to be a charge either on the continuing income after the death of the annuitant or upon the body of the estate during *the annuitant's life.*

His Honour said he had not yet come to a decision on the matter, but his present inclination was that the annuity to Kozawa Tori was not in any sense to be paid out of capital but out of income.

The argument which was of a highly technical character and of little interest to non-legal readers, occupied the whole of the morning, and the case was eventually adjourned to to-day for Mr. Litchfield's reply to the arguments submitted for the respondent.

THURSDAY, Jan. 18th.

Mr. Litchfied represented the Trustee (Mr. H. C. Brushfield) and Mr. Walford appeared for Kozawa Tori, the principal beneficiary under the will.

Mr. Litchfield entered into a lengthy argument to show that the 6,000 *yen* mentioned in the testator's note of hand was a voluntary gift not completed in the testator's lifetime, and that it was his intention that it should continue part of the trust fund, which would be dealt by his will, the beneficiary having only a life interest in the profits of the fund. As to the payment of the annuity bequeathed to Kozawa Tori, he contended that it was payable out of capital.

His Honour asked Mr. Litchfield if he had any remarks to make upon the direction on the will that the annuity should be paid each half year in advance.

Mr. Litchfield—No, I have nothing particularly to say on that subject. It seems to be a mode of directing that the annuity should be paid immediately on the death of the testator.

His Honour—Before there was any possibility of income.

Mr. Litchfield—It would look as if it was so. Before there was any possibility of income from the investments made by the trustees.

His Honour—What would it be paid out of?

Mr. Litchfield—There would be no fund to pay it out of; the direction was that it was to be paid out of income and not out of capital, so there would be no fund. Possibly the trustees might have power to pay the money, but no trustee is bound to do so.

His Honour—No trustee is bound to do the impossible. Does it not appear by the will that the testator intended that there should be always 1,500 *yen* a year which could be and ought to be paid over to Kozawa Tori?

Mr. Litchfield—Yes, I certainly think he expected there should be so. He considered his estate would be sufficient to meet that, and the direction for payment in advance would confirm that view, at the same precluding the idea that there should be any arrears of income payable after the death of Kozawa Tori.

His Honour—There is nothing further, I think. I have the case before me.

Mr. Walford presented a case he had found since the previous day which he regarded as supporting his argument, and the case was then adjourned to the 31st January.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, Jan. 13th:—

	Dr. Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000 000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,646,336
Amount of convertible notes issued	230,492,312
Government deposits	63,820,442
General deposits	5,137,893
Exchange liability	47,724
Total	346,144,708
Cr.	
Discount notes	70,728,301
Foreign discount notes	16,507,652
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	69,010,883
Exchange liability	2,483.174
Government bonds	56,100,606
Property	2,007.056
Bullion and Specie	107,307,122
Total	346,144,708

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	229,604,252
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	101,794,777
Silver	8,000,000
Total	106,794,777
Securities:—	
Government bonds	22.041,921
Government certificates	22,041,621
Government bills	11,565.859
Commercial notes	67,201,995
Total	122,809,475

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	1,142.371
Silver	—	100,200
General loans	—	1,853 617
Government deposits	—	6,067.370
General deposits	—	4.246,098

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, Jan. 12.

It is officially notified that Colonel Watson marched the Suffolks in close column to the top of a hill at midnight and was addressing the officers at daybreak when the enemy volleyed at 30 paces distance. The Suffolks scarcely fired a shot. The other details already telegraphed are confirmed.

A message from Frere Camp on Monday says that an irregular cannonade from the Boers' positions at Ladysmith commenced that morning and still continues.

It is stated that Lord Methuen's health is completely broken down.

A Transvaal telegram gives the enemy's loss at Ladysmith on the 6th, as 4 killed and 15 wounded, after admitting that they endured a withering fire from 6 masked batteries aad were defeated at all points.

The natives assert that the loss in one commando alone was 150 killed and wagon-loads of wounded. The heaviest loss is reported to have been among the Free Staters, whom the Transvaalers forced into dangerous places.

Later.

Parliament meets on the 30th instant.

The Government has decided that foodstuffs carried by neutral vessels and destined for neutral ports are not liable to seizure as contraband of war unless there is reason to believe that they are intended for the enemy's troops.

Shanghai, Jan. 13.

The *Daily Mail* learns that in the fight at Ladysmith on Saturday, White lost 14 officers killed, 34 wounded, and 300 men killed and wounded.

It is stated that Lord Methuen injured his spine falling from his horse when wounded.

Buller occupied the south bank of the Tugela at Potgeiter Drift yesterday morning.

Later.

An official statement has been issued that White's losses on the 6th instant at Ladysmith were 135 men killed and 244 wounded. The following were killed:—

Colonel Dick-Cunynghame of the Gordons.

Major Bowen of the Rifles.

Major Mackworth of the West Surreys.

Major Miller-Walnutt of the Gordons.

Captain Lafone of the Devons.

Lieut. Hill of the Fifth Lancers.

Lieutenants Adams and Pakeman of the Imperial Horse.

Lieutenants Jones and Dennis of the Engineers.

Lieuts. Walker, Somerset, and Raikes of the Rifles.

Lieutenant Hall of the Rifles Brigade.

Another officer whose name is undecipherable (15 officers in all.)

It is reported that the Earl of Ava has died of his wounds.

Buller telegraphs from Springfield, under date of the 11th instant, that he has occupied the south bank of the Tugela at Potgeiters Drift and seized the pont. The river is in flood and the enemy is strongly entrenched 4½ miles to the north.

Shanghai, Jan. 14.

The news of the death of the Earl of Ava is confirmed.

Lord Strathcona's offer to equip and maintain in the field 400 mounted Canadians has been accepted.

Krupp has been requested to desist from any intended dispatch of shells to England, since it would be incompatible with Germany's strict neutrality.

Shanghai, January 15.

The Tzar's Rescript to Count Muravieff warmly thanks him for his ability and devotion in realizing the Czar's aim to secure the benefits of a real durable peace for all peoples. The Rescript alludes to His Majesty's satisfaction at the arrangements concluded with China and the understanding with Great Britain and Japan.

The first detachment of the London City Imperial Volunteers has left London amid a scene of indescribable enthusiasm. The streets were blocked with surging thousands.

The undecipherable name of an officer killed in the recent action at Ladysmith, was that of Lieutenant Tod of the Scottish Rifles.

Later.

The Lord Mayor and Corporation of London went to Southampton to say farewell to the City Regiment.

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There are reports that a battle is raging at three points on the Tugela.

All was quiet at Ladysmith on the 12th instant.

The embargo (upon the import of provisions) *viâ* Delagoa Bay is the question of the hour with the Burghers. It is declared that, if unremoved, it will have an injurious effect on the prisoners in Pretoria.

President Kruger, in a stirring speech, has declared that Providence is on the side of the Burghers and that they must win.

Reuter telegraphs from the Modder River under date of the 11th, that General Babington made a two days' reconnoissance about 20 miles into the Free State towards Jacobsdal, and did not encounter any of the enemy.

It is stated in Pretoria that the position of the Boers in Colesberg is favourable, but that the British are concentrating for large operations.

Shanghai, Jan. 16.

All was well at Mafeking on the 28th December.

The *Daily Mail* has a telegram from Pietermaritzburg dated the 12th, which says that General Warren, with 11,000 men, marched Eastward from Frere via Weenan. His scouts found no signs of the enemy at Groblerskloof, and also ascertained that Colenso is deserted.

All the Colonial and Irregular forces have been placed under Warren's command.

General Wood, with a force of all arms, established a post at Zoutpansdrift, on the north of the Orange River in the Free State, on the 6th inst., and has made pontoon bridges.

Later.

The Times has a telegram from Pietermaritzburg dated the 13th inst., which says that the heliograph from Ladysmith announces that it was strongly bombarded (?) all that day. It is reported that the Boers since their repulse on the 6th inst. have been removing their guns from the south of Ladysmith.

[NOTE.—This telegram is somewhat perplexing, owing to the omission of a word which we have supplied as "bombarded."—ED *J.M.*]

Shanghai, Jan. 17.

The bombardment of Mafeking was resumed on the 12th of January.

Nothing authentic has been received about the operations on the Tugela. Reuter cables from Capetown, under date of the 13th instant, that there is good reason to believe in the correctness of the information that a movement has been made to the eastward with a column of eleven thousand, and that important news may be shortly expected.

It is understood that General Carrington has received high command at the Cape.

Later,

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Rensberg, under date of the 15th instant, that the Boers that morning attempted to capture a hill held by a company of the Yorkshires and the New Zealand Contingent. The Boers were repulsed at the point of the bayonet. They had 21 killed and about 50 wounded.

Boer despatches from Ladysmith, dated the 13th instant, say that there was an ominous calm there and along the Tugela. The despatches added that Ladysmith appeared to be in some straits, and that there was consequently great activity among the British who have three great camps on the south of the Tugela which are constantly increasing.

The Premier of New South Wales has wired the Admiral on the Station that there is a feeling in Sydney that it would be advisable to guard the transports owing to the activity of the Boers.

Shanghai, Jan. 18.

Portugal has declared that she will neither sell, cede nor lease any of her colonial possessions.

Sir Alfred Milner has proclaimed martial law in the districts of Philipstown and Hopetown.

Very heavy firing was heard in the direction of Springfield on the 15th instant.

There are various reports that the Free-Staters desire to end the war. It is alleged that at a council recently held in Bloemfontein a declaration was made that if the British did not attack (in Natal) before the 17th instant, the Free-Staters would return home.

Later.

The steamship *Bundesrath* is to be released immediately. Great Britain will have to pay a heavy indemnity, besides deeply irritating Germany.

The Sydney Contingent has sailed amid boundless enthusiasm.

The losses at Rensberg on the 15th instant (when the Boers attacked an outpost of French's column) were seven killed and six wounded. Captain Orr, of the Yorkshires, was dangerously wounded.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, Jan. 13.

News from London says that General Buller, telegraphing from Springfield on the 11th of January, announces that he occupied the south bank of the Tugela at Potgeiters Drift that morning, and that he gained possession of the bridge. The enemy is strongly entrenched at a place about 4 miles to the north.

Saigon, January 15.

It is telegraphed from Durban under date of the 11th instant, that a combat has commenced at three points near Potgeiter Drift.

Saigon, Jan. 16.

It is telegraphed from Durban under date of the 12th that according to rumour General Wood has crossed the Tugela, but there is no official confirmation of the news.

Saigon, January 17.

It is cabled from London that news of Buller is anxiously awaited in England. The only certain information to hand is that Ladysmith was still holding out on the 13th instant.

Saigon, Jan. 18.

It is affirmed in London that Lord Methuen has been recalled.

An attack made by the Boers on an advanced post of General French's column was repulsed, the Boers having 20 killed and the English, 6.

The War Office announces that the only news received from General Buller relates to the reconnaissance made by him on the 15th inst., when he had one man wounded.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG VOLUNTEER GAZETTE" SPECIALLY WIRED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM NAGASAKI.)

London, January 9.

The correspondent of the *Globe* at the Modder River states that the last words of General Wauchope were, "For God's sake men don't blame me for this."

The Military Authorities have authorized the formation of a mounted corps of gentlemen to form part of the Imperial Yeomanry.

The report concerning the wounding of Lord Edward Cecil and of Cavendish Bentinck at Malopo outside Mafeking is unfounded.

The *Daily News* understands that the details for the composition of another infantry division have been completed.

It is reported that two large guns and six Maxims were seized on board a steamer in the Thames.

Holland has made representations with regard to the Dutch ambulance seized on the *Herzog*.

THE SHINZO-CARREW CASE AT KOBE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONENCE.)

Kobe, Jan. 16.

Judgment was given this morning by the Chiho Saibansho in the matter of Okada Shinzo's claim against Captain Carrew. The Court rejected the claim, giving costs against plaintiff. (The claim was for the surrender of a plot of ground held on lease by Captain Carrew, whom the plaintiff, who had lately purchased the lot, wished to eject. Plaintiff claimed that the agreement under which Captain Carrew held the land was not a valid lease.)

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 455.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to K B 4	1—B to Kt 3
2—P to Q 4 ch	2—Kt takes P
3—P takes Kt, mate	
	1—Kt takes R
2—P takes Kt ch	2—K takes P
3—B to Q 6, mate	
	2—P takes P
3—P to Q 4, mate	
	1—Kt takes Kt P
2—P to Q 4 ch	2—K takes R
3—B takes P, mate	
	1—Kt to B 3
2—R to K 4 ch	2—P takes R
3—Q to K 5, mate	
	1—P takes R
2—P takes P ch	2—K takes P
3—B to Q 6, mate	
	2—Kt takes P
3—P to Q 4, mate	

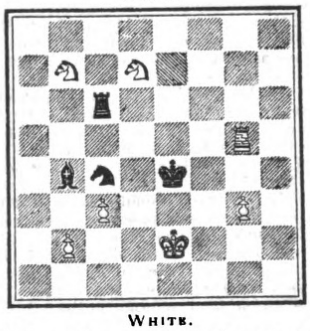
Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

Correct solution of Problem 454 received from G.W.G.

PROBLEM No. 457.

By E S CAMPLING.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME No. 584.

A BLINDFOLD GEM

Mr. Pillsbury has been giving another extraordinary blindfold simultaneous séance of ten games at the Newark (N.J.) Chess Club.

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On this occasion he won eight games, drew two, and lost none.

The annexed partie, although with P to Q 4, was the star brilliant of the occasion:—

White—Pillsbury.	Black—Amateur.
1—P to Q 4	P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	P to K 3
3—Q Kt to B 3	P to Q B 3
4—Kt to B 3	B to Q 3
5—P to K 4	Kt to K 2
6—B to Q 3	Castles

Black's defence, hitherto defective on second and fourth move, now becomes a downright loss, which Mr. Pillsbury demonstrates in his happiest vein.

7—P to K 5	B to B 2
8—B takes P ch	K takes B

It would have been a shade better to play K to R sq. This would, however, have been a loss equally, as White would have proceeded with Kt to Kt 5, P to K Kt 3 best, Q to B 3, etc.

9—Kt to Kt 5 ch	K to Kt 3

On K to Kt sq, follows the familiar Q to R 5, although Black can hold out for some time by R to K sq.

10—Q to Kt 4	P to K B 4
11—Q to Kt 3	Q to Q 2

12—Q to R 4 and wins, as with this move Mr. Pillsbury electrified the assembled players by announcing mate in eight moves The modus operandi in seven moves is as follows after Black as his last reply plays B takes K P.

13—P takes B	R to Kt sq
14—Q takes R	P to B 5
15—Q to R 7 ch	K takes Kt
16—P to R 4 ch	K to Kt 5
17—Q takes P ch	Kt to Kt 3
18—Q takes Kt mate.	

The only imperfection in the announcement was that it is susceptible of demonstration in one move less, as above given. Instead of 17 Q takes P ch, Mr. Pillsbury had probably in his mind's eye 17 P to B 3 ch, which would have made the eight moves.—Score and Comments from *The Times*, Philadelphia.

GAME No. 585.

A CONSULTATION GAME.

PLAYED IN MOSCOW BETWEEN M. TSCHIGORIN AND ALLIES

Vienna Opening.

White—Tschigorin. Black—Allies.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	11 Kt B3	Q Q2
2 Kt QB3	Kt K B3	12 P QR3	Castles (QR)
3 P B4	P Q4	13 P x B	B Q4
4 P Q3	P x BP	14 Q K2	Q R K sq
5 B x P	B Q Kt 5	15 B K3	B x Kt
6 P K5	P Q5	16 Q x B	Kt Q5
7 P x Kt	P x Kt	17 Q B2	R x Bch
8 Q K2ch	B K3	18 K Q sq	Q Kt 5ch
9 P Q Kt3	P x P	19 K B sq	Q B5
10 Q K4	Kt B3	20 Resigns.	

This game is worth studying as showing the weakness of the "Vienna."

THE GRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

Report of the Directors, to be submitted at the twenty-first semi-annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of January, 1900.

The Profit and Loss Account, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the half year ended December 31st, 1899, accompany this report.

	Yen
The net profit for the half year, including balance brought forward from June 30th 1899, after writing off yen 14,718.16, and after providing for general expenses, Directors' and Auditor's fees, bonus to Manager, and interest, amounts to .... which it is proposed to apply as follows:	48,382.84
In payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half year	25 000.00
Balance to be carried to new account...	23,382.84
	48,382.84

On this large balance carried forward, consisting wholly of liquid assets (wines, provisions, cigars, general expenses in stock, and cash after cancellation of sundry debtors and creditors), a considerable part has been reserved for the discharge of obligations incurred, or in contemplation, on account of repair and improvements.

To conform with the requirements of Art. 90 and 130 of the Articles of Association, two directors and an auditor must be elected at this meeting, and the amount of the Directors' fees for the current year decided. Messrs. Martin and Howard retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. James Walter having resigned his seat as a Director, Mr. M. Kaufmann, of the firm of Simon, Evers & Co., Yokohama, was appointed by the Board to fill the casual vacancy.

The Directors have much pleasure in recommending the re-election of Mr. F. J. Hall as Auditor for the current year.

It is proposed that the dividend shall be payable on the 24th day of January, when warrants will be issued.

Yokohama, 8th January, 1900.

MITCHELL McDONALD, MARSHALL MARTIN, } Directors,

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON DECEMBER 31ST, 1899.

LIABILITIES.

Capital 2,500 Shares at Y.100	250,000 00
Debentures	10,000 00
Bills payable	12,458 95
	272,458.95
Balance Profit	48.382.84
	320,841 92

ASSETS.

	Yen.
Chartered Bank of I. A. and C.....	40,400.92
Cash in hand	455 26
Fire Insurance Value	1,349 53
Ground (Estimated Value Oct., 1897, Y.85,000).....	60,000.00
Buildings (Estimated Value, Oct. 1897, Y.170,000)	128,609 50
Furniture (Estimated Value, Oct., 1897, Y.53,900)	51,149.06
Electric Light Plant	12,445 67
Steam Launch	6,647 49
Wines in Stock	7,987.80
Provisions in Stock	2,196 11
Cigars in Stock	1,956 69
General Expenses in Stock	863.55
Bills receivable	6,780.21
	320,841.79

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—DECEMBER 31ST, 1899.

Dr.		Yen.
To General Expenses		31,932.90
To Fire Insurance.....		1,669 97
To Directors' and Auditor's fees		998.46
To Bonus to Manager.....		500 00
To Balance, Profit .....Y 63,101 00 to be dealt with as follows:—		
Dividend 10 per cent. Y.25 000.00		
Steam Launch written off	500.00	
Building written off .	7,000.00	
Furniture written off,	6,000.00	
Electric Light written off	1,218 16	
Carried Forward to new Account 23,382.85	63,101.00	63,101.00
		98,202.33
By Balance brought forward from June 30th, 1899		21,022.08
By Working Account		75.993.28
By Rent Account		655.00
By Share transfer fees		39.00
By Share Warrant fees		5 50
By Sale of old Material		346 38
By Interest		141.09
		98,202.33
January 1st, 1900. By Balance.....		23,382.84

Yokohama, Dec. 31st, 1899.

MITCHELL McDONALD, MARSHALL MARTIN, } Directors.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the vouchers of the Company, and certify them to be correct.

F. J. HALL Auditor.

Yokohama, January 8th, 1900.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hitachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,827, R. C. Tod, 12th January,—London via ports, and Kobe 10th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wittenberg, German steamer, 2,363, Madsen, 12th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, and Tsintau, 7th Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, T. Tibballs, 12th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, 6th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 12th January,—Shanghai via ports, 6th Jan.. Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 12th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 11th January, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Wakasa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,886, J. B. MacMillan, 13th Jan.,—London via ports, and Hongkong, 6th January, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 13th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 12th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, G. Anderson, 13th Jan.,—Kobe, 11th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 13th January,—Kobe, 11th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Amoy, German steamer, 663, W. Wulff, 13th Jan.,—Hongkong, Sugar and General.—Becker & Co.

Pronto, Norwegian steamer, 868, C. Muller, 13th Jan.,—Iloilo, P.I., 27th December, Sugar.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Bergloe, British steamer, 1,933, A. W. S. Thomson, 14th Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 12th Jan., General.—Cornes & Co.

R. D. Rice, American ship, 2,106, C. F. Carver, 14th Jan.,—New York, 20th Aug., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Pakhoi, British steamer, 1,249, C. C. Williams, 14th Jan.,—Hongkong, 5th January, Sugar.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, H. Fraser, 14th January,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Menelaus, British steamer, 2,771, W. Towell, 14th Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 13th Jan., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 14th January,—Kobe, 13th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 15th January,—Vancouver, B.C., 1st Jan., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 15th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 14th Jan. General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 16th January,—Kobe, 14th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Holsatia, German steamer, 2,361, Bahler, 16th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 6th Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 16th Jan.,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 14th January, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, J. Hutcheon, 16th Jan.,—Tacoma, Wash., 31st Dec., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hainan, German steamer, 870, Clausen, 17th Jan.,—Iloilo, P.I., Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 17th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, 12th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abergeldie, British steamer, 2,438, J. Murray, 18th January,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yanariva, British steamer, 2,155, Smith, 18th Jan.,—Galveston via Singapore, 1st January, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Yawata Maru, British steamer, 2,181, A. E. Moses, 12th January,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato, 12th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 12th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Karlsruhe, German steamer, 3,189. G. Dannemann, 13th January,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652; R. Nunome, 13th January,—Uraga, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgian King. British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 13th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, T. Tibballs, 14th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 14th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 14th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 15th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer 3,797, H. Peterson, 15th Jan.,—Marseilles, Antwerp and London via ports. Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, G. Anderson, 15th January,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Grant, U.S. Army Transport, 3,646, B. M. Buford, 15th Jan.,—Manila via Nagasaki, General and 48th U.S. Vol., Reg't (Colored).—U.S. Government.

Wittenberg, German steamer, 2,363, Madsen, 16th Jan.,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 17th January,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 17th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 17th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 17th January.—Kobe, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iha Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 18th January,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, O. Oda, 18th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. Adams, Mr. J. Bieber, Mr. H. S. Forbes, Rev. M. C. Fenwick, Dr. Emily Garner, Mr. W. Gordon, Dr. and Mrs. Hall, Mr. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Rev. Dr. Kilborn, Mrs. Kilborn and 3 children, Miss Macfarlane, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. McMichael, Master McMichael, Mr. A. G. Mosle, Mr. T. Namagori, Mr. J. C. Nichols, Rev. Dr. Stevens, Mr. W. Torich, Mr. F. J. Tregillus, Mr. B. Tregillus, and Mr. T. Yamamoto, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakasa Maru*, from London via ports:—Mr. S. Okuda, Mr. B. H. Chamberlain, Mr. F. Shima, and Master H. B. MacMillan, in cabin; Mr. F. Fukushima, and Mr. W. Otsuki, second class; 14 Chinese and 7 children, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. E. P. Belben, Mr. H. Inman, Mr. J. I. Hamilton and servant, Mr. L. Bobsien, and Mr. Tatribroin, in cabin; 4 in deck.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Karlsruhe*, for Bremen via ports:—Mr. C. Kipp, Mr. W. Rinck, Mr. R. Boyes, Mr. St. Z. Lee Hilmers, Dr. A. G. Smith, Mrs. E. K. Smith, Baron and Mrs. Lindholm, Prince and Princess Lubanow and 3 children, Mr. E. Kopper, Mrs. Baxter and 2 children, Mr. Baxter, Mr. G. Melchers, His Ex. R. Alexieff, Mr. K.-Kishi, Mr. A. Watanabe, Mr. S. Walter, Mr. W. L. Coggin, and one Chinese boy, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carstens, Mr. J. F. N. Barlett, Mr. and Mrs. Langfeldt, Mr. J. C. Dusel, Mrs. Ottofy and son, Mr. Tung Yik, Mr. Chan Poo Chiw and native servant, Mrs. B. Hyde Pearson and son, Mr. Kistamayer, Mr. R. Oda, Mrs. G. W. Middleton, Mr. Ching Sing, and Mr. G. W. Middleton, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. H. A. Belden, Mr. and Mrs. John Bevan, Miss Bevan, Mr. R. A. Brown, Mr. M. Newborg, Mrs. Wm. Feldstein, Mr. Miyasawa, Mr. T. Matsuoka, Mr. J. J. Collins, Mr. W. E. Hunt, Mr. F. W. Lamson, Mr. J. S. Burnet, Comte J. B. de la Brosse, Mr. S. Sawabe, Mr. M. Uematsu, Mr. Y. Ichida, Mr. T. Ikeda, Mr. H. Keswick, Mr. Edward Perks, and Mr. H. S. Smith, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kamakura Maru*, for London via ports:—Mr. T. Fukuda, Mr. H. Shimotome, Mr. K. Honda, Mr. J. Murai, Mr. T. Shiodai, Mr. R. Fukui, Mr. Y. Nakamura, Mr. J. B. Wright, Mr. Y. Ito, Mr. T. Shinkai, and Mr. James Guy, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yawata Maru*, for Australia via ports:—Mr. C. Wells, Mr. K. Takebayashi, Mr. Y. Kominami, Mr. E. Dun, Mr. J. Morse, Miss E. Reilly, Mr. and Mrs. F. Corrie, Mrs. J. O. Donovan, and Mr. A. J. O. Donovan, in cabin; Mr. W. S. Chapman, Mr. O. A. Stewart, Mr. J. H. Whiteiy, and Mr. T. D. Harrison, in second class.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen 1	Tu. Jan 23
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 2	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Indus 3	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Km. of China 4	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Jan. 29
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Jan. 29
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 5	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. Feb. 5
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China	M. Feb. 12

1 Left Shanghai on the 17th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 6th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 16th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 17th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 16th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Indus	F. Feb. 2
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Jan. 24
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Jan. 24
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	F. Jan. 26
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of China	F. Jan. 26
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. Jan. 27
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Jan. 31
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	M. Feb. 5
America	T. K. K.	Amer.ca Maru	W. Feb. 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Tu Feb. 13

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Fairly considerable transactions have taken place in cotton yarns, but buyers are unwilling to pay current rates, though these are still below values prevailing at Manchester. Fancy cottons and woollens are dull.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 2.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 3½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 3.85
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.00 to 2.15
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.15 to 3.20
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.70 to 4.20
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.29

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0 65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.31 to 0.48
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.31
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0 65 to 0.75

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9 20 to 11 00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.96 to 1.15
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.3 oz., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.12½ to 2.42½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.70 to 3.75

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	$42.00 to 44 00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	52.00 to 55 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	78.00 to 82.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	104.00 to 106.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	125.00 to 130.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	102.00 to 104.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	116.00 to 120.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	145.00 to 155.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.25
Indian Broach	23.50
Chinese	24.00

METALS.

The market is quiet, with little or no business.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward	6.20 to 6 40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	12.50 to 13.80
Wire Nails, assorted	7.60 to 7.90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (¼ to 1¼ inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

Browns are dull and prices lower. Refined quiet; little doing.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.40
Brown Manila	5.50 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 5 50
Brown Canto n	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Little business has been done owing to the disputes in the trade.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,320 to 1,330
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,270 to 1,280
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,230 to 1,240
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	1,180 to 1,190
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,210 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 2	1,180 to 1,190
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	1,250 to 1,260
Kakedas—No. 1	1,220 to 1,230
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,180 to 1,190
Kakedas—No 2	1,150 to 1,160
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

Prices are very firm, and few transactions are reported.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	140 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best / Noshi—Bushu, Good / Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

TEA.

The Market is closed. The total settlements for the season have been 212,780 piculs, as against 207,054 piculs up to corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	32 & upwards
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	28 to 29
Fine	26 to 27
Good Medium	24 to 25
Medium	22 to 23
Good Common	20 to 21
Common	18 2 19

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 18.

Silver from London ⅛ lower and discounts easier at 3½ per cent. for 3 months paper; local rates of exchange are unaltered.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 15/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0½
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 13/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0½
— — 6 months' sight	2/1
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	256½
— Private 4 months' sight	261½ to 2
— Private 6 months' sight	263
America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	214
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4½% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	73½ to 74
— Private 10 days' sight	75½
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Bar Silver (London)	27 7/16

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, January 18.

Breweries have sellers at *yen* 170. Offers for shares are wanted. Engine and Iron Works have again changed hands at *yen* 220 cum dividend. Grand Hotels have sellers at *yen* 240 ex dividend. Buyers offer *yen* 237.50 for a few shares. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 80. Oriental Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 130. Langfeldts—Offers for shares are wanted. Laundries—Offers for shares are wanted. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9.

Marusan Breweries—A slip occurred in last night's quotation. It should have been *yen* 39.50, at which rate shares were sold again to-day.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs have buyers at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels—A few debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108.

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Hongkong and Shanghai Banks changed hands to-day at 343 per cent. premium.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50 ...	200 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. yen 50	170 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100 ...	240 Sa. ex div.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100 ...	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100 ...	132 B
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Wdrn.), $184 ...	350 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., yen 100 ...	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100 ...	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $50 ...	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100 ...	95 S.
Helm Bros., $50 ...	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., yen 50 ...	60 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100 ...	120 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100 ...	108 B.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100 ...	102 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100 ...	108 B.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100 ...	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, January 18.

Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 85. Langfeldts are obtainable at par. Engine and Iron Works have sellers at *yen* 220.

North China Insurance shares can be had at Tls. 190.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...220 Sales.
Grand Hotel ...242.50 ex dividend.
Club Hotel... 85 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel ...130 Steady.
Langfeldt & Co. ...100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co. ...170 Sales.

Tokyo, January 18.

Redemption Loan Bonds ...	95.35
War Loan Bonds ...	95.35
Tokyo City Loan Bonds ...	99.50
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200 ...	440.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50 ...	67.50
Specie Bank—paid up yen 200 ...	272.50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50 ...	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50 ...	67 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 200 ...	209.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25 ...	28.50
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	74.00
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 42 ...	60.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 20 50 ...	25.40
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45 ...	120.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 ...	78.50
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 ...	55.70
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	47.50
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	61.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40 ...	47 00
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	96.80

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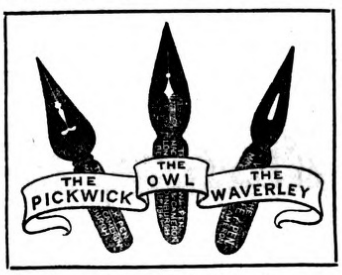

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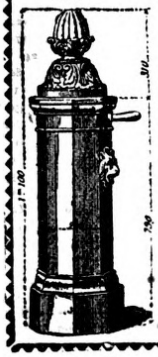

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 27TH, 1900.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE weather has turned bitterly cold the last few days.

TWELVE case of plague are reported to have occurred in one street in Manila.

A TERRIBLE affair has happened in Owari, where 30 factory girls have been burned to death.

IT is reported that Pretoria is much perturbed and bitterly disappointed at the apparent apathy of the Continental Powers.

THROUGHOUT the week there has been fierce fighting among the hills near Ladysmith. Sir Charles Warren's force is winning its way, ridge by ridge. The siege of Kimberley continues as strong as ever.

THE Buddhists of the Eastern Hongwanji are vigorously urging their opposition to the Religions Bill by public meeting and otherwise.

AMONG the deaths reported from London this week are those of John Ruskin, R.D. Blackmore, and G. W. Steevens, the war correspondent.

H.M.S. *Pelorus* has seized the German barque *Marie* in Delagoa Bay, laden with flour for the Transvaal Government, and has conveyed her to Durban.

MR. FITZPATRICK'S book "The Transvaal from Within" has been selling as if it were a novel. Twenty thousand copies have almost gone already.

A CHINESE named To Sei was arrested on Thursday, by a detective of the Kagacho Police, while in the act of smoking opium at his residence 191, Settlement.

HENCEFORTH all rats sent to the Police Stations or to the sanitary offices situated in Yokohama will be paid for at the rate of five cents per head dead or alive.

GENERAL BULLER has issued a spirited appeal to the troops telling them that they are going to relieve their comrades in Ladysmith and that there will be no turning back.

THE second contingent of the New Zealand Volunteers has left Wellington. The Premier in his speech said that if the occasion arose every man in New Zealand capable of bearing arms would volunteer.

AT 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, a robber entered the residence of a lodging house-keeper named Miita Kichigoro at Kanagawa. He tied both the man's arms and then extracted from the cash-box some 6 *yen*.

THE number of police doctors attached to the various stations in Yokohama are:—Bluff Police, 8; Kotobukicho Police Station, 40; Isezakicho Police Station, 15; Kagacho Police Station, 6; Water Police Station, 4; Quarantine, 2.

SPEAKING in the Reichstag M. de Bülow said that he had addressed serious remonstrances to England on account of the seizure of German ships. England will pay an indemnity for the *Bundesrath*, and has expressed her regrets.

THE French Minister of Finance will submit to the Chamber in the course of the week a project of law imposing the maximum tariff on colonial products of countries which do not accord most-favoured-nation treatment to France.

MR. JOSEPH Pulitzer's magnificent mansion on Fifth Avenue, New York, was completely destroyed by fire on Jan. 9. All the inmates were saved except two domestics, who perished in the flames. The contents of the house were not saved.

THE Nagasaki Police are searching for seven men belonging to H.M.S. *Victorious*, who were left behind when the vessel sailed a week ago. Nothing has yet been heard of them and it is supposed that they joined an American transport for San Francisco.

AT 5 o'clock on Wednesday, a man was seen to jump into the canal from Yamabuki bridge. A *sendo* passing by jumped in and rescued him, and he was found to be named Tanaka Takejiro, a native of Osaka. The man was in despair owing to an acute attack of opthalmia.

THE concert organised in Tokyo, in aid of the funds now being collected on behalf of the widows and orphans of soldiers that may fall during the South African war, took place on Wednesday at the British Legation, and was a pronounced success.

IN the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on the 20th inst., before Judge Fujise, judgment was given in favour of the defendant in the case brought by Mr. Toyama against Mr. Ribeino for non-delivery of indigo valued at 15,000 *yen*. The plaintiff was ordered to pay costs of the court.

CAPTAIN Sealby, late of the O. and O. steamer *Coptic*, running between Hongkong and San Francisco, is to assume command of the *Persic*, to run between San Francisco and Australia. The *Persic* is rapidly approaching completion at Harland and Wolff's shipbuilding yard in Belfast.

ON the 19th inst., at 9.30 p.m. a man entered a *geisha* house in Sumiyoshicho, Sanchome. After tying up the two inmates with a rope, he threatened the mistress of the house, who was sick in bed, with a dagger, and ordered her to hand over clothing, money, etc. He got, however, only one *yen* in small change and a Japanese woman's overcoat.

AT one o'clock on the morning of the 19th inst. two robbers entered the house of Hasegawa Matsusaburo, a cloth-dealer in Iseri-gun, Chigara-mura, Kanagawa Prefecture. After tying the proprietor with a rope, and threatening his wife with a sword, the men got off with eight pieces of cloth, valued at 87 *yen*, and *yen* 15 in cash. The robbers are still at large.

AT 9 p.m. on the 20th inst. fire was discovered in a bed at the back of a bath house at 147, Settlement. Fortunately, before any serious damage could be done, the fire was extinguished by the police and the neighbours. Some Chinese boys, it appears, had been smoking cigarettes in the street during the daytime and then threw the smouldering ends among the shavings.

ON the 28th December Lieut. C. H. Sleeper, Collector of Internal Revenue, sold by auction in one lot at his office, No. 23. Calle Anloague, all the Filipino postage, provisional postage, newspaper stamps, surcharged stamps, and postal cards on hand in his Hacienda Publica of Manila consisting of 30,000,000 stamps, (more or less) of various denominations and years of issue; and 100,000 postal cards (more or less). There was some spirited bidding until $50,400 was reached, and, this being the highest price offered, they were knocked down to the bidders, Messrs. Koller and Co.

WITH regard to the statement of Lord Methuen that the Modder River fight was one of the hardest and most trying in the annals of the British army, a correspondent writes in *The Times* showing that the British forces lost only 7¼ per cent. in killed and wounded compared with 9 per cent. at Alma in 1854, 31 per cent. at Inkermann; 13 per cent. at Salamanca, 1812, and Sobraon, 1846; 15 per cent. at Ferozeshah, 1845, and Chillianwallah, 1849; 20 per cent at Quatre Bras, 1815; 27 per cent at Barossa, 1811; 29 per cent at Waterloo, 1815; 30 per cent at Talavera, 1809; and 41 per cent at Albuera in 1811.

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LAND QUESTION IN YOKOHAMA.

Monday, Jan. 22.

It is rightly observed by the *Kokumin Shimbun* that the difficulty about registering the titles of foreign land-holders in Yokohama is wholly a question of terminology. The Japanese Government have not the remotest intention of interfering with titles which are guaranteed by treaty and whose validity stands above all query. But unfortunately the laws of Japan do not include any provision for such titles. The nearest legal equivalent is "perpetual superficies," and it can not be denied that the "perpetual superficies" of the Civil Code is a different thing from the "perpetual lease" of the treaties, since the former is liable to be made terminable by a decree of a law court, whereas the latter is secured against all such interference. The Japanese Government's idea was to solve the problem without any alteration of the law, by providing that the titles should be registered as "perpetual superficies" qualified by the parenthetical addition of "perpetual lease." In the face of a special entry of that kind, and in the face of the fact that any attempt to alter the title must be initiated by an appeal to the law courts by the Japanese Government themselves in their quality of owners, it was thought that the foreign land-holder might feel quite easy. But the foreign land-holder is not satisfied. He does not see why there should be any circumlocution whatever. He possesses by treaty a certain kind of title, and while he has perfect confidence in the good faith of the Japanese Government, he maintains, as a business man, that the title "perpetual superficies" is not as good *per se* as the title "perpetual lease," and that his financial transactions in connexion with the land are inconveniently hampered by the substitution of the former term for the latter. If he has occasion to mortgage his land, he does not want to have any element of uncertainty or obscurity whatsoever in the nature of the title he can offer to a bank or a capitalist. It can not be denied, we think, that strict right is on the side of the foreigner in this matter. The treaty gives him a certain privilege, and he should not be required to make any concessions whatever, or consent to the introduction of any factor of doubt, in his enjoyment of the privilege. The Japanese Government have probably been influenced in this matter by a sense of the inexpediency of asking the legislature to intervene at a time when public opinion is just beginning to turn towards a more liberal policy in the matter of foreign ownership of land. They perhaps think that a project of law, if introduced in the Diet, might give rise to a discussion in which the conservatives would again find an opportunity to ventilate their views. That is only our own conjecture, but it may be taken for granted that all who desire to see Japan adopt an entirely enlightened policy as to land ownership would prefer not to ventilate any correlated question just at present. The country's international obligations, however, must be carried out literally. More than six months have elapsed since the revised treaties went into operation, and during that long interval there has been an almost complete block in all transactions relating to Settlement lands. It is a great hardship. The meeting held by foreign land-renters in Yokohama on the 19th instant evinced, we think, a remarkably moderate disposition under the circumstances, and we venture to urge the advisability of paying immediate attention to the representations that will doubtless be made in the sequel of the meeting. One comment we can not choose but make. It is that there seems to be still an unbridged gulf between the foreign community and the Japanese Authorities. Why should it have been necessary to hold a public meeting? Surely there should have been no insuperable difficulty in determining long ago whether the proposed arrangement as to parenthetical leases would satisfy this community. The concession in this matter has to be entirely on the side of the foreign land-lessees. Would it not have been reasonable to ascertain whether they were willing to make such and such a concession before taking any definite official action? It is not our business to conjecture where the responsibility for this state of things rests, but we can scarcely imagine that the Japanese Authorities rashly embodied their idea of parenthetical leases in an Ordinance without previously obtaining some kind of assurance that the device was likely to prove satisfactory. It is very disappointing to find that the days of public meetings and public protests are not yet at an end.

Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The usual attempt is made, we observe, to misrepresent this journal and to falsely attribute to us an attitude of opposition to the wishes of the community. Dr. Lönholm is also dragged into the question though he has had nothing whatever to do with it. It is in connexion with the Land-renters' meeting of Friday last that this dishonest perversion of facts is published. "The opinions expressed at the meeting," writes the *Japan Herald*, "were practically unanimous, and proved that the sophistries of the *Japan Mail*, and the explanations in favour of the superficies arrangement, urged with so much assiduity by Dr. Lonholm, have had no effect whatever upon public opinion beyond that of making it more resolute in opposition." As to our so-called "sophistries," what we have done is merely to point out that, so long as the Japanese Government observes its treaty obligations, the proposed method of registering perpetual leases as "perpetual superficies" is perfectly safe, for the perpetuity of the superficies can never be disturbed unless the Japanese Government, in its capacity of owner of the land, applies to a law court to have a period fixed. That fact is absolutely undeniable. Nevertheless, if the foreign lessee desires to have the terminology of the register in exact conformity with that of the treaty, he is entitled to have his wish satisfied. As to the "explanations in favour of the superficies arrangement, urged with so much assiduity by Dr. Lönholm," we are not aware that Dr. Lönholm has publicly expressed any opinion whatever on this subject. He did, indeed, help in the past to enlighten the community as to the true value of the title called "superficies," and he exposed the singular misapprehensions put forward by Kobe and Yokohama journals on this subject; but with regard to the registration of perpetual leases as "perpetual superficies" with the word "perpetual leases" in brackets—which is a wholly independent problem—he has not made any statement. We have only to repeat what we have often said, that there can never be anything like really amicable relations between the foreign community and the Government so long as every incident that occurs is made an occasion for misrepresentation and recrimination. Every endeavour was made by the promoters of Friday's meeting to deprive it of all acrimonious features, and to show clearly that the friendly character of the Japanese Government's intentions was understood and appreciated, yet the *Japan Herald* now speaks of "the contest between the land-renters and the Government," charges the latter with "an attempt to set aside" the land-renters' rights," and declares that "the Government, for some inscrutable purpose or another, has departed from the peaceful and appropriate line of action laid down."

SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES.

A great deal of attention has been attracted by the published result of the working of four enterprises during the second half of last year. The first of these was the *Naigai Menka Kaisha* (home and foreign cotton company), which, with a paid up capital of only 350,000 *yen*, realized a net profit of 310,000 *yen*, paid a dividend of 80 per cent., and decided to raise its capital to 1,200,000 *yen*. The second was the Kerosene Company of Echigo. Its paid up capital is 300,000 *yen*, and it realized profits aggregating 120,000; thus paying a dividend of 40 per cent., and deciding to double its *nominal* capital of 600,000 *yen*. Then came the 100th Bank, which cleared 876,000 *yen*, against a capital of 4 millions, and paid a dividend of 20 per cent., raising its reserves to 876,000 *yen*. Finally, the Mitsu Bishi Bank, with a capital of a million *yen*, made a net profit of 157,000 *yen*, but paid a dividend of only 5 per cent., carrying all the rest to its reserves Such figures are tantalizing. They show what extraordinary opportunities for money-making Japan offers.

COUNT ITAGAKI AND MR. HOSHI TORU.

It is noticeable that whereas, at the recent convivial meeting held by the Liberals in the Maple Club, Mr. Hoshi Toru's speech was chiefly marked by a prediction that the Party has come within measurable distance of achieving its long cherished purpose—the grasping of administrative power—, Count Itagaki made not the smallest allusion to anything of the kind, but confined himself entirely to discussing the social problem. He thinks that Japan will soon be confronted by that problem in a troublesome form—strikes, trades' unions, and so forth—and that wise legislators will make their preparations accordingly. He would begin by enacting laws for the protection of the working classes, and he asked his audience to lend their assistance. It may be claimed, perhaps, that the two speeches were correlated, since one leader spoke of the acquisition of administrative power, and the other indicated the use to be made of it when acquired, but the connexion is too subtle to have suggested itself readily to an audiencet at a dinner party.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, Jan. 20.

The telegrams received yesterday at the French Legation conflict somewhat with the news forwarded by Reuter, but the disagreement is probably a mere matter of transmission. It appears to us that what has happened is this:—On the 10th instant, a force of mounted infantry under the command of Dundonald, made a long flank march to the westward of Potgeiter's Drift, crossed the Tugela at a point several miles higher up, and then came down the river to attack the Boers outposts from the west, surprising them and driving them in. On what day this happened it is difficult to make out. Reuter's telegram tells us that Dundonald's men moved westward on the 10th, but says nothing about the time of their attacking the Boers. The French telegram speaks of the 18th, but that is apparently erroneous: the operation must have been prior to the 16th. At all events, the outposts having been driven in, the infantry of the Division to which Dundonald is attached, crossed the Tugela on the evening of the same day, and doubtless occupied the heights from which the Boers had been dislodged. Meanwhile, Warren's Division had advanced on the east by the Weenen road, and reaching the Tugela at Wagon's Drift, crossed in the face of a heavy fire, and succeeded in taking up a good position two miles on the north of the river. He was able to carry all arms over the river, infantry, cavalry, and artillery; from which it follows that there was a bridge available and *indeed the* French Legation telegram *speaks* of a bridge having been constructed. Reuter does not say whether the Division on the left flank—where Buller himself seems to be directing operations—was able to get its artillery across, but the French telegram speaks of one battery having passed the river, and where one went the rest doubtless followed. Lyttleton's Brigade remains to be accounted for. We are told that it crossed on the 16th. But where? Buller has two Divisions and a Brigade, so far as we can ascertain, besides irregular troops. It would seem that the Brigade is Lyttleton's, in which case its point of crossing was probably between Potgeiter's Drift and Wagon's Drift; whether near or far from Colenso we can not say, but, at all events, at a central point. The sum of the matter is that Buller's forces have crossed the Tugela, and that the plan of operations is heavy flank attacks on the right and left, each delivered by a Division, and a frontal attack by a Brigade.

Potgieter's Drift seems to be about 15 miles distant from Ladysmith as the crow flies. The river there has a gently sloping bank on the southern side, but the northern bank rises abruptly to a high bluff. This bluff Buller now holds, and if he desires to use heavy artillery, he can find a position for his howitzers within effective range of the enemy's trenches. Between him and Ladysmith there is no commanding ground except the range of hills some five or six miles from the town, on the west, where the Boers have planted some of their seige artillery. Wagon's Drift, where Warren's Division has crossed, appears to be some 25 miles distant from Ladysmith on the east. He, also, has no hilly country to negotiate until he reaches the heights, about 10 miles from the town, where the eastern seige batteries of the Boers are situated. Of the central attack we need not speak, as it is obviously subordinate.

Apart from the contingency of our troops being driven back, which we do not anticipate, the probable result of these operations is either that the Boers will retire, with comparatively little loss, or that they will stand their ground, in which case they may suffer a heavy disaster, for with two strong columns on their flanks, a Brigade in front and the Ladysmith garrison in their rear, their position will be strategically very dangerous. But in such a country as that around Ladysmith, every yard, every inch, of which must now be perfectly familiar to the Boers, it would be rash to forecast anything. We can only hope. It is a very great point that our troops have crossed the river without heavy loss, and the inference is that the defence of the Boers has weakened.

Monday, Jan. 22.

It is now apparent that the rumours circulated about the march of Warren's Division viâ Weenen to turn the left flank of the Boers at Ladysmith, were entirely erroneous. There may have been a reconnaissance in the direction of Weenen, and scouts may have been pushed as far as the bank of the Tugela ten or fifteen miles eastward of Colenso and as far as Colenso itself. That would have been a very natural step in order to pursuade the enemy that an advance was to be made on the east. At all events, most circumstantial accounts were published. It was even stated that Grobler's Kloof had been found without an occupying force, that there were no Boers in Colenso, and that the trenches in that quarter were not held. Officially, however, strict silence was maintained, and it now appears that while Warren's Division was supposed to be making a long and dangerous detour which would have carried it across the Tugela at a point about 25 miles eastward of Colenso, it was really preparing to cross the Tugela at a point some 20 miles to the west of Colenso. What seems to have actually happened is this:—On the 11th, Dundonald's Mounted Infantry seized Zwarts Kop, a hill 14 miles westward of Colenso, overlooking the Tugela, from which it is about a mile distant. If the Boers had an outpost at this position, or near the Tugela on the northern bank, they apparently retired without fighting, and Dundonald was able to seize Potgieter's Drift and the bridge, such as it is. Having thus secured a crossing place, Buller moved a large part of his forces to the River, and having completed his preparations, passed the columns over on the 16th. During these operations one Brigade under Lyttleton acted as a covering force. It held Zwarts Kop, and thus commanded the bluffs on the north bank of the Tugela, while the crossing was in progess; and it moved over the river and took a position guarding the right flank after the crossing had been completed. Meanwhile Warren's Division had pushed further west, and was the last to effect a crossing at a place called Wagon's Drift, which seems to be five or six miles up stream (*i.e.* westward) from Potgieter's Drift. There must have been a Boer outpost on the north bank of the River where Warren crossed, for the telegrams tell us that he had to effect the passage in the face of a hot fire. The crossing at Potgieter's Drift would doubtless have been similarly opposed had not Zwarts Kop being crowned with British artillery. It will be seen that Warren's Division, after negotiating the Tugela, found itself some five or six miles distant from the left wing of Buller's main body. The task before Warren was to turn the enemy's right flank, in which operation he was to be assisted by Dundonald's mounted Brigade, Buller meanwhile holding the Boers. Warren marched direct for Acton Homes, which lies on the road leading to Ladysmith *vid* Dewdrop. Acton Homes is 22 miles from Ladysmith and 15 miles from Dewdrop, to which point (7 miles from Ladysmith) the Ladysmith garrison made a strong sortie in the early days of the siege. Warren is moving with tolerable rapidity. From the point where he crossed the Tugela to Acton Homes, the distance is 7 miles. He crossed on the 16th (Tuesday) and on the 17th his advance guard assisted Dundonald's Brigade to capture Acton Homes, the Boer outpost evidently making a very poor defence, since, while losing 21 killed and 15 prisoners, with probably 50 or 60 wounded, they only succeeded in killing 2 and wounding 2 of their assailants. Warren doubtless adopted one of two courses after capturing Acton Homes. He either moved direct upon Dewdrop, or he pushed a portion of his Division further north so as to strike the telegraph road from Van Reenan's Pass to Ladysmith. If the latter was his route, he doubtless made Blaauwbank his objective point. Blaauwbank is 12 miles from Acton Homes and 11 miles from Ladysmith. Advancing simultaneously by the Blaauwbank and Dewdrop routes, Warren would not only completely turn the Boers' position, but also place himself across their lines of communication with the Free State *vid* Van Reenan's Pass. We incline to think, however, that he moved direct upon Dewdrop, and that his arrival there was the signal for a general attack upon the Boers' westerly position from the Tugela towards Ladysmith. If Dundonald's Horse found Dewdrop only lightly occupied, then Warren may have attacked the place on the 18th after a forced march of 12 miles—a difficult march, for there are no roads. The probability, is, however, that he did not reach Dewdrop until the 19th. It may even be possible that his orders are not to push on so far, but to hold his Division between Acton Homes and Dewdrop, so as to participate in the general attack. Thus far the operations have been very successful. Of course it will occur to our readers that Boer outposts have never hitherto made a strong resistance, and that no inference is yet warrantable. That is true, but certainly the Boers should not have allowed Warren's Division to place itself where it is.

Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Sir Charles Warren's Division, having crossed the Tugela 26 miles to the west of Colenso, had subsequently to turn eastward and direct its march towards Ladysmith. Before swinging round to the east, however, it had to move due north until it struck the Acton Homes Road, which leads to Ladysmith *vid* Dewdrop, the general direction of the road being approximately parallel to that of the Tugela. In short, Buller's advance to

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relieve Ladysmith is taking place in the space bounded on the north by the Acton-Homes-Dewdrop road, and on the south by the Tugela. On commencing his eastward advance, Warren found himself in front of a range of steep bluffs, at the foot of which runs the Venter Spruit River. The Venter Spruit rises in the Drakensberg range and flows towards the Tugela nearly at right angles, and since Warren crossed the Tugela to the west of the place where it receives the waters of the Venter Spruit, he found the latter right across his front when he commenced his advance eastward. His task on Saturday last was to force the passage of the Venter Spruit, and climb the bluffs on its eastern bank. These bluffs are very steep. They seem to run back, ridge after ridge, for a distance of about 5 miles. But when the summit is reached, the country thence to Ladysmith is comparatively level. On the Ladysmith side of Dewdrop there is a small river called the Dewdrop Spruit, and between it and Ladysmith another somewhat larger stream, the Flagstone Spruit. Both of these run at the foot of bluffs rising to the Ladysmith plateau, but they are comparatively trifling obstacles. The Venter-Spruit bluffs are Warren's great difficulty. Once he surmounts them, his advance will be very much easier. The rest of Buller's forces crossed the Tugela at a point on the east of the Venter Spruit and its bluffs, so that they have only to wait until Warren swings round, when the general advance will begin. These remarks will explain the report made by General Buller that the ground in front of Warren is very difficult, and that, since the fighting is all uphill, no definite statement can be made as to the success achieved. We need scarcely say that the telegram published in Yokohama to the effect that the relief of Ladysmith is imminent must be taken with the greatest reserve. Up to Sunday night, Buller had not begun to move his right and centre towards Ladysmith. He was simply waiting until his left, under Warren, should fight its way up the bluffs, and swing into line. Thereafter there will still be a distance of some twenty miles to traverse. The Boers are plainly making a stout stand in the hills above Acton Homes, and even when they are beaten back from that position of vantage there is plenty of room for them to offer renewed resistance. It may be assumed, however, that, so soon as Warren surmounts the Venter-Spruit bluffs, he will not give the enemy time to construct any new entrenchments, unless he should himself be too exhausted to push on immediately. He fought throughout the whole of Saturday and Sunday, and doubtless had to continue the operation on Monday.

Friday, Jan. 26.

The Regulars now shut up in Ladysmith are four regiments of cavalry, six batteries of field artillery, and nine battalions of infantry, or about 8,000 men of all arms. We do not, of course, include in this reckoning the battery of mountain artillery, or the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 1st Battalion of the Gloucesters, which surrendered at Nicholson's Nek. Neither are we making any allowance for casualties. White's force must have been greatly weakened by death on the field or in hospital and by wounds. Even including the local levies and the naval brigade, he can not have more than from seven thousand to eight thousand men fit for action. It is surprising that the Boer attack, made on the 6th instant, did not succeed, for they must have launched at last sixteen or seventeen thousand men to the assault.

PILOTS IN JAPANESE WATERS.

When the Pilots Bill was found to contain a clause limiting to Japanese subjects the privilege of obtaining a pilot's license, much adverse criticism was heard among foreigners. To us it seemed that the provision was not unnatural, for in waters like those at some vital parts of the Japanese coasts, it might at any moment become undesirable that foreigners should have knowledge of obstructions laid for purposes of defence. The Bill did not interfere, of course, with pilots already licensed. They were to continue the pursuit of their profession undisturbed. Moreover, in view of the fact that a sufficient number of Japanese subjects to become pilots could not be immediately obtained, the operation of the limiting clause was to be postponed for five years. Since the time of the Bill's passing, two years ago, it does not seem that Japanese subjects are likely to become available in larger numbers. The pilots now working in the Inland Sea are 16, of whom only 2 are Japanese. There used to be 4 Japanese, but 2 have died, and others have not replaced them. The fact is that the demand for Japanese pilots will not be felt for many years to come. They do not enjoy the confidence of foreign shipmasters. Whether they deserve to enjoy it or not is another question. Theoretically their competence may be admitted by many, but when it comes to the practical test of entrusting such a valuable thing as a ship to the pilotage of a Japanese in preference to a foreigner, there will be no hesitation on the part of a ship-owner or ship-master. The Department of Communications has just nominated a committee representing the Pilots' Association. It consists of one Japanese, Mr. Koya Yosuke, and two foreigners, Mr. H. J. Carrew, an Englishman, and Mr. F. Bischoff, a German.

MR. OISHI AND JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

Wenesday, Jan. 24.

We have not thought it expedient to devote large portions of our limited space to reports of the Diet's proceedings during the present session, for there has been little, if anything, of general interest. A few important questions will soon come up for discussion, but in the meanwhile the proceedings are tame and humdrum. In Monday's session of the Lower House —the Upper did not meet,—a great deal of the time was taken up by a speech from Mr. Oishi Masami, formerly Japanese Representative in Söul—where he distinguished himself by endeavouring to give practical effect to his stalwart foreign policy,—and subsequently Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. Mr. Masami is undoubtedly a man of much ability, and it is therefore inconceivable that he can have placed much faith in his own indictment of the Cabinet, as formulated at great length on Monday under the familiar pretext of asking questions. The position taken by him reduces itself to this, that he would have the Government assume the initiate in all enterprises. We must really object to England's being held up as a model for such a policy. England's action is precisely of the opposite character. She does not officially concern herself about any enterprise until her people have first intimated a desire to carry it on. Mr. Oishi wants to know whether the Government of Japan has opened negotiations for the purpose of obtaining railway concessions from China as the Governments of England, Russia, Germany, Italy and Belgium have done, and for the purpose of obtaining mining concessions. The British Government has not done anything of the kind. What it has done has been to present to the Chinese Government proposals made by British subjects for undertaking the construction of certain railways and the working of certain mines. Have any Japanese subjects come forward similarly? The Formosan Railways were left in the hands of Japanese subjects. We know the result. The Söul-Fusan Railway is in the hands of Japanese subjects. We already begin to see the result. The Japanese Government would only bring ridicule on its nationals if it applied to China for railway and mining concessions which would be left, year after year, unutilized. The case is much the same with the special settlements obtained in China under the Shimonoseki Treaty. We do not think that private individuals can be expected to construct roads and drains in the new settlements, but still less do we think that the Japanese Government ought to take such measures in the absence of any evidence that the Settlements will be occupied after large sums of public money have been spent preparing them.

Thursday, Jan. 25.

Mr. Oishi Masami gets a cruel roasting from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*; a roasting all the more effective in that it is done so suavily, and scientifically. The *Nichi Nichi* admires Mr. Oishi's *exposé* of foreign policy. It is pleased to find him advocating positive lines of procedure instead of clinging to the negative lines followed by his Party, and it trusts that he will be prepared to grant funds for the measures he advocates although he associates himself with politicians who agitate for large reductions of State expenditures. But, after all, it is not long since Mr, Oishi himself was a member of a cabinet headed by the leader of his own political party. How did it happen that none of the steps he now declares so vital was then undertaken? If they are necessary now, they were necessary then. Eighteen months has not changed the face of Oriental politics. Mr. Oishi is in the position of having left undone the things he himself declares ought to have been done, and of now urging that they should be done, though he himself votes for cutting down the appropriations necessary for doing of them. Mr. Oishi will probably reply:—"A fig for consistency. Men in opposition are not required to be consistent."

The *Weekblad* of Amsterdam has just published a pleasant caricature. It is entitled "English Tactics in South Africa," and depicts John Bull, with a Bible in his hand, directing a soldier, who is firing from cover, to aim at a Red Cross ambulance.

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THE RELIGIOUS AGITATION.

Monday, Jan. 22.

Count Otani, Chief Prelate of the Eastern Hongwan-ji, seems to have been driven almost to desperation by the opposition he is encountering among his own subordinates under the leadership of the now famous Mr. Ishikawa. He has held a meeting of hierarchs in Kyoto, and has informed them of his desire to abdicate the position of *Hossu* in favour of his son, Mr. Otani Koyen. Prominence was given in his speech to the financial embarrassments under which the huge temple has laboured ever since its construction, but it will be well understood that difficulties connected with the agitation against the Religions Bill are the real cause of the proposal to resign. The public has heard a good deal about the finances of the Higashi Hongwan-ji. Millions were expended upon the building; donations of grand timbers and magnificent metal work came from all parts of the country; money poured in, and hundreds of women cut off their tresses to make cables for hauling the huge stones and baulks. It must have occurred to any spectator of these proceedings that little faith can be placed in the often repeated contention that the people of Japan lack the religious instinct. However, in spite of the generous fervour of believers, a considerable balance is said to have appeared on the wrong side of the account when the great temple was stripped of its scaffolding, and the priests have had an arduous struggle ever since. But they knew the extent of their trouble fully five years ago, and it is not conceivable that *the Bussu is now* heirding beneath an unendurable load of financial liabilities. The agitation fomented by Mr. Ishikawa and the *Zoku-bosu* (worldy priests) is the real dilemma. Prince Komatsu, says Count Otani and other men of note urged him to support the Religions Bill, and he has employed all his strength for the purpose, but since he can not control his own subordinates the time has come to step aside.

In connexion with this affair of the Religions Bill and the agitation against it, the *Jiji Shimpo* has a remarkable article—remarkable for two reasons; first, because the *Jiji Shimpo* is the most influential journal in Japan; secondly, because the language it uses against the Buddhist priests is quite astounding. If the priests deserve the abuse—we can not call it criticism—showered upon their heads by the *Jiji Shimpo*, their moral plight must be miserable. Briefly summarized, what the *Jiji* says is that the priests do not care a row of pins about religion, or its status, or its control; all that concerns them is their own luxury. They welcome this Bill; they delight in its appearance; the longer they can keep the question in abeyance the better they will be pleased; for the whole incident furnishes an unique opportunity to obtain "costs of movement" (*undo-hi*) from their pious and befooled parishioners. They pretend to be anxious for State recognition of Buddhism. Nothing of the kind. They are thoroughly crafty men, fully versed in politics and all other mundane affairs, and they know perfectly well (who better?) that State recognition of Buddhism or of any religion is totally out of the question. But the cry affords a fine excuse to exploit the pockets of the faithful, and so they have raised it and are maintaining it vehemently. Eating, drinking, self-indulgence and debauchery of all kinds, these are the sole aims of priestly endeavour. The Government is merely playing into their hands when it directs any attention to their doings. They are quite unworthy of notice. If the Diet rejects the Bill *in toto* and replaces it by a measure abolishing all official guardianship of temples or temple treasures, and all official solicitude on account of Buddhist affairs, the *Jiji* would heartily welcome such legislation.

We have not conveyed, not nearly conveyed, the full force of our contemporary's writing. Our readers must take a great deal for granted. But we have said enough to convey an idea of the strangeness of such an incident. Conceive anything of the kind happening in England. Conceive the London *Times* filling its leading columns with a similar tirade against the clergy of the Church of England or the Church of Rome. The thing is quite inconceivable. Yet the *Jiji Shimpo* is not a violent journal. It is eminently sober, and its long record shows that it never speaks without good warrant for what it says. The inference is plain.

Tuesday, Jan. 23.

The Buddhists held a big meeting on Sunday in Tokyo, for the purpose of protesting against the Religions Bill. They had hired the Nakamura-ro for the purpose, but they overflowed into the Ibumura-ro. It is stated that they numbered five thousand, and that their ardour was not damped by the thickly falling snow. They called themselves the Buddhists of all Japan, but in reality they consisted of only the Otani section and priests from the Nichiren sect. Marquis Kuga was expected to attend, but indisposition prevented him from doing so, and he sent his son in his stead. The meeting unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Bill, on the ground, first, that it proposed to place all religions on the same footing, and not to extend State recognition to any; secondly, that its operation would disturb the relations between the principal temples and other branches. With cheers for the Emperor and for Buddhism the meeting dispersed. The only member of the Lower House who associated himself openly with the demonstration was Mr. Hayakawa Riosuke, but it is alleged that the well-known Mr. Kono Hironaka was seen among those attending.

The Kyoto Buddhists also seem to be very resolute. Even in the Eastern Hongwan-ji they have broken away from the control of their Chief Prelate, Count Otani, and have passed resolutions in favour of supporting the extreme policy of Mr. Ishikawa.

Thursday, Jan. 25.

The Shin sect of Buddhism meets us constantly in the pages of Japanese history. From the earliest days of its existence it seems to have been endowed with a particularly truculent disposition. Its phalanx of halberdiers was a terror even to military men in mediæval days. Ota Nobunaga had to employ all his great strength to subdue these warlike monks, and Iyeyasu turned to them for help in his struggle against the Osaka party. Thus they are only maintaining the continuity of their tradition when they now stand forward and foment a violent agitation against the Government's Bill for placing all religions on an equal footing, and thus consummating the intention of the Constitution. The interesting question is, what is the objective of the priests' attack. Are they, as many critics seem disposed to conclude, animated by hostility to Christianity, and disturbed by a dread that if the alien faith obtains a legally recognised status, it will sweep all other creeds out of its path; or are they swayed by some more mundane motive? Gradually facts are coming to light which help us to answer these questions. That the chief Vicar Ishikawa and his various supporters, among them Marquis Kuga and the notorious ex-Major Okamoto Rinsuke—who has now attained the distinction of having his portrait published by a leading Tokyo Journal—have made adroit use of the anti-Christian cry is plain enough, and we have no right to deny that some of them are sincerely solicitous for the safety of their own faith. But Japanese newspapers publish statements which impart a distinctly non-religious aspect to the agitation. The great temple, Higashi-Hongwan-ji, has no less than 9,600 subordinate temples, small and large, from all of which it receives contributions, and it has also property of various kinds, valued at five million *yen*. Nevertheless its financial affairs are in a disordered condition. It owes eight hundred thousand *yen* to the Kitahama Bank and it found itself under the necessity, two years ago, of hypothecating to the Bank the greater part of the revenue derived from its branch temples. The assets were ample to pay interest and sinking fund, but it is evident that their continued inflow is a matter of vital importance. This is where the proposed Bill presents its first obnoxious feature. Its effect would be so to lessen the bonds binding together principal and branch temples that not only would the Eastern Hongwan-ji's power of raising funds from its provincial parishioners be greatly impaired, but there would also be imminent danger that three thousand of its subordinate temples would transfer their alligiance to its great rival, the Western Hongwan-ji. It is therefore, almost a matter of life or death to the Eastern Hongwan-ji that the Bill should not become law, and many people allege that the real motive of the agitation must be sought in that phase of the affair. Hitherto we have been accustomed to hear chiefly of dissensions among the various factions of the Shinshu followers—the Atsumi faction, the Ishikawa faction, the Hokuriku faction, the Kwanto faction, and the Kiushiu faction—but now the parties seem to have ranged up on two sides only, the Otani and the Ishikawa. Very remarkable is the fact that among the secular newspapers not one has raised its voice on behalf of the Ishikawa agitation. We have already told our readers what the *Jiji Shimpo* thinks of the matter, and we have described the kind of language used by the leading Japanese journal about Buddhist priests and their methods. The *Mainichi Shimbun* now writes in almost equally strong terms, but while ridiculing the ignorance and bigotry of the priests, it declares that the blame rests primarily with the Government, which has allowed the education of the country to be moulded by a narrow-minded, conservative clique like that headed by Professor Inouye Tetsujiro. The Professor, who occupies a prominent and influential position in the Imperial University, believes,

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and avows his belief, that mixed residence would be a catastrophe since it would involve a struggle for survival between the Occidental and the Japanese, and the result would be the latter's extermination. In short, not to mince matters, Professor Inouye is credited with believing that his own nationals belong to an inferior race which could not hope to survive in a contest with the people of the West. He and his fellow-thinkers have succeeded in procuring currency for that craven creed in educational circles—or, rather in a section of the educational circle—and it is thus that the youth of the country are brought up to think thoughts which create a sympathetic audience for the present Buddhist agitation. Incidentally the *Mainichi* blames the Government in connexion with the *Shokonsha* celebrations. It does not object to paying reverence to the spirits of the departed, but it does object to having the spirits of assassins included in the category. We do not follow this line of argument, for we are not aware that any deceased assassins are among the dead whose memorial rites are performed at the *Shokonsha*. But probably the *Mainichi* alludes to the fact that the Authorities never adopted any peremptory measures to check the burning of incense and the reciting of prayers at the tombs of men like Nishino Buntaro. At all events it alleges that this perverted morality has borne fruit in such criminals as Shimada Ichiro, Count Okubo's murderer; Aibara Shokei, Count Itagaki's assailant; Nishino Buntaro, who stabbed Viscount Mori to death; and Kurushima Tsuneki, who shattered Count Okuma's leg. The inference suggested by all these comments is that the Buddhists, whatever be the fate of their agitation, have succeeded in administering to public opinion a tonic which does not seem likely to benefit their cause or that of bigotry in general.

Friday, Jan. 26.

Count Otani, the High Preate of the Eastern Hongwan-ji, has consented to reconsider his resignation. It is said that he has been induced to take this step chiefly by the remonstrances of his relative Prince Komatsu, and the earnest advice of his son, who would be his successor. The commotion in the ranks of Buddhism is curious and interesting. Three hundred years ago it would have been a case of swords and halberts, and of the invasion of the Imperial capital by a crowd of monks escorting the sacred cars, and offering a strong demonstration of piety and ferocity. But the times have changed.

THE IDEOGRAPH PROBLEM.

Japan is now beginning to grapple in earnest with the ideograph problem. The pioneers of a reform seldom succeed. They are generally in advance of their time, and the seed sown by them must be left to germinate before tangible results are attained. Eighteen years have passed since the Romaji-kai was organized. It held a great meeting in the chief hall of the former Imperial Engineering College, and if any deduction might have been drawn from the quality of the meeting, the character of the speeches delivered, and the standing of the speakers, one might fairly have concluded that the movement was already within measurable distance of success. Then followed the publication of the *Romaji Zasshi*. The little periodical showed much ability. Its editors, Professor Toyama and the late Professor Yatabe, made their work a labour of love, and it was always a liberal education as well as a pleasure to read their weekly sheet. They committed, we venture to think, one error. Instead of trying to limit their phraseology to words that did not expose the difficulties of the system they were endeavouring to inaugurate, they allowed their pens to travel over the full range of Chinese derivatives newly added to the language during the *Meiji* epoch, and since it is in helping to decipher the meaning of such expressions that the ideograph plays its most useful part, the embarrassments likely to result from its abolition were illustrated rather than concealed by the pages of the *Romaji Zasshi*. Perhaps that had something to do with the failure of the magazine, but the main reason, undoubtedly, was that the time had not yet ripened for such a venture. When we say "failure," however, we speak in a qualified sense. The *Romaji Zasshi* and the strongly sustained, patiently supported movement of which it was an instrument, can not be said to have altogether failed. They certainly exercised an influence which has never ceased to be felt, and to which may be directly attributed the revival of the project by the Educational Society. Last year, the Diet was asked to grant a paltry appropriation for the purpose of conducting investigations into this most important subject. But the Diet refused. The members showed no hesitation about voting a large increase of their own salaries, but with their habitual blindness to the true interests of their country, they declined to assist an absolutely vital reform. For without pausing to set forth the often discussed fact that Japanese youths are hopelessly handicapped in the race of life when they have to waste years in acquiring a cumbrous and brain-bewildering script, we can say with absolute confidence that this country, so long as it continues to use the ideographs, will remain outside the comity of Western nations. Many of the old barriers have been removed; above all, the treaties have been revised, and Japan, by recovering her judicial and tariff autonomy, has obtained recognition as one of the really independent States of the world. But the ideographs ostracise her. They make her a nation apart. They conceal her from the peoples of the Occident as effectually as though she had no literature, no political aspirations, no philosophical impulses. Since, then, this script is a fatal barrier to Japan's progress, and since our faith in the permanence of her progress is so absolute, we believe that the ideograph will go. But it must be confessed that the immediate outlook for its departure is not bright. The Government, by some manœuvering which ought to make the Diet blush, if anything could achieve that result, has contrived to appropriate a small sum for the purposes of the movement. That is something. Unfortunately, however, the committee appointed by the Educational Society to devise a substitute for the ideographic script, seems to be very divided in its views. Some, of whom the well-known conservative, Professor Inouye Tetsushiro, is understood to be the leader, advocate the manufacture of a new script! The thing is scarcely credible, but rumour is quite positive about it. Others are in favour of limiting the number of ideographs employed; a reform which would lighten the labour of the rising generation, but which, while depriving the ideograph of its sole merit as a wonderfully fecund machine for verbal manufacture, would do nothing towards removing the veil that hides Japan from the Occident. Others advocate recourse to the *kana* syllabary, apparently ignoring the fact that, in the routine of civilized progress, a syllabary is as far behind an alphabet as ordinary long-hand is behind stenography. Finally, there is a party headed by Prof. Toyama, who, as usual, is found in the really enlightened camp. They insist that the only sound course is to abolish the ideogram altogether and substitute the Roman alphabet. This last plan has everything to commend it. But will it carry the day, or must there be another long interval of waiting before the nation awakes to the terrible disadvantages under which it labours? It is very disheartening to find that, while the patient is so very sick, the physicians still differ about a remedy.

CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS.

Mr. Yano, who recently represented Japan in Peking, delivered an interesting address at the last meeting of the Nippon Club on the subject of Chinese characteristics. He denied that the Chinaman resents Manchurian rule in any way, o regards the wearing of the pig-tail as a humiliation. Whatever that method of dressing the hair may have signified originally, it has now come to be considered ornamental, and Chinamen often remark that the Japanese would look much better if they adopted the same style. Another point insisted on by Mr. Yano is that the Chinaman is not in any sense a craven. His signal break-down as a fighter in the war with Japan has been construed as an evidence of innate pusillanimity, but, on the other side, Mr. Yano points to the calm resolution with which a Chinaman invites death rather than live disgraced. Men who do such things can not be called cowards. It is simply a question of disliking to fight; or, to put the thing in another way, a question of loving peace. Mr. Yano's audience evinced must interest in his address, which is not surprising. But the explanation he offers of the Chinaman's worthlessness as a fighting machine seems very partial. There is no evidence to show that the Chinaman's disposition is abnormally pacific. He engages in about as many squabbles and brawls at home as any other national does, and he shows a marked propensity to slaughter foreigners, organise riots against them, and wreck their houses. In the days of Japan's "barbarian expelling" mood, individual *samurai*, or very small bands of *samurai*—men whose profession was the sword—committed outrages against the persons of aliens, but never once was there an example of mob violence, whereas a turbulent, murderous, and devastating mob is quite characteristic of China. As between the two peoples, this phase of their careers unquestionably goes to demonstrate that the Chinaman has more stomach for fighting than the Japanese. Then again, look at the condition of China. Scarcely a month passes without an insurrection or other turbulent demonstration in some part of the empire. The time of the Government's troops is occu-

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pied struggling against bandits or rebels. How can such a people be justly called peace-loving? We do not agree with Mr. Yano. In so far as concerns his assertion that the Chinese are not wanting in physical courage, no one will question his accuracy. There has not been anything to deprive them of that elementary virtue. But their weakness as fighting machines can not, we think, be ascribed to any aversion for battle. Indeed, a rooted dislike of fighting is only another name for pusillanimity. A dog may be euphemistically said to dislike fighting when he puts his tail between his legs and runs away. Mr. Yano's defence of the Chinese is therefore very equivocal. The fact is that they would probably make splendid soldiers if they were properly organized and properly led—above all things, properly led. The great advantage enjoyed by Japan is that she possesses ideal material for the manufacture of officers. The Japanese *Samurai* has all the required qualifications—high courage, absorbing devotion to his profession, frugality, and a strong sense of discipline. If China had similiar officers, and if her Government were sufficiently wise and patriotic to organise her army and navy in accordance with modern principles, she would indeed be a formidable Power.

QUESTIONS IN THE DIET.

A Tokyo contemporary (the *Nippon*) has compiled a list of the Questions submitted to the Government in the House of Representatives session by session, and publishes the figures as a kind of test of the manner in which the Government has discharged its duty of giving information. To us the list looks more like an evidence of the success that has attended the attempts of members to badger the Cabinet. Nine out of every ten of these questions were utterly frivolous, and had no purpose excepts to furnish to their propounders an opportunity to get up and abuse the Government roundly. Here is the list.

Session.	Number of Questions.	Questions not Answered.
I...	... 21	1
II...	... 19	9
III...	... 13	5
IV...	... 30	1
V...	... 11	2
VI...	... 33	14
VII...	... —	—
VIII...	... 27	—
IX...	... 43	11
X...	... 27	7
XI...	... —	—
XII...	... 17	9
XIII...	... 40	11
Total ...	286	70

EMIGRATION TO HAWAII.

We read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that since the restrictions were removed with regard to Japanese emigration to Hawaii, there has been a brisk exodus in that direction. Between March and December, 1899, no less than 3,000 free labourers crossed to the islands, and 9,000 contract labourers. The free labourers are said to have found some difficulty in obtaining employment, and it is anticipated that there will be trouble in disposing of them. Our contemporary adds that nearly one-half of the population of Hawaii is now Japanese.

FRACAS IN AMOY.

Tuesday, Jan. 23.

There seems to have been quite a serious disturbance in Amoy on New Year's Day. According to Japanese reports, some ninety sailors went ashore on leave from the *Suma*, which had reached the place on the 31st of December. They were unarmed, none of them carrying even so much as a pocket knife. Having been regaled by their countrymen, residents of the Settlement, with food and *sake*, some of them proceeded to visit the Chinese town to see the sights. They got into a disreputable quarter, and the roughs of the place, taking advantage of the sailors' unarmed condition, first insulted and then attacked them. It is said that there is much anti-Japanese feeling in Amoy, and that, ever since the disturbance last fall, violent placards have been posted here and there. Thus, the moment that a quarrel arose between the sailors and the roughs, the latter received ready assistance from the citizens, and extreme measures were adopted, bamboo poles being called into service and tiles showered from the roofs. Meanwhile the remainder of the liberty-men, learning that their comrades were beset, hastened to the place and the dimensions of the fracas grew, until 4 Japanese and 2 Chinese were wounded, 25 houses were partically wrecked and one house took fire. The Japanese Consul lost no time in repairing to the scene, but his efforts to restore order proved futile, though strongly seconded by those of the Japanese gentleman who is employed in the Customs. Finally a party of 40 armed men had to be landed from the *Suma*, to rescue the Japanese sailors, and quell the riot. What the local authorities were doing all the while, we do not learn.

Friday, Jan. 26.

Japanese newspapers are beginning to write about the necessity of Japan's acquiring the right of policing Amoy. They point to the repeated evidences recently furnished of anti-Japanese feeling in that place. It is true that the officer commanding the *Suma* has telegraphed that the fracas between a number of his men and the citizens did not assume a character calling for international representations, but there is no mistaking the object lesson it furnishes. Amoy is in a disturbed condition, and the Chinese police are evidently quite unable to preserve peace and good order. Germany has obtained the right of policing a part of Shantung. Russia is invested with power to maintain order in the districts where she is building railways. But the question of good government in Amoy is even more important to Japan, for it is impossible for her to administer Formosa satisfactorily unless the unruly elements in Amoy are controlled. Some limits might be set to her exercise of police authority, but that it ought to be obtained, and that its scope should extend to the whole of Amoy, the *Asahi* and the *Jimmin* strongly insist. We (*Japan Mail*) have long expected something of this kind. The more Japan's points of contact with China are multiplied, the more inevitable is it that friction should be developed, and that remedies which Western States have found necessary under similar circumstances should be resorted to by Japan.

SHOCKING DISASTER IN OWARI.

From Nagoya comes a telegram telling of a shocking accident. A fire broke out at 3.30 a.m. on the 23rd inst. in a spinning mill at Koryo-mura in Owari. Two buildings were destroyed and some thirty factory girls were burned to death. The *Jiji Shimpo* puts the figures at 31 killed, 6 badly injured, and a great number slightly injured. Other journals speak of 30, but we presume that the *Jiji* is the most accurate. It is an awful occurrence, suggesting that the arrangements made for the accommodation of the unfortunate women must have been strangely defective.

Further particulars from Nagoya with reference to the shocking catastrophe at Komyo-mura, show that the factory women, 37 in number, were all sleeping in the upper storey of one of those flimsy wooden structures which do duty for residences among the lower orders in Japan. The fire broke out downstairs. It was caused by the upsetting of a *kotatsu* (bed-brazier). The burning embers came into contact with kerosene oil in some form or other, and in a moment the whole building was enveloped in flames. As the accident occurred some three hours before sunrise, the unfortunate women were sleeping soundly, and probably most of them were asphyxiated before they could discover their peril. It is alleged, however, that owing to the extraordinary fierceness and rapidity of the flames all means of egress from the upper storey were cut off, except by leaping from the windows. Six adopted that resource and escaped with more or less serious injuries, but thirty-one were burned to death. The scene is said to have been appalling. The owner of the factory where the conflagration occurred has lost his reason.

KOREA.

Korea is keeping up its reputation as the seed-plot of sensations. The latest is to the effect that the Korean Government, acting on the secret suggestion of a certain Power, has despatched a hundred soldiers to Uensan to prevent the commencement of mining operations by Mr. Morgan's men. On the 22nd, the telegram said that 50 miners had set out from Sōul to inaugurate the works, and now comes this news of a hundred soldiers following. We do not believe anything of the kind.

A pleasanter report is that the whaling company organized by Mr. Kawakita Kanshichi, a member of the House of Representatives, has obtained the permission of the Korean Government to carry on operations along the coasts opposite Japan—rather a vague description. This company gives a very rosy forecast of its enterprise. It has a capital of a hundred thousand *yen*, and it expects to capture 200 whales annually, valued at 2,000 *yen* each. A two thousand *yen* whale is an uncommon monster. We note that the expert engaged by the Company to shoot the whales is a foreigner, hitherto in Russian service.

According to telegraphic news received by the *Jiji Shimpo* from Sōul, the Korean Government has definitely refused to grant mining privileges to Mr. Pritchard Morgan at Uensan. There appears to be some question as to the Government's previous utterances. It gave permission to pro-

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spect, but now claims that the permit did not include the right of actually mining. Since, however, all arrangements have been made for commencing work on the strength of the Government's original leave, it is anticipated that the present attitude of opposition will be modified.

FOREIGN ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN.

A vernacular contemporary notes that foreigners are beginning to take an active part in industrial enterprises in Japan. The tobacco trust of Murai Brothers was the beginning. It has brought American capitalists into the field. The Tokyo Beer Brewing Company is the next example. It numbers several foreigners among its shareholders, and one of them has been elected on the board of directors. Then the Standard Oil company is interesting itself very keenly in the kerosene of Echigo. There is talk of laying a delivery pipe from Tokyo to Nagaoka, a distance of over 160 miles. Finally, a Russian has acquired a large tract of land in Hokkaido, and is about to undertake agricultural enterprise on a big scale. These beginnings are only a small earnest of what we shall see by and by. Unless some untoward incidents occur to destroy foreign confidence and deter effort, capital will come to this country from the West without any interference on the part of the State, or any such heroic remedy as the nationalizing of all the private railways. The Japanese have only to adopt a thoroughly liberal attitude. Above all, let them abolish the restrictions upon the tenure of land by foreigners. We do not, for our own part, attach much practical importance to those restrictions. They have been factitiously brought into a place of prominence which does not properly belong to them. But precisely because of the commotion that has been raised about them, their removal would produce a good effect, and they are absolutely valueless from a Japanese point of view.

CONCERT IN TOKYO.

In spite of the extreme cold of Wednesday evening—the coldest night this winter—the concert at the British Legation in behalf of the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the South-African war was largely attended, and it need scarcely be said that the attendance was not a full index of the number of tickets sold. The affair owed its initiative to American ladies—Mrs. Perry, we believe, was the original promoter—, and practically the whole of the American and British communities of Tokyo were present. Other nationalities were also represented and some were conspicuous by their total absence. We refrain from greater precision, but we can assure those who showed their sympathy by attending that their act is remembered with gratitude. The concert itself proved a great treat. All the numbers were excellently rendered. The concerted pieces evinced conscientious study, and Professor Junker's violin was as usual a delightful feature. But the chief honours fell to the share of Mrs. Payne, whose beautiful contralto gave intense pleasure, and of Mr. Brady, whose recitations moved the audience to both tears and laughter. Dr. Crusen showed himself a pianist of no little skill; Mr. Davis' solo on the violoncello was heartily applauded, and the Misses Perry played with all their accustomed accuracy and feeling. During the interval, refreshments, provided by Her Majesty's Minister, were served, and at the close of the concert the audience sang "God gave the Queen" in lusty fashion. The following is the programme:—

PART I.

1—Trio, in C Minor, for Violin, Violoncello and Piano .....Brahms
Misses Perry and Miss Le Viseur.

2—Alto Solo, with viola obligato, "Longing at rest" .....Brahms
Mrs. Payne.

3—Violin Solo, Andante from the "Concerto".....Mendelssohn

4—Piano Soli.
(a) Air from suite "Aus Holberg's Zeit" .....E. Grieg
(b) "An den Frühling"..... "
(c) "Norwegischer Brautzug im Vorüberziehen..... "
Dr. Crusen.

5—Violoncello Solo .....Popper
Mr. E. C. Davis.

PART II.

1—Recitation..."The Midnight Charge"..... Clement Scott.
Mr. Brady.

2—Alto Solo....."May Night".....Brahms
Mrs. Payne.

3—Violin Soli...(a) "Le Cygne" ...Saint-Saens.
(b) "Gavotte" .....Bach.
Prof. Aug. Junker.

4—Trio, for Violin, Violoncello and Piano (first movement.....Beethoven.
Miss Perry and Dr. Crusen.

THE NAVAL MANŒUVRES.

The approaching Japanese naval manœuvres will be on an unprecedented scale. Forty ships are expected to take part in them, independently of torpedo craft, the squadrons of Yokosuka, Saseho, and Kure contributing their quotas to swell the strength of the standing squadron. In addition to the line-of-battle ships *Fuji* and *Yashima*, it is hoped that the *Shikishima*, which left England on the 25th instant, will be able to take her place in the manœuvres. This may be called Japan's first *post bellum* display. The date has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be some time between March 25 and April 10th.

LOCAL GOVERNORS.

The following changes of Local Governors have been gazetted:—

Mr. Okubo Toshitake (Chief the Prison Bureau in the Home Department) to be Governor of Tottori.

Mr. Kubota Kwanichi (Governor of Tottori) to be Chief of the Prison Bureau in the Home Department.

Mr. Chikami Kyoomi (Governor of Miyagi) to be Governor of Niigata.

Mr. Takasaki Chikaakira (Governor of Okayama) to be Governor of Miyagi.

Mr. Higaki Chukuyu (Governor of Fukushima) to be Governor of Toyama.

Mr. Watanabe Toru to be Governor of Kochi.

Mr. Yoshiwara Saburo (Governor of Kagawa) to be Governor of Okayama.

Mr. Arakawa Yoshitaro (Governor of Kagawa) to be Governor of Okayama.

Mr. Kano Ryogen (Governor of Toyama) relieved of his office.

Mr. Katsumada Nen (Governor of Niigata) relieved of his office.

Mr. Tanikawa Shochu (Governor of Kochi) relieved of his office.

JOHN RUSKIN.

(COMMUNICATED)

The life-work of John Ruskin had closed so long that the news of his death is of no great significance. It interrupts no career in the making, disappoints no expectations, robs the world at large of nothing. Just as Gladstone, after making history for half a century, played for three or four years before his death the role of a garrulous country gentleman with a rooted dislike for the Turk and his methods, so Ruskin, for years after he ceased to be a power in letters, served but to invest Coniston with some additional interest to the intelligent tripper as the haunt of the recluse of Brantwood. Indeed, it may not be too much to say that the author had almost outlived his own reputation; or, at the least, that he had survived long enough to find the circle of his admirers considerably narrowed.

Ruskin was the son of a London merchant, and was born in the Metropolis in 1819. He was educated privately, and at Christ Church, Oxford. He devoted himself to painting, but it soon became apparent that his powers were critical rather than creative. His audacious departure from the conventions of the day, and the storm of hostility his views evoked, soon attracted wide attention, and by the time of the appearance of the earlier volumes of his "Modern Painters" it was evident that as an art critic he had no equal and no second. His earnestness, his thoroughness, his exquisite taste, the indescribable charm of the limpid and stately prose in which he clothed his thoughts, combined to raise art criticism to a level it had never before occupied in England. Ruskin became in his own line a dictator. What he declared mean, tawdry, or meretricious could not be admired by any professor of taste. What he dubbed beautiful must, despite any inward convictions to the contrary, be received with enthusiasm. No doubt the mass of his judgments were right, for he had an unerring eye for good and conscientious work, a soul large enough to recognise genius whatever fantastic form it assumed, and an infallible scent for flashiness and insincerity, even in the highest places. But at the same time he was distinctly "faddy," and doubtless he did injustice to some whose methods and ideals aroused his prejudice. On the whole, however, we have never had in England his equal as a critic.

Ruskin's other claims to fame are open to a greater variety of opinion. He did not by any means confine himself to Gothic cathedrals and pre-Raphaelite pictures, Etruscan vases and Greek friezes. He rambled in an incidental manner over the whole area of modern political and and social life, and succeeded in persuading quite a large number of intelligent people that he was a philosopher, a political economist, and a master of social science. Clever youngsters in their teens and educated ladies of all ages delighted not only in his magnificent style—a worthy source of enjoyment—but also in that large bundle of vigorously expressed prejudices which he probably regarded as views on questions of the day. With men of mature age, experienced in the hard matter-of-fact school of the world, even the force of his rhetoric hardly sufficed to hide the weakness of his argument. It is no matter for wonder that Ruskin

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was so great a favourite with women, for he himself was eminently feminine. His very style, charged with adjectives, and of sweet and varied melody, lacked the grip, the fibre, the stern vigour of a strong masculine mind. His vehemence was the vehemence of an excited woman; indignation with him took the form rather of a petulant shriek than a deep growl. His likes and dislikes were founded on nothing better than woman's reasons. He didn't like railways, because railways were nasty horrid things, bringing all kinds of low people down to the Lakes. Steamboats were also contrivances of the devil, because their discordant whistles broke the echoes of the mountains around Keswick and Windermere. A water supply for Manchester's millions was a damnable scheme if it necessitated patent pumping works that would make hideous some small part of the shores of Thirlmere. And for these good and sufficient reasons Ruskin penned page after page of beautiful English, charging steam industry with all the evils of modern times, bemoaning the happier days when coaches took a week to crawl from London to Edinburgh, and when nine-tenths of the population of Great Britain lived in a style which would now be considered semi-starvation. Ruskin disliked the idea of man's evolution from a lower race, and therefore he dismissed Darwin with a tremendous anathema (I quote from memory):—"Because it is every man's duty to know what he is, and not to consider the embryo that he was, nor the skeleton that he shall be. And furthermore because Darwin has a mortal fascination for all idly curious and foolishly *speculative* persons, and has gathered *together* in the train of him every impudent imbecility in Europe, like a dim comet, wagging its tail of phosphorescent nothingness across the steadfast stars." Which probably delighted all the literary Vicars' daughters in England, as the last word to be said on the subject. There are many impassioned and beautifully poised sentences scattered through Ruskin's works denouncing even such harmless things as a London omnibus, a cab, a lift, or a bicycle. Did Mr. Ruskin really mean that it was better for a London clerk to have to walk every morning from Fulham or Buckhurst Hill to Throgmorton-street, with the alternative, perhaps, of living in an unwholesome den in central London, than that he should have the means of cheap and easy transit to and from his work? Not at all. Ruskin meant that clerk no harm. He simply did not consider him. His argument was merely this: "I, being a man of refined and sensitive taste, consider a London bus an object repulsive to the sight and irritating to the nerves. Therefore a London bus is the invention of the devil, and God knows how many of the ills under which mankind groans are due to London busses. London has more busses than any city in the world. That is indisputable. London has also more poverty and degradation than any other city in the world. That also is indisputable. The inference is clear. Do away with busses, and you do away with poverty and degradation." Ruskin would have put the matter far more eloquently. He would have cursed the busses so handsomely that the delighted reader, like the Duke in "Midsummer Night's Dream" would have cried, "Let him curse again; let him curse again." He would have invoked heaven and the eternal verities like a ladylike Carlyle. But there would have been no more logic in it all than I have supplied. Southey was another melancholy instance of an artist in words straying into practical questions. As Macaulay points out in his delicious review of the "Colloquies on Society," the great point of Southey's denunciation of manufacturing industry was that the mechanics lived in a row of hideous brick-built cottages, while the peasants resided in picturesque, thatch-built huts whose walls were adorned with "weather stains."

As to Ruskin's ideas of social reform and the betterment of the masses, only one thing was wanted to secure their perfect working, and that was a mere detail. Nothing more than the eradication of human nature from man. There being, unfortunately, a good deal of human nature still in man, we are not likely to get much further forward *viâ* the Ruskin route to the Millennium. Usury was the subject of many sublime denunciations on the part of the seer of Brantwood; but as systems of credit have been known in every civilised country since the dawn of history, and become more extended and complex in direct ratio with the progress of civilisation, it can hardly be said that the crusade was a profitable one. So with most of what some people call the philosophy of Ruskin. I remember a sublime passage—I believe it is in the "Crown of Wild Olive,"—in which the author addresses an appeal to the women. They possess the key to man's heart, their influence can make him a higher, nobler, better creature; and if they use that influence aright then there will be an end to crime, vice, battle, murder, and—but I don't think this last is included—sudden death. It is an exquisite passage, truly, and I have no doubt all the vicars' daughters were delighted with it. But here again is a slight element of impracticability. If women were an entirely superior race of beings there might be some chance of man's salvation through them. But the warmest admirer of the sex must admit that they have their fair share of vice, rather more than their fair share of folly, and if anything more pettiness, small malice, and levity than men. Their degree of enlightenment, their moral code, their position in society are fixed for them by men. They are more likely to aspire to man's standard than men to theirs. In an age or country where men are, as a majority, coarse and licentious, the women become fit helpmeets for husbands who set no value on refinement and modesty. In an age or country where there is a high standard of rectitude and serious purpose among men, there is a correspondingly elevated level of female virtue and intelligence. Individual cases, of course, occur in opposition to the general rule, but it is a rule nevertheless, and Mr. Ruskin's most gorgeous adjectives and most polished periods cannot reverse it.

If Ruskin, apart from his special studies, lives long, it will be owing chiefly to his matchless style. Perhaps a hundred years hence there will still be many who, smiling in wondering pity at his extraordinary whims and delusions, will confess that at any rate one writer of exquisite prose lived in the time when Mr. Kipling was regarded as a literary master. The writers of to-day, though many of them abound in excellent matter, show so complete a disregard for form, sometimes even for mere grammatical accuracy, that it is a positive pleasure to turn from them to the melodious and dignified current of Ruskin's limpid sentences. As a prose writer Ruskin had no contemporary master.

With the passing of Richard Doddridge Blackmore, the English world of letters sustains a second great loss within a week. His most famous and perhaps his best work was "Lorna Doone," written in 1860, but it was not until 1871 that it had anything of a sale. Just then the principal topic of the hour was the marriage of Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, and the similarity of the names led the curious public to take up the book in the hope of finding something dealing with the distinguished pair. It was but another of life's little ironies, yet it enabled Blackmore to reach his public, and, having once obtained a hearing, he had little difficulty in maintaining a foremost place among English novelists. A barrister by calling, Blackmore's passion was for market-gardening, and it is said that he had much success in it. The writing of charming books and the raising of prize cauliflowers seem rather an incongruous mixture.

REGISTERED LETTERS.

It is stated that the Government has drafted, and will shortly submit to the Diet, a Bill providing that official responsibility shall be recognised for all registered letters. In short, a system of insuring letters that contain valuables will be introduced. There was some discussion as to whether letters containing registered bonds need be included in the category, seeing that such documents would not be of any use if they fell into alien hands. But the final decision has been that no attempt should be made to discriminate.

THE PEST.

There is now fair reason to hope that the Pest has been successfully checked in Japan. No fresh case has occurred in Kobe since the 13th of December, nor any in Osaka since the 13th of Jauuary. In Kobe the total number of cases was 19 and in Osaka 52. Japan may count herself exceedingly fortunate if she has escaped so easily and the Sanitary Authorities will deserve the gratitude of the nation.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Asamayama omitted most ominous sounds on the morning of the 22nd, and thereafter a shower of ashes fell in the Urawa district. Ashes fell also in Chiba, Saitama, and part of Tokyo, and doubtless the two phenomena were connected.

A Bill now awaiting discussion in the House of Representatives will, if passed, add greatly to the facilities for obtaining postal orders. At present it is not possible to transmit more than 50 *yen* by post-office order to the same place in 24 hours, but it is now proposed to omit such restrictions from the text of the law and leave the matter to be dealt with by Departmental Ordinance.

The Yokohama police have arrested three of the men who engaged in the robbery of clothing and money from the lug-

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gage of a lady-passenger of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's S.S. *Nippon Maru*. The theft took place while the ship was lying in Yokohama harbour, preparatory to commencing her outward voyage. A quantity of clothing was taken as well as a sum of 1,000 *yen*. Two of the men are said to have fled to Hawaii.

The Liberals are evidently once more a happy family. They have held a convivial meeting at the Maple Club, and as Count Itagaki was present, there can be no doubt that recent differences have been adjusted. Mr. Hoshi addressed the meeting, and, amid considerable applause, made the significant announcement that the day was not far distant when the Party would achieve its long cherished design. Doubtless he meant to indicate that the administrative power would soon be entrusted to the Liberals.

The Oriental Association has postponed its general meeting until the 8th of next month, when, according to the present programme, Marquis Ito and Sir Ernest Satow will deliver addresses. It is expected Marquis Ito will give a clear exposition of his views as to the Far-Eastern situation. The Association has hitherto confined its membership to Japanese and Chinese, but the door is now to be opened to foreigners of all nationalities.

Rumour still points to Baron Hayashi as the probable successor of Mr. Kato as Japanese Representative at the Court of St. James. It is expected that Mr. Komura, now Minister in Washington, will replace Baron Hayashi at St. Petersburg. The *Chiuo Shimbun* says that Mr. Komura is averse to the change, as by travelling round the principal cities in the United States he has just succeeded in familiarizing himself with the conditions of the country.

A telegram from Peking, published by the *Fiji Shimpo*, says that the Chinese Government has decided to establish a military section in the Peking Imperial College, and that Japanese instructors are likely to be employed. Certainly China never allows herself to be hurried. Her past history stretches back to such an immense length that she has learned to measure her imperial future by thousands of years. Her leisurely ways have at least the merit of dignity, but one is disposed to fear that she will be thrown into a horrible hurry one of these days.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has held its half-yearly meeting and passed the following accounts:—

	Yen.
Gross Profits	358,381
Brought over from last account	2,873
Total	361,254
To Reserve	18,000
Rewards to Officers	18,000
Dividend (9 per cent)	247,500
To next account	77,754
Total	361,254

Subsequently it was decided to raise the Company's capital from 5½ million *yen* to 11 millions.

This flourishing concern has now some twenty-two foreign shareholders, according to Japanese journals. At its last half-yearly meeting, it declared a dividend of 8 per cent., and elected a foreigner, Mr. C. K. Marshall Martin, to be one of the Directors. Mr. Martin made a speech in the Japanese language expressing thanks for the honour conferred on him, and promising to work hard in the company's interests. His command of the vernacular is said to have been greatly admired by his audience. The meeting decided that the Company's head office should be removed from Hodogaya to No. 1 Hon-Hatcho-bori Nichome, in the Kyobashi District of Tokyo.

The following figures, showing the capitals of the various Banks in Japan and the number of Banks at the close of 1899, have been officially published:—

Description of Bank.		Number.	Capital. Yen.
Nippon Ginko...		1	30,000,000
Shokin Ginko...		1	24,000,000
Industrial		1	10,000,000
Agricultural ...		45	27,820,000
Formosa		1	5 000,000
Savings	Home	349	35 965,300
	Abroad	1	1,250,000
Joint Stock	Home	1,345	272,392,115
	Abroad	6	2,964.450
Gomei Ginko ...		50	10,606,900
Goshi Ginko ...		132	10,045,184
Private.....		100	8,145.520
Totals		2,032	438,189,469

Japan will soon be in possession of one of the monster iron-clads ordered by her after the conclusion of the war with China. The *Shikishima* has received her armament, undergone all her trials with perfect success, and will leave England on the 25th instant. Japan already possesses two line-of-battle ships—the *Fuji* and the *Yashima*, of 12,300 tons each,—but the *Shikishima* is a much more powerful vessel. She was laid down at the Thames Ironworks in March 1897 and launched on Nov. 1st, 1898. Her displacement is 14,850 tons; her indicated horse power, 14,500; and her speed 18½ knots. Her armament includes four 12-in. guns in barbettes and fourteen 6-in. guns in casemates.

Mr. J. R. Morse has instituted proceedings in the Yokohama Local Court against the Directors of the Kobe Water Works, to obtain the restitution of a sum of 460,000 *yen* lent by him, and also to recover damages for breach of contract. We should have thought that such a case must have been instituted in Kobe. Meanwhile the Directors of the Water Works are said to be about to commence suit on their side, in order to obtain a decree obliging Mr. Morse to implement his contract. It is remarkable that a case of such magnitude should have come up for trial in Japanese Courts so soon after the operation of the revised treaties. We trust, however, that the case will be settled out of court, for its hearing will have injurious effects, unless we are much mistaken.

Mr. Okura Kihachiro's commercial school will probably be opened for the admission of pupils next September. The building is now rapidly approaching completion, and will be handed over to the committee of management in June or July, according to present plans. It will be remembered that Mr. Okura pledged himself to subscribe a sum of five hundred thousand *yen* on account of this enterprise. He began to pay the money in 1898, at the rate of a hundred thousand *yen* annually. In the first year, nearly ninety thousand *yen* was expended upon the purchase of land and the erection of the buildings, but the accounts for 1899 have not yet been published by the Committee. The probability is that the school will start with a clear endowment fund of three hundred thousand *yen*. It ought to prove a very successful institution.

The London *Daily Mail* has preferred a strange charge against Reuter's agency; namely, that the Boers have purchased it, and that it will henceforth be run in their interests. A telegram has reached Japan on the subject, and it is added that Reuter's failure to make any distinct denial, in the face of the *Daily Mail's* assertion that it possesses clear proof of what it alleges, is exciting some surprise. Considering the standing of the *Daily Mail*, Reuter's agency would, perhaps, be well advised did it publish same contradiction, but in this case the good old adage applies, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." When we find that Reuter's excellent service of telegrams begins to show signs of partiality for the Boers, it will be time enough to credit suchimprobable charges.

The record of the Tokyo Clearing House shows a steady increase of business. During the latter half of 1899, the volume of transactions was 225¼ million *yen* greater than the corresponding figure for 1898. That result was partly due to activity in business circles, but partly also to a steadily increasing appreciation of the advantages of the system. The return for the seven months from July were as follow:—

MONTH	SECOND HALF OF 1899. Yen.	DAILY AVERAGE. Yen.
7th month ...	90.384,090.....	3.476,311
8th month ...	103 482,026.....	3,832,667
9th month ...	99,398.455.....	3.975.938
10th month ...	111,423.875.....	4.456.955
11th month ...	119,863.102.....	4.994.295
12th month ...	137.446,226.....	5.090.600
Totals.....	661,997,774.....	4,298,686

Untrustworthy as are the details of the statements published from time to time in Tokyo newspapers about the doings of political parties, they now concur so completely in their account of the Liberals' doings that we shall probably be justified in regarding them as correct. The gist of the story is that the Kwanto and Tosa sections of the Liberals have composed their differences, at the instance of Baron Suyematsu, and have decided not to make any attempt to disturb the Cabinet during the present session of the Diet. On the other hand, Marquis Yamagata, waited on by a deputation of the Party's leaders, is said to have stated that he is quite ready to hand over the reins of State, after the Diet rises, to any one willing and competent to take them. It is further alleged that the Liberals will make every effort to induce Marquis Ito to assume the leadership of the Party, and failing that consummation, will offer him their support should he decide to form a Cabinet. Such is the tenor of the statements circulated.

At the Ballinrobe District Council recently one Mr. Regan, supported by other Irishmen of the same kidney, proposed a resolution, of which the following is an extract:—"We, the Ballinrobe District Council, have heard with pleasure of the bold fight President Kruger is making against the British tyrants and grabbers, and we trust that God may enable him to drive these renegade British out of the Transvaal."

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WAR OFFICE.

AFTER the South African war is over there will certainly be a season of close questioning and keen scrutiny. It is not the disposition of the English people to cry aloud while the fight is actually in progress, but when the business of giving and taking hard blows has been concluded, ugly queries will begin to be posed. Looking at the leading columns of London journals, one finds everywhere readiness to acknowledge frankly that Her Majesty's Government could not possibly have provided against being taken at a disadvantage when the war broke out. To have shipped twenty or thirty thousand men and sent them over sea to a distance of six thousand miles while negotiations for a peaceful settlement were still progressing would have been to substitute menace for diplomacy. Moreover, the Boers would never have awaited their arrival. They would have struck at once, and the handful of British troops in Africa would have had to face precisely the situation which is now complained of. In short, reverses at the outset had to be accepted as inevitable. But the point which will assuredly be made is that, war having commenced, the Government should have been able to pour troops into Africa in much greater numbers and with *much greater* rapidity than was actually the case. A correspondent who has the best possible opportunities of obtaining information, writes to us from London, under date of December 14th:—"We are waiting breathlessly to-day for news of Buller's operations in Natal. If he fails to relieve Ladysmith, and suffers a reverse like GATACRE and METHUEN, we shall be in a tighter place than we have been ever since the Mutiny. The way in which the ruling clique at the War Office have ignored the whole mass of information accumulated by their own Intelligence Department, as well as by the Colonial Authorities, on the military resources of the Boers is simply incredible—incredibly scandalous." That seems to be the rising cry; a cry that will probably swell to very large volume by-and-by. Out here, many people have asked with astonishment what the Intelligence Department can have been doing, but at home the blame is laid, not on the Intelligence Department, but on the War Office, which paid no attention to the information in its hands. Is that just, we wonder? Let any one of our readers look back three months and recall the expressions of opinion that were current at that time. Was not the prevailing sentiment one of unbounded astonishment at the magnitude of the preparations that the British Government were making? Do we not all remember what was said when news came that the militia had been called out and that vigorous steps were being taken to increase the strength and efficiency of the Navy? Did not foreign critics sneer and ask whether England regarded the Transvaal as a Great Power, and was not the public bewildered to know what it all meant? Yet now the cry is that the Government did not do nearly enough! However, we frankly admit that these reminiscences do not cover the whole ground. There remains the hard fact that HER MAJESTY'S Ministry never did contemplate the possibility of being obliged to take the steps they are now taking. They imagined that one Army Corps from England and a Brigade from India, or some thirty-five thousand men, together with the ten thousand already in South Africa and the local levies—say sixty thousand in all—would suffice, whereas experience shows that at least twice that number is necessary. We shall know by-and-by whether the Intelligence Department's information justified the Government's conclusion. The matter turns chiefly upon the number of men that the Boers could put into the field. As to their armament, there never can have been much doubt. Judging by mere statistics of population, and assuming that the limits of age would be 20 and 45, the fighting forces of the two Republics should not have exceeded thirty-five thousand of all arms and ranks. But they have put at least sixty thousand into field, so far as we know, and they claim to have put a hundred thousand. Whence have they obtained the remainder? Some are accounted for by the fact that the limits of age were extended in both directions, from 17 to 50. The rest appear to be French and German adventurers and disaffected colonists. Did the Intelligence Department predict anything of that kind?

THE "BUNDESRATH."

WE are at a loss to understand what REUTER'S agent in London means when he says, with regard to the release of the *Bundesrath*, that "Great Britain will have to pay a heavy indemnity besides deeply irritating Germany." Such language seems comical. If any side is to be "deeply irritated" it should be Great Britain, not Germany. There can not be the smallest moral doubt that the German officers and men who travelled by the *Bundesrath* to Delagoa Bay were about to join the Transvaal and fight against England. Already hundreds, if not thousands, of German subjects are assisting the Boers in the field. Englishmen are not particularly disposed to complain of that. It has been their own habit to lend their services to any State engaged in struggling against a potential enemy of their country. If other nationals adopt a similar course on the present occasion, they have the justification of English precedent. But their action admits of only one interpretation, namely, that they regard Great Britain in the light of an enemy. We hope and believe that the best classes of Germans do not so regard England, but there can be no question that a large section of the German nation is in that mood, and whatever may be the Englishman's *sang-froid*, he can not choose but feel some irritation. Let the worst possible construction be put on England's South-African policy; let it be called a purely imperial policy; a policy of aggression; a policy of land grab—is any one so extremely verdant as to suppose that either Germany or France would have adopted a different policy under the circumstances? Of course not. We presume that German and French statesmen know a great deal too much about the fundamental rules of statecraft to tamely accept a situation which would be nothing short of national humiliation. The train of events by which the situation was created—events dating many years back—may have had their roots in impulses which can not be reconciled with the finest precepts of Christian charity, but the situation itself has to be sternly dealt with if England is to retain her place as a first-class Power. The Germans and French appreciate all that perfectly well. They are not one whit more moral than other peoples in their international dealings. They do not claim to be more moral. They can not even plead that the results of their aggressions in distant regions are justified by the subsequent adoption of a thoroughly liberal policy—equal rights and equal privileges for all nationals—such as England invariably adopts. What, then, are the motives of their hostility to Great Britain in connexion with this South-African war? We shall not attempt to analyse their motives. All that we desire to insist here is that like begets like, and that to talk of Germany's being "deeply irritated" because England endeavours to prevent a party of Germans from consummating their purpose to actively assist England's enemies in the field is to reverse the natural order of sentiments. Had the *Bundesrath* been proceeding to a Boer port, there would not have been the smallest question about the legality of her seizure. But she happened to be proceeding towards a so-called "neutral port." There was the whole difficulty. Delagoa Bay is not really a neutral port. Nominally it enjoys that status, but practically the Portugese seem quite incompetent to enforce the observance of neutrality within their territories, and the result is that German and French sympathisers with the Boers are abusing Portugal's weakness in the interests of the Transvaal and against the interests of Great Britain. International law is a very fine thing. It embodies some very pretty precepts

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about the rights of belligerents and the rights of neutrals. But there is something much finer and much higher than international law—justice. In this case the paltry subterfuges of international law are deliberately employed to defeat the dictates of justice, and we are gravely told that one of the nations resorting to such methods feels "deeply irritated" because England ventures to protect herself against this treatment. It would be interesting to know what Europe would say if England attempted to hold Portugal accountable for her breaches of neutrality. That will be the finale, we suspect. But in truth these things are not serious incidents. England can afford to suffer a little for the sake of good-fellowship. As to the *Bundesrath*, it is well to remember that whatever course England adopts is taken by the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown. They have decided that international law does not warrant the confiscation of the ship. Therefore, and not because of German representations, she has been released. There is no doubt that German representations have received, and will always receive, most friendly consideration from the British Government, but neither is there any doubt that if the Law Officers of the British Crown had declared the seizure of the *Bundesrath* legal, she would never have been released.

THE SILK BUSINESS.

MR. H. BENT deserves public thanks for taking the trouble to explain, through the columns of the press, the main points of recent discussion between the Japanese and the foreign silk-men. His very lucid and moderate letter is most opportune. Men of affairs, whose time is fully occupied with their own concerns, can scarcely be expected to compile such letters for newspaper publication; but there is a special reason for their compilation in this country, namely, that they effectually remove misunderstandings which are a constant source of trouble between foreigners and Japanese. Judging from the writing in the vernacular press alone, one would have been led to suppose that the recent dispute represented a legitimate attempt on the part of the Japanese merchants of Yokohama to put an end to abuses which, inuring to the sole advantage of the foreign merchant, had been arbitrarily inaugurated and were obstinately maintained by him. There was certainly no intemperate writing in the columns of our Japanese contemporaries, but their statements conveyed the impression that this was a struggle to recover rights which never ought to have been disputed. Mr. BENT'S letter makes it quite clear, however, that the main count in the controversy turned on an unequivocally just position taken by the foreign merchant, and further hows that the Japanese merchants have shown their sense of right by recognising and giving effect to the foreign arguments. These facts would have remained obscure had not Mr. BENT written to the press, and the impression would have survived that another struggle had occurred between foreign masterfulness on the one side and Japanese remonstrances on the other.

IMPERIAL DIET.

The House of Peers met on the 20th instant after the New Year's Recess, and passed the Budget and all the correlated Bills exactly in the form given to them by the House of Representatives. The sitting lasted from 11 a.m. till 3.25 p.m., when the House was counted out. Mr. Nishimura Ryōkichi made a long and able speech, contending that the country's expenditure was not regulated by prudential considerations; that no provision was made for a rainy day, and that a Committee should be appointed for the purpose of conferring with the Government as to the possibility of reducing the expenditures by 20 million *yen*. Only three members supported the motion. Mr. Kubota Yuzuru asked a great many questions, and Viscount Aoki and Count Kabayama replied to some. Viscount Aoki said that the special settlements acquired by Japan in China did not as yet contain more than 50 residents in all. He attributed the failure to utilize them to want of commercial enterprise on the part of the people, who had not the same conception as foreigners had of the importance of working with combined capital. His Excellency admitted that the Government had not taken any steps in the sense of making roads or drains. They had been deterred, he said, by the magnitude of the work but the matter would be considered Count Kabayama, referring to educational development, said that unfortunately the resources available did not suffice for anything more extensive than the establishment of one additional High School in Okayama Prefecture, one new Normal School, and the increase of facilities at the Yamaguchi High School so as to accommodate 500 pupils instead of 300 as at present. The Department over which he presided greatly regretted the insufficiency of ordinary school-teachers, and was adopting measure to obtain a larger number of graduates from the Normal Schools. With the exception of Mr. Kubota's questions the passing of the Budget was effected uneventfully, and the House rose after having handed to special committees a Bill (sent up from the Representatives) relating to drainage, and a Fisheries Bill of much the same import as that introduced by the Government last session.

The House of Peers met on the 23rd instant, but sat for only fifty minutes. It passed a Government Bill for including the armament construction funds of the Naval Department in a special account, and it committed several other Bills, among them being three sent up from the Lower; namely; namely, one relating to lunatic asylums; one for supplementing the Civil Code in the sense of allowing cheques to be signed by substitutes for persons unable to write, provided that the latter affixed their seals; and one for preventing the use of tobacco by youths under 20 years of ago. With reference to the proxy-signature Bill, the Government Delegate said that the Government could not consent to it; and with reference to the tobacco-smoking veto, that its enforcement would be very difficult.

The House of Peers sat yesterday (25th) forenoon, but its proceedings were almost without interest. Two budgets were passed, and a Bill for increasing the allowance made by the Treasury on account of Elementary School teachers was carried to its Second Reading. Mr. Mizuno Jun introduced a Representation urging that a sum of a million *yen* should be gradually appropriated for purposes of road-making and drainage in the special Settlements acquired in China under the Shimonoseki Treaty. He declared that the Government, by failing to carry out these works, placed itself in the position of a man who invites guests to dinner but does not provide any viands for them The House passed the Representation by a large majority.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

What has hitherto been known as a Roman Catholic Magazine, the *Tenchijin*, has entirely changed its character and now seems to figure as a political organ, apparently connected with the Tosa section of the Jiyutō, if we may judge from its contents. But it is only fair to state that the editor denies this and alleges that the magazine is working with the Dōki Club in promoting the reform of customs and ways of society generally. There is no denying, however, that the *Tenchijin* has entered the arena of politics in a very pronounced manner. Recent contributors to the magazine are for the most part well-known politicians like Count Itagaki, Messrs. Kaneko Kentarō, Nemoto Sei, Takenouchi Tsuna, and Oye Taku, and the subjects they treat are political. From what the editor says we gather that he hopes to further the cause of religion and education by making the magazine the mouth-piece of practical politicians. He observes in a recent leader that the discussion of theories has been carried to excess in Japan, and that a religious organ will best fulfil its purpose by identifying itself with practical objects.

* * *

As a piece of extreme writing on the subject of religion it would be hard to beat the utterances of Professor Naitō Chisō in the *Sokoku*. He contends that since the religions of the world undermine ancestor worship, filial piety, and loyalty, they are to be regarded as the greatest evils the world contains. (*Shūkyō hodo osorubeki daigaiwo nasu mono wa nashi.*) *Shintō* can never be looked upon as a religion and its non-religious quality is its greatest element of strength. Professor Naitō can see nothing in Christianity but clever devices for deceiving mankind, and he predicts that a thousand years hence men will be too far advanced to allow of their accepting any of the prevailing creeds of the world.

On somewhat different lines Mr. Sugiura Jugō contributes to the *Sokoku* an article of a very conservative type entitled "Revive the ancient worship of Confucius." He gives a minute history of the practice of worshipping Confucius as carried on in this country since the days of the Emperor Mommu (A.D. 697—707); from which we gather that the ceremonies performed in honour of the Sage differed considerably from age to age and were specified from time to time by the reigning emperors or their ministers. During the Ashikaga rule the festivals were not held, but they were revived under the Tokugawa Shōguns and have continued to this day. Mr. Sugiura re-

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gards these festivals as a most important means of showing to Western nations what is the pervading element of Oriental civilisation.

* * *

In a magazine called the 革新 *Kaku-Shin* Mr. Shimada Saburō discusses the effects of Mr. Fukuzawa's teaching on his numerous disciples. The gist of Mr. Shimada's article is that though Mr. Fukuzawa himself is a man whose views and character have attained a very high level, the use which has been made of his principal doctrines by his pupils is not to be commended. They have, according to Mr. Shimada, vulgarised his teaching so as to make it serve materialistic ends In the advocacy of radical reforms Mr. Fukuzawa has frequently made use of extreme language for the sake of creating a deeper impression on his readers. This language has often been misunderstood and misapplied by his followers. The doctrines preached by the Keiōgijikū School of writers are the urgency of money-making, and the right of individuals to spend the money they make just as they please. The notion of individual liberty of action being restrained by any such knightly ideal as that displayed by men like Kusunoki Masashige is scorned by these leaders of thought. To them Kusunoki seems to rank no higher than Gonsuke. They may be correctly styled a set of money-grubbers. Mr. Fukuzawa himself is altogether a remarkable personality. Without rank or title, glorying in the fact that he is an ordinary plebeian, his life and his language are refined and elevated. There is *nothing* common, sordid, or grovelling about him. Throughout all the changes of thought that the Meiji era has witnessed practical common-sense has always guided him. Among European writers the position he has occupied in this country resembles that filled by Voltaire in France, says Mr. Shimada. In both cases powerful characters were moulded by the ages in which they lived and their general environment. Voltaire figures as a destructionist, as a vigorous anti-Christian writer, as the scourge which at that time France specially needed and from which she derived many benefits. Fukuzawa, having made up his mind that Occidental civilisation was superior to that known in the East, set himself to attack all the ramifications of Oriental thought. He commenced by translating an American Class Book in easy semi-colloquial Japanese. He subsequently poured forth volume after volume, all of which preached in one way or other the "more excellent way" than that known to most of his contemporaries and all his ancestors. He effectually broke the spell of antiquity and tradition throughout the country. Though his language for elegance and power cannot be compared to that of Voltaire, in the use he makes of satire, in directness and boldness of declamation he resembles to a large extent his great French prototype. As a destroyer of the bulwarks of conservatism Mr. Fukuzawa has done good work. But his disciples have not followed up this work by reconstruction. They cannot be classed with the sage himself, and they have yet to make a name for themselves in the world.

* * *

Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō's lecture entitled "My View of the Future of Religion" has appeared in the *Tetsugaku Zasshi*. Its extreme length makes it quite impossible for us to deal with it satisfactorily in this summary, but as the lecture has given rise to much discussion and forms the subject of numerous articles in religious magazines it seems desirable to state as briefly as possible the main conclusions reached by Dr. Inoue, under the headings given in the report of the lecture. I. The *disagreement between different religions* arises from their not acknowledging the same authority. Whether it is possible to get over this difficulty in Japan is the question that is discussed in the lecture. II. *The state of existing religions.* (1) *Confucianism*, so prosperous in Tokugawa days, is now only represented by a few noted scholars, who have no worthy successors among the younger generation. The creed may be said to be in a dying state. (2) *Buddhism* exists only in form. It deteriorated in Tokugawa days and has been entirely eclipsed since the beginning of the Meiji era. There is no one in Buddhist ranks who can restore what has been lost, (3) *Christianity* at one time showed great vigour in this country, but of late years it has lost its influence and been relegated to obscure corners. It is marked by internal dissensions, by scepticism and superstition. This backward movement of Christianity is likely to continue, with the world situated as it is. (4) As for *Shintō*, that part of it which is religious is doomed by its superstitious elements to oblivion. That national part of the Cult, which consists principally of ancestor worship, displays considerable recuperative power. But those who support it in this capacity are anxious to divest it of all religious elements and thus save it from disintegration. III. *The connection of religion and education.* There is no doubt that what is most desirable is that religion and education should be kept quite separate. In ancient times they went hand in hand. Education relied on the authority of religion to enforce its precepts. But now that that authority is questioned in every direction, it is rightly considered that it can no longer be relied on as a basis for ethical teaching. At the same time there is no denying that education has suffered from the removal of the religious basis for moral teaching. In the West, with the exception of France and Switzerland, Christianity is the basis of ethical teaching. Japan has adopted the intellectual system of Europe and America, but has not accepted Occidental ethics nor its basis, Christianity. Having given up her own old basis of ethics and not adopted a new one, she is, as it were, between two stools. Is there no way out of this difficulty? IV. *All existing religions have their merits and demerits.* Buddhism has for over a thousand years been a Japanese religion. It is characterised by great rationality and is eminently philosophical, notwithstanding the fact that it appeals to miracles. These are its chief merits. On the other side we have to put unintelligibility, pessimism, and a certain unnaturalness in its teaching on the subject of the gratification of desires. Buddhism aims at destroying human nature rather than developing it. It is afraid to try and regulate desires, so it attempts to extinguish them altogether. Christianity has the advantage of being the religion that is attached to Occidental civilisation and of being easy to understand. It is more pessimistic than Judaism, but it does not suppress desires like Buddhism, but teaches that they should seek lawful gratification. Its drawbacks are that it believes in a personal God that can interfere with the affairs of men, a conception that is opposed to modern science. Japanese have great difficulty in accepting a religion that does violence to their traditional notions respecting the worship due to their ancestors by the stringent manner in which it insists on there being only one God. The merits of Confucianism consist in its avoidance of the miraculous and in its secularity and matter-of-factness. Its demerits are the absence of a true conception of the State, and the neglect to explain the principles that are necessary to true social development. These defects are showing themselves in the disorganisation which exists in the neighbouring continent. Confucianism, moreover, gives no encouragement whatever to scientific investigation. V. Religions differ from each other to a large extent, but they are all founded on *actually existing ideas* (實在 and 觀念 *Jitsuzai Kwannen*). These ideas as they exist in the minds of men are very similar. It is when the attempt is made to express them in words that great diversity commences. These ideas are conveyed from one mind to another without the use of language. This is a case of what the Buddhist Zen sect calls 以心傳心 *iishin denshin*, (communication from heart to heart). These original notions that lie at the basis of all religion may be said to be three in number. One attributes personality to the supreme power in the Universe. Another conceives of this power as omnipresent. A third sees in action a moral quality called right or wrong. In entertaining the first two notions, personality (in some form or other) and omnipresence, all religions agree. But in the meaning given to the term personality there is wide difference. That there is some kind of mysterious connection between man and the deity all religions teach. The Bible perpetually speaks of God dwelling in the hearts of men. Confucianism teaches that Heaven and man are inseparable, that man's heart is the tabernacle of Heaven, that Heaven and Man's heart are part and parcel of each other. Shintō, Buddhism, and Brahmanism teach the same doctrine. VI. If we come to ask what is essential to effective ethics, the answer is that ethics are not to be regarded as concerned chiefly with knowledge; they have rather to do with practice. A system of ethics must embrace some means of strengthening the will. Most of the existing non-religious systems of ethics concern themselves with theories rather than with practice, and that is why they are so ineffective as compared with religious ethics. Religious ethics derive their force from the belief in the unchangeable nature of the precepts they teach and of its transcendental and sacred character. It is absolutely necessary that the system of ethics on which we base our education should supply the element which religion used to furnish. VII. In endeavouring to find a new basis for ethics, it is quite impossible to adopt any one of the existing religions, as they all have characteristics to which scientists and philosophers alike object. They all have a person or persons which are worshipped. What it is desirable to do is to take the fundamental principles that lie at the basis of all religions, exclude all supposed supernaturalism and blend

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them afresh with a view to their becoming a stimulus to the will and a general ethical basis. All existing religions have their historical connections, which render them unsuitable for universal adoption. The attempts at rendering local religions universal cannot be said to have been successful. Religion divides men's hearts instead of uniting them. The chief function of religion being to furnish a standard for conduct, there is no reason why those parts of it which have a special bearing on actual conduct and about the importance of which there is little difference of opinion among learned men should not in this country be formed into a system. This system might be called "Ethical Religion," or "Religious Ethics," it matters little which. The term religion is usually employed in a very narrow sense, but there is no objection to widening its meaning so as to make it include all that is sublime, sacred, and spiritual. To a religion thus broadly based there could be no objection among our leading men. It would be capable of universal application. VIII. *This Religion of the future and Nationalism.* Would there be no danger of this new form of religion coming into conflict with the nationalistic spirit? In my opinion none whatever. The object of the nationalists is to preserve Japanese individuality, and the principles which would constitute the new system would further rather than hinder the realisation of this aim. IX. *Conclusion.* The teaching of Shaka, Confucius, and Christ are all founded on their transcendental innermost feelings. The intellectual superstructure erected by their followers has had the effect of blinding men's eyes to the importance of these feelings. The essence of religion consists in feeling. The foundation of ethics lies in this. Talk about men's rights and their duties savours of Law and should not be mixed up with religion pure and simple. For a long time I found it difficult to determine exactly in what religion consists, and in order to satisfy myself I have spent some years in investigating the subject. My lecture today has given the results of my inquiry.

* * *

To the *Shinseiki* Dr. De Forest contributes an article entitled *Sekaiteki shūkyō*, in which he contends that Christianity is best suited to the needs of various countries and is thoroughly cosmopolitan in spirit. Dr. De Forest says that among the teachers of some 400 High Schools and among the Presidents of Universities in America there is no one who despises religion. Referring to the numerous eminent men in Japan who take the view that religion is only wanted by the ignorant, Dr. De Forest argues that they fail to realise the dignity of mankind. Mr. Fukuzawa compares man to a maggot and represents him to be a mere nail in the mechanism of the Universe. Though he argues in his *Ukiyodan* that polygamy is disgraceful, he does not seem to perceive the real reason of its objectionableness. Dr. Katō again in the plainest language represents belief in one true God as a superstition which no scholar can accept. He entirely fails to see what alone can put new life into society. Marquis Ito has declared that such as he have no need of religion. Is it not astounding that such an eminent politician should make such a statement? These voices, says Dr. De Forest, sound like a re-echo of the opinions expressed by the Romans two thousand years ago. The world has outgrown these views. They are most misleading. There can be no time in the future when religion will become superfluous. Those who love their country and place a high value on a pure domestic life ought to realise this . . . Japan, which has given such a warm welcome to Occidental civilisation, will surely welcome the religion that gave this civilisation to European nations.

* * *

The magazine of which we wrote some months ago, the *Sangan* (Three Eyes, Shintō, Buddhism, and Confucianism) still continues to play the role of an accuser of its Christian brethren. Under the title of *Sō no ko Yaso no Shimobe*, "The son of a Priest and the Servant of Christ," Mr. Kashiwagi Giyen is furiously attacked for stamping under foot the altar of his forefathers. It seems that Mr. Kashiwagi was intended to succeed his father as priest of a certain temple when he committed the crime of embracing Christianity. Another article entitled, "A record of the irregularities of professing Christians" pretends to give an account of the doings of American soldiers in the Philippines. Mr. Schlosser is next dealt with. A Greek Church convert is held up to scorn as being unfaithful to his country, &c., &c. Count Okuma's views are given in one of the numbers before us. He is made to utter somewhat anti-Christian sentiments in a passage in which he is reported to have said that the pro-Western feeling has been so strong among the Japanese that they have shown little discernment in their choice of things to adopt. The good and the bad have come into the country together, and among the things introduced was Christianity. As Count Okuma has so often made speeches in favour of Christianity it may be well to state the words put into his mouth by the writer in the *Sangan*. Here they are: *Yukei, mukei, gwaikoku no koto to saye iwaba, yoshi ashi wo yerabu itoma naku shikiri ni ware ni utsusan to hosshi; zen-aku kongō shite kore wo mukae taru ga yuye, Yesukyō no gotoki mo mata sono aida ni jōjite iri-kitari, futa-tabi tsubasa wo furū ni itaru.* "Whether in things material or spiritual, if they were only pronounced to be foreign, so great was our desire to adopt them that no time was allowed for distinguishing between what was good and bad; things were welcomed by us without respect to their quality. Making use of this opportunity, Christianity entered, and the second time (in our history) made its influence felt among us."

It is said, observes Count Okuma, that a politician needs to be a philosopher, and since philosophy and religion are connected with each other, a politician ought to be acquainted with religion. The reason why our politicians as a rule know nothing of religion is to be sought in the teaching of Confucius with which our whole system of thought is imbued.

* * *

The following books are all on religious or moral subjects. Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki is the author of a book called the 修養錄 *Shūyōroku*, which treats of rules of conduct and mental culture. The *Mainichi Shimbun* writes in terms of high praise of the work in the following strain:—Mr. Matsumura is known to be a very sincere and a very earnest man. In this book he speaks with great decision and power, so that the work should prove of great use as an arouser of the careless. The author's mind is reflected in the pages he has written to a remarkable degree, and the whole book is decidedly fascinating. But, continues the *Mainichi*, there is one chapter that seems to us incomplete—that is the one on marriage and married life. Mr. Matsumura dwells on the importance of selecting a suitable wife, but he fails to inform young men of the evils of marriage in the case of those who are physically unfit for wedded life. Certainly imbeciles, diseased persons, and people who have no prospect of a livelihood should remain single. This is a doctrine that needs to be preached in this country. Hundreds of young men are rushing into matiomony without sufficient forethought. The Shūyōroku is published by the Keiseisha, Uneme-chō, Kyōbashi, Tōkyō, and sells at 40 *sen* per copy.

Published by the same Company and selling at the same price as the abovementioned work, is the *Shukyō Kenkyū* (Investigation of Religion) by Mr. Kishimoto Nobuta, who has made a special study of comparative religion. The work treats of the various religions of the world, their historical origin, and doctrinal differences, and discusses the question of religious evolution.

The *Hihan teki Nihon Bukkyōshi* by Mr. Adachi Ritsuyen is a critical work on Japanese Buddhism which goes into the subject of the mixture of Buddhist and Shintō teaching and discusses the connection of Buddhism with politics. The work sells at 50 *sen* at the Keiseisha.

The 迷信の日本, *Meishin no Nihon* (Superstitious Japan) gives a very minute account of the various forms of religious belief prevalent in Japan. It divides the country up into provinces and treats them separately and gives a great deal of information on divination and the peculiarities of folk-lore. Messrs. Kishimoto and Anezaki think highly of the work, and their opinion on the subjects treated is quoted in the opening pages. The book sells at 25 *sen* per copy at the Keiseisha.

* * *

The *Kirisutokyō Shimbun* is to assume a new form and a new name from the beginning of the year. It is to be called the 東京毎周新誌 *Tōkyō Maishū Shinshi*, and will be a magazine. The present paper dates from 1883, when it was called the *Tōkyō Maishū Shimpō*, and was edited by Messrs. Uemura, Ukita, and Kosaki. In the course of years it underwent several changes to suit the times, and now it purposes enlarging its scope so as to include the discussion of politics, education, literature, family life and other subjects bearing on the welfare of society. It is to cover about 24 pages and to sell at four cents and a half per copy, including postage. The paper will then lose its distinctively religious character and enter into competition with the already crowded list of ordinary magazines.

* * *

The Roman Catholic newspaper, the *Koye*, gives the following advice to Christians who are perplexed as to how they should act when asked to contribute to local festivals of a wholly religious or semi-religious character. If they refuse to contribute they give grave offence to their neighbours. If they contribute they offend their own consciences and seem to be breaking the commandment to worship

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one God only. The counsel proffered by the *Koye* is that in all cases a clear distinction is to be made between festivals that are religious in character and those which though they had a religious origin, are now mere harmless customs. In the case of the former the Christian must be firm. Under no circumstances must he countenance or help forward in any way the worship of idols or strange gods. But there are not a few festivals, like the one held in honour of soldiers killed in battle, that are quite harmless from a Christian standpoint and to which it is desirable that Christians should contribute. In cases where the festival is of a mixed character, partly religious and partly commemorative only, it is well that Christian subscribers, when giving their money, should specify the object for which it is given.

* * *

The editor of the *Seikyō Shimpō*, commenting on the general state of Japan at the close of the nineteenth century, writes in the following terms. Among all the events that during the past 30 years have contributed towards making Japan better known in the Western World her war with China ranks first. But the results of this war have been very much over-estimated. In the first place the war itself was an accident—an occasion of distinguishing ourselves that is not likely to occur often. In the next place the general sentiment of civilized nations is opposed to war, which is deemed a remnant of barbarism. What are the gifts that the war has bestowed on us, regarded with impartial eyes? Let us sum up the items. There are the bones of the unfortunates who perished on the field of battle or died from wounds received. There is the bumptiousness of the conquerors. There is the galling recollection of foreign interference in the hour of victory. There is the burden of Formosa. There is the obligation to increase our armaments and the consequent loading on of taxes. There is the prevalence of extravagant habits among the people, which it will take years to cure. In the meanwhile all higher culture and education are either neglected altogether or inadequately supported. There is a superficiality about our civilisation which no amount of varnishing can hide. What have we done to make ourselves a name in the world besides fighting a few successful battles? Are there any books on ethics or philosophy that are sufficiently original to give our authors a place among foreign investigators. What is our religion? Only the shadow of the real thing. We mourn over the want of independence among our converts and talk as though it was all a matter of money, whereas it has more to do with faith than money. Our converts are lukewarm believers, and that is why they effect so little. Is it not a fact that persons who have been baptised on the slightest pretence throw up their religion and go back to the world? What would be the use of granting an endowment fund to such Christians? Like the prodigal son they would soon spend the money to no purpose. Ask those who have real faith whether the mass of our Christians are fit to be rendered independent. They will say, no. Nothing good can be expected from such weaklings as these. To me this appears to be the real state of affairs at the close of the Nineteenth Century. Weeping the tears of honest, painful confession, I cross the barrier that divides the centuries.*

DEATH OF MR. G. W. STEEVENS.

The cable announces the death from enteric fever of Mr. G. W. Steevens, correspondent of the *Daily Mail* at Ladysmith. This is a sad end to what promised to be a career of exceptional brilliance. Mr. Steevens was quite a young man, having been born in 1869. He was educated at the City of London School and at Balliol. He entered journalism early, and joined the editorial staff of the *Pall Mall Gazette* in 1893. He transferred his services to the *Daily Mail* shortly after the starting of that popular half-penny paper, and it was in the capacity of war and special correspondent that he earned more than the usual credit attaching to a clever newspaper writer. He went through the Greek war, and his accounts of some of the chief scenes in that tragi-comedy were esteemed the most dramatic penned by any of the correspondents. In 1898 he was despatched with Kitchener's force to the Soudan, and was present at the Battle of Omdurman. Here, again, his brilliant descriptions of scenes and incidents, and his vivid word-pictures of personalities gained a great deal of notice both for the writer and the journal by which he was employed. Even papers like the *Spectator* admitted that Mr. Steevens always rose above the level of ordinary journalism and not infrequently attained the dignity of literature. A tour through India gave him still further opportunity of exhibiting his descriptive talents, and his articles—very interesting and entertaining articles, though marred here and there by that slight affectation and turgidity which are regarded as merits on the type of journal for which Mr. Steevens laboured—were republished recently under the title of "India." The Dreyfus trial also occupied his attention, and of much wearisome stuff that was written about it Steevens's contributions were among the least wearisome. During the present war he has done good service for his paper, though the censorship has been unfavourable to the development of literary embroidery of hard facts. Among other more or less ephemeral publications of the deceased correspondent are "Monologues of the Dead," published in 1896, and "The Land of the Dollar," 1897. It is hardly probable that Mr. Steevens' untimely death has robbed the world of a literary light of any great magnitude. That he had the stuff in him to make an accomplished man of letters is probable, but unhappily the tendency of the day is to fritter away talent in work that hardly survives the hour of its birth. The potential Turner becomes a magazine illustrator, for it pays best; the potential Hogarth, a caricaturist, for there is money in it; and a man who might win a permanent place in literature becomes a sensational writer, and prides himself on his ability to turn out two columns on any subject in an equal number of hours. Had poor Steevens survived we should probably have had from him an infinitude of hasty, flashy, unbalanced, intelligent work, sufficiently good to make a thoughtful reader sigh that the author had ever come under the spell of the *Daily Mail's* cashier. As a war correspondent Steevens belonged to the newest school of impressionism. In reading his despatches one gathered little of the disposition of the troops, the effect of this or that tactical movement, but much of the hurtling of shells, the whistling of bullets, the smashing of limbs, and the personal feelings of Mr. Steevens among all these sights and sounds. It was very clever, but probably the style of the older and more matter-of-fact school is more satisfying to a reader who does not care about being thrilled, but who does want to know what happened.

* The writer is evidently of opinion that the twentieth century begins on January 1st, 1900.

ODE TO CHUZENJI.

There's a paradise aquatic
Where (unless they're too rheumatic)
All the Colleagues Diplomatic
Seek repose;
Where the view is so extensive
That it makes one feel quite pensive,
And there's nothing that's offensive
To the nose.

Baron, Count, or Excellency,
Up from Nikko to Chuzenji
On a ten or fifteen yen gee
You must ride,
For a kago drives one frantic,
And it's not a bit romantic
When a foreigner gigantic
Sits inside.

Jealous friends may crab the weather,
Say the journey lasts for ever,
And your summer plans endeavour
To upset;
When they praise with all their power
Waterless Karuizawa,
The Chuzenji grapes are sour
You may bet!

Others say the nerves are calmer
For a view of Fujiyama,
And declare the silk pyjama
Rather toney,
And the greatest pains are taken
That your purpose may be shaken
And Chuzenji be forsaken
For Hakone.

But I'll stake my reputation
That there isn't in Creation
Any greater compensation
For the ills
That our exiled flesh is heir to,
Than, forsaking all our care, to
Pack a kori and repair to
Nikko's hills.

MORAL.

Should the climate Asiatic
Make you feverish, asthmatic,
Nervous, N.B.
If "in corpore *in* sano"
Still a "sana mens" remain, Oh!
Take the first train from Uyeno
To Chuzenji!

WATAKUSHI.

TEA AND SILK.

According to investigations made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and published in the *Tokyo Keizai Zasshi*, the area of mulberry and tea farms throughout the empire for the past seven years has been as follows:—

	Mulberry farm. Cho.	Tea farm. Cho.
32nd year of *Meiji* ...	307,084	57,883
31st ,, ...	304.312	58,648
30th ,, ...	298,203	58,892
29th ,, ...	288.937	59.479
28th ,, ...	266,164	57,728
27th ,, ...	253,889	59.000
26th ,, ...	243,358	60,669

From the above it may be perceived that, although mulberry plantations are increasing year by year, those for tea are steadily decreasing. The cause is the serious decline in the tea trade during the past few years. Classified according to prefectures, Fukushima stands highest with 28,969 *cho* of mulberry farms; next comes Gumma with 28,108 *cho*; and Nagano, Saitama, and Yamanashi with 25,708, 22,140, and 16,058 respectively. Below these are Yamagata with 13,279; Niigata with 12.514; Ibaraki with 11,981, and Ishikawa with 10,394. There are eleven other prefectures containing mulberry farms varying in extent from 9.890 to 5,060 *cho*. As to tea farms, Shizuoka enjoys first rank with an area of 16,021 *cho*. Next comes Omiye with 3.510, and then Kyoto, Ibaragi, and Kumamoto with 3,022, 2.681, and 2,472 respectively. There are ten other prominent districts containing tea farms ranging in area from 1.300 to 1,932 *cho*.

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THE LAND QUESTION.

IMPORTANT MEETING.

PERPETUAL LEASE AND SUPERFICIES.

A meeting of land-renters in the former Settlement of Yokohama was held on Friday afternoon at Keil's Building, Mr. Holm, chairman of the International Committee, presided over a large and representative meeting. Among others present were: Messrs. J. F. Lowder, W. B. Walter, J. Dodds, W. W. Till, J. Witkowski, P. Sarda, Captain Swain, Messrs. Harlow, Gargan, Von Hemert, Mathews, Giusanni, Mees, F. H. Bull, Diack, J. Curtis, Gordon, Helm, F. W. Mitchell, Hutchinson, W. T. Payne, J. L. O. Eyton, Allcock, Tom Thomas, J. W. Hall, D. Jackson, M. Russell, Gibbons, V. Blad, B. C. Howard, C. V. Sale, Rev. E. S. Booth, Messrs. Lines, F. Adet, G. C. Wilson, J. H. Brooke, Grauert, Wylie, Townley, E. B. Jones, Alcott, Coe, Strome, F. Staniland, B. Gillett, Manuel, E. J. Moss, C. D. Moss, P. Colomb, Pors, Kaufmann, Tegner, F. S. James, C. R. M. Morton, Hartland, A. O. Gay, &c., &c.

In opening the meeting the CHAIRMAN said:—As Chairman of the International Committee, at whose instance this meeting has been called, I beg to offer a few remarks with regard to the object we had in view in inviting you here today. Among the many momentous questions which have presented themselves in connection with the inauguration of the new *régime* one of the most important is the one dealing with the registration and transfer of our landed property and the law of succession and of mortgages. Immediately upon the coming into operation of the present treaties it was found that the necessary machinery of law for registering and transferring our perpetual leases, was not provided in the Japanese law as it then stood. Everything being new to foreigners as well as to the Japanese it was generally believed that things would right themselves by and bye, and beyond some individual movements and a general report to the foreign Consuls and Ministers, or to some of them, no concerted action was taken for several months. Towards the end of last year, when the grievous consequences of the non-settlement of this question made themselves more and more apparent, the International Committee took it upon themselves to address His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Viscount Aoki, on this subject and to solicit his good offices on our behalf. In one letter it was pointed out that in the treaties the confirmation of our perpetual leases is guaranteed and that through the delay already occasion in the settlement of the question our property was continuously and adversely affected. The terms of the letter to His Excellency were as follows:—

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

23rd December.

To his Excellency Viscount AOKI SHUZO,
Minister of State for Foreign
Affairs, Tokyo.

Your Excellency,—The International Committee of Foreign Residents of Yokohama beg to submit to Your Excellency that although the new Treaties between Japan and foreign countries provide that:—

> "existing leases in perpetuity under which property is now held in the foreign settlement shall be confirmed and no conditions whatsoever other than those contained in such existing leases shall be imposed in respect of such property," ("les baux à perpetuité en vertu desquels les étrangers possedent actuellement des propriétés dans les quartiers seront confirmés, et les propriétés de cette nature ne donneront lieu à aucuns impôts, taxes, charges, contributions ou conditions quelconques autres que ceux expressément stipulés dans les baux en question")

yet no such confirmation has hitherto been made; also that no means have been provided for the registration of transfers, mortgages, or successions of the above property since the treaties came into operation some five months ago.

The Japanese Courts where leases under "superficies" can be registered take no cognizance of Settlement perpetual leases, and only offer to register these as "superficies." Further, a charge of two-and-a-half per cent. on the values of properties sold has been claimed, though under the old system of transfer at the Kencho transfers have been effected free of any tax.

Consequent upon the above difficulties, the values of property in the former foreign Settlements have been greatly unsettled, and a general feeling of distrust and uncertainty has been created, which has a very injurious effect, tending to prevent the farther introduction of foreign capital into Japan and rendering former Settlement property unsaleable at present.

Such a result, after treaty revision, is, we feel sure, not in accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Japanese Government, for we had the assurance of His Excellency the Minister President of State on the 4th of August last "that the foreign residents would not suffer any inconvenience under the new conditions," as well as that of Your Excellency on the 10th of April last "that the foreign residents could entrust with confidence their persons and property to the safe guarding of the Japanese authorities."

I take the liberty of addressing Your Excellency on this subject, which is one of the greatest interest to the foreign community, in view of the invitations which you have on several occasions given us to communicate with Your Excellency direct, and the Committee look with confidence to Your Excellency for the removal of the grievances which I have now ventured to bring before your notice.

I have the honour to remain Your Excellency's most Obedient Servant,

H. J. HOLM.

Shortly afterwards, I believe on the 27th of December, an Imperial Ordinance was issued which, accordingly to the opinion of His Excellency the Minister should prove satisfactory to the members of the foreign community, and he accompanied this by a verbal assurance that the Imperial Government never intended to in any way encroach upon Treaty rights, and that the delay was due to some difficulty in connection with determining form only. I avail myself of this opportunity of recording our thanks for this courteous assurance, and I think I may add that never anyone of us has harboured a fear that the Imperial Japanese Government would not always rigorously adhere to Treaty agreements. At the same time it must not be lost sight of that the officials of the Courts of Law, where these matters have to be dealt with in the first instance, have only the law as it reads to guide them and that they are apt to ignore treaty stipulations, as is shown by the judgment of the Chiho Saibansho in what is commonly known as the Healing case, of which a report is found in the papers of the end of December (Mr. Holm here recited the material points of the case from the newspaper reports). As I said before, I feel pursuaded that no injustice is intended by the Imperial Authorities and that on appeal or otherwise such Treaty stipulations as may apply will be finally given full weight (hear, hear). Now, as for the Imperial Ordinance of December last, which it was hoped would put an end to our troubles. The same has been given full consideration; and I very much regret to say that the general consensus of opinion appears to be that the situation has not been much improved by it. The only difference as compared with the state of things existing previously is that instead of one we have now two kinds of superficies—one a superficies pure and simple and another one with "perpetual lease" in brackets attached to it. I learn that in some quarters it is advanced that the superficies as now offered us is, if anything, even better than our former perpetual lease. I don't propose to pass an opinion on a question of this kind, about which even law students have so far been unable to agree, but I cannot but share the fear that this double kind of superficies in the future may give rise to mistakes and confusion and great insecurity, which could easily be avoided if the whole matter was once for all put in indisputable language. The wording of the Treaties themselves is perfectly clear and precise on this point, namely, "Existing leases in perpetuity under which property is now held in the foreign settlements shall be confirmed, and no conditions whatsoever other than those contained in such existing leases shall be imposed in respect of such property." In addition to this it strikes me as only reasonable that people should prefer the old accustomed perpetual leases, which have given satisfaction and security for now upwards of 40 years, to something new and as yet untried, the more so as the acceptance of superficies in any shape or form would practically mean an amendment of the Treaties as just read. I think there can be no doubt about this. I am very glad to see the representatives of the Press here, as this will be an additional guarantee that no misconception can be formed with regard to the holding of this meeting. Transactions in property have now been suspended for six months or more and it goes without saying that this cannot be suffered to continue. At the same time we have met here in a perfectly friendly spirit, and I trust that the Imperial Japanese Government will be disposed to deal with the matter in a manner no less conciliatory, and that it will be understood that we do not wish to ask for anything but what we believe to have been promised us by Treaty. If our trouble is again placed before the Imperial Japanese Government in this form I feel sure that they will put matters again on a confidence-inspiring and working basis without further delay. With regard to our Consuls and representatives in Tokyo I may say that this matter is understood to have all their attention, and I think they will gladly welcome an expression of opinion on this matter by such a representative meeting as this. This, gentlemen, is how the matter now stands. The International Committee has thought it proper to call this meeting of land-renters as they are the parties primarily and directly interested and as, moreover, some of the largest lease-holders are not among the supporters of this Committee. With these remarks I now leave the question to the meeting. We shall be grateful for any further information that any of the gentlemen present may be in possession of, and I am also ready to answer any questions that may be asked to the best of my ability.—(Applause.)

MR. W. B. WALTER called attention to the wording of the Treaties on the question of leases in perpetuity and said the opinion of that meeting probably agreed with that of the International Committee, namely, that the form of lease which it was proposed they should accept, viz. superficies, was not the tenure on which they had held their land hitherto; and as the Treaty expressly called for the confirmation of the existing leases the foreign land-renters would like to see that confirmation given as quickly as possible in order that they should feel the same confidence in their existing leases as they had felt hitherto. (Hear, hear). There was another matter which they might perhaps think trivial, but which he still thought merited attention. The Japanese legal authorities had proposed to levy on the buildings which were situated on their land certain municipal and local taxes. Included in these taxes were the cost of maintaining roads and drains. In connection with that matter he begged to read to the meeting the following extract from the Land Regulations of Kanagawa for August, 1860, which he believed were the earliest regulations on the subject:—

> The proprietorship of the soil being vested in the Japanese Government the streets, roads, and ditches will at all times be kept in thorough order and repair and sewers or drains will be made when necessary by the Japanese Government and no tax will be levied on renters in the foreign quarter for this purpose

They knew perfectly well, continued Mr Walter, that in these taxes were included certain expenses connected with roads and drains.

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It was evident from these regulations that, however liable foreign rent-holders might be for other taxes, the amount for roads and drains should be deducted. Into the larger question, as to whether any tax should be levied on buildings or land in the former foreign Settlements, he preferred not to enter at the present time. Probably others present at the meeting would have a good deal to say on these subjects, and as a guide to the discussion he should move the following resolutions :—

It is resolved by this meeting of land-renters of the former Foreign Settlement of Yokohama that the following facts be brought to the notice of the Imperial Japanese Government :—

1. That although the revised treaties provide that the existing Government leases in perpetuity of foreign settlement property shall be confirmed, steps have not yet been taken by the Government to confirm them, and the laws of Japan appear to contemplate their compulsory conversion into a new and different kind of right, which is called "superficies."

2. That under existing laws the right of perpetual lease is not recognised, and since the coming into operation of the revised treaties the holders of such leases have been unable to sell or mortgage their land except on the terms of allowing the leasehold interest to be registered as a "superficies," which they have been and are unwilling to do.

3. That the non-recognition of what foreigners conceive to be a right plainly secured to them by their title deeds and by treaty, has resulted in a general feeling of insecurity, and is stopping all sales and mortgages of former foreign settlement property and is threatening such property with a very serious depreciation in value.

4 That in order to remedy the evils of the situation and to restore confidence it is most *desirable that the* Imperial Japanese Government shall at once confirm the aforesaid leases in perpetuity and make all necessary provisions for their recognition by law, and for the registration of them under a separate designation.

5. That properties held by foreigners in the former foreign settlements have been made subject to new conditions and taxes and charges from which in the opinion of this meeting, the revised treaties were intended to exempt them.

And it is further resolved that copies of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs through the usual channels."

Mr. WYLIE seconded the resolution without comment.

The Rev. E. S. BOOTH—May I offer an amendment something to this effect :—"That these resolutions be presented or brought to the attention of the Foreign Office of the Imperial Government through the Ministers represented in the foreign Concession." As the resolution stands it sends the resolutions from this meeting directly to the Foreign Office. It seems to me it would meet the purpose better if it came through our natural authorised representatives. They may be able to give us some light on the intent and meaning of the Treaty or the Treaties between various Governments and Japan. It may be assuming a little for us to pass judgment upon the Treaties whatever the Treaties are. I think that every one will concede that the Treaties stand above the national law and if the plain English in the Treaties have the ordinary meaning of English the resolutions presented by Mr. Walter are well taken and will no doubt be properly considered by the authorized representatives of our nationalities. I simply make this amendment that in place of the last clause that the resolutions be sent to the Foreign Office we insert that they be sent to the ministers.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that is a question which might be discussed.

Mr. WALTER—Possibly Mr. Booth will allow me to say a word. I have only suggested that the resolutions should be forwarded; I have not said anything as to the way in which they should be forwarded. The opinion of the meeting will naturally direct the mode of communication with His Excellency—(hear, hear)

The CHAIRMAN—Would it agree with your intention, Mr. Walter, to include this in your resolution.

Mr. WALTER — Certainly. I would add that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded through the usual channels—(hear, hear).

After some further discussion Mr. Till proposed :—"That the report of this meeting be forwarded to leading newspapers in Europe and America for publication in order that land-renters absent from Japan may become acquainted with the condition of property in this country held by aliens"—(loud applause).

Mr. PARSONS—I second that.

Mr. TILL—Perhaps it would be as well to add to that, after newspapers, "and Chambers of Commerce."

The CHAIRMAN then read the resolution to the meeting.

Mr. LINDSLEY—I would suggest that there be added also "the American Asiatic Association and the China Association."

Rev. E. S. BOOTH—I would call for the reading of the previous question *seriatim*.

The CHAIRMAN then read Mr. Walter's resolution again.

After some few immaterial remarks the motion was put and carried amid applause.

The CHAIRMAN—Next we come to Mr. Till's motion, seconded by Mr. Parsons.

Mr. SALE—I think that that needs a little consideration. It is a proposition which implies a little irritation—a sort of showing up of the Japanese. They tried to meet us in this matter, and they might try to meet us again. I think we ought to wait until we know what are the results of these resolutions brought forward by Mr. Walter.

The CHAIRMAN—Do you bring that forward as an amendment.

Mr. SALE—I do.

The Rev. E. S BOOTH—I beg to second that. I have a similar feeling that it may be misconstrued by those who are not here to see that this meeting is in every sense a friendly one to the Government under whose laws we are at present, and those who are separated from the discussions which have led up to the calling of this meeting would, I fear, put a wrong construction upon a measure looking for so wide a publicity. If these resolutions going forward fail to meet the difficulty there is yet time to give publicity, and it will have a clincher to go with it which will be found of more effect than to send it forth prematurely.

Mr. HARTLAND thought there was a misapprehension. The gentlemen who had just spoken did not apparently quite grasp the reason for sending this report to the papers at home. It was not to say that there was any feeling of irritation (hear, hear), but in order to give land renters who were not present in Japan an opportunity of seeing what was being done—(hear, hear).

The CHAIRMAN—It has been proposed as an amendment that action be postponed until an answer has been received to the proposition made by Mr. Walter already passed. I will now put the amendment.

The amendment was then put and was defeated by a large majority.

Mr. Till's motion was then submitted and the CHAIRMAN declared it carried by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. TILL—You may mention that there were three against it. That makes a considerable difference—(loud laughter).

The CHAIRMAN—Now these resolutions have been passed the question comes who is to forward them. The International Committee has been going on investigating the matter, but as I said before many of the land renters and some of the largest leaseholders are not members of this Committee, and I think it therefore only right that the members among themselves should elect a sub-Committee for the purpose of further dealing with this question. I shall be pleased to hear the opinion of the meeting.

Mr. WALTER—I beg to propose that you as Chairman of this meeting forward the copies of this resolution, and that as regards any further steps that require to be taken by the different nationalities that each nationality should form its own Committee, but that as regards the presentation of the resolutions themselves you as Chairman should sign and forward them—(hear, hear).

The CHAIRMAN—Don't you think that this would be an opportunity for the land renters—as a great many are present—to select a general committee; because it is all very well that every nationality is invited to form a sub-committee, but I think that in the long run it would not work, because the interests we are discussing here are the general interests, we are all in the same position and I think a general committee would be able to do more than if you split it into quite a number. All nationalities are represented here and perhaps each will mention the name of one of their number and in this way we may arrive at a representative committee of all nationalities.

Mr. TILL—Before Mr. Walter's resolution is put I would ask whether if the terms of the resolution are carried out, and the Japanese Foreign Minister is addressed through the different Ministers in Tokyo, those Ministers would receive a resolution from an International Committee. Would the British Minister receive a communication addressed to him by an international meeting. I think that is a question.

The CHAIRMAN—It is a pertinent question. The Ministers so far have not recognised the International Committee in any official way. But that may perhaps be overcome by forming a General Committee with each nationality contributing one or more members, each member forwarding the resolutions to his own minister. If the resolutions are forwarded, say, by a British subject only the British Minister will receive them.

The Rev. E. S. BOOTH—It appears to me that the position of the Chairman is well taken and I would move that the Chairman appoint an International Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that would be rather a difficult task for me. I should like to leave that to the meeting.

Mr. LINDSLEY—I move that each nationality sends the resolutions forward and that as many signatures as possible be obtained among its nationals.

Mr. WATKER—I beg to propose as a nucleus of this committee that Mr. Holm be elected for the German Community; that Mr. Till be elected for the English; Mr. Lindsley for the American; other gentlemen will kindly propose their members for other nationalities, and I think we shall arrive at a solution of the difficulty.

Mr. TILL proposed that the British elect their own representative, the Germans their own, and so on.

The CHAIRMAN—I quite agree.

Mr. DODDS, referring to Mr. Lindsley's suggestion of obtaining signatures, said he did not agree with this part of the proposal. It would weaken the effect of the resolutions passed that day. He did not think any signatures could add to the weight of that meeting, which was the largest he had even attended in Yokohama (applause).

The Rev. E. S. BOOTH—I beg as an American citizen to nominate Mr. Lindsley. May I put that to the meeting, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN assented, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. WALTER—proposed Mr. Till to represent the British community.

Mr. TILL—But my resolution has not yet been passed. I propose that the members of each nationality here present elect a representative to forward the resolutions previously agreed upon to their respectives ministers.

Mr. JACKSON seconded.

Mr. LINDSLEY—Then I withdraw my motion.

Mr. TILL's resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Then we may now take Mr. Mr. Booth's proposition.

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Finally, after some discussion of minor points, the following were elected :—

British—Mr. Till.
American—Mr. Lindsley.
German—Mr. Pors.
French—Mr. Sarda.
Italian—Mr. Giusanni.
Dutch—Mr. Klingen.
Swiss—Mr. Colomb.
Danish—Mr. Blad.

The CHAIRMAN—I take it, then, that these gentlemen will see that these resolutions are sent to their respective Ministers.

Mr. MITCHELL—I would like to call attention to one point, and that is the necessity of obtaining legal assistance with regard to this question. I believe that up to the present the onus of doing so has fallen upon a certain number of property owners in the former settlements and it is no doubt necessary that the matter, which has been so far taken up, should be continued. I would suggest that the gentlemen who are here present this afternoon should add their names to the list of those that have already subscribed to bear the necessary expense. It will not be a very large sum if it is distributed among so many and I think that in such circumstances all who are interested in property will be quite willing to contribute their share. There are some of course who are large holders of property and others who own only very small lots and I would suggest that some arrangement be made whereby these expenses should be contributed *prō rata*, that is to say, taking the value of the year's rental.

Mr. JOHNSTONE seconded.

Mr. MITCHELL—Perhaps ground rent would be better than the rental, as it would be fixed, whereas the other is liable to variation.

Mr. LINDSLEY asked if there was any idea of what the expenses would be. What had they been so far?

Mr. MITCHELL—Up to the present time the services of Mr. Walford have been engaged in this matter I don't know the exact number who have contributed. There are several. I have no list at present. As to what the ultimate expenses may be it could be difficult for me to say. I would suggest that any future arrangements that may be made may be left to the Committee, which has been elected from each nationality—(hear, hear).

Mr. LINDSLEY—Is it not possible to know approximately the amount incurred?

Mr. MITCHELL—I don't think any account has been rendered.

Mr. LINDSLEY—Would we be committed to any indefinite amount by passing this resolution?

Mr. MITCHELL—Well, it would certainly be difficult to define any particular sum at the present time as I said, the expenses divided among so many would be a trifle.

Mr. WYLIE—I would suggest that Kobe and Nagasaki be invited to join us.

Mr. LINDSLEY—I have heard the sum of 20,000 *yen* mentioned as expenses to date. I should like to know if there is any authority for that.

Mr. MITCHELL—There has been no such sum as that incurred to date.

Mr. LINDSLEY—Nothing like it?

Mr. MITCHELL—No, nothing like it.

After some further explanations, Mr. TILL asked if Mr. Mitchell would include in his resolution the expenses already incurred.

Mr. MITCHELL—If the meeting agrees.

Mr. TILL—So far they have been incurred by a few men, but they have all been incurred for the benefit of property owners generally.

The CHAIRMAN—The resolution now reads :—"That land renters of the former foreign concessions of the Empire of Japan present at the meeting be invited to contribute to the legal expenses which may be incurred in connection with the subject, and that the amount required be divided *pro rata* on the basis of ground rents paid by each proprietor; that Kobe, Tokyo, and Nagasaki be invited to join; that expenses already incurred may be included at the discretion of the Committee as elected."

Mr. KAUFMANN remarked that with regard to Kobe he had been informed that they were going to call a similar meeting, and he believed that if they wanted legal advice they would procure it themselves, and would not join with Yokohama.

The CHAIRMAN—The resolution does not commit us to anything. It simply says they will be invited.

Mr. MACARTHUR said with regard to these legal expenses it was true that they had been incurred up to the present by individuals for their particular and private benefit, but all the land-renters would reap the benefit also, and the meeting should consider that point and include all expenses in those to be borne by the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—This is a matter that may be left to the discretion of the Committee elected.

Mr. TILL—This meeting is the outcome of what has already been done.

The motion was carried.

Mr. MITCHELL—I would suggest that those gentlemen who are willing to contribute put their names on the list.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MILLER'S LAST DAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Will you permit me to trespass upon your space and the time of your readers, to present two points in connection with the last days of the late Robert Miller, now passed beyond the reach of human praise or blame. First of all, let me preface my remarks by the statement that I am fully persuaded of the justness of the sentence and the fairness of his trial. But I feel that there was a side to his character, as shown since he came to Tokyo, that few have known of, and which, in common justice, ought to be made known to those who were alienated from him by the hideousness of his crime and his early conduct. Since about October 1st, I have visited him almost weekly, and as you know, I was with him at the last. I noted a marked change in his demeanour; and I do not advance my own unsupported testimony to this fact, for one in my position might have been deceived. The prison officials will corroborate what I say in this regard, for I continually asked of them concerning his conduct. For a man whose life had been stained by almost every sin (though I believe never before by murder in act), and for one who had never known the meaning of religion, the sentiments uttered by him in the later days of his life seem to me to show a great measure of repentance, with a true sorrow for his sins. This too is shown by the writing committed to my charge, which was mostly composed before the last day, and not, as erroneously stated in your report, on the morning of the execution. It was handed to me (all but the last sheet) the night before. His last words were of thanks to all who had in any way befriended him, especially the officials of the prison, and of prayer for forgiveness.

In addition to these words concerning himself, I desire to say a very few about the kindness of the officials, both to him and to me in the discharge of my duties in connection with the prisoner. They have been most uniformly courteous, and desirous of assisting me in every way. Mr. Fujisawa, the Superintendent of the Kajibashi House of Detention, gave much of his personal attention to the case, and is deserving of the highest praise, as well as cordial recognition by the foreign community. The charge was a troublesome one, because of the novelty of it, as well as the difficulty of understanding on both sides. The officials felt this themselves, and expressed many times their regret that they could not always do what they desired. I take great pleasure in thus bearing my testimony.

Yours truly, CHAS. H. EVANS.

Tokyo, January 19th, 1900.

PATRIOTIC ENTERTAINMENT.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

SIR,—On behalf of our Societies we beg to convey to you our thanks for your kindness in inserting the advertisements for the entertainment in aid of our soldiers' widows and orphans, free of charge.

You will be gratified to know that the entertainment was a complete financial success, as, thanks to the generosity of the community, we have been able to pay in the total receipts, viz. 1,513 *yen*, to the credit of the Fund.

We are, dear Sir, Yours obediently,

H. A. STEWART.
Hon. Sec., St. Andrew's Society.
HARRY J. SHARP.
Hon. Sec., St. George's Society.

Yokohama, Jan. 20.

CONDITIONING OF RAW SILK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I enclose copy of a letter I wrote on the 20th inst. to the *Japan Times* in reference to an article which appeared in that paper on the 18th inst. As the explanation contained is of general interest to the Silk Trade, you may perhaps think well of giving it a place in the *Mail*.

Yours truly, H. BENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN TIMES," TOKYO.

DEAR SIR :—With reference to the article in your issue of the 18th instant relative to the recent discussions between the silk merchants of Yokohama, the following details may perhaps serve to remove the doubt which appears to exist in the minds of the Japanese merchants on the important question of allowance for moisture.

Raw silk is an article peculiarly susceptible of absorbing and retaining moisture, and it is by the process called "conditioning" that the quantity of moisture contained in the silk is determined. For this purpose, conditioning houses have been established in almost all the principal silk centres of the world, and it is the conditioned weights obtained from these establishments which form the recognized basis for transactions on those markets. That is to say that in New York, Lyons, Milan, Bâle, Crefeld, Zürich, Canton, etc., a buyer of silk can, before finally settling, demand that his purchase shall pass through the local conditioning house. He is enabled thereby to securely protect himself against an undue amount of moisture in the silk which he intends purchasing, for, if the condition tests show that the moisture present is in excess of the recognized admissible percentage, the buyer can in every case insist that such excess be made good to him by the seller. On the other hand, if the moisture is shown to be less than the recognized percentage, the seller cannot claim the difference, unless the sale has been made on actual conditioned weight.

This protection for the buyer holds good on every market where a conditioning house exists, with the sole exception of Yokohama. Although this market boasts a well-arranged and perfectly appointed Conditioning House, which was opened under Government control on the 5th of August, 1896, the said establishment affords not the slightest protection to foreign merchants against surcharge of moisture, for the simple reason that, although silk may be conditioned and shown to contain an undue proportion of moisture, the Japanese sellers refuse to make good such excess.

The proportion to moisture recognized on all the home markets as admissible in Japan silk is a maximum of 2 per cent. over and above the legal conditioned weight.

The position of the foreign merchant in Yokohama is consequently this—that he is obliged to purchase his silk at a price fixed irrespectively of the amount of moisture contained, and he has to sell the goods at home with a guarantee

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that such moisture shall not exceed 2 per cent. over and above the legal conditioned weight In other words, supposing he buys a parcel of silk which is afterwards shown by the Yokohama Conditioning House to contain 3 per cent. of moisture over and above the conditioned weight, he has a clear loss of 1 per cent. by water paid for at the value of the silk.

There is no reason why Japan silk, if properly cared for, shou d contain more than the accepted 2 per cent. of water. It is, however, frequently stored in damp moist godowns, and moreover the practice of "watering" the silk is not by any means unheard of. These abuses, if not too apparent, have been winked at in the past, owing to certain corresponding advantages allowed to foreign merchants by old custom of the trade.

The Japanese, however, having initiated a movement to suppress everything tending to favour foreign buyers, the latter have been compelled in self-defence to put forward certain counter-claims, of which the most important is that relating to moisture, viz: "If silk bought "appears to be too damp, the percentage of "moisture may, at buyer's option, be determin-"ed by the Conditioning House, and any excess "over 2 per cent. shall be refunded to the "buyers by the sellers."

This Rule, which is designed to place Yokohama on the same level as all other markets, has been accepted by the Japanese Silk Guild, and it is mutually agreed that it shall come into force with the new season on the 1st of July next. It is curious that the Japanese merchants, who have been so long connected with the foreign silk trade and who have moreover had a Conditioning House in their midst for the last three years, should know so little about the important process of conditioning. Such, however, appears to be the fact, and if you can afford a little more of your valuable space a few words may suffice to make the matter clear.

It should be understood at the outset that the amount of atmospheric moisture naturally absorbed by and contained in raw silk under normal conditions is eleven per centum (11 per cent.) We then take the following case of a bale sent to the Conditioning House, and weighing on arrival there

Gross.....	Kin 60 00
Less Tare of Bag, Ropes, Papers, String, etc.	1.50
Net weight	Kin 58.50

A certain number of skeins are then drawn from the bale, and after careful weighing are heated in a special apparatus at a temperature of about 120 degrees centigrade for half an hour, when every vestige of moisture has disappeared and the skeins are reduced to their absolute weight. They are then carefully re-weighed and the absolute weight of the bale is calculated according to that result.

We will now suppose we have obtained for the bale an absolute weight of.....	Kin 51.10
To this must be added 11 per cent. for natural atmospheric moisture ...	5.62
	Kin 56.72

which is the legal or conditioned weight of the bale.

On this result, the difference between the net and the conditioned weights shows that the bale contains 3.04 per cent. of moisture. As stated above, a margin of 2 per cent. is allowed on Japan silk over and above the conditioned weight. The excess on surcharge of moisture in this bale is therefore 1.04 per cent., and it is that excess which, under the foregoing Rule, shall be refunded by the Japanese Merchants to the foreign buyers.

I am, Yours faithfully, H. BENT.
Chairman of the Foreign Silk Committee.

Yokohama, Jan. 20th, 1900.

"DEATH AND LIFE."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your article in yesterday's issue entitled "Death and Life" seems to me a fresh illustration of the old adage "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." In the first place Professor Weismann's theory is by no means such as you have stated it to be. His "Essays on Heredity" were an attempt to give an account, not of immortality, but of the entrance of natural death into the world; and the fact against which you say "reason revolts," viz, that among the lowest forms of life, the Amoeba, reproduction takes place not by fertilization but by fission, the cell, *i.e.*, of the unicellular organism, dividing to form two other cells, each of which contains a portion of the original germ plasm, and these again in like manner dividing to form others, and so on *ad infinitum*, possessing thus in themselves a potential immortality, is a fact of scientific observation. Death only occurs when, owing probably to environment, a dissimilarity appears in the previously homogeneous cells. It and they become divided into reproductive, and what are called somatic cells. It is among these latter that death first occurs. With regard to the former they possess a power of infinite reproduction and so—as I have said—a potential immortality In Weismann's own words "Each individual of any such unicellular species living on earth to-day, is far older than mankind, and almost as old as life itself." It is not to these facts of simple observation, but to cer ain other deductions, founded on the fact of the permanence of the germ plasm in these cells, and relating to the heredity of acquired Characteristics, made by Weismann, that exception is made.

Again with regard to Professeer Loeb's experiments in which he claims to have fertilized the eggs of sea urchins by a chemical process. His conclusion will, I think, need a great deal of verification before it is accepted. But even if true the question of the origin of life does not seem to be much, if at all, affected. The origin of life in this planet has been shown to be in unicellular organisms, and its method of reproduction not by the sexual process of fertilization, but by that of fission. In any case the fertilization of an already potentially living organism is a very different thing to the production of life itself by chemical or other process.

It is difficult also to accept the somewhat triumphant conclusion founded on this slender hypothesis that, in the light of this discovery, there is no place left for a belief in the existence of the human soul. I do not know of anyone, theologian or other, who has ever gone to the length of attributing souls to such bodies as the eggs of a sea-urchin; and man is what he is quite independently of his origin and evolution. He has in one way or another become possessed of a personality, which differentiates him from, and lifts him immeasurably above all lower forms of life; and this personality is the proper seat of his immortality.

I can well remember the crass materialistic thought of a quarter of a century ago, and the triumphant attitude it held towards poor benighted theology, and there can be no more strong instance of radical change than that which has taken place in the world of scientific thought in this very subject. It is more and more the tendency of science to see, behind all the phenomena of nature, and in the ultimate analysis of matter, the action, not of blind chemical or other force, but of a guiding and controlling mind. I doubt whether the theory that the universe has been built up by the action of blind chance or force is now accepted by any great scientific thinker. Such a theory is not only incredible but unthinkable.

Certainly the religious theory, that the gradual evolution of life in the universe, culminating in a being, self-conscious, possessed of a moral, spiritual, and intellectual nature, and capable of an infinite progress, has been brought about through the design of a divine absolute mind is a more worthy and for us a more helpful idea. A. C. S.

Tokyo, Jan. 18th, 1900.

[Our correspondent does not seem to have read the most recent discussion of this subject. In the first place, Professor Weismann's words, as quoted by Dr. Meunier, writing in *Cosmos* (Paris) of Nov. 16th, are:—"There are animals that never die; for instance, infusoria and rhizopods and in general all unicellular organisms. An amoeba divides into two almost equal parts, each of which continues to live and later divides again, so that there is never any corpse." Our rendering of this was quite accurate, so far we can see. In the second place, our correspondent claims that this verdict of Weismann's is "a fact of scientific observation." But Dr. Ferrand, a French scientist, has now declared Weismann's view to be an error of observation. M. Meunier thus summarizes Dr. Ferrand's view:—"M. Maupas, in his investigation of the multiplication of the ciliated infusoria by fission, has shown that the reproduction of these organisms by fission, extended though it may seem to be, has its limits; sooner or later it gives rise only to imperfect individuals which are incapable of perpetuating themselves without recourse to a process comparable to that of fecundation among pluricellular beings, and Delbœuf, who has discussed these facts in the *Revue Philosophique*, has shown how little value must be attached to them." These quotations will suffice to show A.C.S. that our article was an accurate representation of recent views, whatever may be the value of those views. We quite agree with our correspondent's observations about Professor Loeb's experiments, but we desire to say that he has altogether misread our reference to the human soul. Our words were not triumphant: they were "writ sarcastic," their intention being to indicate the dilemma in which these various theories land their authors.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE POPULATION OF OSAKA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—There is something very odd about the large print article on the relative increase of population in Tokyo and Osaka in your issue of to-day. The increase of a quarter of a million in Osaka in 1896 is accounted for by the city boundaries being extended in the course of that year so as to include the manufacturing villages which in the course of the past few years had grown up on the outskirts of the city. By that increase the population of Osaka rose to three-quarters of a million, and the last returns show upwards of 820,000 inhabitants, whereas the article says that "the population of Osaka is now only half a million in round numbers."

Yours, W. A.

Jan. 16th, 1900.

[Is not our correspondent speaking of the population of the *Fu*, not of the city proper, the *Shi*? At any rate, his point about 1896 is incontrovertible and we acknowledge the error.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE 20TH CENTURY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—It may aid some of the disputants in arriving at a clear solution of this question if they will read the accompanying statement.

Yours truly, X.

A century has one hundred years. A year has 365 days. Transpose the figures. Suppose a century composed of 365 years and a year of 100 days. The proposition that the 20th century commences with the year 1900 is as preposterous as to claim that the year 1900 commenced on the 365th day of 1899, or that New Year's Day should be December 31st instead of January, 1st; or that the 1st day of the 33rd year of Meiji commenced with the last day of the 32nd year of the Era. 100 years completes a century. The new century commences with the year 1 of that century. 1900 and 1901 stand related as do Dec. 31st and January 1st; 1900 the final, 1901 the commencement.

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A MINOR POET'S PLAINT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I am a poet in a small way. Yes, I regret to say, for the credit of human nature, in a very small way. I possess talent and energy enough to fill the *Times* all the year round with productions of epic splendour. But, owing to the villainy of mankind I am restrained; the wings of my muse are clipped; and, whereas I would be soaring into the seventh heaven, I have, as a matter-of-fact, to live in an attic. Let you and your readers judge of this injustice. When the war broke out, knowing that there would be a rush on poetry, I sat down and wrote two epoch-making productions. The first I intended for the *Daily Chronicle*, and it was of a very pro-Boer complexion. The second I destined for the *Daily Mail*, and I intended it to be a downright denunciation of Kruger and all his ways. A little inconsistent, you think? Not at all, my dear sir. The true poet cares nothing for consistency, which was made for slaves; his bright eyes roll in a fine frenzy towards a far brighter object—the dollar. I calculated on at least £1-1, per line for each, and that is the reason why, with such consummate art, I have made two lines serve for one as often as it was possible. The first poem is, I think, admirable in form, and the capital letters are noble. With regard to the second I must explain that I meant something very hot and strong and fiery, but on reflection I thought it better to follow the lines of a Great Master, and make it a little cryptic. You know that at least one London editor took "The Old Issue" to refer to the Dreyfus case, and, judging from this, I thought the patriotic school of readers would appreciate something they could not fathom. In that respect my work, I claim, exceeds even that of the Master to whom I have referred.

Now I come to the painful part of the story. Both my poems have been *rejected*! Yes, rejected. To the eternal shame of England be it said. But I have every confidence that your superior judgment and that of your readers will be with me, and in that hope I am sustained. I enclose the two master-pieces.

Yours, &c. ATTIC.

Britain's Infamy.

O Sun, whose Car through Pathless Tracks of Space
Makest good practice; and O Moon,
Whose limpid Orb smil'st on Mankind
And lovingly pour'st forth thy lambent Rays
On Lovers and Tom cats;
And ye, O Stars, who in your circulation
Surpass the puny efforts of Stonecutter-street[1];
And ye, O bright Arc Lamps, that on Thames Front
Make the drear sleep-time bright as 3 p.m.
Behold, I say, behold!
And weep, O weep, for Britain's Infamy!
I know not truly if Lachrymal Glands
Figure as part of your Anatomy,
But 'tis no matter, weep!
England, whose glorious tale, as Hist'ry shows
(Observe my erudition, an you please)
Touches such episodes as Runnymede,
Naseby, the Bishops' Trial, and Lord knows what;
England, who numbers Me among her sons,
Ah me, that England now invokes the aid
Of Grim Bellona to destroy the rights,
To curb the liberties, and wreck the homes
Of Burghers rightly struggling to be free;
Of simple-minded peasants, free from guile,
Honest and virtuous, pious, God-fearing, just,
Kindly and generous.
O, shall Dragoons and dastard Fusiliers—
Not to add Maxims and 4·7 inch guns—
Be marshalled like Grim Genii to destroy
A God-ruled State, whose sole reliance is
In Providence—and p'raps, for aught I know,
A gun or two beside.

[1] This is a happy allusion to the London *Star* office.

Weep, Sun! Weep, Moon!
And weep, ye gleaming Stars!
And weep, Electric Light!
For Britain's Infamy!

The Issue.

In this little poem reason shows no sign;
But it fetches easy one pound one per line.
Here is naught unproven, here is nothing wrong;
For the public reads you if you pitch it strong.
All ye have and treasure, all ye say or know,
Mr. Kipling taught you, long and long ago.
"Silent, secret, savage, sullen, uncontrolled;"
Of the last edition fifty thousand sold.
There is no connection, but it's all the same,
Suffer not the Old King under any name,
When you reach the Orange and Tugela's Ford,
Trust the wild Bus Horses, the horses of the Lord,[2]
A simple-minded beggar, yet I know my cue
Patriotic pidgin—that's the thing to do.
What's the final object of this soulful jaw?
Leave to live by no man's leave underneath the Law.
'Tis of Mr. Kruger and his sins I sing
Stewards of the Judgment, come and take your fling!

[2] This is a masterly allusion to the London bus horses commandeered by the Government. I tried hard to bring in a rhyme with London Road Car Company or London General Omnibus Company, but neither the full titles nor the initials L. R. C. C. and L. G. O. C. would fit in. Then I had a distinct inspiration, and stuck in "horses of the Lord." It doesn't mean anything, but it sounds fine.

[3] I thought it best to add this verse, so that there should be no repetition of the Dreyfus error. Besides, if the Editor had had the taste to insert it it would have been another two guineas. It may be objected to the poem as a whole that it doesn't mean anything, and doesn't hang together well—neither trumps nor follows suit, so to speak. But, as I said, I have followed in the wake of a great Master. The public likes that kind of poetry just now.

AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The enclosed clipping from the Nov. 17th issue of the *Railway Age*, published in Chicago, deals with a slightly misleading paragraph which had space in your journal in October. As it is a matter of some importance, you will, doubtless, be pleased to give now "the other side." Your journal has always shown itself fair and impartial when dealing with such subjects, and I am sure there will be no exception to this rule on this occasion.

As additional evidence that the paragraph referred to does not represent the opinion of English Engineers, I might state, that the same number of the *Railway Age* as contains the article which follows, publishes the news of the arrival in America of an order for 32 locomotives for Canada and 7 locomotives for South Wales.

Yours, FAIRPLAY

Nagasaki, January 19th, 1900.

Kobe, Japan, Oct. 18, 1899

The following paragraph taken from the *Daily Mail* has been published with apparent delight by a number of English journals in China and Japan, and in the *Japan Mail*, the leading English journal in Japan, it is given considerable prominence.

The chairman of the Midland Railway Company was able yesterday (August 11) to make the highly satisfactory announcement that the American engines which were purchased by that company do not compare at all well with British-made locomotives. As we have often had to draw attention to the inroads which the United States are making upon our trade, it affords us pleasure to give prominence to this evidence. This is probably the first occasion on which American engines have been fairly tested against British ones upon a high class road, and the world, we hope, will note the result!"

The purchase of 60 American locomotives for English roads must have disturbed the placid serenity of our English cousins to some degree, and we can not blame them for taking pleasure in the above little item—but what we Americans in the East would like to hear is the other side of the story—is it a fact that the Chairman of the Midland Railway made the announcement that the American engines "do not compare at all well with British-made locomotives?" We trust that the "world" will not fall over itself with haste to to "note the result" until a little more definite information on the subject is produced. Please help us out.

J. W. D. Austin.

[It does not require even an artistic manipulator of the truth to make a statement convey a meaning opposite to that intended if he is allowed liberty to remove qualifying clauses. What the Chairman did say, as reported at the time and accepted by English papers since, and as the locomotive superintendent of the Midland Railway has elsewhere been quoted as saying, was that "Although the first ten American locomotives were by no means equal in finish to any English locomotives, they were doing their work satisfactorily." He further stated that it was the company's custom to run engines a thousand miles and then to overhaul them, charging any defects to the makers. The same rule would be applied to American locomotives, and the company would then be better able to form a reliable opinion of their merits.

Even the word "finish" is not understood to be used as relating to the quality of the workmanship, but rather in the sense embraced in the following extract from *Transport*—a London paper which may be assumed not to have any undue prejudice in favour of American productions. Referring to these same engines, *Transport* says:—

As to appearance, up to 15 or 20 years ago American locomotives were gorgeous with paint and ornamental work; red funnels, wheels, and pilots, green boilers, etc., and a profusion of bright brass work and gilt striping. All this is now done away with, and the engines are uniformly black, relieved only by letters, numbers, and a minimum of striping in gold or aluminum. Even the bright planished steel boiler covering is giving way to painted iron. The engines are more business like in appearance and less difficult to keep in good condition, while all the working parts are finished to a high degree of excellence, which is not surpassed in English engines, owing to the more modern machine tool equipment of American locomotive shops.

The assistant locomotive superintendent of the Midland Railway says of these englnes over his own signature: "They steam well, ride steadily and haul good loads," and in reference to the matter of "finish," he adds: "The American builders go in for less showy locomotives than we have grown accustomed to in England. They are satisfied with what is good enough, and do not expend time and labour on more highly finished workmanship than they think is requisite for all practical purposes."

As Sir Ernest Paget's report was based on the reports made to him by the locomotive superintendent, our Japan correspondent may rely upon the fact that in their undistorted form his words are favourable rather than otherwise to the American locomotives. Results that are better worth noting may be available a year hence.—Ed.]

THE BOOKSHELF.

Unwin's Chapbook 1899-1900.

The character of this publication is indicated on the title page:—

This chapbook is a book for chaps,
And women, too, and girls (perhaps)
This chapbook's not a "homely tract"
To make you go to sleep; in fact
This chapbook staves off idle naps.
For it a Town of Books was sacked.

In brief the "Chapbook" is a collection of all kinds of odds and ends, quotations, engravings, talks about authors, interviews, and what not—chiefly with reference to the year's publications of Mr. Fisher Unwin. It is interesting, but in the nature of things in a volume so discursive and elusive there is little that the reviewer can seize on for special comment. The *pot pourri*, however, is in every way excellent. Being journalists, we may be pardoned if we refer to an interview with Sir Edward Russell, the veteran newspaper man, who has been connected with the Press since 1856, as one of the most interesting features of the book. Sir

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Edward's complaints of the "snippety" tendencies of much modern journalism are, we fear, but too true, and it is regrettable that such frivolous sheets attract as they do :—

"What would you say were the special excellencies of the old style of daily paper—as, say, represented by the *Morning Star*—in comparison with the new journalism?"

"It is perhaps presuming and old-fogeyish to complain of changes. I think the *Times*, except in a lack of distinction in its leaders, is as good as ever, and most of the daily newspapers are conducted with high principle and firm grip on affairs. There is, however, a tendency in some quarters to angle for popularity by doing things frivolously and cutting everything up into snippets; while among serious newspapers there have arisen two very bad faults of taste—first, that of continually quoting themselves to show how wonderfully right they have been; and secondly, that of speaking of themselves as participators in rather than as commentators on current events, often so mixing up their 'we's' in such confusion that one hardly knows whether they represent the editor, or the party, or the public, or the country, or the Government."

Sir Edward Russell's remarks on the modern drama are not uninteresting :—

"What do you think is the great fault of plays written for the English public?"

"I don't think they have any very special fault, but I lament the tendency of dramatists such as Mr. Pinero and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones to fall away from their own standards in the belief that the public for the time prefer productions of inferior intellectual and moral quality."

"And the faults of the actors?"

"Want of finish and very unreal by-play. Let me give an instance—the great French actor, Lafont, as a banker sitting at his desk opening his morning letters, was the very man, every action was to all seeming real. Almost any English actor would have betrayed that he was acting. So again of Regnier in 'La Joie Fait Peur' dusting the room; and so also of the young French girl who played the artist's boy cleaning the paint-brushes in 'La Tosca,' not to mention Madame Réjane's ironing in 'Madame Sans Gene,'"

The P. and O. Handbook.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company is to be congratulated on this very artistic and interesting production. The get-up is extremely tasteful, the binding is first-class, the letterpress and paper are admirable, and the photogravures of the Company's vessels and of picturesque spots on the Far Eastern route are beautifully done. Indeed, a more useful book of reference, and at the same time a more pleasing souvenir of a voyage, could hardly be imagined. The new work is to a great extent a replica of the old one, but the descriptive articles have been revised by their respective authors, and the information for the guidance of travellers has been generally re-written, and brought up to date. Among the contents, are a set of admirably clear maps, a short history of the Company, a plan of tours available over the P. and O. and connected routes, extracts from the stringent regulations for the safe and efficient navigation of the company's ships, a description of principal ports on the line of route, an essay in French on the Suez Canal by Count Charles de Lesseps, a chapter on Egypt by Mr. Stanley Lane Poole, "Notes on a Tour through India," by Sir Edwin Arnold, a paper on China by Sir Thomas Wade, another on Japan by Mr. H. W. Lucy, the "Toby M. P." of *Punch*, and another on an Australasian trip by Mr. Hume Nisbet. Then there are tables of time, railway and sea distances, marine measurements, weights and measures in metric and English systems, coinage tables, British Empire statistics, navies of Great Powers, merchant navies of the world, British trade figures, &c., &c Some capital plates of naval and merchant flags and a space for memoranda to be made on a voyage are among other admirable features. Among the mass of interesting information concerning the P. and O. Company we extract the following :—

The shipbuilding operations of the Company during the last sixty years might be considered M typical of the development of the Mercantile asarine of this country. The service commenced with two or three very small steamers, of which, one, the *William Fawcett*, was of only 206 tons, and the size of the ships has gradually expanded until the recent steamers exceed 8,000 tons. The Company's fleet to-day consists of steamers aggregating about 300,000 tons; the original cost of these ships has amounted to £7,000,000 sterling. The experience of the last thirty years has proved that, in order to maintain a business of this kind on a fairly profitable level, every ship must be replaced by a new and improved vessel in less than twenty years. This is not due to decay in the material of the ships, as, for example, it, may be pointed out that H.M. Troop Ship *Himalaya*, which was built by this Company in 1852, only ceased work three or four years ago. But the progress of shipbuilding and engineering has been so rapid, and the carrying power and economy of the newest ships is so remarkable, that it is only by owning ships of the latest and most advanced type that shipowners can maintain their position successfully. It will be easily understood what a heavy charge on the working of a business of this kind is the annual reserve, or sinking fund, which must be set aside in order to maintain the Company in a state of efficiency.

There can hardly be a more interesting chapter in the annals of industrial progress during the last fifty years than that appertaining to the history of Steam Navigation. Probably the P. & O. Company was the first Company to adopt the screw in lieu of the paddle, at all events on a large scale. Their first screw vessel was built in 1851, and no paddle ships were subsequently added to the fleet, except two or three intended for special service. All the earlier screw steamers were fitted with what were called geared engines, which occupied considerable space, but were fairly economical. The introduction of the direct-acting engine effected a great economy in the space occupied, but was attended with an increased consumption of fuel. The principle of surface condensation, which was first applied some time about 1859, enabled a higher pressure of steam to be carried, and by the use of fresh water in the boilers effected a great economy, but unfortunately with disastrous results in some cases to the boilers, as a destructive chemical action was set up, through the continuous return of the same water to and from the condenser. The use of superheated steam followed that of surface condensation, and higher pressure became the object of ambition, with the result that the high and low pressure engine soon came into vogue. This compound engine was by no means a new idea, for a patent had been taken out for the principle early in the century. The first essay of the P. & O. Company in this direction was in a steamer called the *Mooltan*, which was built in 1860; and this appeared so far successful that, between 1860 and 1864, several steamers were constructed with these new and costly engines. But the result was a grave disappointment. The economy was undoubted; but the machinery, although it had been fitted by one of the most eminent firms in the country, regardless of cost, was found to be unreliable. The accidents were numerous, and although comparatively slight, they occurred so frequently that the efficiency of the mail service was in danger of being impaired. The result was that several of the ships thus fitted had these engines replaced by less complex machinery, involving the Company in serious loss. The *Mooltan*, already mentioned, was an example of a vessel fitted with appliances in advance of the age. Not only were her engines of the new type, but she was likewise fitted with hydraulic steering gear, and refrigerating machinery; and all these appliances had eventually to be removed, because they could not be relied on to work satisfactorily throughout a long voyage. It was not until 1869 that the Company succeeded in building a steamer with high and low pressure machinery which could be considered thoroughly successful. From that date onwards progress towards economy of fuel has been most rapid. Steam pressures have been raised from 50 lbs. which was the first tentative departure in connection with the compound engine, to 200 lbs. in the triple and quadruple engine, and it may be said that to-day a pound of coal does as much work as four or five pounds did thirty years ago. The use of steel in those parts of the machinery where the strains are most severely felt has reduced the risk of accident almost to an imperceptible point, and the safety of life at sea has been assured to a remarkable degree by the improvements which have been effected in the construction of marine engines.

The tonnage afloat at present has already been stated as aggregating about 300 000 tons. Several of the larger ships are under engagement with the Admiralty as cruisers, and the extent of the Transport work carried out by the Company, from the Crimean days downwards, is too well known to require comment. Last year the mileage performed by the Fleet was almost exactly 3,000,000 miles. The coal consumption was 625,000 tons. The wages paid to officers and crews amounted to £362,000, while the dues to the Suez Canal Company exceeded £272,000.

One lays down the book with a feeling of pride that this British Company which has been to so large an extent the pioneer of ocean steam navigation, which wields so efficiently a power undreamed of by our fathers, and which has contributed so much to the development of Occidental civilisation in the Far East, is a company flying the Union Jack.

We should add that a limited number of the Pocket Book can be obtained at the local office of the P. and O. for 3s. per copy. The book is well worth this small sum.

CHINA NOTES.

The total number of reported plague cases in Hongkong in 1899 was 1,486, and the deaths 1,428.

Our Tientsien contemporary says that the downfall of Viceroy Tan of Canton was partly due to British disgust with his apathy as regarded piracy.

Quite recently a British bluejacket of the *Tweed* was severely wounded in a fight with pirates on the West River. Two of the pirates are known to have been killed.

A fatal boat accident occurred recently at Wuhu. One of the coasting steamers had finished loading for the South and the coolies left the vessel in a native boat. They had not proceeded far when a snow-squall struck them and the boat, which was grossly overcrowded, turned turtle. All, numbering some twenty-odd men, were drowned.

A telegram from Singapore to the *North China Daily News*, under date of Jan. 16, gives some account of the expedition sent out to capture or destroy Mat Salleh. It says :—The North Borneo police expedition which is operating against Mat Salleh has captured two forts. Mat Salleh himself is strongly posted in a fort with thirteen hundred men armed with Snider rifles.

Dr. Mackenzie, who arrived in Shanghai on the 1st of June, 1860, to join the English Presbyterian Mission in Amoy, has died at Swatow full of years and honours. In 1898 he was unanimously elected Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England. The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him in 1898 by the University of Aberdeen, of which he was a graduate.

A Chinese paper states that H.E. Shêng, Director-General of the Lu-Han (Peking-Hankow) Railway, recently memorialised, and has received the sanction of the Empress Dowager to construct a branch line from Lukou Bridge—the proper Peking terminus of the line—to the Changyi-gate of the Capital, and that it is intended to commence on this branch line as soon as the weather becomes favourable for the work after the Chinese New Year. As the traveller from the South on the Lu-Han Railway upon arrival at the Peking terminus will find himself still some six or seven miles from his real destination the construction of this branch line will be a great benefit.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

reign requires his Minister to die it is the duty of the loyal official to humour him," Weng Tung-ho should "take the hint" and make away with himself, in order to save his Imperial Mistress the trouble of working towards that end! These people, however, forget that the real Sovereign is Wêng's pupil who is, moreover, devoted to him, and that it would be contrary to the tenets of our great Sage for the disciple to encompass the destruction of his teacher. The best way would be for this unlucky ex-official "to start on a long journey" where the arm of his great enemy cannot reach him and to wait until the affair blows over and his pupil returns to his own again. Li Ping-hêng is going down South

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soon to do his touring of the Yangtze Valley and River. Rumour has it that while down South and with Viceroy Liu *en route* to the North, Li Ping-heng has come to an understanding with his bosom friend that the latter shall recommend him as Liu K'un-yi's successor in the Liang-kiang Viceroyalty. If he succeeds in his intrigue I would indeed pity the poor people, high and low, in those provinces!

We take the following paragraph from the *Shanghai Mercury*. It embodies a report of a drawing-room meeting held in Mdme. Rocher's house by the ladies who are making a crusade against the cruel system of foot-binding: There was an Expectant Taotai's wife and sister present, the wife of a naval captain, the Head of the Telegraphs' wife, and many others whose carriages and befurred servitors coming beforehand to announce them sufficiently showed their social position. Miss Wang interpreted Mrs. Little's speech, and she and Miss Allen, and Mrs. Timothy Richard carried on much conversation on the subject. One of the guests undertook to unbind the younger daughters' feet, some others to loosen their own bandages, while several others appeared impressed. They all agreed that they had never heard of a child's feet being bound before three years' old, and only then in certain parts. They all agreed that no mother in good circumstances would bind her own daughter's feet, but would have in a woman with powerful hands to put on the bandages for her. They all agreed that this woman would often beat the child with quite a large stick in order to make her walk about after binding, and that the bandages were put on so tight that they could not be removed without putting feet and bandages into hot water first, and that even then the skin would often come off with the bandages, and sometimes bits of flesh, but some would not admit the custom was so very cruel after all. It was to get the girls husbands, and as long as men liked it what could be done?

In the early part of last year, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, there was a serious magazine explosion in the city of Hangchow which caused great loss of life and the destruction of a number of buildings, including some belonging to a Mission Compound near by. News has now been received from that city reporting a somewhat similar calamity which occurred at about ten o'clock on the morning of the 10th instant in the gun powder factory situated at a place called Sinoynents'i, inside the Taiping Gate. It appeared that the workmen were boiling or clarifying a large quantity of saltpetre and somehow the stuff got upset, setting the whole place on fire. The fire got to a building where was was stored a quantity of gunpowder, with the result that not a building in the vicinity was left standing, while of the hundred or more workmen very few survived. Of course, the mandarins in Hangchow have been doing their best to keep the facts from being known to the public outside that city, and when questioned would only acknowledge to a "small accident accompanied by the injuring of a couple of workmen who are now doing quite well and will be able to resume work in a couple of days." It remains to be seen what sort of a report of the catastrophe will be sent to Peking by the Governor of Chê-kiang. Last year's explosions caused the degradation and dismissal of a number of civil and military officials of that city. Even the unfortunate *weiyuan* who was in charge and who was killed did not escape, for his name was struck from the official rolls, making his family commoners again.

The native correspondent at Peking of the *N.-C. Daily News*, writes as follows:—It is generally reported here tha the Empress Dowager intends to appoint Viceroy Liu K'un yi a member of the Grand Council when he comes up for his audience, which means that she is going to keep him by her side instead of allowing him to hold office as usual in the provinces. With reference to the impeachment of the Emperor's retired Tutor, the now cashiered Assistant Grand Secretary, Weng Tung-ho, by Kang Yi and Li Ping-hêng, which occurred not long ago, it appears that the Empress Dowager, who read the memorials in question in the presence of her Grand Council, was so greatly influenced by the bitter language used by the memorialists that she was on the point there and then of issuing a Rescript commanding the immediate arrest of the accused ex-official at his home in Ch'angshu, near Soochow, on the charge of high treason. At this critical moment Liao Shou-hêng, then a probationary member of the Grand Council, suddenly stood up and going before the *dais* of the Empress Dowager knelt down and made an eloquent appeal for mercy. This had one good effect, however, for although it made the Empress Dowager more enraged it made her give pause. Shrewd woman that she is she rarely acts hastily or with unmatured judgment. She saw that there was something in this appeal for mercy which she must investigate and digest, and though Liao Shou hêng's action will not, apparently, prevent her from destroying Wêng Tung-ho in her own good time, she has evidently thought it best to delay her thunderbolt, for up to now (1st Jan.) no decree has been issued on the subject. His friendship for Wêng Tung-ho, however, has cost Liao Shou hêng something, for two days after the affair a decree was issued removing him from his seat in the Grand Council. It would be interesting to know what Wêng Tung-ho will do when all this gets to his ears. There are not wanting men here in the capital who declare that, on the principle "If the Sove-

According to a dispatch received from Nganking, the provincial capital of Anhui, and translated by the *North China Daily News*, it seems that, encouraged by the successes of the marauding band in Shantung, a number of rowdies of the former province have been lately banding themselves into a society called the *Siao-Tao Hui* or "Little Swords Association," having the same objects in view as their predecessor the *Ta-Tao Hui*, or "Great Swords Association"—that of plundering converts and men of wealth. The new association, it appears, commenced its work on the Yangtze river and raided a very wealthy family of the surname of Wu, a few miles north of Wuhu, carrying away a large quantity of spoil and wounding several persons. The next step of the rowdies was to plan a raid on a number of Christian families living in the hamlet of Yiki, also near Wuhu, where there is an American Mission Chapel in the charge of a Missionary. One afternoon, not many days ago, a fleet of many-oared boats manned by a rough-looking crowd of some 60 to 70 men arrived at Yiki and tied up for the night. They gave out that hey were refugees bound up river to join a band who had preceded them, but the inhabitants of Yiki became alarmed and applied to the American missionary there for protection, who in his turn appealed to the local authorities to whom he reported the matter, stating also that there were reasons to fear that a raid on the place was contemplated that same night. Soldiers were promptly sent to guard the chapel and converts, and the Little Swords, seeing that they were suspected, left shortly after the arrival of the troops. There have been several arrests of suspicious characters lately by secret agents of the local *yamêns* belonging to the riverside districts of Anhui province, all of whom boldly declared that they belonged to the Little Swords, "whose mission was to exterminate converts to outside religions, and missionaries.

CASES IN THE LAW COURTS.

The appeal of the H. R. B. Kent, late of the N. Y. K. *Tamba Maru*, against a judgment of the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, whereby he was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for striking a quartermaster in the same employ, came on for hearing in the Tokyo Court of Appeal on Friday before Judge Koyama, President, and Associate Judges Takekawa Chokyo, Hirano Masatomi, Nonaka Shoryo and Sawamura Sho. Mr. Public Procurator Hiranuma was for the prosecution; Mr. Akiyama appeared for the appellant; Mr. Hattori, of the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, acted as interpreter; Mr. E. A. Griffith, of the British Consulate, Yokohama, watched the proceedings.

Evidence regarding the affair, which occurred on Sept. 30th, last at Moji, was given by the Appellant. Dr. Sagara Seiichi, a physician practising in Yokohama, was ordered to prepare a statement, based on the record of his books, by the 24th inst., regarding the nature of Toyomatsu's wounds. Another doctor named Fujii Sukiwo gave his reasons for stating at the preliminary enquiry why he considered the quartermaster's wounds would incapacitate him for three weeks. Mr. Akiyama asked that the doctor of the *Tamba Maru* and other physicians, foreign and Japanese, should be examined on the question of the nature of the quartermaster's injury. The point was left over for future consideration, and meanwhile the evidence of De la Hoyde, second officer of the *Tamba Maru*, was taken. He spoke in detail of the assault and of the drunken condition of the quartermaster.

The case was then adjourned till the 24th.

In the Tokyo Court of Appeal on Wednesday the hearing of the appeal of Mr. R. Kent, third officer of the *Tamba Maru*, against the sentence of six months' imprisonment passed by the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, was resumed before Judge Koyama and four Associate Judges as before. Public Procurator Hiranuma conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Akiyama appeared for the defence.

Dr. Sagara produced a medical report of the injury of Toyomatsu, which stated that the patient's working on board a ship would have retarded his recovery. Supposing he was confined indoors it would have taken over two weeks for his wound to heal.

The evidence of Umeseko Toyomatsu, given at the public trial in the Yokohama Court, having been read and translated to the accused, the latter said that Toyomatsu's evidence was false in several respects.

The depositions of Shinoye Kozo and Takahashi Kuro, given at the preliminary examination, and those of the accused himself and Mr. Hill, given at the public trial in the Yokohama Court, were read and translated to the accused. The reading of the evidence of other witnesses occupied the whole morning.

The Public Procurator, addressing the Court, claimed that the injury inflicted on Toyomatsu should not have incapacitated him for more than 20 days if properly treated. He reviewed the whole evidence as to the assault, dwelt upon the impudence shown by Toyomatsu towards Kent, and said it was improbable that Kent would strike him unless he had first been rudely treated. He contended that the offence of the appellant came within the scope of Clause 2 of Art. 301 of the Penal Code, but it should be commuted by two or three degrees according to Art. 309 and 313 of the same Code. He urged that the finding of the lower Court be quashed, and a proper judgment rendered by applying the articles of the Code mentioned.

Mr. Akiyama spoke at length for the defence.

Judgment will be given on the 29th inst.

The Alcohol Dispute.

The case brought by Otake Mohe, a wine merchant of Tokyo, against Messrs. Worch and Co., for the delivery of 7000 cases of alcohol, valued at *yen* 96,400, alleged to have been deposited with the defendants' firm as security for money borrowed, came on for hearing before Judge Fujise in the Chiho Saibansho on Tuesday morning at 9 30. Messrs. Isobe appeared for plaintiff, while Mr. Serizawa appeared for defendants.

Yokomizo Isuke, a forwarding agent, was called as a witness, and deposed that on various occasions he had transported cases of alcohol to Suzuki Hansuke, on orders given by him, from Messrs. Worch & Co., and Messrs. Otto Reimers & Co., but only once had he taken 15 cases of alcohol to Otake Mohe. Whether Suzuki Hansuke was acting for Otake Mohe, he was

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unable to say, as he always received orders direct from Suzuki; and was paid by him. Witness was asked to identify several receipts and orders, and the case was adjourned to Feb. 22nd at 10 a.m. At the request of the defendants' lawyer, Suzuki Hansuke and Tatebe Torakichi, a *banto* in Messrs. Woich & Co., will be called.

The McKelvy Divorce Case.

The petition of Mrs. McKelvy, *née* Bell, for divorce from her husband, on the ground of desertion and non-support, came up for hearing again before Judge Fujise in the Chiho Saibansho on Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. Mr. Akiyama appeared for the plaintiff, while the defendant was not represented. Mr. Akiyama cited reasons for the divorce being granted and then read a letter sent by Mrs. McKelvy to Mr. McKelvy's parent, as a last resort to find traces of her husband. The following letter was also read:—

Pittsburg, July 10, 1898.

Dear Mrs. McKelvy.

I beg to apologize for addressing you, but as I am your husband's brother I take the liberty of writing to you. I received a letter from Clarence, about a month ago, from San Francisco telling me he was going to Klondyke on the 9th June, and for me to go to the P.O. and see if there were any mail for him, if so to forward it to him, but there was no mail. I had seen a letter advertised for him and I went to the P. O. and found four letters for him. I think they are all from you. I have them and if you want them let me know, or will I destroy them? I am very sorry for the position my brother has left you in, but I hope you and he will come out all right, but he done all his friends, even his mother. But I always hope for the best. I think he has had a lesson this time that he will never forget; we do not let his mother receive any mail pertaining to him, for she is heart-broken.

I am, your husband's brother,

Frank R. McKelvy.

After reading this letter, which was translated into Japanese, Mr. Akiyama cited various American laws on desertion and divorce and handed to the judge the law-books with the passages marked from which he had quoted.

The Court, after retiring for a few minutes, concluded to postpone decision *sine die*, in order to have the passages referred to by Mr. Akiyama fully translated.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Amounts received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, on account the Lord Mayor's fund for the widows and orphans of the officers and men of Her Majesty's forces who may lose their lives from the war in South Africa:—

Sums previously acknowledged	£50.10 0
" " "	Yen 9,979 65
Proceeds of Concert in Tokyo at British Legation	Yen. 950 00
"Rule Britannia"	250 00
"Christ Church Offertory"	111 10
H. Vincent	100.00
F. Brinkley	100.00
H. A. Vincent	25.00
Walter K. E Vincent	25.00
H. Bent	25 00
P. Hodnett	20 00
W. T. Awsten	20 00
A R. Owen	15.00
A. C. S.	15 00
W. C. S.	10.00
"New Year's Eve"	10 00
Rev. F. W. Rowlands	10.00
John Will	10 00
C. R. I. B.	5 00
M. E E.	1 00
B. W. C.	1 00
A. B. C.	1 00
	Yen 11,683.75
	£50.10.0
A. M. Chalmers	£10. 0.0
	£60.10.0

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A wing of the well-known Astor House at Shanghai was partially destroyed by a fire which broke out on January 16th. The damage was not excessive, and was covered by insurance.

As a number of coolies were engaged on the afternoon of Jan. 21 in scraping the sides of the U.S. collier *Brutus*, docked at Nagasaki, the scaffolding upon which they were standing suddenly gave way, and about twenty of them were precipitated into the water. The occurrence caused considerable excitement for a time amongst those who witnessed it, and some of the men appeared to be in considerable danger of drowning. Fortunately, however, all were eventually landed, thoroughly drenched of course, but otherwise none the worse for their impromptu bath.

The Courts at Stettin have just condemned a rich landed proprietor for a simple word uttered concerning the Army. He owns land which is traversed by a railway leading to a field in which manœuvres take place. Recently he wrote to the Minister of War complaining of the damage done to his property by the "soldiery," and claimed damages. The military authorities considered the complaint and the wording of it as injurious to the Stettin garrison. The landowner was summoned, and was condemned in a fine of 500 marks, although he protested that he had no malevolent intention in employing the word "soldiery."

A well-dressed Japanese lady got into a second-class compartment at Fukuroi Station, near Shidzuoka, at 3 30 a.m. on Wednesday, and entered into conversation with some of the passengers, saying it was dangerous for women to travel, and showing them a pistol which she said she always carried. The passengers thought she was rather eccentric, but paid no attention to her, shortly going to sleep. At the next station, Ejiri, the lady got out, and after the train had started one of the passengers found his watch and chain gone and another missed two *haori* he had left in the rack.

The Bishop-Elect of Kioto, the Rev. Sidney C. Partridge, late of Wuchang, China, will, the *Kobe Herald* understands, be consecrated, on 2nd February (Feast of the Purification) at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Tokyo. Bishop McKim will be the consecrating Bishop, and he will be assisted by Bishop Graves of Shanghai, and by the four English Bishops stationed in Japan. This, we believe, is the first consecration of a Protestant Bishop held in Japan. Bishop Boone was however consecrated in Shanghai in 1884. Bishop Bickersteth in 1886 and Bishop Foss in 1899 were both, as it happens, also consecrated on the Festival of the Purification in St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, London, respectively. Mr. Partridge came out to China in 1881. He stayed for a few weeks in Kobe in the summer of 1888 or 1889.

Japanese railway enterprise, remarks the *Jimmin*, has made great progress of late years, but comparison with the conditions existing in Europe and America is not to the advantage of this country. According to investigation made in 1896, Germany possessed 46 902 kilometres of line; France, 40,888; Russia, 37,994; England, 34,089; Austria, 31,790; Italy, 15,447; Belgium, 5,540; Switzerland, 3,708; Holland, 2,955; Denmark, 2,267. The figures for Japan in March last were 3,481 miles (5,663 kilometres). She is therefore above Belgium but below Italy. Taking the length of railways per 100 000 population in the countries above mentioned, the figures stand thus:—Switzerland, 124 kilometres; France, 106; Denmark, 103; Germany, 88; Belgium, 87; England, 86; Holland, 60; Italy, 49; Russia, 36; Japan, 13. The number of railway passengers per 100 000 of population does not in this country exceed 228, while in England it does not fall short of 2,378.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, Jan. 20th:—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000.000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,732,145
Amount of convertible notes issued	230,679,487
Government deposits	63,025,201
General deposits	3,603,437
Exchange liability	44,755
Total	344,058,027
Cr.	
Discount notes	69.909,229
Foreign discount notes	16,444,250
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,138,996
Exchange liability	2,530,242
Government bonds	56,097,906
Property	2,017,175
Bullion and Specie	106,947,225
Total	344,085,027

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	229,934,746
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	101,512,889
Silver	4,000,000
Total	105,512,889
Securities:—	
Government bonds	26,313,621
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,322,909
Commercial notes	64,785,327
Total	124,421,857

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	281,888
Silver	—	1,000,000
General loans	—	871,887
Government deposits	—	795,240
General deposits	—	1,534,455

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, Jan. 19.

The Times has a telegram from Spearmansform, dated the 17th inst., which says that the force that moved westward on the 10th under Lord Dundonald dashingly occupied the hills above Potgieter's Drift, completely surprising the Boers.

The same evening the Infantry followed.

General Lyttleton's Brigade crossed the Tugela yesterday.

General Warren's Brigade forced the passage of the Tugela near Wagons Drift with all arms in the face of a hot and heavy fire.

They then effected a satisfactory lodgment two miles further towards Stroenkop.

Later.

Sir Charles Warren hopes to be able to turn the enemy's position which is situated 5 miles to his right front, and is being strongly entrenched.

General Hector Macdonald has arrived at Cape Town.

General Buller has issued a spirited appeal to the troops telling them that they are going to relieve their comrades in Ladysmith and that there will be no turning back.

The troops are well and confident.

Shanghai, Jan. 20.

Lord Methuen made a fresh reconnaisance with a force of all arms on the 17th inst. The Highlanders advanced from the river and drove the enemy back by long range volleys. The big guns shatter-

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ed the face of the enemy's position with lyddite shells.

Twelve batteries and 3,710 men are to embark for the Cape within the week.

Later.

Dundonald, after being re-inforced by Warren, defeated the Boers on Wednesday at Acton Holmes. A field cornet and 20 Boers were killed and 15 captured. The British casualties were two killed and two wounded.

The Boer position extends six miles westerly along the lines of kopjes opposite Potgieter's Drift, and the entrenchments extend several miles back.

Shanghai, January 21.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Rensberg that the total losses of the Boers hitherto are reliably estimated at 6,625.

Reuter telegraphs from Ladysmith, under date of the 17th, that everything is quiet and that there is no change in the situation. There is very little bombarding.

H.M.S. *Pelorus* has seized the German barque *Marie* in Delagoa Bay, laden with flour for the Transvaal Government, and has conveyed her to Durban.

The eighth Division has been ordered to mobilize at Aldershot immediately.

Count von Bülow has informed the Reichstag that Great Britain has promised ample compensation in satisfaction of the seizures and that no more German mail boats shall be detained on mere suspicion. Count von Bülow hoped that there would be no repetition of incidents rendering friendly relations difficult.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent, Mr. Steevens, has died of enteric fever in Ladysmith.

Later.

The Camerons in Egypt are ordered to the Cape and will be replaced by Volunteers.

The second batch of the London City Volunteers has sailed.

The second contingent of the New Zealand Volunteers has left Wellington. The Premier in his speech said that if the occasion arose every man in New Zealand capable of bearing arms would volunteer.

Shanghai, Jan. 22.

General Clery, with part of Warren's force, was in action all day on the 20th. They captured ridge after ridge for about 3 miles, bivouacking on the ground gained, but the main position is still in front. The casualties are not yet ascertained.

Buller wires that 11 officers and 279 men were wounded in the action of the 20th on the Venterspruit, which stream runs between the Tugela and Acton Homes.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Spearman's Camp on Sunday morning that Warren's engagement continues, and he has forced the enemy from three positions.

Shanghai, Jan. 23.

Buller telegraphs from Spearman's on Sunday evening that Warren's Division was engaged all day, chiefly on the left, which swung forward a couple of miles. The ground is very difficult, and, as the fighting is all up hill, it is difficult to say how much the British have gained, but General Buller thinks they are making substantial progress.

Later.

Reuter telegraphs from Spearman's Camp on the evening of the 21st that the enemy fired irregularly through the night and opened a severe fire at daybreak. The British artillery, who slept by the side of their guns, responded with shrapnel. Thereafter the first kopje was occupied at the point of the bayonet. Fighting continued all day, resulting in the capture of two more positions.

Shanghai, Jan. 24.

It is reported that Pretoria is much perturbed and bitterly disappointed at the apparent apathy of the Continental Powers.

The mortality from dysentery and enteric fever at Ladysmith averages 10 daily. There were 113 serious cases on the 20th instant.

The casualties in Hart's Brigade in the fight on the 21st were :—Killed, Captain Ryall, of the West Yorkshires, and 5 men. Wounded, Captain Maclachlan, of the Inniskillings ; Lieuts. Andrews, Border, and Barlow, of the West Yorkshires, and 75 men.

Later.

A Boer despatch says that the shells from one of the Long Toms smashed the quarters of Generals White and Hunter on the 22nd, but it is not known whether anybody was killed.

A rumour of Buller's defeat is current on the Berlin Bourse, but the London War Office discredits it.

A Boer despatch from Ladysmith, dated the 22nd, says that a battle has been raging since Saturday between the Boers under Pretorius and 6000 British.

The fighting is in full swing at Spionkop, and the Boers under Botha and Cronje have been sent thither.

President Steyn is under fire in the foremost positions of the Free Staters.

Shanghai, Jan. 25.

Buller telegraphs on the 23rd that Warren holds the position gained on the 21st and will attempt to seize the enemy's salient on Spionkop to-night.

Later.

Nothing from Buller. Intense anxiety is felt.

A sortie from Kimberley on the 22nd evoked a furious fire all round, showing that there is no relaxation of the siege. There were no casualties.

All the Powers consulted have sent to Washington a written agreement ensuring the open door for American trade in China.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, Jan. 19.

It is officially announced in London that an English Brigade and a battery crossed the Tugela on the 18th instant at Potgieter's Drift. The rest of General Warren's Division was to cross by a bridge constructed five miles further to the East. Warren hopes to turn the Boers who are strongly entrenched five miles from the right wing of the English.

Saigon, January 21.

Speaking in the Reichstag M. de Bülow said that he had addressed serious remonstrances to England on account of the seizure of German ships. England will pay an indemnity for the *Bundesrath*, and has expressed her regrets.

News from London is that the 8th Division has received orders to mobilize immediately.

General Buller announces a small engagement at Acton Holmes on the 17th.

Saigon, Jan. 22.

Official news from London says that General Warren, after a fight which lasted all day, obtained possession of several heights, but the enemy's main position is still before him. He had about a hundred men wounded, but the number of killed is unknown.

Saigon, Jan. 23.

Intelligence from London is to the effect that Warren continued to fight throughout the whole of Sunday. He is believed to have gained ground. The English have had 295 wounded.

Saigon, January 24th.

No official news has been received in London from Warren. The newspapers estimate that he will require five days more to get over the ground.

Saigon, Jan. 25.

The Minister of Finance will submit to the Chamber in the course of the week a project of law imposing the maximum tariff on colonial products of countries which do not accord most-favoured-nation treatment to France. The project will notably double the duty on coffee. It will maintain the privilege of the reduced duties applicable to the products of French Colonies.

General Warren was to attack the principal positions of the Boers at Spion Kop during the night of Tuesday-Wednesday. Intelligence is awaited with keen anxiety.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG VOLUNTEER GAZETTE" SPECIALLY WIRED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL".)

London, Dec. 12.

The Portuguese police at Lorenzo Marques have stopped all Portuguese recruiting for the Boers. Henceforth nobody will be allowed to cross the frontier without a permit from the Governor.

The Times understands that the Union and Castle Companies are withdrawing from the Delagoa Bay trade in order to prevent the use of their vessels in interests unfavourable to England.

Nagasaki, January 21.

It is reported under date 17th inst. that the new Naval Brigade of 720 men, eight 4.7inch guns, 24 Maxims, and 10 12-pounders, will be formed next month for service at the front.

Reuter's agent at the Modder River wires under date 14th inst. that when the usual naval gun was fired that morning there was no response. The health of the troops is good.

Official news received from General French states that he sent a force to shell the Colesberg road bridge. The force returned without casualties.

The new bridge for the Tugela has been made at Wednesbury, (in the Black Country) in the space of three weeks. It will be shipped on Saturday.

Whilst scouting near Colesberg on the 14th Lieutenant Thompson of the Artillery and a trooper were wounded and captured.

Nagasaki, Jan. 22.

Under date London, Jan. 18, *The Times* correspondent at Lorenzo Marques telegraphed that up to the 11th inst. Mafeking was holding out pluckily. There was no likelihood of the garrison being compelled to capitulate, as the besieged have plenty of cattle and tinned meats.

London, Jan. 19.

General Gatacre reports that with 3,000 men he has advanced from Bushman's Hoek to Lopesberg, while the 74th Battery and a company of Mounted Infantry advanced from Sterkstroom to Bushman's Hoek.

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Reuter's correspondent, wiring from the camp at Potgieter's Drift on Monday, says the advance began on the 9th, when Lord Dundonald's mounted brigade with the fifth division under General Hart marched to Springfield, having previously reconnoitred all suspicious country. Thoroughly scouted, the column reached Mount Alice, facing the enemy's position on the Tugela heights.

The South African Horse swam the river and fetched the pontoon bridge across. The enemy, taken by surprise, struck their camp.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 32, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 456.

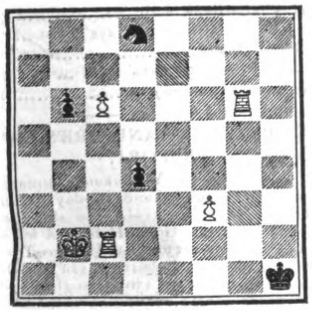
Key move, R to Q 5.

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 458.

The weather being too cold to encourage sitting over a chess-board, we given a particularly simple problem this week:—

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME No. 586.

RUY LOPEZ.

White—D. Janowski. Black—M. Tchigorin.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	18 B K3	B B3
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	19 P QB4	P QR4
3 B QKt5	Kt B3	20 Q B2	Q R5
4 Castles	B K2	21 Q Q2	P B3
5 Kt B3	P Q3	22 QxRP	P R4
6 P Q4	Kt Q2	23 PxP	R K4
7 Kt K2	KtxP	24 P KKt3	QxPch
8 KtxKt	PxKt	25 R Kt2	Q R6
9 KtxP	Castles	26 QxP	Kt K3
10 Kt B5	B B3	27 RxPch	KtxR
11 P QB3	Kt B4	28 QxRch	Kt Ksq
12 Kt Kt3	B R5	29 B B4	RxP
13 P B3	BxKt	30 K B2	Q R5ch
14 PxB	B Q2	31 K K3	R B2
15 B K2	Q K2	32 R KKtsq	R Rsq
16 P KKt4	KR Ksq	33 P B5	Resigns
17 R B2	QR Qsq		

GAME No. 587.

QUEEN'S PAWN GAME.

DUTCH DEFENCE.

White—H. S. Barlow. Black—Herbert Jacobs.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P KB4(a)	17 Kt B3	P B3
2 P K4(b)	PxP	18 P Q4	B R3
3 P KB3	PxP(c)	19 Q K2ch	Kt Kt2
4 KtxP	P K3	20 R Ksq	K Ktsq
5 B Q3	Kt QB3(d)	21 P R5	R Ktsq
6 Castles	Kt Kt5	22 P QKt4	P Q4
7 Kt K5	Kt KB3	23 P Kt5	Q R5
8 B KKt5	KtxB	24 Q Q3	B B5
9 BxKt	PxB	25 P R3	R Kt6
10 Q R5ch	K K2	26 Q B2	QxRP
11 Q B7ch(e)	K Q3	27 R R3	R Ktsq
12 PxKt	PxKt	28 PxBP	Q R7ch
13 PxPch	K B3	29 K Bsq	Q R8ch
14 R Bsq ch	K Kt3	30 K K2	RxPch
15 Q B2ch	K R3	31 K Q3q	QxRch
16 P QR4	P Kt3	White resigns.	

NOTES.

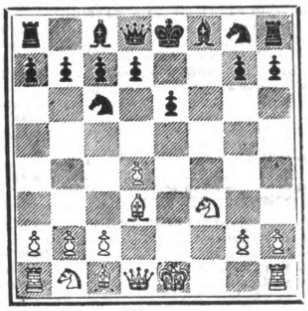
(a) No doubt Black weakens his position and his pawns are likely to become subject to attack, through this advance. The principle applies generally to games where P to K B 4 is played early on either side. Black's aim is to get an open attacking position.

(b) The game now becomes a sort of Blackman gambit.

(c) It is not considered good to take the pawn at once. If now P to K 3 instead White dare not take pawn, because of Q to R 5 ch, &c.

(d) Kt to Q B 3 does not appear best at this point, for now White appears to have good chances if he plays at once Kt to K Kt 5. This threatens Q to R 5 ch, Kt takes R P, followed by B to Kt 6 ch, &c. (see position):—

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play his 6th move.

(e) And here White does not make the best of his chances. The check drives the king into a better position. R takes P was suggested as likely to prove more effective, and some critical variations would arise therefrom. Obviously K takes R would not do as a reply, and Kt takes Kt is also dangerous, whereas the threat would be 13—R to B 7 ch, K to Q 3, and White has several strong moves to go on with. Somehow Black gets out of the attack with abundance of material to spare. An uncommonly lively game.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 1	M. Jan. 29
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 2	M. Jan. 29
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg 3	Sa. Feb. 3
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 4	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. Feb. 5
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	———	Tu. Feb. 6
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China 5	M. Feb. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Feb. 20
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India	Th. Feb. 22

1 Left Nagasaki on the 25th inst.
2 Left Shanghai on the 24th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 25th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 16th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 24th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. Jan. 27
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. Jan. 27
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. Jan. 31
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. Jan. 31
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Indus	F. Feb. 2
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	M. Feb. 5
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Feb. 7
America	T. K. K.	Amer ca Maru	W. Feb. 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Tu Feb. 13
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Feb. 23

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 19th January,—Seattle, Washington, 4th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 19th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, 13th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 19th January,—Otaru via ports, 13th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer 771, J. Arakawa, 19th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 18th January, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Kawahara, 20th Jan.,—Kobe, 18th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 20th Jan.,—Kobe, 18th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 21st Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 20th Jan., General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 21st Jan.,—Uraga, 21st Jan., Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, R. Bindlos, 21st Jan.,—San Diego, Cal., 25th Dec., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

City of Dublin, British steamer, 2,150, T. R. Roe. 21st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 19th Jan., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,950, D. Davies, 21st Jan.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 19th Jan., General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sachsen, German steamer, 3,119, F. Mentz, 22nd Jan.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 21st Jan., Mails & General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Saint Irene, British steamer, 2,473, W. Attree, 23rd Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st Jan., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 23rd Jan.,—Otaru via ports, 17th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 23rd Jan.,—Kobe, 21st Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of London, British steamer, 2,056, R. W. Scaiff, 25th Jan.,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 25th Jan.,—Hakodate, 22nd Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 25th Jan.,—Kobe, 23rd January, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvorlich, British steamer, 2,164, W. Thomson, 25th Jan., —London via ports, and Kobe, 24th Jan., General.—Cornes & Co.

Indus, French steamer, 2,331, G. Duchateau, 25th Jan.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 24th Jan., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of Chixa, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 25th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 24th January, Mails and General.— C. P. R. Co.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato, 25th January,—Otaru via ports, 19th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 25th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 24th Jan. General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Salazie, French steamer, 2,089, Allegre, 19th Jan., —Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.— M. M. S.S. Co.

Pronto, Norwegian steamer, 868, C. Seeburg, 19th Jan.,—Karatsu, Ballast.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Pakhoi, British steamer, 1,249, C. C. Williams, 19th Jan.,—Hakodate, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Wakasa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,886, J. B, Macmillan, 19th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Nunome, 20th January,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, A. W. S. Thomson, 20th Jan.,—Karatsu, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, J. Hutcheon, 20th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General. —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 20th January,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Menelaus, British steamer, 2,771, W. Towell, 21st Jan.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Holsatia, German steamer, 2,361, Bahler, 21st Jan.,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Haiman, German steamer, 870, Clausen, 21st Jan., —Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 21st January,—Yokkaichi, General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abergeldie, British steamer, 2,438, J. Murray, 21st Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, General.— Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 22nd Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Yanariva, British steamer, 2,155, Smith, 22nd Jan.,—Port Arthur via Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

City of Dublin, British steamer, 2,150, T. R. Rae, 23rd January,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, C.B., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De Le Lande, 23rd Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 24th Jan.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 24th January,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bedouin, British steamer, 2,245, J. H. Middleton, 24th Jan.,—Moji, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Merionethshire, British steamer, 1,950, D. Davies, 25th Jan.,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. Burch, 25th January,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Idzumi Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Dr. Roger Fremolierer, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. S. Omori, Governor of Hyogo; Commander and Mrs. T. Yamamoto, Mr. F. Krebs, Mr. M. Toyoshima, and Captain S. Ishikawa, in cabin; Mrs. H. Ogawa, Mr. T. Tanaka, Mr. T. Imai, and Mr. T. Yamaguchi, in second class; 30 in steerage.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, from Bremen via ports:—Mr. E. C. Ogden, Mr. R. D. McWilliams, Mr. G. L. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Heary, Mr. W. H. Lumoyloff, Mr. H. Ramseger, Mr. R. Boyes, Mr. S. F. Twine, Mr. A. Groener, Miss Booth, Mrs. R. Finch, Mr. F. Bunke, Mr. G. Werckmeister, Miss R. McCormac, Miss Louise Amor, Mr. Andree de Meurs, Mr. N. B. Ariga, Prof. Dr. K. Florenz, Mr. L. Troit, and Mr. C. Milsops, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Indus*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Yamada, Mr. Couda, Mr. Leon Moreau, Mr. Van Holy, Mr. Samadrid, Mr. Berard, Mr. Miwa, Mr. J. Wittiver, Mr. Cummings and boy, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard, Mrs. Weil, child and servant, Mrs. Roux, and Mr. Wasielieff, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. J. A. Norris, Mr. Willard C. Tuler, Mr. J. B. Pocklington, Mr. H. T. Parsh, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Mr. and Miss Thompson, Mr. F. Ogawa, Mrs. Parrett, Mr. M. Russell, and Mr. M. Baggallay, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mr. W. A. Harris, Mons. and Madame Eugene Ancel, Mr. A. W. Bodley, Mr. and Mrs. Rinman, and Mr. R. Takahashi, in cabin; 8 in second class; 151 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Salasie*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. N. C. Brushfield, Mr. and Mrs. Poole, Mr. and Mrs. T. Aoki, Mrs. R. Roth, Misses R. and S. Roth, Mr. R. V. Sioen, Mr. J. J. Lillie, Mr. S. Mottel, Mr. de Breteiul, Mr. B. Pfeifer, Mr. M. H. Gomes and servant, Mr. Ma, Mr. Yu, Mr. Cheek Ping, Mr. Quan Yuig Tong, Mr. and Mrs. Mathaldie, Mr. K. Nakagawa, Mr. K. Takahashi, Mr. Y. Nakamura, Mr. T. Ohonti, Mr. T. Tanaka, Mr. K. Tanaka, Mr. T. Matsui, Mr. G. Takemura, Mr. T. Hitoki, and Mrs. E. Koiso, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. Schleifenbaum, Mr. E. P. Belben; Mr. F. I. Tregillus, Mr. A. Tregillus, Mr. F. M. Bechtel, Mr. Roul Gysin, Mr. L. Bobsein, Mr. Chang Pat Shan, Mr. Jack Kai, and Master Yong Ah Kow, in cabin; 6 Chinese and 4 children, in steerage.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per French steamer *Salasie*, for Marseilles via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 156 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 32 bales.

The following were the silk shippers per N. P. steamer *City of Dublin*, which sailed for Victoria, B.C., the 22nd Jan.:—

	Bales.
Siber, Wolf & Co.	135
Varenne & Co.	108
Otto Reimers & Co.	46
Sieber & Co.	15
Total	304

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 25 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 20 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is a general upward tendency in prices, and transactions in all lines are small. Some sales of yarns have taken place, but generally holders are not inclined to give way.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 3.½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 3.85
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.00 to 2.15
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.15 to 3.80
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.70 to 4.20
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.29

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.31 to 0.48
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.31
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0 65 to 0.75

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11 00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.90 to 1.15
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.12½ to 2.42½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.70 to 3.75

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	$42.00 to 44 00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	52.00 to 55 00
Nos. 2 60, Plain	78.00 to 82.00
Nos 2/80, Plain	104.00 to 106.00
Nos 2/100, Plain	125.00 to 130.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	102.00 to 104.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	116.00 to 120.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	145.00 to 155.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.25
Indian Broach	23 50
Chinese	24.00

METALS.

The market is quiet but firm, and prices tend upwards.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.20 to 6 40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	12 50 to 13 80
Wire Nails, assorted	7.60 to 7.90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 1½ inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged.

American	$1.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market rules steady:

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.40
Brown Manila	5.50 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Small business at quotations. Buyers look for some reduction, which so far sellers are unwilling to grant.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,320 to 1,330
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,270 to 1,280
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,230 to 1,240
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	1,180 to 1,190
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,210 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 2	1,180 to 1,190
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	1,250 to 1,260
Kakedas—No. 1	1,220 to 1,230
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,180 to 1,190
Kakedas—No 2	1,150 to 1,160
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

A little business has been done in Kibiso at last rates, but the assortment of stock on offer is undesirable, and until further supplies come on hand there will not be much trade.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	140 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, January 25.

London silver has given way ¼, but no alteration in sterling quotations from China, and local rates on China will remain more or less nominal until after the China New Year. Other rates are pretty steady for the outgoing mail per steamer *Empress of China*.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅝
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0⅞
— — 6 months' sight	2/1
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	256
— Private 4 months' sight	261½
— Private 6 months' sight	262½
America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207½
— Private 4 months' sight	214 to 213
Hongkong—Bank sight	2½% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4½% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	73 to ½
— Private 10 days' sight	75 to ½
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	154 to 153½
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, January 25.

Breweries changed hands to-day at *yen* 160. Engine and Iron Works—A few shares are obtainable at *yen* 210. Grand Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 230. Club Hotels—There are buyers of a small lot of shares at *yen* 80. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 130. Langfeldts—Offers for shares are wanted.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs can be placed at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels—A few debentures can be had at *yen* 108. Nagasaki Hotels—Offers of debentures of first issue are wanted. Bretts changed hands to-day at *yen* 101.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, f.d., $50	210 S.
Japan Brewery Co., f.d. *yen* 50	160 Sa.
Grand Hotel, f.d., $100	230 B.
Club Hotel, f.d., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, f.d., $100	130 St.
Oriental Hotel, f.d. (Debs.), $100	350 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel f.d., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, f.d., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., f.d., $50	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., f.d., $100	95 S.
Heim Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., f.d., *yen* 50	60 S.
Japan Brewery Co., f.d. 7% Deb., $100	120 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 B.
Brett & Co., f.d. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, f.d. 7% Deb., $100	108 S.
Nagasaki Hotel; f.d. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, January 25.

Japan Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 170. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 85. Langfeldts are obtainable at par. Bretts are wanted at *yen* 9. Grand Hotels changed hands at *yen* 237.50 for forward delivery.

Kowloon Wharf shares changed hands at $84. Punjom Mines have been sold to Hongkong at $5.70.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works	210 Sales.
Grand Hotel	237.50 Sales.
Club Hotel	85 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	130 Steady.
Langfeldt & Co.	100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	170 Sellers.

Tokyo, January 25.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	95.30
War Loan Bonds	96.30
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	99.50

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Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	440.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.70
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	288.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	67 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	107.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	28.90
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	73.70
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 41	60.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10 50	25 50
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	120.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	78.50
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	55.50
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	46.70
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	61.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	46 70
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	97.20
Hokkaido Colliery Railway, 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	78 50
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	92.50
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	48 80
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	30.00
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	39 00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	28 00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	38.00
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	27 70
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	28.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 23	23.50
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	237 50
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 22.50	208 50
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	67 90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25	27.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 10	14 50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	30.80
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	20.00
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	39 50
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20	52.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	33.00
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	14 50
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	242.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	2 5.00
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	141 50
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25	94.00
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	2.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	64 00
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	26.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	91.00

‡ Ex dividend.

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA AND SHIMBASHI.

YOKOHAMA—5.30, 6.10, 6.45, 7.19, 8.38, 9 10, 9.35 10 05, 10.50, 11.35, a.m.; 12 20, 12 57, 1.30, 2, 2.36, 3 10, 3.55, 4.35, 5, 5.33, 6.15, 7.16, 8, 9 13, 10, 10.50, and 11.15 p.m.

SHIMBASH —4 50, 5.45, 6.50, 7.25, 7.55, 8.30, 9 05, 9.25, 10.10, 10 45, 11.25 a.m.; 12, 12 30, 1.10, 1 40, 2 25, 3, 3.25, 4, 4.50, 5.25, 6.30, 7, 7.35, 8.20, 9.15, 10, 10.35, and 11.20 p.m.

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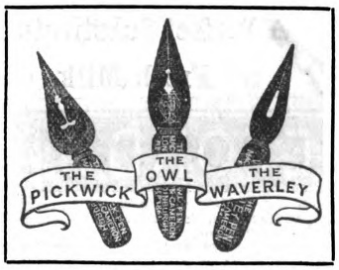

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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 5.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, FEB. 3RD, 1900. 明治三十三年二月三日土曜日 [VOL. XXXIII.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 3RD, 1900.

MARRIAGES.

On the 27th ult., in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., Miss MARY E. BABBITT to Mr ALFRED UNGER, of Yokohama.

At Hongkong, on January 30th, BERTHOLD PFEIFER, of Yokohama, to RACHEL ROTH, of Shanghai.

DEATH.

Suddenly, this morning (Jan. 31) at Miyanoshita, WILLIAM GORDON, formerly of Keith, Scotland, in the 50th year of his age.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

INFLUENZA is very rife in Yokohama.

THE health of the garrison at Ladysmith is said to be improving.

THE Interport Football Match takes place this month at Kobe.

CHINESE New Year passed off very quietly on Wednesday and Thursday.

WITH this number of the *Japan Weekly Mail* is issued the Index for the last half-year.

BISHOP Partridge of Osaka was solemnly consecrated in Trinity Cathedral on Friday.

THE *Daily News* understands that the British Government will ask immediately for not less than 20 millions on account of the war.

MR. W. GORDON, an old resident of Yokohama, died suddenly at Miyanoshita on Wednesday.

THE new Japanese battle-ship *Shikishima* sailed for Japan on Saturday, the 27th January.

THE rumoured relief of Mafeking, wired from Lorenzo Marques, turns out not to be a fact.

NOTWITHSTANDING his check at Spion Kop, Buller is said to be hopeful of soon relieving Ladysmith.

THE inspection of vessels arriving from ports in Japan was dispensed with from Thursday, by order of the Minister.

MR G. C. COX, having resigned the editorship of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, has left for home. A new editor is on his way out.

THE boy who abstracted wines from Mr. W. W. Till's store room to the value of *yen* 380 has been sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment.

NEWS from South Africa is anxiously awaited. The British lost heavily in the attack of Spion Kop and eventually retired beyond the Tugela.

THE situation in Peking is generally considered very unsatisfactory and in Europe it is expected that some diplomatic protest will probably be lodged.

WHAT was practically the last sitting of H.B.M Court for Japan took place on Wednesday, when complimentary speeches were made by Bench and Bar.

THE Kaiser's Birthday was celebrated in quiet fashion at Yokohama on Saturday. Flags were plentifully shown, and festivities took place at the German Club.

IT is reported that M. de Lucy-Fossarieu, French Consul at Kobe, will shortly—probably in the middle of next month—start for home on leave of absence.

A JAPANESE who has succeeded in robbing several Chinese exchange shops in Yokohama by means of forged cheques has just been arrested.

MESSRS. F. R. Kendall, H. W. Uloth, and H. H. Joseph have been appointed joint managers of the P. & O. Co. in succession to the late Mr. F. D. Barnes.

SIR NICHOLAS HANNEN goes home on leave on the 18th of May next, and Mr. H. S. Wilkinson is to be transferred to Shanghai from Japan as Acting Chief Justice.

427 Japanese labourers left for Hawaii on Wednesday by the O. and O. steamer *Coptic*. They were sent by the Morioka and Kaigai Emigration Companies.

THE new steamer *Akanoura Maru*, of some 2,000 tons, which has been completed at the Nagasaki Mitsubishi Dockyard, left there on Tuesday morning for Moji on her maiden trip.

THE British parliament has met and while there is much criticism of the campaign in South Africa, all parties are agreed to vote unlimited supplies in order to bring the war to a successful conclusion.

THE French Government has submitted to the Chamber projects relating to the defence of the coasts and the colonies, the augmentation of the fleet, and the establishment of a system of submarine cables.

A MOST successful ball was given on the 9th Jan. in the spacious rooms of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank residence at Tientsin, where Mr. and Mrs. Mackintosh heartily entertained a large number of guests, who pronounced the unction most enjoyable.

THE Russian Bank has advanced to the Persian Government 22½ million roubles at 5 per cent. interest with which to discharge all existing foreign obligations. Persia undertakes to incur no fresh foreign loan. This practically binds Persia politically and financially to Russia.

MR. R. S. GUNDRY, of the China Association in London, has been presented by the members with £600 as an acknowledgment of the work he performed for the Association in past years in an honorary capacity. Some of the amount was collected in Hongkong, and the presentation is well deserved.—*China Mail.*

AT the annual general meeting of the Nippon Bicycle Club held on Wednesday evening the following Committee were elected to serve:—President, R. J. Ward; Captain, K. Kingdon; 1st Lieutenant, W. C. Vaughan; 2nd Lieutenant, C. W. Eyton; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Geo. Hood.

THE amount of tea exported from Ceylon to the United Kingdom in 1899 was 103,948,138 lbs, as against 96,133,833 in the previous year. It is a curious fact that 1,500,000 lbs. of tea were exported from Ceylon to China, the home of tea, in 1899! The total exports from Ceylon are anticipated to have been 129,894,156 lbs., compared with 119,769,071 lbs. in 1898.

AT 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning a thief managed to enter the house of Onuki Yasuichi through a skylight in the kitchen. He secured several articles of jewellery and clothing, but, as he was leaving the place with his booty, a policeman detected him and gave chase. Finally the thief slipped in some mud and fell, being eventually handcuffed. He is an old offender named Yamaguchi Seijiro.

LORD KITCHENER, when ordered to join Lord Roberts, succeeded in making the journey from Omdurman to Cairo in sixty-one hours. This is thirteen hours better than the previous record—which, by the way, was also his own—and, considering that the journey was complicated by a railway accident, it may fairly be regarded as a really wonderful performance for the new railway.

JUDGMENT was given on Monday in the Tokyo Appeal Court in the Kent case. The Court quashes the sentence of six months' rigorous imprisonment passed by the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, but imposes a sentence of ten days' detention. The Court considered an assault had been committed the effect of which was to incapacitate Toyomatsu for less than 20 days, but considered the assault was made under provocation.

ON January 25th the *N.-C. Daily News* issued the following "Extra": An imperial edict issued last night in the Emperor's name expresses his thanks to the Empress Dowager for all her kindness and announces his resignation of the Throne. The Empress Dowager has selected as Emperor the nine-year old son of Prince Tuan, who is to ascend the Throne of China New Year's Day under the title of H.I.M. Pu Ting.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Monday, Jan. 29.

The news from the Tugela is most perplexing. On the 20th, Warren commenced his assault on the Boers and continued it throughout the 21st, winning several positions. On the 22nd and 23rd (Monday and Tuesday) he rested his troops, contenting himself with holding the captured positions; and during the night of the 23rd (Tuesday) he carried Spion Kop, surprising a small Boer garrison. Throughout Wednesday (24th) he held Spion Kop in spite of strong attempts to dislodge him, and General Buller telegraphed that the casualties had probably been heavy. But during the night of the 24th-25th Warren evacuated the position which he had thus fortunately won and obstinately defended. The whole thing is so strange that we proceed to state the operations in tabular form, as hitherto telegraphed:—

Date.	Operations.	British casualties.
Wednesday, 17th.	Dundonald, reinforced by Warren, attacked & defeated the Boers at Acton Homes, killing 21 and capturing 15.	2 killed and 2 wounded.
Saturday, 20th.	Clery with part of Warren's force was in action all day; captured ridge after ridge, bivouacking on ground won.	11 officers and 279 men wounded.
Sunday, 21st	Warren's engagement continued; forced the enemy from 3 positions.	Not stated.
Tuesday, 23rd.	Warren captured Spion Kop during the night.	Not stated.
Wednesday, 24th.	Warren held Spion Kop against heavy attacks, but abandoned it during the night, or on the morning of the 25th.	6 officers & 18 men killed; 11 officers & 142 men wounded; 31 men missing.

Under what circumstances was Spion Kop abandoned? Were the British forced from the position by an attack of the Boers, or did Warren decide to abandon it, his experience of Wednesday's fighting having proved that the place was untenable? It is useless to speculate, for before these words are in print the telegraph will doubtless have made the matter clear. But it will be observed that whereas the telegrams—Reuter's and that of the French Legation—speak of the abandonment's having taken place during the night of the 24th-25th, the casualties are referred to the 25th. The only way to reconcile these statements is to suppose that Warren was driven back by a night attack delivered after midnight. But, if so, what were his casualties during the 24th, when he had to resist violent attacks, and when Buller expressed a fear that he had suffered considerably? Are we to suppose that during the battle of the 24th and the attack on the 25th, which drove him out of his position, his casualties totalled only 24 killed and 142 wounded? That is difficult to believe. The most reasonable hypothesis is that the telegram errs, and that the casualties said to have occurred on the 25th really represent the list of the 24th. If that be so, what happened was that the fighting on the 24th proved Spion Kop to be commanded by the enemy's artillery, and that Warren consequently decided to abandon it during the night after the engagement. That would account for the fact that it was held by only a small Boer garrison, and that Warren suffered heavily from shell fire during the 24th. Hitherto our artillery has been able to silence that of the Boers in the field, but evidently such was not the case at Spion Kop, for the Boers were able to shell the position effectively. A particularly disappointing feature of the incident is that the telegram of the 26th represented Warren as expressing the belief that his occupation of Spion Kop had rendered the enemy's position untenable. Did he express any such belief? Did he not rather say that Spion Kop was rendered untenable by the position which the Boers held? The whole story is very perplexing, and not the least puzzling part of the business is the fact that so much fighting should have taken place at Spion Kop, for, unless the maps errs, that mountain lies westward of the Venter Spruit and Acton Homes, where the combat began. One thing, at any rate, is consoling, namely, that the casualties up to date in the 8 days were only 67 killed and 639 wounded and missing, whereas, in the first line of trenches captured on the 21st, 200 dead Boers were found. But we can not conceal from ourselves that this check means practically the failure of Buller's plan. He devoted strength to capturing a place which, when seized, was found to be commanded from the enemy's position, and to be therefore useless.

Another singular point is that there seems to have been fighting at Chieveley on the 23rd. Nothing is stated as to its nature, but the only theory we can form is that the Boers found themselves strong enough to make a dash at the British communications while the fighting was in progress on the west.

As to the statement that London is in consternation, we do not believe it. The check at Spion Kop can not be called a serious disaster, unless it involves the ultimate fall of Ladysmith. But if Buller can maintain his present position, the Boers will scarcely venture to assault Ladysmith. They must try to dig it out, or starve it out. Its provisions must be getting short.

Tuesday, Jan. 30.

It can not be denied that the news of Buller's second failure to relieve Ladysmith is very disappointing, and the disappointment is accentuated by the difficulty of understanding what has happened. Some clues do indeed present themselves. In the first place, it seems plain that the Boers themselves do not attach much importance to Spion Kop. Between January 17th, when Warren and Dundonald commenced their offensive operations, until January 22nd, when the night attack was made upon Spion Kop, the Boers had ample time to garrison the position strongly, even supposing that they had not previously taken such a precaution. We know from their own accounts that Cronje and Botha were sent to reinforce their right wing, and, if the tenure of Spion Kop had been vital, it would not have been left to the keeping of the small garrison that Warren surprised during the night of the 22nd-23rd. In the second place, it does not appear that the Boers had any artillery on Spion Kop. If they had, they would not have been able to remove the guns when surprised by a night attack, and we should have heard of their capture. This seems to suggest that the salient is not suitable for artillery: possibly nothing heavier than mountain-guns could be brought to the summit without great labour. On the other hand, the position may be exposed to artillery fire from a neighbouring mountain. We do not know of any such mountain. According to a map in our possession showing the topography of the district very clearly, Spion Kop lies between two tributaries of the Tugela, the Sand Spruit and the Venter Spruit. It rises abruptly from the eastern bank of the Sand Spruit. Similarly the ground on the eastern bank of the Venter Spruit rises abruptly to the Ladysmith plateau, Ladysmith being about 20 miles distant from the Venter Spruit bluffs. It was of course necessary for Warren to surmount the Venter-Spruit bluffs in order to reach the Ladysmith plateau, but what concern he had with Spion Kop, or why the Boers should have held it, we do not see. The natural position for the Boers would have been to rest their front on the Tugela and their right on the Venter-Spruit bluffs. At all events, Spion Kop is not within effective artillery range of the Venter bluffs, and, if Warren found it untenable, it must be commanded from some height in closer propinquity. The riddle can not be solved with our present knowledge, but the fact remains that Buller has again failed. For the Ladysmith garrison the disappointment must be very bitter. They had fully persuaded themselves that relief was at hand. They could see Buller's shells bursting, and now another period of weary waiting lies before them. What the next step will be we can not clearly foresee. There are no available re-inforcements for Buller in sight. The 6th Division has arrived at the Cape and the 7th is arriving, but Roberts is not likely to send either of them to Natal. Unless we are greatly mistaken, he will move against the Free State as soon as ever he can organise his columns. The Maggersfontein Boers have extended their entrenchments so as to form a semicircle with each end resting on the Orange River and Methuen at the centre. It will be Roberts' programme to turn their left flank by crossing the Orange River at a point further eastward. With the 6th and 7th Divisions and other available troops, he can muster from twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand men for that purpose, independently of Methuen's force, which numbers some thirteen thousand. The Boers dislodged from Maggersfontein, and a junction effected with Methuen, Lord Roberts would find himself at the head of an army of thirty-five thousand or forty thousand men, and an advance into the Free State with such a force would relieve the pressure at Ladysmith almost as effectually as any movement Buller could make. We do not see day-light anywhere else. Roberts may consider it necessary to reduce Colesberg before he commences his northward march across the Orange River, but, with the force he will have at his command, that should not prove a very difficult operation. It has been our firm belief throughout that a direct advance into the Free State is the only effective solution of the situation. The saying may sound hard, but it is none the less true that the relief of our beleaguered garrisons ranks altogether second to the main purpose of the campaign, and the characteristic of great captains has always been that they never allowed themselves to be turned from their ultimate object by collateral incidents. The fall of Ladysmith would be very regrettable, but, so far from being calamitous in a general sense, it

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would not appreciably affect the issue of the campaign. So far as Ladysmith is concerned, what is desirable is that it should hold out long enough to occupy the attention of a large force of Boers pending Lord Roberts' operations on the other side. The brave fellows shut up in the beleaguered camp know their countrymen's hearts are with them, and that whatever is humanly possible, within the limits of strategical necessity, will be done for their relief. But their plight will not be allowed to govern the general situation. Meanwhile, it is some consolation to reflect that things have improved for them. For, though Buller has fallen back, he holds the passage of the Tugela as a matter of course, and the Boers can scarcely venture to make another attack upon Ladysmith like that delivered on the 6th: they would have Buller on their backs.

We must not, at this moment of failure, make the mistake of concentrating our whole attention on the front of the stage, and forgetting what is going on behind the curtain. Buller, operating once with greatly inferior, and once with nearly equal, forces, has twice failed to drive the Boers from a naturally strong position which they have had three months to strengthen by every artificial means. That is what has happened on the front of the stage. But behind the curtain, eight or nine thousand Englishmen, occupying a position commanded by the Boers' artillery, have defied all efforts to subdue them on the part of an enemy outnumbering them by at least three to one. Victory rests thus far with the defensive, but it is far more signal victory for the British than for the Boers.

The Times' correspondent in Paris says that the following letter has been addressed to M. Delcassé:—"We, the undersigned Frenchmen residing in London and occupying various positions, whether in business or in liberal professions, each of us representing French interests, energetically protest against the campaign of insults recently directed by a portion of the Parisian Press against Queen Victoria, insults as unworthy of Frenchmen as they are unwarrantable. We protest as energetically against the evident bias of certain English journals in daily collecting and publishing all that can be insulting and unfavourable to France, a bias which has been especially manifested at the time of recent events. These abuses of the Press are creating an intolerable situation for us, their effect among a portion of the English public being to tarnish our good reputation, to diminish the prestige of our country, and to change cordial relations into difficult ones, as well as, to a certain extent, to tend to put on the index everything French. We appeal to you, Sir, as our natural representative, and beg you to use all the means in your power to bring to an end this state of things, so prejudicial to French interests."

Wednesday, Jan. 31.

A telegram sent by Buller on the 22nd instant affords much help in deciphering the situation which has hitherto proved so perplexing. The telegram is that, in order to relieve the pressure on Warren and to ascertain the enemy's strength opposite Potgeiter's Drift, Lyttleton's brigade undertook a reconnaissance in force on the morning of Sunday, the 21st, and held the Boers in their trenches all day, the British casualties being 2 killed, 12 wounded, and 2 missing. It is thus evident that the Boers' line of defences extended all along the Tugela as far as Spion Kop, where their right rested, and that Warren never got behind them at all. If Acton Homes was taken by Dundonald's horse, as one of the telegrams alleged, it can not have been held, and the affair was simply a reconnaissance. In fact the whole matter amounts to this, that the attack on the Boers' position was limited to an attempt to turn their right; that the attempt nearly succeeded, but it had finally to be abandoned for reasons which remain obscure. We have yet to learn the circumstances which were deemed fatal to the continued occupation of Spion Kop, but it is easy to conjecture that if Buller's force had been sufficient to enable him to deliver a really effective attack at Potgieter's Drift while Warren was engaged at Spion Kop, the position might have been carried. Spion Kop must be commanded from some other point in the Boers' line of defences. One is naturally perplexed to understand how some thirty thousand Boers can hold a line which must extend at least forty, or forty-five miles. The explanation is afforded, we think, by their mobility. These mounted men have ample time to concentrate at any point threatened by ordinary infantry. In order to find a weak joint in their armour, it would be necessary to extend the front of the attack in a degree commensurate with the length of the line of defence. This has been proved in all operations up to the present. The opening attacks of the British were successful, but before they could deliver their final blow, the Boers had leisure to mass their strength at the place assaulted, and the assailants failed. It was so in Buller's case, it was so in Methuen's case, and it was so in French's case, though French can scarcely be said to have yet delivered any final attack.

Thursday, Feb. 1.

It is to be apprehended that we have not received a full list of the casualties in connexion with Buller's recent attempt. The accounts have been most confused. Only one clear statement has come, namely, that received at the Legation of France in Tokyo, which said that Warren's losses from the 17th to the 25th were 67 killed, 579 wounded, and 60 missing. That is explicit enough. But now comes a nominal list which shows that 22 officers were killed, 20 wounded, and 6 missing on the 24th instant alone. We also know from Buller's official telegram that 11 officers were wounded in the action at Venter's Spruit on the 20th; and that, on the 25th, 6 officers were killed and 12 wounded. Hence it is certain that at least 28 officers were killed and 43 wounded. It is plain that, if the total number of killed was only 67, as reported by the French Legation telegram, 28 officers would be a monstrous proportion; and when we find that there were 77 casualties among the officers in the whole operations, we can not choose but anticipate that the killed and wounded of all ranks will be found to have aggregated a very much larger number than that hitherto telegraphed.

Another perplexing feature is that there were considerable casualties on the 25th—6 officers killed and 12 wounded; and 18 men killed, 142 wounded, and 31 missing. The 24th was the day of heaviest fighting. It was on the 24th that Warren's troops, in their attempt to hold Spion Kop, seem to have been exposed to a murderous artillery fire from a commanding position. During the night of the 24th, they abandoned the hill, and thereafter Buller withdrew his forces to the south of the Tugela "without loss." Where the fighting occurred on the 25th we are unable to say.

Friday, Feb. 2.

The question of relieving Ladysmith must present itself to Lord Roberts in a tolerably well defined form. It is evidently impossible to force the Boers' position without much greater strength than Buller now possesses. We exclude surprises from the consideration. Anything might be effected at any moment by a surprise, but such accidents are not be counted on. Lord Roberts can not take them into his reckoning. What he has to determine is whether Buller can be so strengthened within a reasonable time as to enable him to deliver an attack with a good prospect of success. Experience seems to have shown very clearly that peculiar features are presented in connexion with the defense of a line of entrenchments by a garrison capable of concentrating its full force at any given point with much greater rapidity than the assailants can impart to their movements of assault. To such a case there is no strict application of the old rule that with a fixed garrison the strength of the defence varies inversely as the length of the trace. The Boers' line of defenses at Ladysmith must extend at least 50 miles, and they are holding it with about thirty thousand, or thirty-five thousand troops. Evidently if ten or fifteen thousand assailants could be launched rapidly and unexpectedly at any point of such a position, the line would be at once broken. That could be done, within limits, if the assailants and the defenders were similarly organized. But at Ladysmith they are not similarly organized. A few hours, at most a day, suffices for the Boers to mount their horses and concentrate a force of twenty thousand men at any part of the lines, whereas Roberts requires at least three or four days to mass his troops for an attack. If the recent operations be considered, it will be observed that from the time when Potgieter's Drift was seized until Dundonald's horse began to manœuvre in the direction of the Acton Homes road, an interval of full seven day elapsed. In fact, from the 10th of January the Boers knew perfectly well where the assault war to be delivered. There was some talk, it is true, of a flanking movement on the east, but ordinarily efficient scouts must have ascertained at once that nothing was really in progress on that side. The Boers knew, then, that their extreme right was to be the scene of the struggle, and they despatched Cronje and Botha with—we may be sure—every available man to hold the position. Even had they been uncertain prior to the moment when Warren began to rush their trenches on Saturday, they still had ample time to marshal an overwhelming force against him before he delivered his final attack on Tuesday night. It does not appear, indeed, that they adopted any strenuous measures to hold Spion Kop. They doubtless knew well that it was indefensible, and they made all their dispositions to render its indefensibility as injurious to

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the British as possible. But had it been to their greater advantage to hold it, what appears plain is that they could have garrisoned it with twenty thousand men before Warren got within range of it. The upshot of these considerations is that to carry such a position by means of a single column of slowly moving infantry, in the fact of an exceptionally mobile garrison of at least equal strength, is an impossible feat. There must be at least two simultaneous attacks delivered at two points tolerably wide apart, by columns each stronger than two-thirds of the defenders' total force, and, at the same time, there must be a central supporting column of substantial dimensions. These requirements represent a total force of fifty thousand men, or fully the double of Buller's troops. If Roberts could raise Buller's command to that strength within a reasonable time, and without dislocating all other plans, it would be his duty to do so, for, as a matter of sentiment and prestige, the succour of Ladysmith is a very desirable operation. Now Roberts could send twenty-five thousand men to Buller, but let us see what would be entailed in doing so. The 6th Division, which landed at the Cape more than a fortnight ago, is now in the neighbourhood of Stormberg. To recall it to Capetown, embark it, despatch it on a five days' voyage to Durban, and carry it thence into Buller's fighting line, would be an operation of at least three weeks; more probably 27 or 28 days. The 7th Division has almost completed its landing. It could be re-embarked and rendered available for Buller in, perhaps, 20 days. These two Divisions would give Buller twenty thousand additional troops, and with them he could doubtless relieve Ladysmith. But observe what that programme involves. It involves, in the first place, the withdrawal of twenty thousand men from the field of active operations during the space of at least three weeks. It involves, further, the paralysis of any offensive movements which Roberts may have planned—has certainly planned—for immediate execution on the western and southern frontiers of the Free State. It involves an order to Methuen, French and Gatacre to mark time for an indefinite period until reinforcements can be obtained from England. And it involves, finally, the locking up of a force of from fifty to sixty thousand men in Natal after the relief of Ladysmith. There can not be any doubt that the object of the Boers is to force the British to deliver the main attack from the direction of Natal. Nature has provided for the two Republics an almost impregnable barrier all along their eastern frontiers, and they naturally want to have their enemies approach from that direction. In a measure England has hitherto shaped her movements to suit the Boer programme, and she would be carrying her complaisance still further if she diverted twenty thousand men from the Cape to re-inforce Buller. After the relief of Ladysmith Buller would find himself with an army over fifty thousand strong, and in order to utilize it for further offensive operations he would have to force the passes of the Drakensberg, where fifteen or twenty thousand Boers could render his advance terribly costly, if they did not succeed in checking it altogether.

Thus, for Roberts the problem is—"Shall I detach a force of two Divisions for service with Buller, in spite of the facts that they could not be utilized for his purpose before some four weeks, and that their loss would compel me to suspend my own operations, for at least six weeks; or shall I employ the two Divisions according to my original programme? If I decide in the latter sense, I can begin my advance within three weeks, at latest, and there is good reason to think that my invasion of the Free State at the head of thirty-five thousand men will relieve the pressure at Ladysmith as effectually as a fresh attack from Buller." We do not, for our own part, entertain any doubt about Roberts's decision.

But will the British Government be content to trust solely to Roberts' advance, or will some means be adopted to strengthen Buller, independently of the troops now *en route* for South Africa from England? We believe and hope that the latter alternative will be chosen. There are sixty thousand British troops in India. Two Divisions, probably three, could easily be spared for service in South Africa if they were replaced by militia, and to get troops from India to Durban would be almost as quick as to move them from the Cape Colony to the latter place. What seems certain is that there are not sufficient British troops in South Africa at present, and that every failure resulting from their numerical weakness enhances the difficulty of their ultimate task by bringing recruits to the enemy. It will be an immense relief to learn that Her Majesty's Government have determined to throw overwhelming strength into this difficult war. In one sense we count it a fortunate thing that events have not hitherto moved in a more satisfactory manner, for a full appreciation of the obstacles would not then have been attained, and without such appreciation the British generals might ultimately have found themselves in almost hopeless positions and the country would not have been prepared to help them efficiently. The work is more onerous than anything that has ever yet fallen to the lot of any nation, but England has put her hand to the plough and there can be no looking back.

STATE OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE LINES.

The Committee appointed by the Diet last session to examine and report upon the project of nationalizing the principal private railways, is said to have completed its labours, and to have drafted a Bill providing for the State purchase of the Nippon line, the Kansei, the Kobu, the Sanyo, the Kiushiu, the Nishi-nari (Osaka), the Kyoto, part of the Hokkaido Tanko, and one other line—nine in all. We do not yet know what system of purchase is to be adopted. The Bill will be submitted to the Lower House, it is said, on the 3rd instant, and doubtless it will pass, as Mr. Hoshi Toru is chairman of the Committee, and the Liberal Party are understood to approve the measure strongly. It is also stated that the Ministers of State are either neutral or emphatically in favour of the project. We do not know how much truth there may be in the latter assertion, but we find it somewhat incredible.

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENTS IN JAPAN.

A combined campaign is inaugurated by the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Kokumin* against the prevailing fashion of social entertainments in Japan. They are denounced as lacking in any element of refinement, and abounding in elements of licence, vulgarity, and extravagance. We are glad to see these remonstrances in print. Our contemporaries refer, of course, to convivialities in purely Japanese fashion, but we venture, on our own account, to add a word of protest against the conduct of many Japanese at entertainments in foreign style. The perfect courtesy and faultless manners of the Japanese gentleman may not be at the command of all those bidden to such entertainments. *Meiji* democracy has caused a levelling down which has its drawbacks as well as its advantages. But such roughness and lack of manners as are sometimes witnessed make one doubt whether the scene is really laid in Japan, a country famous for social graces and stateliness. In connexion with this subject we note that the *Kokumin* denounces the Japanese habit of moving about from one place to another during an entertainment. *Quot homines.* That is precisely the feature of Japanese socialities which we should like to see preserved.

"THE YOUNG IDEA IN JAPAN."

Mr. Alfred Edmonds contributes a pretty essay to the *Windsor Magazine* for January, under the title of "The Young Idea in Japan." The purpose of the writer is to give to English readers some notion of the method of bringing up of Japanese children. It is a subject which has already attracted some able pens, and Mr. Edmonds does not attempt any profound treatment; he contents himself with a brief sketch to which much attraction is added by the reproduction of excellent photographs. In some respects we do not at all agree with Mr. Edmonds. He says, for example, that "the little Jap" (horrible contraction) "knows nothing of the tender love and the all-absorbing adoration that the Western baby exacts from all around it," and he explains this supposed fact by saying, first, that the Japanese child does not need such careful nursing owing to the equable nature of the climate; and, secondly, that "nowhere in the East is to be found that passionate love of children which makes the European and American mother the saintliest, gentlest, truest friend that God ever gave to humanity." Truly it is difficult to read such statements without indignation. Nothing remoter from the truth could have been penned, we think. It is quite plain that Mr. Edmonds has had no opportunities of observing the Japanese mother, and his ignorance has betrayed him into penning a gross libel on her. "Nowhere in the East," forsooth, "is to be found the passionate love of children" and the motherly devotion which are the glory of the Occident! The old race prejudice—prejudice so strong that it totally blinds a man not only to the facts that fall under his observation, but also to the discord of that wearisome trumpet-blowing which the Occidental essayist so often mistakes for pleasant music.

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THE CHINESE AFFAIR.

Saturday, Jan. 27.

Various telegrams were received in Tokyo on the 25th instant with reference to affairs in Peking. The *Jiji Shimpo*, as usual, had the fullest service, and its correspondent displayed a remarkable faculty, for, instead of confining himself to actual occurrences, he adopted the rôle of prediction. His first message spoke of indications that something would happen to the person of the Emperor within a few days. His next said that Fu shun, a lad of 12, cousin of the late Emperor Tung Chih, had been adopted and declared heir-apparent. His next told of a Court Council presided over by the Empress-Dowager; and his last announced that the Emperor was dead, and that the name of the period was to be changed to *Hokei* from the beginning of next year. A more complete round of news it would have been difficult to construct—first, the prediction; then the process; and finally the catastrophe. We are glad to be able to say that the finale of the message is not true. The Emperor is not dead, but an heir-apparent has been adopted, and the fact has been duly announced in the Peking *Official Gazette*. Perhaps the event preludes the dethronement of the Emperor, but there is not at present any reason to suppose that violence to his person is contemplated. The incident will, of course, be sensationally construed, but it is well to remember that the adoption of an heir would have been a natural, if not an inevitable, step under *existing circumstances*, even had the Emperor been really in possession of the administrative power. His Majesty's confirmed ill-health, and the fact that he has no son, necessarily bring the question of the succession into prominence, and it has never been the custom in the East to leave that question long in abeyance. Thus viewed, the event has no special political significance, and need not be regarded as the prelude of a sinister sequel. But it must be confessed that public opinion does not set narrow limits to the acts of which the Empress-Dowager is capable.

Monday, Jan. 29.

There is intelligence that the adoption of an heir-apparent in Peking has created excitement in the provinces, and that it took Peking by surprise. But such a large element of sensation invariably enters into the rumours reaching us from China that we are disposed to discount these last reports. It does not appear either singular or alarming that an heir should have been chosen. There is not the least chance of a son's being born in the direct line, and the delicate condition of the reigning Emperor's health renders his tenure of office very uncertain. Under such circumstances, it is surely natural that steps should be taken to provide for the succession. Indeed the Empress Dowager and her advisers would be greatly wanting in sagacity if they failed to deal effectually with this element of the situation. Hence, when the public comes to think calmly over what has occurred, there will probably be very little excitement. From another point of view, also, the incident was to be expected. It is, after all, only the due consummation of the programme inaugurated a year ago when the Empress-Dowager resumed the direction of affairs. For all purposes of practical administration the Emperor was then dethroned. The men His Majesty had trusted were not only deprived of office but also degraded and mercilessly punished; the reform movement headed by the Sovereign was totally discredited, and, if ever a crowned head was disgraced and humiliated, that was the lot of the unhappy Kwang-sü. In any Occidental country formal dethronement or a desperate struggle must have followed. Even in China there was nothing in the history of the past to justify the expectation that such incidents would not be attended with serious commotion. But the Empress-Dowager and her coadjutors had laid their plans so astutely, and with so thorough a perception of all the contingencies, that this far-reaching *coup d'état* caused only a few ripples on the surface of the national life. In earlier times, the inconvenience of the Emperor's continued existence after all use for him had ceased would have been very rapidly obviated. But China, despite her obdurate conservatism, has made at least sufficient progress to understand that, while public opinion is ready to condone the grossest immorality in the management of national or international affairs, public nerves have become too tender to permit recourse to poison or the dagger. The Emperor was, therefore suffered to live, and even his formal dethronement was deferred. But only deferred. First an heir had to be duly adopted, and even that formality was not indecently hastened. More than a twelvemonth was suffered to elapse. The Empress-Dowager and her advisers doubtless thought that a year would suffice to reconcile the world to the next act in the drama. We believe that their calculations were correct, and that, although alarmist rumours are circulated, there will not be any serious commotion. The progressive programme has received its final blow: that is all The Chinese people are not so wedded to progress that the stroke will hurt them badly. Their chief sentiment when they begin to reflect calmly will be that the Empress-Dowager is an uncommonly astute person, and that she has complied very punctiliously with all the conventions and *convenances*. A languid interest will continue to attach to Kwang-sü; not so much on account of the position he has lost or the cause he represents, as because of the mystery attending his own future. The appointment of an heir is not a startling, or even a remarkable, occurrence, but its sequel may be shocking. The invalid Emperor has now become not only a superfluity but also a source of embarrassment and even danger, so that the probability of his lingering long upon a stage where the curtain has finally fallen upon his kingly career is small. But there will be no indecent hurry in this instance also. The drama will proceed with becoming slowness, just as it did in the case of the last Emperor before he finally "mounted the heavenward dragon." The rumours circulated about Kwang-sü's death must have emanated from persons who under-estimated the Empress-Dowager's capacity for avoiding political solecisms.

It goes without saying that this affair has the usual fringe of sensational suspicions. Russia and France are supposed to have inspired the Peking folks' procedure, and to be prepared to lend active aid against any inconvenient consequences—for a consideration, of course. Russia was also supposed to have had a large share in the much greater *coup* which restored the Empress-Dowager to power, but the public still awaits proof of the validity of the supposition. We suspect that there will be an interval of similarly protracted expectancy in the present instance also, in spite of the views attributed by a Tokyo contemporary to a distinguished Japanese statesman, who is credited with predicting that a struggle between the progressive south—or China proper—, and the conservative north—namely, the Manchus—will be at once precipitated; and that Western Powers will be found ranged on both sides. That will come, probably; but not yet.

Truly no great interest attaches to the age or lineage of the little boy now brought into such prominence. For the sake of the records it is well to know that he is called Po T'sun; that he is 7 years of age, and that his father, Tün Kwan-wong, is a brother of the Emperor. Such at least seem to be the facts. We also note that Messrs. Tsü Tung and Shung I are appointed tutors to the child, and that Kong Ngei holds some other important office in connexion with his care and education. If the extreme juvenility of the boy might be interpreted as an official indication of the reigning Emperor's "expectation of life," seven years would be a welcome age; but since it points, rather, to the term of supremacy lying before the Empress-Dowager, we do not find it particularly gratifying.

Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Rumours continue to fly around in connexion with the adoption of an heir to the Throne of China. Kang Yu-wei, we are told by the sensationalists; has fled (!) to Singapore, and Shanghai is in a state of commotion—assertions which are remarkably lacking in continuity;—France has marched a force of marines into Peking; Russia is preparing to send 4,000 men thither from Port Arthur; M. Pablov, from his place in Korea, is demanding the removal of Sir Robert Hart and his replacement by a Russian subject; and arrangements have been completed in Peking for the formal dethronement of the Emperor on New Year's Day of the old calender, which falls, we believe, on the 3rd of February. All these stories are aptly capped by a telegram published in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo* that Peking is quite undisturbed.

Wednesday, Jan. 31.

The *Jiji Shimpo* formulates, with regard to Chinese affairs, views much the same as those advanced in these columns, namely, that the adoption of an heir apparent will not lead to any serious commotion. Our contemprary thinks that the Empress-Dowager had made full preparations for the *coup*. The quarters from which she had most reason to anticipate opposition were Chang Chi-tung and Liu Kun-yi. But the former's antagonism has been removed, and the latter's journey to Peking shows that he too has become a supporter of the Empress-Dowager. Further, Li Hung-chang's appointment as Viceroy of the two Kwang can not fail to produce an alteration in the attitude of those districts. Thus everything goes to show that the cause of progress in China is at present in a most parlous state, and that instead of attending to matters which threaten the integrity of the empire, officialdom is busied solely with domestic intrigues.

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It is stated that the Progressists intend to make use of the incidents in China as a pretext for renewing their attack upon the Cabinet. The assault will take the usual form of a series of questions, framed with the purpose of embarrassing those to whom they are addressed rather than of eliciting information. The Government will be asked what information it had received as to the appointment of an heir to the Chinese Throne previously to the official announcement of the fact; what action it took when the proceeding was consummated; what action it intends to take, and so forth; queries which can not be answered without public disadvantage, whereas any failure to answer them will be construed to the Cabinet's discredit. It will become, one of these days, a serious problem whether some check should not be put on the system of presenting questions in the Diet. According to existing arrangement, any group of members numbering not less than thirty may frame a question and hand it to the President. Then, before the House proceeds to the Order of the Day, one of the questioners is at liberty to stand up and address the House in explanation and vindication of the questions. There are no limits to the length of the speech and there is nothing to check the utterances of the speaker, for no reply is permitted at the time. Hence the opportunity is frequently taken to deliver a violent tirade against the Government, and when the latter's reply is made some days later, people pay very little attention to it, however vivid may have been the impression produced by the assault. In this matter the English system seems to us incomparably preferable. Due notice has to be given of a question, and no public reference to it is made until the Government is prepared to answer, which is done verbally, so that if further points are raised by the questioner, they can be answered then and there. The framers of the Japanese Law of the Houses doubtless anticipated that the restriction as to at least 30 members having to combine for the purposes of a question, would prevent any abuse of the system, but experience shows that the forecast was mistaken. We do not mean to deny that recent events in China constitute a good and sufficient reason for questioning the Japanese Cabinet. What we desire to convey is that the whole method of presenting questions, as now practised in the Japanese Diet, is faulty.

Thursday, Feb. 1.

The telegrams from Peking indicate that the city is absolutely undisturbed by recent events, and that everything is going on just as usual. Doubtless the citizens find it quite natural that the important question of the succession should be settled definitely. There is nothing at present to warrant us in describing what has happened as a *coup d'état*. The Emperor himself, even were he in full possession of administrative power, must have seriously considered the question of adopting an heir, in view of the fact that he has no son of his own nor any prospect of having one. Of course it would greatly conduce to public tranquillity if such problems were placed beyond the necessity of fortuitous solution; in other words, if a law were enacted, indicating the exact lines of succession in all reasonable contingencies. But in the absence of any such law nothing could be less perturbing than a step like that just taken in due accordance with recognised precedents. If, as we have already observed, there were any indication of dethroning the Emperor or otherwise "disposing" of him, the public mind might be justly excited. No indication of the kind is apparent, however. On the contrary, the Empress-Dowager is said to have instructed the Board of Ceremonies to make investigations as to the proper mode of conducting a grand ceremony to celebrate the Sovereign's thirtieth birth-day. His Majesty Kwang Hsü was born on August 15th, 1871. He therefore enters his thirtieth year, according to Chinese reckoning, from New Year's Day of the old calendar. Unless the intention to hold this celebration be an extraordinarily astute ruse, which we have no right to suppose, there is evidently no intention of deposing the Emperor for the present at all events.

Friday, Feb. 2.

The latest news is that the Empress Dowager has issued an edict cancelling her previous order with reference to the celebration of the Sovereign's thirtieth birthday. This change of programme is avowedly based on the wish of the Emperor himself. His Majesty, if indeed he has been consulted, probably objects to be made the central figure in a farce which could only increase his humiliation. But was he consulted? It looks to us as though the whole affair—the issue of the original order and its subsequent revocation—was a game of bluff. The order would have created an impression that no intention exists of dethroning the Emperor; the edict recalling it would have suggested that His Majesty has still a voice in the councils of the State. Meanwhile it is very evident that many Japanese publicists regard the dethronement of the Emperor as imminent. The *Jiji Shimpo*, for example, says that nothing restrained the Empress Dowager from taking that extreme step except her apprehension of the effect upon foreign public opinion. We may add that the *Jiji* takes this incident as a test for preaching one of its favourite and forcible sermons against the philosophy of Confucius with its bases of loyalty and filial piety. Assuredly the Chinese nation, in spite of its extraordinary fidelity to Confucianism during the past 2,000 years, has not given much evidence of loyalty towards its Sovereigns. Many of them have closed their reigns in the presence of intrigue if not of actual rebellion. Such is the *Jiji's* view, but we think that it would have more cogency were its illustrations furnished under different circumstances. Confucius set the people above everything, and by the people there can be no doubt that he meant the Chinese people, not a Mongol people, not a Manchu people. The present dynasty is foreign to China, and the methods pursued by those that surround the Throne can scarcely be quoted as evidence of the working of Confucianism. Moreover, it seems to us that our contemporary is unjust to Li Hung-chang. It alleges that when Li came to Shimonoseki to negotiate for peace, and found Japan, as he thought, in an implacable mood, the first telegram despatched by him was to his own family, directing that his affairs in Tientsin should be wound up, and all preparations made for retiring to his native province. The *Jiji*, as we understand, adduces that as a proof that Li thought of his family first and of his country second. A hard saying, surely. Must we not remember that Li had to adapt himself to a system which imposes upon its ministers responsibilities without parallel elsewhere? Li knew that to fail in his negotiations meant ruin for himself and his family, however unreasonable Japan might have proved. Was it not natural that he should take steps to protect himself against such an injustice? Let us add, however, that with regard to the potency of Confucianism to educate a spirit of true patriotism, or true loyalty, or true filial piety, we are entirely at one with the *Jiji Shimpo*.

The *Asahi* publishes a telegram to the effect that an order has been issued in Peking and Tientsin forbidding the despatch of Chinese telegrams throughout the empire with reference to recent occurrences. One can not be surprised at such a precaution in view of the wild rumours that are circulated. Very likely Her Majesty the Empress Dowager begins to feel a certain measure of resentment against that troublesome innovation of Western science, the telegraph.

THE JAPANESE SETTLEMENTS IN CHINA.

It is complained with apparent justice that Japanese enterprise in China is deterred by the high prices officially fixed for lands in the new Settlements. At Suchow the price is 160 *yen* per *se* (30 *tsubo*) with a ground rent of 4,000 cash per *se*, and liability to have the rates changed after 10 years. At Hangchow there are three figures; 170 *yen*, 165 *yen*, and 160 *yen* per *se*, according to the quality of the lot. There is also a land tax, the same as that paid by the Chinese, and there is a future liability to pay 34,400 *yen* an account of roads along the banks of the Canal. At Shashi the prices are not determined, and the uncertainty is said to be more deterrent than even a high price would be. As to the contention that the fault lies mainly with the want of enterprise of Japanese merchants, their defenders point to the Korean settlements of Jinsen, Mokpo, and Masampo, where the lands, put up to public auction, were nearly all taken up by Japanese bidders. Another augument advanced is that the rapid acquisition of land in Yokohama was originally contrived by offering the best sites gratis to foreign merchants; but persons familiar with the history of the Settlement will recognise the error of that analogy. The Government gave the Yokohama land—or a great part of it—gratis to foreigners willing to occupy it, not because there was any lack of foreign enterprise to acquire lands and build houses, but because the Japanese Government desired, for political reasons, to have the Settlement transferred from Kanagawa to Yokohama, and the foreign community, as well as the foreign Representatives, were unwilling to make the change. The bait of free lots ultimately tempted them. If the same advantage could be offered in the new Chinese Settlements, it would doubtless prove a great incentive, but that is rather too much to expect. We agree with the *Asahi*, however, that the Japanese Government might reasonably approach China with representations that, in view of the experience thus far gained, the new settlements are practically a farce, and that something should be done to change that state of affairs.

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THE "NIPPON" ON THE WAR.

The *Nippon* has collected and published a number of extracts from European newspapers, which go to prove that the South African Republics are receiving substantial, though non-official, assistance from nearly all the countries of Continental Europe, notably France, Russia and Germany. Our Tokyo contemporary comes to the conclusion that Great Britain is fighting, not merely the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, but the Transvaal and the Orange Free State reinforced by all the leading Powers of Europe, and that unless England makes up her mind to seize Delagoa Bay, and effectually check the inflow of men and material of war into South Africa, the *Evening Post's* comment will be verified, "God only knows when the war will end." It certainly does appear that Portugal is wholly incompetent to enforce her rights as a neutral. She may be acting with entire good faith, but if it be true that a body of Transvaalers have crossed her territory for the purpose of attacking Rhodesia, there can no longer be any question that her neutrality is a myth. The British Government has of course given this subject the fullest consideration, and has been guided by reasons of sound policy in the very conservative attitude hitherto maintained towards Portugal. Outsiders can not conjecture what might be involved in a strict enforcement of Great Britain's belligerent rights against Portugal's perfunctoriness, but outsiders can see very plainly what serious embarrassment is caused by leaving *Delagoa open* to the free entry of supplies for the use of the Transvaal. The result of the recent complication with Germany about the *Bundesrath* affair seems to be a distinct recognition of the principle that neutral vessels bound for a neutral port are not liable to seizure by belligerents upon the high seas. If that doctrine be practically admitted, then it follows that Lorenzo Marquez may remain an open gate for the uses of the Transvaalers; a back door through which Continental Europe can clasp hands with England's enemies. But is Lorenzo Marquez a neutral port? Its authorities certainly appear to have ceased to discharge the obligations devolving upon a neutral.

THE OWARI DISASTER.

It transpires that the house where the unfortunate factory girls of Komyo-mura were sleeping at the time of the conflagration was securely locked on the outside to prevent the ingress of Don Juans from the neighbouring village. There were 49 girls in the building—not 37, as originally stated—and 31 of them lost their lives. Of course the shocking incident has stirred public emotion, and there is loud talk of the necessity of at once inaugurating a proper system of factory control and inspection. The Government had already recognised the expediency, for the Budget of next year contains an appropriation of 7,320 *yen* on account of expenses of investigation. But the incident is a strange commentary on the morals of the lower classes. Things used to be bad enough in British factories, but we do not think that they were ever so bad as to suggest the imprisonment of girls in order o guard their virtue. That is a revival of the old Grecian mythology.

FOREIGNERS IN JAPANESE EMPLOY.

The foreigners engaged at the Imperial Iron Foundry are to be in the capacity of advisers: that is to say, their views are to be consulted, but the adoption or rejection of their advice will be entirely at the option of their employers, and no responsibility will devolve upon the foreigner. Count Inouye, in an interview with a newspaper (*Chuo Shimbun*) reporter, has, with his usual insight, denounced this principle. So have we in these columns, over and over again. The sense of responsibility is an essential incentive to good work. Without it a man is denied all share in the pride of success, and his chief aim becomes to avoid being saddled with failure. We often wonder whether the Japanese fully recognise the latter point; whether they understand the effect it must have upon their own reputation. In an experience extending over nearly thirty-three years we have never heard a foreign *employé* of the Japanese express unreserved approval of their methods. Some, too loyal to be censorious, have been reticent; some have been radically condemnatory; the rest have been severely critical. In short, the volume of their testimony—and it is testimony which has great weight—has been emphatically injurious to Japan. The reason is patent. Excluded by his employer from the credit of success, it has been the foreigner's object to exclude himself from the discredit of failure. His advice having been often rejected, doubtless for good reasons of which, however, he is kept in ignorance, he naturally concludes that things might have been much better had it been adopted, and he is at all events careful to let the public know that the results they witness are not of his making and do not reach his standard. We do not pretend, however, to attach prime importance to that side of the question. The other aspect seems far more vital, namely, that unless a man is made responsible for his views and is required to put them into successful practice, he can never be a useful servant. There used to be an excellent reason for not entrusting to the foreigner executive functions: he was not subject to Japanese jurisdiction, and could not be made amenable to the regulations by which Japanese executive officers were governed. But that reason has now disappeared, and we hope that for Japan sake Count Inouye's shrewd advice will be adopted.

FOREIGNERS AND MINING ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN

A Special Committee of the House of Representatives is said to have unanimously decided that the 3rd Article of the amended Mining Regulations should be changed so as to read that mining enterprise shall be lawful for Japanese subjects or for companies organized in accordance with Japanese law. The effect of this would be that, although individual foreigners could not engage in mining operations, companies formed by foreigners in due accord with the laws of Japan would have the right to do so. That would bring the mining question into conformity with the land question, for, whereas an individual foreigner can not become a land-owner, a juridical person—namely, an association of two or more individuals—organized by foreigners is entitled to enjoy that privilege. It is extremely improbable that any one foreigner would desire to engage in mining enterprises: such work would naturally be undertaken by a company. Hence the amendment proposed by the Committee of the House of Representatives is of a very practical and important character. It may be presumed that the House will adopt its committee's recommendation, but there appears to be some doubt as to the attitude of the House of Peers, where an influential section of Conservatives is said to be opposed to concessions in the matter of land-owning or mining enterprise.

GERMANY'S NAVY.

No one can be surprised that the Emperor of Germany and his Ministers should desire to strengthen the navy. A comparative table of the first-class battleships of all the great Powers stands thus:—

England	45
France...	17
Russia...	15
Italy	12
United States...	12
Germany	10
Japan	6

Germany ought certainly to occupy a different place on the list. But, while we sympathise with the aspiration, we read with no little surprise the line of argument adopted by Count Posadowsky, Imperial Secretary of State for the Interior, in his recent speech advocating an increase. He said that England had denounced her treaty with Germany—the treaty rendering it impossible for preferential duties to be imposed in the British colonies against the German Empire—, and it was therefore "necessary to take account of the possibility that attempts would be made to exclude German goods from the British Colonial Empire." The Count added that America also, in spite of the favourable treatment she received from Germany in the matter of tariffs, had adopted a policy of increased duties particularly burdensome for German industry. We have not the smallest sympathy with the obnoxious and economically false policy of discriminatory duties, but neither can we sympathise with the notion that fleets should be used to correct economical blunders.

BALL IN TOKYO.

A most delightful Ball was given on the 25th instant by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Viscountess Aoki af their official residence within the enclosure of the Foreign Office. Dancing commenced at half-past nine and was kept up with the greatest spirit until nearly two o'clock to the music of the Imperial Household Band. These brilliant social events have been few and far between in Tokyo this winter, so that Thursday's dance was keenly appreciated. The following was the programme:—

PROGRAMME.

1.—Waltz.	7.—Pas des Patineurs.
2.—Lancers.	8.—Waltz.
3.—Polka.	9.—Pas de Quatre.
4.—Two Steps.	10.—Waltz.
5.—Lancers.	11.—Galop.
6.—Waltz.	
Supper.	Extra.—Waltz.

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THE LAW OF ELECTION.

The Special Committee charged with the duty of examining and reporting on the Bill amending the Law of Election has completed its labours, and will present its report on Monday next (29th instant). It has decided to eliminate the chief reform proposed by the Government, namely, the increased representation of the urban population. The Committee places the urban and the rural populations in the same rank, and gives to each one member for every hundred thousand units. The result would be to increase the number of representatives from 300 to 478—an additional expense of 356,000 *yen* annually on account of salaries alone, without any visible compensatory example. Speaking frankly, we fail to see any reason for a mere increase of the members of the Lower House. To add 59 per cent. to their number would be merely to augment the dimensions of a body already constituting a sufficiently bulky obstacle in the path of progress. What would the country get by way of equivalent for an additional outlay of nearly half a million *yen*—for the total would reach the neighbourhood of that figure when travelling expenses were added? As to the property qualification, the Committee proposes 5 *yen* of annual taxation, land tax or direct taxes—candidates for election to be exempt—and fixes the age of electors at 20 and that of candidates at 30. But in the manner of voting there is again a radical departure from the Government's programme, though it will doubtless be called a compromise. The latter contemplated unsigned ballots and uninominal votes; the Committee recommends signed ballots and concedes the question of one vote for one nominee. The point as to unsigned ballots is of the utmost importance, and the Committee's reluctance to abolish a system which virtually deprives the voters of freedom is in itself a sufficient reason for rejecting its proposals *in toto*. By pressing such a change, the Committee practically announces that its purpose is to employ the House of Representatives as a large party machine, not as an earnest national legislature. We fail to see why the country should be asked to put up a big sum for the sake of saddling itself with such a monstrous abuse.

DEATH OF MR. W. GORDON.

We regret to record the sudden death of Mr. W. Gordon, of the firm of Gordon and Co., which occurred early on Wednesday morning at Miyanoshita. On Saturday, when Mr. Gordon started on a country trip, he was apparently in good health and spirits. The cause of death was the breaking of an aneurism on the heart. Mr. Gordon was a Scotsman, born at Keith, Banffshire, in 1850. He had lived in Shanghai for some time before he came to Japan, and was some years in the employ of Reynell and Co., of Yokohama, and in 1892 took over their business. He has been a director of various limited liability companies. Mr. Gordon had returned quite recently from a trip to Scotland. He will have many mourners in this community, for he was a man of the highest character and the most lovable disposition.

NOTE ISSUES.

There is again talk of the Bank of Japan raising its rate of interest in consideration of the fact that the legal limit of note issues has been exceeded by nine million *yen*. All these manipulations of interest begin to be a little farcical. Does any real importance attach to an over-issue of nine hundred thousand pounds sterling in a nation of 40 million inhabitants, when the clearing-house figures for Tokyo alone amount to sixty-five millions sterling annually? The volume of notes in circulation at the date of the latest return was only 239 million *yen*, or less than 6 *yen* per head of population, on the average. Truly an additional issue of a few million *yen* should not be regarded as a reason for disturbing the business world by suddenly meddling with the rates of interest and discount. We suspect that this financial nervousness is accentuated, if not produced, by the writings of publicists who seem to think that the addition of twenty or thirty millions to the volume of the currency would be responsible for a marked appreciation of commodities. The doctrine that the prices of commodities vary directly as the quantity of currency available for their purchase has a certain measure of truth, but there is a tendency among some writers in this country to apply it extravagantly, we think.

KOREA.

It is stated that the Korean Government has nearly concluded its negotiations with Russia for a loan of from five to seven million *yen*. We do not hear anything about the security offered or the purposes to which the money is to be applied. But if there be any truth in the story—which we are disposed to doubt—one condition of the loan would probably be the placing of Korean finances under Russian management. The little Empire is in a bad way, apparently. Its expenditures far exceed its revenue, and though the latter could certainly be increased a hundred-fold under good management, it is not at all probable that, failing such management, any one will be found to lend a large sum of money. The long purse wins the day in the end. If Russia is really willing to put her hand into her capacious pocket for Korea's convenience, her influence in that country will receive an immense impetus.

A rumour is given currency by the *Kokumin* to the effect that the Korean Government, through Mr. McLeavy Brown, has imposed its veto upon the passage of the Söul-Fusan Railway through Chollado. It may be remembered that the originally proposed route for the line was not to pass through that district, but a change was subsequently made in consideration of the advantages that would accrue in connexion with traffic. Of course it is alleged that "a certain Power"—the perpetually suspected Russia—has "squared" Mr. Brown in this matter, but the *Kokumin* justly remarks that Mr. Brown has always made the furtherance of Korea's interests his prime object, and that, at any rate, he is not the kind of man to be approachable in such a manner by anyone. Besides, the reason alleged for the objection is unaccountable. Korea is supposed to object that a line from Söul to Fusan *viâ* Chollado would impair the prospects of the line projected by herself from Söul to Mokpo. But inasmuch as the Söul-Mokpo road's best chance of success is that it should be joined to the Söul-Fusan line, and inasmuch as the carrying of the latter through Chollado would facilitate the former, there is an obvious want of coherency in the logic of the alleged veto. Probably the whole tale is a *canard*.

"SOCIAL CHESS."

Mr. James Mason has published a book under the above title. It is a small volume, but it deserves to rank among the most interesting works hitherto devoted to this entrancing game. The preface, which is very brightly written, discusses, *inter alia*, the often mooted question whether a faculty for playing chess necessarily, or even probably, connotes the possession of abilities of another class. Mr. Mason concludes that it does not, and we can not but think that he judges rightly. Morphy's case is very much in point. He abandoned chess—public chess—at 22, in order to devote himself to "the serious business of life," as he called it, namely, the law, which he had originally intended to make his profession. But as a lawyer he was a complete failure. His appearance before the world as a chess-player lasted for two years only, and in that brief interval he acquired a reputation which will never die so long as the game is remembered. Had he recognised the great gift bestowed on him by heaven, he would have continued to cultivate it, sacrificing everything else, and he would probably have not only climbed to a pinnacle which no other is ever likely to reach, but also greatly enriched the chess literature of the world. What actually happened was that he died a thoroughly unsuccessful lawyer. In truth everything goes to show that the faculty for chess is altogether special. Many men can become mediocre players; able to hold their own with credit under ordinary circumstances. But between a man of that calibre and a master there is what the Japanese call a difference of "clouds and mud." The chatty, interesting preface would alone suffice to justify the title of this capital book, but what Mr. Mason means by "social chess" is chess of the short and sweet description; brilliant games, generally ended within 20 moves and scarcely ever extending to 30. Of these Mr. Mason has collected 131. Adding full explanations and diagrams, he embodies them in a small volume which constitutes the most interesting chess treatise we have ever had the pleasure of examining.

THE PEST.

Two fresh cases of pest are reported, one from a hamlet (Nano-mura) in the province of Settsu, the other from a cotton factory at Koyama in Kozu. The former proved rapidly fatal, but the result of the latter is not reported. It is stated that the losses incurred by Osaka, directly and indirectly, in connexion with the Pest, from the 12th of December, when it first made its appearance there, to the 30th of January, are estimated at 1½ million *yen*.

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MINING PRIVILEGES.

A good deal of attention is naturally attracted by the action of the Special Committee of the House of Representatives, which was entrusted with the duty of examining and reporting on the Government's Bill for amending the Mining Regulations. The Bill was submitted, in the first place, to the House of Peers. In its original form it did not contain any provision of a striking character, its object being merely to extend the scope of the Regulations in the sense of including certain minerals not mentioned in the existing text. The Upper House passed it in that form. But the Special Committee of the Lower added to the third Article a radically new clause, namely, that not only Japanese subjects, but all juridical persons duly organized under the provisions of Japanese law, shall be eligible to carry on mining operations. Such a change would admit all partnerships and companies of foreigners in Japan. It is intended in that sense by the Committee and it is viewed in that sense by the public. The amended Bill was placed on the Order of the Day for the 31st January, and at this moment of writing we do not know how it fared. But we notice that, on the morning of the 31st, the *Jiji Shimpo* published a most liberal and opportune article, urging that the House should proceed a step further, and extend the privilege to individuals as well as to juridical persons. The *Jiji* attacks the whole question of land-owning and mining privileges, and casts ridicule upon the apprehensions which deter a great nation like the Japanese from granting to foreigners rights the enjoyment of which must benefit the grantor a great deal more than the grantee. Our contemporary traverses the whole ground in a most able and thorough manner, and we can not doubt that such unequivocal writing appearing in the columns of so influential a journal, must produce a large effect. It has always been our opinion that Japan might be trusted to go ahead without any further application of foreign spurs. Five years ago, when there was so much talk about the hardship of local foreign journalists having to submit to the then objectionable press laws of Japan, we did not hesitate to predict that before Consular Jurisdiction was abolished, all obnoxious clauses would have been removed from the Press Law by natural operation of the forces of progress which were steadily working in every sphere of the national life. Events have justified our confidence, and we are quite assured that they will equally justify our forecast of 1898 as to the ultimate disappearance of all restrictions upon mining and land-owning privileges.

REPRESENTATION of the MANUFACTURING & MERCANTILE CLASSES.

The urban population of Japan aggregates 9,620,000 out of a total of 42 millions, the ratio being thus as 1 to 4 approximately. Marquis Ito adopted that ratio in framing the first Bill for the amendment of the Law of Election. He proposed that the total membership of the Lower House should be raised to 473, of whom 113 were to be elected by the urban districts. Marquis Yamagata's Bill, submitted to the Diet this session, is less radical. It increases the membership to 426 and gives 90 seats to manufacturing and mercantile classses. But the House has declined even that measure of justice. It has amended the Bill so that the total members shall be only 478, and the urban representatives, 77, or a ratio of over 6 to 1. It would be quite impossible, we imagine, to defend the principle of the House's amendments. In point of fact there ought to be a larger representation for the urban classes than for the rural in proportion to their numbers, but the majority in the Lower House decline to place the city folks even on an equality with the farmers. Of course the explanation is that out of 300 men now sitting in the House, only 17 have been returned by the merchants and manufacturers; the remaining 283 being, for the most part, nominees of the farmers. They are not likely to consent to any radical modification of the uncivilized doctrine that the men who engage in the comparatively rude process of obtaining products from the soil are worthy of a higher place in the national polity than the men who employ the resources of science and invention to render those products fit for human uses.

OWNERSHIPS OF REAL ESTATE BY FOREIGNERS IN FORMOSA

It has been decided, and an ordinance has been issued in that sense, that ownership of real estate by foreigners in Formosa shall not be permitted, but that this veto does not apply to the case of persons who have acquired property prior to the promulgation of the Ordinance. The upshot is that existing rights are to be recognised and protected, but that similar rights may not be acquired hereafter. Another clause of the same Ordinance limits the period of ordinary leases to 20 years, and the duration of other kinds of land tenure, independently of ownership, to 100 years. It will be understood, of course, that the Civil Code is not operative in Formosa.

A MILITARY FRACAS.

There has been a fracas of some magnitude between soldiers in Tainan. A few of them were out on the "spree" on the second of January, when some dispute with reference to a salute led to blows, an infantry soldier coming off second best in an encounter with an engineer. Next evening the infantry men assembled a squadron, and "went for" every engineer that appeared upon the scene. A general rough-and-tumble fight ensued. Many of the men used their side-arms, and nine wounds of more or less gravity were inflicted, Several arrests were made, and, in the end, a sergeant and nine privates were told off for court-martial.

BANK NOTES.

The total note issues of the Bank of Japan on the 30th ultimo were 260 million *yen* and its loans amounted to 110 millions. The excess of note issues over the legal limit was then 18 millions, and expectations were entertained that it would rise to 20 millions before the 2nd instant, the 31st ultimo having been New Year's Day according to the old calendar.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The *Akagi* is said to be missing and the *Takao* has gone in search of her. The *Akagi* is a steel gun-vessel of 622 tons and the *Takao* is a composite coast-service vessel of 1,778 tons.

A very heavy snow fall is reported from Shinano during the night of the 25th. The first train from Takata on the morning of the 26th was derailed and buried in a drift. The news is not a surprise, for the cold in Tokyo and Yokohama on the 25th and 26th was intense. Nothing equally severe had been felt for many years.

The first-class battle-ship *Shikishima* left Plymouth on the 27th instant, and as her voyage out will probably occupy 70 days, she can not reach Japan before the 10th of April, approximately—too late for the naval manœuvres. Some delay seems to have occurred in connexion with her armament. That was to have been expected, for all the gun-makers in England must be working at high pressure now.

There are 24 prentice schools (*Tōtei-gakko*) in Japan; that is to say, schools where pupils are taken for a fixed term of years, on condition that a certain portion of their time is employed industrially for the benefit of the school. There are also 113 technical assistant schools (*Jitsugyo Hoshu-gakko*), where lads learn various useful professions. But among the whole number there are only 24 genuine industrial schools.

H.I.H. Prince Kanin will start for Europe on the 16th instant and proceed to Paris, whence, after viewing the Exhibition, he will continue his journey to England, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Holland, Greece and Russia, returning to Japan *viâ* Siberia. The Prince will be accompanied by Prince Iwakura, Lieut.-Colonel Oshima and Messrs. Matsui and Doki, but Prince Iwakura will return to Japan direct from St. Petersburg, not making the Siberia journey.

General de Gallifet becomes more admirable the longer he remains before the public. Reproached by the Anti-Semite, M. Morinaud, with having bestowed the military medal on an Israelite non-commissioned officer, M. Gallifet said:—"As to the decorated officer, he was proposed for the medal by his chiefs. He is a Jew, it is said. That is all the same to me. Whenever a soldier is judged worthy of the medal by his chiefs I shall decorate him, Jew or Christian."

It is stated that the prospects of gold mining in Hokkaido this year are better than ever, though we can not discover that there is anything more than mere rumour to support the forecast. A party of eight or nine miners are said to have discovered a very rich stratum somewhere near the sources of the Teshiwo River, and things are booming in the north-western corner of the island. As usual the "camp-followers" of the movement—lodging-house keepers, purveyors, and so forth—are reaping a rich harvest. From 400 to 500 new claims have been staked out.

The Loafer element is said to be making itself very prominent among the Japanese in Hawaii. A number of men who have failed to find employment, are organizing

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clubs, exacting money from peaceful folks and committing various excesses. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, from which we take these facts, says that the Hawaiian Authorities are perplexed how to deal with the difficulty. Presumably this is a result of permitting free immigration. It justifies the wisdom of the restrictions formerly imposed by the Governments of the Republic and of Japan.

The Japanese residents in Honolulu seem to be suffering on account of the very drastic measure adopted to stamp out the plague. Apparently the sanitary authorities have concluded that the quarter inhabited by the Chinese is the hot-bed of the disease, for they are pulling down all the houses, saturating the ground with kerosene, and setting fire to it. Some Japanese residences have been included. But the chief trouble is that all merchandise from Japan is quarantined, and traders who imported considerable stocks in view of the New Year find themselves greatly embarrassed.

The Tokyo Municipality has finally decided to raise the special taxes in various directions. The gas companies will have to pay 1½ *rin* for every 6-feet length of 4-inch piping; the Electric Light Companies will pay 50 *sen* for every post; the exchanges will pay 3 per cent. of their net profits; the trams will pay a progressive impost beginning with 1 per cent. of their gross earnings, and vehicles will also have to contribute more largely, though their exact rates are not yet announced. The total product of all these taxes is estimated at 120,000 *yen*.

It is alleged that a leader of *soshi* named Kudo Heizaburo, who had been ordered to leave Osaka, under the provisions of the Precautionary Regulations, and had transferred himself to Kyoto, recently submitted to the Otani section of the Higashi Hongwan-ji priests a proposal that, if they would pay him the sum of two thousand *yen*, he would undertake to bring the violent section to their senses. The proposal was refused, whereupon Mr. Kudo began to reduce his terms, and finally came down to 300 *yen*. The Hongwan-ji people, however, not only rejected the offer, but also gave information to the police, and the *soshi* leader has been "moved on" out of Kyoto also.

It is impossible not to endorse the *Jiji Shimpo's* views that there is no chance of giving practical effect to the Bill passed by the House of Representatives and now awaiting discussion by the House of Peers, for preventing the use of tobacco by youths under twenty years of age. Considering that the law permits lads of 16 to frequent haunts of vice, it is surely extravagant to impose a larger restriction in the matter of the much more venial sin of tobacco smoking. How is the thing to be accomplished, too? As long as a boy is under school discipline, he may be restrained, but after he passes the age of sixteen he can easily evade any regulations interfering with his liberty in such matters.

The opposition to the Religious Bill has become quite wearisome. Various details are published by vernacular journals about a split in the ranks of the Higashi Hongwan-ji monks, and discriptions are given of a body called the *Shuku-ro*, which is said to correspond with the Privy Council in the Government's organization, and another body presided over by the Chief Vicar, Mr. Ishikawa, which is compared to the Cabinet. We do not imagine that our readers care to learn these particulars. It will be sufficient to say that the agitation against the Religions Bill continues, though, as its novelty wears off, it loses something of its fire.

It has been already reported that the Douglas S. S. Company has determined to abstain from further competition with the Osaka Shosen Kaisha on the Formosa-Amoy line. Japanese journals now allege that the former company has approached the Osaka folk with a proposal to sell three of its steamers—presumably those employed hitherto upon the Formosan line—, but that the Directors of the Osaka Company are not inclined to consider the proposition unless its rivals consent to dispose of all their vessels, some 6 or 7 in number. That would involve the surrender of the Douglas Company's service to Foochow, which is understood to be a paying business. It is stated that Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company are acting on behalf of the Douglas Company in this matter.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce (Japanese) recently decided that foreigners should be admitted to membership, but rumour says that the Cabinet, after fully considering the question, has come to the conclusion that the provisions of Law No. 81 of 1890 can not be construed in the sense of such a sanction. We are sorry to learn that this new obstacle presents itself to the free intercourse of foreigners and Japanese. As a matter of fact, very few foreigners, even if the restriction were withdrawn, would think of taking an active part in the doings of Japanese Chambers; the proceedings would be a sealed book to them. But a good many might desire to become members, merely for the sake of meeting the Japanese on friendly terms and establishing closer relations with them. That would not be a loss to the Japanese, surely.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* contains a glowing account of experiments conducted at Meiji-mura in Sagami Prefecture on the 24th instant, with an explosive invented by Mr. Ijuin fired by means of the smokeless powder of Mr. Shimose. A 24-cent. gun was used at a range of from 5,000 to 6,000 metres, and the targets were facsimiles of the armour of two men-of-war, one Japanese and one foreign. It is evident that great importance was attached to the experiments, for among those present were Prince Yamashina, Marquis Oyama, Admiral Yamamoto, Minister of Marine, and other distinguished personages. The effect of the explosive projectiles is said to have been extraordinary. So destructive did they prove that the *Kokumin* predicts a revolution in the manufacture of this kind of war material.

Our readers may remember that, in the early part of last year, we announced a resolve on the part of the *To-a Dōbunkwai*—Society of East-Asian Associated Literature—to establish a school in China for the purpose of encouraging progress in that country and improving its relations with Japan. The school was duly organized in Nanking, and has proved so successful that the Society has now decided to invite Major-General Sato to become Director. Major-General Sato—then Colonel Sato—distinguished himself greatly in the war of 1894-5, but, having lost a leg from a very serious wound, he became incapacitated for active service. He has accepted the post now offered to him, and it is justly anticipated that his presence at the school will add materially to its prestige. We presume, however, that such an appointment must be interpreted as indicative of a military element in the school's course.

The successful enterprise of Mr. Kubo Isamu, head of the Futayama Shokai, is the talk of the hour in Tokyo. Some years ago, he obtained a concession to dig sulphur in the island of Itorup. Two partners were associated with him, but the early results were so profitless that the two finally turned their backs on the affair and left Mr. Kubo alone. He toiled on assiduously, and ultimately "struck oil" in good truth, for the sulphur obtained in the island came to be recognised as of the highest quality, while, at the same time, it offered itself in almost inexhaustible quantities. The Sicilian sulphur mines are said to have become expensive to work, but the Itorup mine gives up its stores to the most unsophisticated digger. Mr. Kubo is now a millionaire, and has taken the step which always suggests itself first to a Japanese who has made his fortune—he has purchased a large lot of land in Tokyo and is constructing a landscape garden. What is more important, he has provided himself with an American partner, who is ready to put up a substantial sum of capital.

We hear so much about the exceedingly unfriendly utterances of the French press towards England that it is pleasant to find one of the leading journals, the *Siècle*, writing as follows:—"The British follow the policy of the open door, and do not try to reserve their colonies exclusively for themselves. Therein lies their superiority over other peoples. In the Transvaal affair they are defending international interests, a fact which is known and appreciated by far-seeing men in France and Germany." That seems to be a truth which even the most prejudiced should admit. We have heard level-head, moderate Germans assert that their country's desire to see England defeated in South Africa is quite natural, seeing that the German Colonies in that part of the world could not continue to exist if Great Britain annexed the two Republics. But why? What reason is there for such a forecast? Live and let live is England's motto. We should have thought that her neighbourhood would be more likely to promote the prosperity of German colonies than to deal them a death blow.

It is stated in reliable quarters, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that H. E. Viceroy Liu K'un-yi refused to receive a single gift from the 1,400 odd people who had presented them in honour of his seventieth birthday anniversary on the 22nd inst. From kinsmen and younger relatives he refused everything of value, confining himself to receiving only such things as fire crackers and long, red "candles of longevity." The only instances in which he received the full lists of presents him were those from the Emperor, Empress Dowager, and Princes of the Imperial clan and other houses, whom to refuse constituted a breach of etiquette on his part. It is estimated that H.E. refused gifts aggregating a value not far under Tls. 150,000.

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LAND REGISTRATION QUESTION.

WE do not think there is the slightest probability that the Japanese Government will ask the Diet to legislate in the senseindicated by the Meeting of Land-Renters on the 19th instant. Moreover, inquiries subsequently made convince us that if the Government's position were fully understood, the desire for special legislation would cease to be entertained. Perhaps the easiest way to explain the facts will be to examine the Resolutions adopted at the Meeting in order to ascertain how far they consist with the step that the Government has already taken.

The first Resolution says :—

1. That although the revised treaties provide that the existing Government leases in perpetuity of foreign settlement property shall be confirmed, steps have not yet been taken by the Government to confirm them, and the laws of Japan appear to contemplate their compulsory conversion into a new and different kind of right, which is called "superficies."

Now, according to the Government's view, which we believe that our inquiries have enabled us to understand, it is emphatically denied that "steps have not yet been taken to confirm the perpetual leases." Without referring to the course originally pursued by the Government, if we turn to the Imperial Ordinance of December 27th, we find that the title-deeds of the lands held by foreigners in the Settlements are textually confirmed. All transfers are to be entered *on the* title-deed by the *Chihōchō*, and the latter has to submit a copy of the title-deed to the registrar when requiring him to register a transfer. Our readers are probably aware that in the ordinary routine of Japanese legal procedure, title-deeds are quite unnecessary. In fact, they may be said to have no existence. Their place is taken by a copy of the register. The owner of land need never encumber himself with a title-deed of any kind, the validity of his right being established by the register alone. But the Imperial Ordinance of December 27th recognises title-deeds as essential in the case of the Settlement lands, and thus effectually differentiates their tenure from the ordinary kind of tenure provided by law. In a word, the Ordinance confirms the leases.

In the next place, it is emphatically denied that "the laws of Japan contemplate the compulsory conversion of the leases into a new and different kind of right called 'superficies'". There is not to be any conversion of the leases into any other form of right whatsoever. They will stand exactly as they are now for all time, their form unchanged and their phraseology unaltered.

Let us now take the second Resolution :—

2. That under existing laws the right of perpetual lease is not recognised, and since the coming into operation of the revised treaties the holders of such leases have been unable to sell or mortgage their land except on the terms of allowing the leasehold interest to be registered as a "superficies," which they have been and are unwilling to do.

As to this, it is quite true that the right of perpetual lease is not legally recognised for Japanese subjects, but it is a mistake to allege that the foreign holders of the Settlement leases can not sell their land "except on the terms of allowing the leasehold interest to be registered as a 'superficies.'" Registration—that is to say, the entry of a record in the books of the local office—is not necessary to the validity of a transfer in the case of Settlement lands. The first Article of the Ordinance of December 27th says :—

When a superficies (perpetual lease) created in a foreign settlement is transferred, such transfer can not be set up against a third person unless it is entered in the title deed by the *Chihocho* of the place where such land is situated.

Entry in the title-deed, not registration at the local office, establishes the validity of the transfer. Here again a foreigner's right is distinctly differentiated from that of a Japanese, for whereas the latter acquires validity by registration and by registration only, the former acquires validity by an entry in the deed, and need not be registered, though provision is duly made for its registration.

But, it may be argued, the *Chihōchō*, after making the entry in the title-deed, is required by the Ordinance to register it, and the registrar has to record it as a "superficies," so that, in the upshot, the foreigner's tenure is converted into a "superficies." To this there are three replies. First, the foreigner's right does not undergo any process of conversion whatever. It is not affected by registration. The title-deed determines it, and the title-deed remains unaltered for all time. Secondly, the registration being undertaken by the Japanese Authorities themselves for the convenience of their records, its form does not really concern the foreigner at all. If he were asked to place himself on the same footing as a Japanese landholder, namely, to tear up his title-deed and derive his right solely from the entry in the register, the phraseology of the latter would be of vital importance to him. But he is not asked to do anything of the kind. He preserves his title-deed ; he derives his right from it, and the nature of his tenure is quite independent of the registration. Thirdly, even assuming that the conversion spoken of in the Resolution did take place, it would not be conversion into "superficies." It would be conversion into "superficies" qualified by "perpetual lease" in brackets. The difference is fundamental. A law court, on application by a land-owner, has competence to set a fifty-years' limit to a "superficies" of which the period is not fixed. But a law court has no competence to deal in that manner with a "superficies" qualified by the addition "perpetual lease." Such a title is removed beyond the reach of the interference to which an ordinary "superficies" is subject. It is, in fact, a specially protected title, and that the Government has power to afford this special protection is established by the 45th Article of the Law of Application of the Civil Code, which says :—

With regard to superficiary land rights acquired by foreigners or foreign juridical persons, the provisions of the Civil Code shall be applicable only in cases not specially provided for by treaty or order.

This most important Article deserves attention. Its effect is to remove from the purview of the Civil Code all rights of land tenure acquired by foreigners under the special provisions of treaties or orders. The treaties create a special right of land tenure with in the limits of the former Settlements, and that right have been confirmed by Imperial Ordinance. It is thus absolutely certain that a Court of Law has no competence to apply the provisions of the Civil Code in the sense of abridging or impairing the title of the foreign land-holder. But although even this point is thus capable of satisfactory explanation, the fact must always be borne in mind that the foreign land-holder's right is derived, and will continue to be derived, not from an entry in the register, but from his title deed.

It is unnecessary to refer in detail to the third Resolution, because it is answered by what we have already stated. There has not been any "non-recognition of what foreigners conceive to be a right secured by their title deeds and by treaty," nor is there any valid reason why sales of property should have been stopped.

The fourth Resolution says :—

4. That in order to remedy the evils of the situation, and to restore confidence, it is most desirable that the Imperial Japanese Government shall at once confirm the aforesaid leases in perpetuity and make all necessary provisions for their recognition by law, and for the registration of them under a separate designation.

As a matter of fact, the leases *have* been confirmed in perpetuity, and provision *has* been made for their registration under a separate designation. But the meaning of the Resolution is that the Legislature should be duly invited to pass an enactment providing for the registration of the titles as "perpetual leases." It is certain that the Legislature could never be persuaded to do anything of the kind. Were such a Bill submitted to it, the first question asked would be :—"Is this step necessary? Is it essential that a new kind of nomenclature should be created by law in order to give effect to the treaties?" Obviously the Government Delegates could not answer in the affirmative. They would have to say :—"No. In the due exercise of the powers already vested in us, we have provided a method which, in our opinion, satisfies all the requirements of the case." The next question would be :—"Then why this proposal for special legislation?" and the reply must follow :—"Because the foreign land-holders are not satisfied with the method we devised and established by Imperial Ordinance." Would

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any Parliament in the world pass a Bill presented to it on such grounds, or could any Cabinet be reasonably asked to present such a Bill? The Japanese Government has adopted a certain course for giving effect to its treaty engagements, and it is fully persuaded that by pursuing that course it can guarantee the foreign land-holder against the smallest infraction of his rights. Thus the matter finally resolves itself into this:—What foreign land-holders object to is, not the Japanese Government's failure to carry out its treaty engagements, but the manner it has chosen to carry them out. Have they a just right to raise such an objection so long as there is no disturbance of their titles?

There is another point to be considered. If the Diet were invited to legislate in the sense of creating a new legal designation for registering foreign titles in land, would it consent to waive the payment of registration fees? Most assuredly it would not. The Government has contrived to secure exemption for the foreigner by transferring the duty of registration from his shoulders to those of the *Chihocho*, but he must be a very sanguine man indeed who imagines that a majority in the House of Representatives could be persuaded to endorse scuh differentiation in favour of the foreigner while, at the same time, throwing open the registers to him.

Finally it must always be remembered that the perpetuity of the title "superfices" is guaranteed so long as the owner of the land does not attempt to disturb it. The Government is pledged by treaty to confirm the perpetuity of the foreigners' leases. Hence, any doubt cast upon "superficies" in such a context is a doubt cast upon the Government's respect for its treaty engagements. But, in point of fact, the title is not converted into "superficies" nor even into "superficies" with "perpetual lease" in brackets. The title remains as it has always been, and is not in any way effected by registration.

Our readers will perceive that we have not spoken of mortgages. The Imperial Ordinance of December 27th makes no mention of mortgages, and we are not aware what procedure is contemplated with regard to them. That seems to be a serious omission.

We have stated the case as clearly as possible in conformity with the result of our investigations, for we feel that, the more thoroughly it is understood, the more quickly will the present dead-lock be resolved. There is still one phase of the question which should be noticed, though we do not imagine that any one attaches practical importance to it. It is the suspicion that although the 45th Article of the Law of Operation of the Civil Code enables the Government now to remove the foreign titles beyond the reach of the Code, the protection thus given will cease when the treaty terminates 12 years hence. In other words, the Government, though pledged by treaty to recognise the perpetuity of the leases, will be guilty of the chicanery of interpreting "perpetuity" to mean "12 years," and will withdraw the protection of the Ordinance. Well, even granting the possibility of such a wild chimera, would the danger be averted by having the titles registered as "perpetual leases?" If the Government can not be trusted to keep its solemn engagements, can the Diet be trusted? If it be conceivable that the Government should resort to the twelve-year subterfuge, is it not at least equally conceivable that the Diet, at the end of 12 years, might rescind the special law which the land-renters now desire to have passed, and might decline to continue the system of differentiation? Truly this line of objection does not deserve analysis. If the Government's *bona fides* can not be credited, there is little to be hoped from the liberality of the Diet. But we may take it for granted that neither Government nor Diet will ever be guilty of the gross dishonesty of pretending that a promise to confirm a perpetual lease holds good for 12 years only.

A NEW VIEW OF THE BUDDHIST AGITATION.

MR. "Miyake Setsurei" contributes one of his invariably interesting articles to the *Nippon*, taking for theme the agitation now fomented by certain sections of Buddhists against the Government's Religions Bill. The upset of his comments is that the basis of the trouble is political, and for proof of that view he goes back as far as the sixteenth century. In the days of OTA NOBUNAGA and HIDEYOSHI, the *Taiko*, the great Shin sect had only one principal place of worship, the Nishi Hongwan-ji. Upon that temple the *Taiko* bestowed his favour, and thither one of the most beautiful pavilions of the Palace of Pleasure was conveyed after the treason of HIDETSUGU and the consequent demolition of the Palace. But IYEYASU, the Tokugawa chief, removed his patronage from KOSHO, the hierarch of Nishi Hongwan-ji, and gave it to a rival, KOFU, the result being the founding, in a later era, of the splendid temple, Higashi Hongwan-ji. While the Tokugawa held administrative sway, every Japanese subject had to register himself as a Buddhist. Whatever his real convictions might be, the only method of escaping the stigma of Christianity was to have his name borne upon the books of some temple. Buddhism thus acquired factitious importance and flourished correspondingly. The Shin sect obtained immense influence. In the western provinces the sway of the Higashi Hongwan-ji became paramount, but in Nagato, Suwo and parts of Kwanto, Oshiu and Kiushiu, the rival and older temple, Nishi Hongwan-ji, took the lead. Thus the Choshiu men leaned naturally to the latter, and in the days of preparation for the great *Meiji* Restoration, KIDO, SHINAGAWA and other leaders of the movement, did not neglect to seek the alliance of the Nishi Hongwan prelates, in which endeavour they were afterwards successfully assisted by Count INOUYE. At a later date an attempt was made by the Choshiu statesmen—Viscount AOKI is specially mentioned—to secure the support of the Higashi Hongwan-ji also, but, in the meanwhile, the Satsuma men, proverbially slower than the Choshiu to detect opportunities, had awoke to what was going on. They stepped forward, and Marquis OYAMA, when he occupied the position of Chief of the Tokyo Police, established with the Higashi Hongwan-ji relations which have held ever since. Thus, according to Mr. MIYAKE'S analysis, the relative attitudes of the two great temples towards the Religions Bill is not moral but political. A Choshiu Cabinet has introduced the Bill; therefore it has the support of the Nishi Hongwan-ji and provokes the opposition of the Higashi Hongwan-ji. Had the Cabinet been of Satsuma complexion the attitudes of the temples would have been reversed. But the question has very great practical importance also for them, since, if victory rests with the Nishi Hongwan-ji, as seems very probable, it will receive a large accession of strength at the expense of the Higashi Hongwan-ji.

THE DIET.

Saturday, Jan. 27.

The House of Representatives met yesterday and got through a good deal of business, but the greater part of it was entirely without interest for the foreign public. The most noteworthy incident was the introduction of a Representation urging the appointment of a Committee to investigate the whole system of education as now organized. Mr. Shimada Saburo presented the Representation in a speech of great force and eloquence, dwelling upon the disadvantages of the present system—disadvantages which, as they have often been spoken of in these columns, need not be repeated here. Count Kabayama, Minister of State for Education, made a long reply to Mr. Shimada. His Excellency spoke for about an hour, and both the matter of his speech and the manner of its delivery were greatly applauded. He entirely endorsed the spirit of the Representation, but expressed the opinion that no occasion exists at present for the proposed step, the Government having already taken measures which will produce the desired result. The House nevertheless adopted the Representation.

A Bill was passed for amending the provisions of the Civil Code relating to perpetual superficies for agricultural purposes. The Civil Code empowers the Law Courts to set a limit of 50 years to all perpetual superficies. But in many parts of Japan there are lands which have been held from time immemorial under the title *chigo-ken*, and

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the right of farming them even has been regarded as secure to their holders for all time. It would be a great hardship now suddenly to enable the owners to resume possession of such lands after 50 years, and the Bill provides that, if resumption takes place, suitable compensation must be given to the holder.

Many other measures were committed to special Committees. We shall refer to them when they come up for discussion.

Tuesday, Jan. 30.

The House of Representatives met yesterday to discuss the Bill for the Amendment of the Election Law. The changes recommended by the Special Committee were adopted as set forth in a recent issue of this journal. It is not at all likely that the Bill will be accepted in this form by the Upper House.

Thursday, Feb. 1.

Both Houses of the Diet met yesterday, but their proceedings were quite uninteresting. The Representatives concluded the discussion of the Bill for amending the Law of Election and voted for its Second Reading in the form given to it by the Special Committee and already described in these columns. Mr. Oishi Masami submitted another series of questions relating to foreign policy. His chief topic on this second occasion was the recent events in China, concerning which he wanted to know what the Government had done and what it intended to do.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

The *Teikoku Bungaku* reviews in despondent tones the history of proposed orthographic reform in this country. According to this authority the Romaji-kai and the Kana-no-kai failed because they were supported only by a small section of the educated public. The Mombushō attempted to enter the field a few years ago. It commenced by asking for an appropriation for the necessary investigation prior to any reform. This was struck out of the Budget by the Diet, and the Education Department has been content to let the subject drop. We are now informed, says the *Teikoku Bungaku*, that the Teikoku Kyōikukai has decided to take the question up and try and bring it to a solution. But it seems that the Society does not recognise the necessity of a preliminary investigation of the state of the language and proposes straightway to elaborate a scheme of reform. This plan is sure to fail, says the *Teikoku Bungaku Zasshi*.

In another article on the study of the Japanese language, the Magazine we have just quoted mourns over the poor results attained by the small bodies that are engaged in linguistic investigations of one kind or another. The Bungei Club has been in existence a year, but has as yet effected nothing worthy of note. The Committees appointed to report on the language exist only in name. Whatever the Waseda Bungaku kai may be doing, nothing is made public. As for the Gengo-gakkai, its weakness is known to everybody. Certain individual scholars, however, have done good work in contributing to a better understanding of the Japanese language. Among these Messrs. Shiratori Kurakichi, Kanazawa Shōzaburō, Otsuka Fumihiko and Hagu Yaichi are worthy of special mention. Among books recently published on the Japanese language Mr. Chamberlain's *Monji no Shirube* and Mr. Hoshino Kōichi's *Gengo Hattatsu Ron* occupy a high rank. The latter is a translation of Dr. Whitney's *Life and Growth of Language*. Mr. Hoshino is also the author of a very instructive book entitled *Koku gaku Shōshi*. Mr. Takayama Rinjirō has also contributed a good deal of information on the subject of language in his *Chuō Kōron*.

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A recent number of the *Sekai-no-Nihon* discusses the commotion in educational circles together with the various policies proposed. That there is general dissatisfaction with the system in vogue is quite certain, says the *Sekai no-Nihon*. One of the causes of the inefficiency of so many school teachers is the fact that the Mombushō refuses to employ other than graduates of Government schools. The private schools are turning out some excellent men, who would gladly enter the ranks of school teachers and who would be a credit to the service. But the Mombushō refuses to make use of such persons. Then the formation of cliques and parties among the officials of the Mombushō is a great evil. There is the University party, the Normal School party, and a party consisting of go-betweens. The wrangling of these parties is no less continuous and petty than that found among political parties. The remedy for these evils proposed by the *Sekai no-Nihon* is that the Minister of Education should make his authority felt in a more thorough manner than he has hitherto done and insist on reform.

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In the *Taiyō* Mr. Takata Sanai writes on the corruption of Japanese politics and says that one of its chief causes is the indifference of the upper classes to politics. Mr. Takata thinks that the marked deterioration in the political world furnishes cause for anxiety. It is true, says Mr. Takata, that both England and America have had their periods of corruption and yet in time of crisis have proved themselves equal to the overcoming of the gravest difficulties. But this was because those two countries have immense resources of strength. Countries like China and Korea, on the other hand, are being ruined by political corruption. Japan flatters herself that she occupies a different platform from these two countries and that she has the recuperative power of a first-class western power. But is not this too optimistic a view to take of the existing situation? One way of improving the character of the present Diet is to impart to the electors a sense of their responsibility. But this will be found to be a very slow process. The upper classes might give an entirely new tone to politics if they would but interest themselves in political affairs. As it is they stand aloof. If the upper classes could have instilled into them the spirit which made the old Roman assert with pride *Civis Romanus Sum*, if they could but feel that their own real interests and those of the State were one and the same and if they could take an active part in political affairs their anti-sordid influence would be felt far and wide.

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In the *Gwaikō Jihō*, Dr. Ariga writes at some length on the language used for diplomacy at Peking. He says that for many years owing to the influence of the late Sir Harry Parkes English was used, but that since the China-Japan war the Russian ambassador has succeeded in replacing it with French. According to Baron Hayashi, whom Dr. Ariga consulted on the subject, some little time ago, there was no special reason for the change beyond the desire of the French and Russian Ministers to re-establish French in the position it had held in former times. Baron Hayashi when questioned expressed himself as in favour of English and says that when he was at Peking English was was better understood than French by the majority of diplomats. There was at that time a great dispute among diplomats as to the language that should be employed, the various ministers taking either the pro-French or pro-English side, but, when the controversy had subsided, the Baron found that in practice French was almost invariably employed, and this custom is still followed.

Dr. Ariga speaks in laudatory terms of an important work that has lately been published entitled "Russia and Asia—A Record and a Study (1558-1899) with maps." (London: Grant Richards). The author is Mr. Alexis Krausse, who is also the writer of a book entitled, "China in Decay." The first work, according to Dr. Ariga, gives a most exhaustive account of the way in which Russia has built up her ever-expanding Eastern Empire. It treats of Persia, India, China, and Siberia. Dr. Ariga says that some of the stratagems by which large pieces of territory were won make the reader angry as he peruses the volume, but that the book is most fascinating throughout.

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The Home Department has brought out a translation of an American work on the municipal system of the chief towns of Europe, which seems to be very thorough. It sells at $1.80 per copy. It treats of drainage, the supply of food, road-making, education, finance, &c. The author we transliterate as Albert. The publisher is Yūhikaku, Hitotsubashi-dōri, Kanda, Tōkyō. The translation is said to be a very good one.

The *Hikaku Kokuhō-gaku* is a posthumous work on Comparative Law by Dr. Sueoka Seichi. It covers 800 pages and sells at 1 *yen* 50 *sen* per copy. Dr. Sueoka studied international law in Germany and Austria, paying special attention to the differences in the Constitutions and in the administration of different nations. His lectures as a University professor were most instructive. These have been collected by his pupils and fellow-professors and published under the above title. Dr. Sueoka's death last year was a great loss to the learned world.

The new edition of Cock's Diary has at length appeared, and unstinted praise is given by reviewers to the care with which the book has been edited. The index and the appendices are most valuable, and the same may be said of the notes. Chinese characters have been supplied in instances where the names would be otherwise obscure and the meaning of dialectical phrases is given. The thanks of the public are due to Mr. Murakami for the pains he has bestowed on the work.

A Japanese Gazetteer is announced as in course of publication under the title of the *Dainihon Chimei Jisho*, by Mr. Yoshida Togō. It is to cover 1,800 pages, to con-

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tain the names of 19,000 places, and the subscription price is 7 *yen* 50 *sen*. It will come out in 4 parts, beginning in February and ending in September. The Fusambō, Urajimbō-chō, Kanda, are the publishers.

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Writing on suicide in Japan, the *Jimmin Shimbun* states the following facts. There are between seven and eight thousand cases of suicide in Japan every year. According to statistics published in 1896, Gifu-ken stood first as to number of cases, followed by Kanagawa, Kyōto occupying the third place. At the bottom of the list stood the Loochoo islands. Compared with the main island Kyūshū has few cases of self-destruction. There are more suicides in summer than winter, and more in autumn than spring. There are twice as many men suicides as women. Hanging seems to be the most popular form, both among men and women. Drowning stands next. As regards age, among males the majority of suicides are over 50. With women between 20 and 30 years of age is the worst time. There are a good many cases of girls destroying themselves between the ages of 16 and 20. Cases of self-destruction when the victims are under 16 years of age are very rare.

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In the *Taiyō* (No. 27) Dr. Katō Hiroyuki draws a comparison between Japan and the Transvaal, and contends that Japan has much to be ashamed of when compared to a small state like the Transvaal. The point that Dr. Katō is bent on making is Japan's comparative neglect of education. Dr. Katō's argument is based on the following statistics.

Size of Japan, without Formosa, 382,416 sq Kilometres.
Size of the Transvaal, 308,560 sq. Kilometres.
Population of Japan, 42,708,264.
Population of the Transvaal, 867,941.
Population in proportion to 1 sq. Kilometre Japan, 112, Transvaal, 3.
1. Total annual expenditure. Japan, 234,348,196 *yen*. The Transvaal, 43, 940,660 *yen*.
Expenditure for education. Japan 4,651 937 *yen*. The Transvaal 1 084,070 *yen*.

Compared to the population, says Dr. Katō, this expenditure on education in the Transvaal is remarkable, and accounts for the show the Boers have been able to make in fighting a great power like England. Is it not astonishing that a country whose total population does not amount to half of that of the city of Tokyo should be able to make such a stand? * asks Dr. Katō. Politicians would do well to turn their attention to the subject of education. They will find that there are western countries who spend 9 per cent. of their total expenditure on education, and that there is no country pretending to be called prosperous but what expends 4 per cent. of its income on this object. And here is Japan satisfied with its 2 per cent. It is idle to talk about our being abreast of Europe and America while this state of things exists. Even the Transvaal is ahead of Japan in the matter of education.

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The *Taiyō*, hitherto a fortnightly, has become a monthly. The size of the newly issued magazine is about twice that of the fortnightly number. But the price has not been doubled. It is now 25 *sen* per copy. The first number contains an article by Dr. Katō Hiroyuki traversing the arguments of the Gakusei Kaikoku Doshikai (Society for Reforming the System of Education) writers, whose arguments were given by us in the last Summary when reviewing Mr. Kubota Yuzuru's article in the *Taiyō*. Dr. Katō first opposes the idea of shortening the time of study. The extra time as compared with that required in other countries, says Dr. Katō, is caused by the difficulty of learning Chinese characters and their use. As long as the present system of orthography is retained, it is quite impossible to curtail the time devoted to study, Another reason for making the course extend over a number of years as it now does, given by Dr. Katō, is the absolute necessity of students' acquiring foreign languages before they enter the University. This they find a difficulty in doing even with the time now allowed them, which makes the shortening of the course quite impossible. As regards elementary schools Dr. Katō thinks that there is much truth in the contention of the advocates of reform to the effect that the subjects of study are too numerous and in many cases superfluous. The converting of the present High Schools into Universities and the raising of the present Middle Schools to the status of preparatory schools to the present Imperial Universities, a course strongly advocated by Mr. Kubota and his fellow thinkers, Dr. Katō opposes on various grounds. In the first place the present Middle Schools are not in a position to impart the instruction in foreign languages necessary as a preparation for the Universities. In the second place the creation of a number of second-class Universities in Japan such as exist in Western America, Spain, Portugal, and Greece, is most undesirable. None of the great European powers adopt this course, for evident reasons. The idea that our present Imperial Universities should be utilised for the study of abstract subjects only and that in the newly created Universities only practical subjects should be taught, which has been advocated in many quarters, is based on a radical misconception of the whole relation of principles to practice. In all the great learned institutions of the Western World the various branches of knowledge are taught side by side, because it is recognised that they are minutely related to each other. It is quite impossible for us to create a number of very high-class Universities, and hence we shall do well not to degrade the name by giving to inferior institutions the title of University. It is said that the present High Schools do not fulfil their functions as preparatory institutions to the Universities. If this be so, let them be reorganised so as to compass that object. The only reform that I advocate, concludes Dr. Katō, concerns the elementary and middle schools. A re-arrangement of subjects to be taught in these institutions is desirable. But beyond this I would not go.

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In a speech of Marquis Ito's published in the New Year's number of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* the following observations occurr. This is the rat year (Chinese Calendar), the third time in my life-time that this year has come around. I am to-day vividly reminded of 36 years ago when I had first returned from Europe. At that time anti-foreign sentiment was at its height and there was hardly anybody that knew anything about European affairs but the few doctors who had studied Dutch. Among those who advocated the opening of the country not a few did so at the cost of their lives. There was Takano Chōyei, whose *Yume Monogatari* showed a minute knowledge of the state of Western countries. He was first imprisoned and afterwards commanded to commit suicide. I was only 10 years old when this took place. Takano's friend Watanabe Kazan was another pioneer of Western civilisation who suffered on account of his views. Yoshida Shōin and Shimoda both lost their lives by attempting to go to a foreign country. Had I been born a little earlier I could hardly have escaped; as it was I was often in danger. . . . . The progress we have made in 36 years has been astonishing, but when compared with what has been accomplished in the West during that period it seems to me insignificant. Think of the inventions and scientific appliances of which foreigners have been the authors within my lifetime. If we have gone ahead 5 or 10 *ri*, they have travelled quite 100 *ri*.

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The *Shakai Zasshi* publishes some interesting statistics referring to the number of afflicted persons (blind, deaf, and dumb) in Japan, as compared with foreign countries. According to figures published by the Mombushō at the close of the year 1897, there were 2,476 blind boys of a school age, and 1,858 girls; and of deaf children there were 2,731 boys and 1,950 girls, a total of over 9000 children. Of these only 180 have entered asylums. These figures only refer to the young, and no reliable statistics giving the total number of afflicted persons in Japan have been published. The number of blind persons in Tōkyō and Kyōtō asylums is 203 in the former and 170 in the latter. These figures compare badly with those of Western countries. In Germany there are 97 Deaf Asylums, with 6,000 inmates, in America over 100, with 11,000 inmates, in France 70, with 4,000 inmates, in Italy 50, with 2,000 inmates, in England 47, with 3,500 inmates, in Austria 30, with 1,800 inmates, in Russia 12, with 800 inmates. Blind asylums are less numerous than Deaf and Dumb Asylums. The numbers as given by the *Shakai Zasshi* are: England 37, with 3,000 inmates, American 35, with 4,000 inmates, and Germany 28, with 2,000 inmates. By these figures it will be seen how little Japan has done in this line, continues the *Shakai Zasshi*. It is said that in foreign countries extensive plains where the soil is light and dusty are conducive to blindness. Egypt, for instance, is specially hard on the eyes. Also that a large proportion of deaf people are found in lonely mountainous districts. In Western countries the proportion of blind people to the total population is said to be about 9 in 1,000 inhabitants, the proportion of deaf people 8 in 1,000, and the proportion of idiots 22 in 1,000. These proportions would make Japan's blind to be 36,000 and her deaf to be 32,000. . . . An analysis of the cases of blind persons in the Tōkyō asylum made last March shows that children at the age of 3 very frequently become blind. Out of 69 cases examined no less than 12 were traced to venereal disease in parents. Out of 140

* Dr. Katō seems to overlook the fact that the Transvaal is not fighting alone. State education has, we imagine, little to do with the warlike qualities displayed by the Boers (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

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cases of dumb persons examined 55 were congenital.

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The *Sekai-no-Nihon* reviews at some length Mr. Fukuzawa's series of articles entitled *Shin Onna-daigaku*, which have now appeared in book form. We give in a brief form the gist of the reviewer's remarks. Mr. Fukuzawa's object in writing so much on the subject of women's position in modern times is to endeavour to create a new standard for women. Hitherto the teaching of Kaibara Ekiken's *Onna Daigaku* has been accepted in all quarters. According to it woman occupies a subordinate position and must on no account assert her independence or claim equality with man. While showing the untenableness of all such theories, Mr. Fukuzawa does not rush to an opposite extreme. He defines woman's position in a remarkably common-sense way. He would not have women attempt to imitate men. They have their own spheres and should keep to them. When discussing the education of girls he insists on the necessity of making a special point of giving them a thorough drilling in household duties. They should have a knowledge of cooking; they should be taught how to make the most of money, how to manage servants, &c. Next to these things he attaches great importance to their being instructed in the laws of health. Among other subjects botany is to be recommended as specially suited to the female mind. He further argues that women should be taught Economy and Law. He thinks that a knowledge of these subjects will tend to develop their general intelligence and save them from becoming the creatures of emotion. In olden times a woman carried a dagger in her girdle to be used as a last resource. In modern times a thoroughly enlightened mind will be her best protection against the dangers to which she is exposed. With the tendency to conceit which is said to be engendered by the kind of education recommended Mr. Fukuzawa deals in his treatise, arguing that this tendency can be rendered harmless by instruction in the kind of demeanour that best becomes a woman. Marriage according to the old methods Mr. Fukuzawa condemns, and the practice of having the father-in-law or mother-in-law living with the married couple should, he thinks, be discontinued. Marriage should be regarded in a serious light, and the duties and responsibilities it involves should be duly considered. Mothers should take pleasure in instructing their children and should know enough to gain their respect. The whole system recommended is based on Western life and thought. This new Gospel for woman preached by a man who has spent his whole life in advocating reform, as one of his last messages to the nation is, says the *Sekai-no-Nihon*, very striking and likely to effect great good.

* * *

A writer in the *Sekai-no-Nihon*, in giving an account of the views of the Jiyutō at the present time, maintains that, while opposing Jingoism of every sort, they have adopted Imperialism to the extent of urging that steps be taken to increase Japan's prestige in foreign countries. Their Imperialism resembles that of Lord Rosebery, Pitt, and Disraeli, says the writer we are quoting. He replies to the charge that the Liberals have changed their principles by pointing out that the party is as zealous as ever in advocating the rights of individuals and the necessity of lessening the burdens of the people as much as possible.

* * *

In the *Kyoiku Jiron* Dr. Inouye Tetsujirō discusses the effects of newspaper reading in Japan on the minds of young people, and comes to the conclusion that many of the benefits derived from school education are entirely nullified by the perusal of contaminating literature such as is dished up day after day by certain newspapers. The contention that the object of certain writers in furnishing indecent details is the reform of society will not hold water, says Dr. Inoue, as it is quite evident to all discerning persons that what they have published has produced no satisfactory result in the conduct of the persons who are living irregular lives. The real motive of this kind of writing is one of the following: A desire to satisfy the unhealthy curiosity of readers, a desire to lessen the influence of political adversaries by holding them up to scorn, or a desire to hide inefficiency of the writers by showing up the weaknesses of other people. Readers do not give the editors credit for worthy motives in the course they have taken; hence their crusade has effected no good. As a proof that certain papers revel in polluting details Dr. Inoue cites the fact that day after day publicity is given to the goings-on at brothels and to incidents that have no interest whatever to anybody but a lover of the indecent. Then in advertisements details are published that never ought to be allowed to appear in a newspaper. While contaminating their sheets with all kinds of indecent matter, in their leading articles the newspapers to which I refer, says Dr. Inoue, complain of the powerlessness of education, of the lack of religious zeal, and of the general moral corruption of the country, for all of which they themselves are largely responsible.

* * *

The 回天實記, *Kaitenjikki*, is an account of the revolution and the restoration of the Imperial power by Count Hijikata. The work is founded on the Count's diary, which covers the period between the third year of Bunkyu (1863) and the first year of *Meiji* (1868). The work now published covers 650 pages and sells at 1 *yen* 50 *sen*; the Tōkyō Tsūshinsha being the publishers. Count Hijikata took a prominent part in many of the events which he describes, and hence his testimony is of special value. It was in the year 1863 that Count Hijikata fled to Chōshū in company with Prince Sanjō. He was in the midst of all the excitement of the five years that preceded the opening of the *Meiji* era and his description of these times is said by the reviewers of the *Kaitenjikki* to be most vivid. At the opening of the volume is a picture of Prince Sanjō and his followers, clad in peasants' rain coats, fleeing from their foes. The *Tetsugaku-han* (汎) *ron* by Mr. Fujii Kenjirō is a translation from a German work, which forms one of the Hakubunkwan's series known as the *Hyakka Zensho*. It covers 306 pages, and is furnished with notes and explanations.

* * *

In connection with the exhibits sent to the Paris Exhibition the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes some interesting information, obtained from Mr. Hayashi Tadamasa, who has gone to France in charge of the Japanese exhibits. The following is the gist of what Mr. Hayashi has to tell us:—The French Government some time ago sent a special request to the country bearing on the choice of exhibits for the Paris Exhibition. They pointed out that Europe as a whole is only acquainted with comparatively modern Japanese art, that few people have ever seen good specimens of ancient art, that therefore it was recommended that the Japanese Government should make a collection of objects of vertu all over the the country, and that they should be arranged so as to show the historical development of Japanese art. This request having been repeated several times, the Japanese Government did its best to meet the wishes of the French people in the matter. The owners of rare specimens of art, from His Majesty the Emperor downwards, have come forward in a most liberal manner and furnished exhibits. Count Inouye alone has lent articles worth some 130,000 *yen*. All the chief temples have ransacked their treasures in order to make the collection of objects as complete as possible. So great is the responsibility of conveying all the valuable articles to the other side of the world that Mr. Hayashi informs us that should any mishap befall them, he would not consent to remain another day in the world. No such collection of chefs d'œuvre, we are informed, has ever been made before.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, Jan. 29th:—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000 000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,851,465
Amount of convertible notes issued...	242,692,030
Government deposits	62,809,106
General deposits	3,607,769
Exchange liability	21,575
Total	355,981,947
Cr.	
Discount notes	79,448,697
Foreign discount notes	16,097,425
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	70,030,133
Exchange liability	3,090,313
Government bonds	56,097,906
Property...	2,019,093
Bullion and Specie	106,397,577
Total	355,981,947

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	236,196,235
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	101,154,256
Silver	4,000,000
Total	105,154,256
Securities:—	
Government bonds	19,695,622
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,473,592
Commercial notes	67,872,369
Total	131,041,983

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	358,633
Silver	—	—
General loans	2,691,136	—
Government deposits	—	216,295
General deposits	4,331	—

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THE BRITISH COURT.

AN INTERESTING CEREMONY.

There was a large attendance of the public at Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan on Wednesday morning to witness what is probably the last sitting of the Court. Quite a number of ladies were present, and the muster of the bar was imposing. His Honour Judge Wilkinson occupied the Bench, Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, Consul and Assistant Judge, being seated beside him. At the barristers' table were Mr. Harry Parkes Wilkinson, some time Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China and Japan; Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Mr. J. F. Lowder, Mr. A. B. Walford, Mr. H. C. Brushfield, Mr. C. H. Crosse (Kobe) and Mr. G. H. Scidmore.

At the conclusion of the judgment in the Enslie will case (reported elsewhere in the present issue) Mr. Litchfield, as the senior practitioner and retiring Crown Prosecutor, of the Court addressing his Honour, said:—

May it please Your Honour.—On this occasion, which is probably the last on which you will preside over this Court—or if not actually the last occasion, the last on which so many members of the profession who have practised before you will be able to be present—I ask your Honour's permission to say a few words in farewell. We have to take leave of Her Majesty's Court for Japan. This Court was constituted in 1878 to carry out Her Majesty's jurisdiction in this far-away land. This Court succeeded the one of Consular jurisdiction, an appanage of Her Majesty's Supreme Court for China and Japan. During the past now more than 20 years during which this Court has been constituted many able men have presided upon the Bench and during that time I may say that justice has been constantly rendered. If I may attribute to the word justice the meaning of earnest and conscientious striving to render right to all parties without fear or favour according to rules of law, then I am sure this Court has been the means of administering justice here. The old order of things changeth, giving place to the new, and although the cessation of this Court is a peaceful consequence of a step brought about by the progress of things, yet a great many of us who have worked here for many years of our lives cannot disguise from ourselves that we have to say farewell to it with deep regret. We wish to say to you, sir, the last to preside in this Court, words of good wishes for the future and of thanks for the past. I do not forget that you also presided over the Consular Court years ago. During your term of office I may say, I think, on behalf of my friends that you have in this Court given strict attention to business, and made the practitioners before you feel that this is a place of strict business. When we leave it you also make us feel that we have a friend in yourself. If rumour is right, I hear that some now present will be practising before you in the future in another place. I hope they will find you the same friend to them as those who have practised before you in this Court have done. I have to offer you a kind farewell and good wishes for the future on the part of the English bar and also the practitioners of other nationalities who have been before you.

His Honour, whose voice expressed deep emotion, replied as follows:—

Mr. Litchfield and gentlemen of the Bar,—I thank you most sincerely for the kind words which you have addressed to me, and I thank you in my own name and in that of my predecessors for the terms in which you have referred to their services in this place. No greater aim could any man put before him as a judge than to strive to reach that standard which is the standard of the English Bench. My predecessors—and I am glad to see one of them here to-day—have, I feel, endeavoured to keep up to that highest standard. The new order has come, and you speak of the change with regret. I think few of us can help feeling regret. It is not for us to say whether the time had or had not fully come for such a change, but we have to recognise that such a change had to be made, and I for my own part—and I think I express the feeling of both Bench and Bar—may say that it is our wish that the difficulties connected—and inseparably connected—with such a change shall be overcome and that the system which will replace this—while I believe it is not possible for it to be better than this—will before long approach to the same excellence. In speaking thus I am not speaking of my own individual efforts or of those of particular persons, but of this Court as an institution which I am glad you, gentlemen, have recognised, has kept up its reputation as an institution which has been as it was intended to be, a place for the dispensing of justice between man and man. I thank you on behalf of my colleagues of years gone by for the terms in which you have referred to the Court; I thank you on behalf of my predecessors, and for the good wishes you have expressed towards me I also return you my hearty thanks. We all know that it would have been impossible to administer justice here without the assistance of the Bar. All English judges recognise that, and that assistance which is given in all English Courts has been generously given here. I feel I owe you personally a debt of gratitude for the assistance I have received from you. Whatever sphere of labour you may turn to, or wherever your duties may be exercised, I wish you all success. Gentlemen, I wish you a hearty farewell.

The Clerk of the Court (Mr. C. D. Moss) then pronounced the formula:—"Know all men this Court stands adjourned. God save the Queen!"

The members of the Bar, and some of the ladies and gentlemen present, were afterwards received in the Judge's private room.

GRAMMARS FOR JAPANESE STUDENTS.

Nesfield's Grammar Series, specially adapted for the use of Oriental Pupils Studying English. Book 1. The Parts of Speech. Book 2. Easy Parsing and Analysis. Book 3. Idiom and Grammar for Secondary Schools. Book 4 Idiom, Grammar and Synthesis for High Schools. Manual of English Grammar and Composition, by J. C. NESFIELD, M.A., London, MacMillan and Co.; Yokohama, Kelly and Walsh.

These thoroughly practical and scholarly handbooks may be confidently recommended. They are already, we believe, well-known and appreciated in Japan; the fact that they have been freely pirated is sufficient to show that. Pirated editions, however, are everywhere to be avoided, and in Japan more than anywhere else, for here they abound in misprints and stupidities of all kinds, which offer a serious bar to the student. We ourselves have had experience of the Japanese editions of French and German grammars, and the advice we offer to those who contemplate the purchase of these cheap but nasty editions is emphatically, Don't. The publishers of the Nesfield Series have been induced to extend the publication of their Indian edition of these Grammars to Japan, and at prices which compare very favourably with Japanese reprints. The difference in price between the works as published in London and in Tokyo is trifling, but the difference in quality is infinite. Sample copies will be lent to teachers on application to Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Yokohama, and special prices will be quoted for quantities.

CLEARING HOUSES.

The following table shows the figures for the Tokyo and Osaka Clearing Houses during the past 10 years:—

	Tokyo. Yen.	Osaka. Yen.
1890	20,206,094	39,247,779
1894	67,595,422	39,122,501
1892	113,576,594	49,610,070
1893	148,018,871	63,600,661
1894	185,597,497	67,543,866
1895	289,102,424	79,654,187
1896	417,425,507	138,409,333
1897	552,890,211	160,967,475
1898	790,247,455	225,980,828
1899	1,090,767,793	334,608,662

The extraordinary development shown in Tokyo's case—a multiplication by 50 in 10 years—must not be taken as a conclusive indication of business growth. The amount has been largely swelled by speculative dealings in bank shares, which do not represent genuine transactions. Some critics are disposed to regard Osaka's progress as more substantial, but to whatever extent Tokyo's figures may be discounted, they are certainly remarkable.

YOKOHAMA ST. ANDREW'S AND ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETIES.

Contributions received in aid of the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund for British Soldiers' Widows and Orphans.

	Yen.
W. W. Till	250
C. Guinness	100
Chas. W. Ure	100
F. S. Mayer	10
E. Wheeler	50
John W. Hall	50
J. C. C.	2
H. C. Pigott	50
H. A. F. Penny	25
D. Jackson	100
J. R. Parsons	50
G. F. Gordo	5
G. G. B.	25
A. J. S. L.	5
S. Luther	5
George Philip	25
R. A. Wylie	250
D.	100
F. A. de Jesus	5
Ah Tai	50
Yock Sang	5
T. Silva	2
G. T. Poole	10
E. Beart	50
James Stewart	25
Soon Wo Chan	20
Kwong Man Tye	20
Wing Cheong	20
Tung Tong Tye	20
Wing Chong Wo	20
Cheat Yue	20
Kwong Sun Wo	20
Tai Tuck Tong	20
Sun Nam Shang	20
Wa Sung	15
Meng On	10
C. H. M. M. / J. M.	100
A. B. Walford	50
L. Pollard	50
Capt. Young	24
C. V. Sale	100
A. J. Easton	50
Proceeds of Concert	1,514 60
	Yen 3,443 60

Telegraphic Remittance of £300 at 2/0¾—Yen 2,953 84.

Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, and the Honorary Secretaries of the Societies:—Mr. H. J. Sharp, No. 60, Mr. H. A. Stewart, No. 6.

Yokohama, 26th January, 1900.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"SATSUMA BIWA."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I should like, if you can allow me the space, to give a few words of explanation to your readers in regard to the use of the *Satsuma Biwa* in our concerts at the Central Tabernacle.

About two years ago, at one of our concerts, there was such an unseemly disturbance on the part of the student portion of the audience, owing to the *Satsuma Biwa*, that in a letter to the *Mail* I afterwards stated that, so long as I remained connected with the Tabernacle and could prevent it, I should not allow the *Satsuma Biwa* in a concert. The confusion into which the audience was thrown and the rudeness displayed even towards other performers on account of the *Satsuma Biwa* man, made me thoroughly disgusted with myself for ever having permitted such a number on the programme. In preparing for the next concert, when the question was raised by some of my Japanese associates of having the *Satsuma Biwa*, I at once most vigorously protested. The conversation which ensued convinced me that the trouble before had been due to the special circumstances connected with the case rather than to anything inherently objectionable in the *Satsuma Biwa* itself,—and chiefly to the extremely late arrival of the performer, which not unnaturally made the students impatient, and was the occasion of their rudeness. After much discussion and very careful inquiries, I yielded and decided to give it one more trial. I secured the most famous player in the capital, Mr. Kokichi Nishi,—a man who is engaged by the Imperial Household and frequently plays before His Majesty the Emperor. The experiment convinced me fully that my first resolution was based upon a misconception, and that it is not without good reason that this kind of music is *so popular in Japan*, especially among young men. I do not speak at all as a specialist in Japanese music, but I am persuaded in my own mind that, though all music may be and has been prostituted to base uses, the *Satsuma Biwa* deserves to take rank with the *Sankyoku, Shingaku, Nagauta, Shakuhachi*, &c., if not from the strictly technical musical standpoint, at least from the point of view of the elevating and inspiring influence exerted upon the hearers, at all events when handled by such a master as Mr. Nishi. Most Japanese music seems to be of that weird type which appeals chiefly to the pensive and melancholy mood, usually associated with the ascetic life; whereas the *Satsuma Biwa* seems rather to minister to those emotions which find expression in active deeds of devotion to country and ruler. The subject of the song is almost invariably related to some scene in Japanese history which throbs with noble heroism. Fostering, therefore, as it does the spirit of patriotism and loyalty, for which, in spite of its extravagances, the Japanese is surpassed by few nations of history, it is not to be wondered at that young men in this country are stirred by the *Satsuma Biwa* as by no other purely Japanese music.

The feelings to which it gives rise, however, being so different from those awakened by other Japanese music, with which it can hardly coalesce, I think it should have a separate place on the programme, either at the beginning or end.

In our concert on the 20th inst., which was one of the best we have ever had in the Tabernacle, we again had Mr. Nishi, and I was more than ever convinced that my antagonism to the *Biwa* was not justified.

Some good people object to the holding of concerts in churches as they are dedicated to the worship of God. My own feeling is that the Church has greatly erred in the past in failing to attend to the social and intellectual sides of human life. Better that men and women, especially the young, should have entertainment provided that will be refining and uplifting than that they should be left to seek it in ways and places that may lead to evil and often are positively injurious to good morals. For this reason I feel it to be my duty to have the Church provide means of aesthetic as well as spiritual culture for the people in the best way that the circumstances will permit.

Thanking you for your kindly mention of the Tabernacle work.

I am, yours sincerely,

H. H. COATES.

Hongo, Tokyo, Jan. 26th, 1900.

A BICYCLE RIDE.

[Written for the "Japan Mail" by R. B. Peery.]

It is Saturday afternoon, and the long, hard week's work is done. Now for the bicycle, and a brisk spin into the country. The crowded, dirty city which hems us in will be left behind, and for the time forgotten, as we refresh ourselves with the sweet breath of the fields and the pure air of the mountains. Instead of the endless rattle of wheels and clatter of clogs that have irritated us all the week, we shall hear the singing of birds, the low murmur of brooks, and the wild roar of the mountain cataract. Three cheers for the country, and for the wheel that brings its joys within our reach!

Feeling like school boys when lessons are done, we hurriedly mount our wheels and speed away. Although we must pass over two miles of road before leaving the city limits, we fly so fast that we will have to keep our eyes open to see one half of the strange sights about us.

It is a holiday, and the people are dressed in gay holiday attire. Look at that little girl in her gorgeous red robes, with her head cleanly shaven, and only a little tuft of hair in the crown remaining. What an opportunity for a man with a kodak! The national flag is waving from an upper window, or from the roof, of every house; and the bright red suns look very pretty in their setting of spotless white. We spin along rapidly under the perfect canopy of flags, and our hearts catch some of the gaiety and mirth overflowing all around us.

The little dogs, not very used to men on wheels, break out after us from every house; and we soon have a whole pack chasing us. Here is one big old mastiff intentionally sent after us by his master, that is braver than the rest. He runs boldly up at the side and makes as though he would take hold of my foot. Slowly a minute, and I'll give him a surprise. There! One good hard kick on the jaw, from whence he knows not, has sent him tumbling over the roadside, and I think he will be more careful about chasing a cyclist next time.

Suddenly we dart out from between the long, dirty rows of houses, and are in the glorious country. How sweet and fresh the air feels? What delicious odours are wafted on the evening zephyrs from fields of ripening grain! And what a fine view before us! To the right and left, as far as the eye can see, stretch fertile plains, bearing all manner of fruits and flowers, and dotted here and there by drowsy-looking little farming villages. There, in the west, ten miles away rises a magnificent range of mountains, making a fine background to the scene. A little village at the foot of those mountains is our destination.

As we fly along over the smooth roads, notice the large rice fields on either side. Some of the rice is ripe for the harvest, and little half-dressed men and women are reaping it with short sickles. Some that was planted earlier has already been reaped, and is piled in heaps over the fields as American farmers pile wheat or oats. Some of the later rice is still green; and the evening winds are chasing each other across it. There to our left is a little brown man, with feet and legs bare, plowing a field for wheat. His small wooden plow is drawn by only one horse, but it turns up the soft soil well.

Here to the right are long rows of small mulberry trees, which furnish food for the silk worms. Between these are rows of large coarse radishes, that form a prominent part of the diet of the people. Now we pass several tall trees by the roadside, laden with nice yellow fruit about the size of apples. They are the delicious Japanese persimmons, and we will have some of them when we reach Kawakami.

See that orange grove just beyond us, filled with large green oranges that will ripen when the persimmons begin to get scarce. Now we spin past a large tea field. The bushes are planted in rows, and are cultivated like corn. They closely resemble the box plant frequently seen on American lawns. Although they are covered with green leaves, the season for gathering them is now past, and these are useless.

Here we run into a small village. Look out that you do not run over some of these little naked children that swarm the streets! As soon as they hear the loud clang of our bells the jump to one side and cry out "Hairy foreigners"! "barbarian"! and at these magic words the whole village at once turns out to see the wonderful sight. The swift motion of our wheels possesses an irresistible attraction for the children, and they run after us as hard as they can, yelling at the top of their voices—just as we sometimes see little dogs chase a passing train. But we soon leave our tormentors behind and are in the country again.

Look carefully as we pass at this strange sight coming in front of us. It is a farmer bringing his produce to market. He has a little two-wheeled cart heavily loaded with vegetables; he himself is between the shafts, his son is in front pulling by a rope, whi'e his wife pushes behind. How harmoniously this family *works* together!

Here comes a strange little conveyance, the *jinrikisha*. It is a small cart, with a folding top like a buggy. This one is occupied by a big fat Japanese who sleeps as he goes along, and whose head swings gracefully from side to side with the motion of the vehicle. A wiry looking little manbetween the shafts furnishes the locom otive power, trotting along easily at a rate of five or six miles an hour. He had great respect for our wheels, and gives us a wide berth.

What splendid roads we have! Level, smooth and straight. The one we are now flying over is slightly elevated, and is lined on both side by rows of tall cedar trees, making a lovely shaded avenue delightful to see.

Now look out for a crash! Here comes a *jinrikisha* man from the mountains, drawing his cart at a rapid rate with a dignified old Japanese snoozing in it. He has evidently never seen a bicycle before, for the sight of ours has turned his head. I cling to my own side of the road, and ring the bell loudly but to no purpose. Staring with wide open eyes, and looking frightened as a wild deer, he runs straight for me. Fortunately I stop my wheel in time to prevent the collision; but the stupid man in his fright has run too near the edge of the road; one wheel goes over the bank, and the graceful little cart is upset, letting its sleepy occupant roll to the foot of the decline in a very undignified way. After helping the coolie get his *jinrikisha* back into the road, and exhorting him to keep to his own side hereafter, we are gone again.

The range of mountains, at first blue and hazy in the distance, gradually draws near; and very soon we whirl into a straggling village at its base. The village itself is not pretty, but the scenery around it is grand. A strong, wild, mountain steam has gradually worn a passage for itself, and it dashes proudly along as though boasting of its victory over the granite hills. Huge boulders lie in its bed, and churn its waters into foam. On either side rise abruptly the beautiful hills, covered with evergreen trees. Over to the left, barely visible above the tops of the pines, is a large Buddhist temple, and its massive bell is just sending forth in solemn tones the vesper peal.

We are especially interested in a large, peculiar arrangement down in the river. It is a fish-trap, erected at a cost of three hundred dollars. It is extends clear across the river, and is made in the shape of a V, with the point down

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stream. The water flows to the centre, and there falls over a dam on to a large sieve of bamboo poles. At this season the mountain trout come down the river, pass over this dam, and are left lying on the sieve at the bottom. While we are looking dozens of fine red fellows are carried down; they flounder around bravely for a-while, and are then beaten by the falling water out on to the poles, where they are picked up. What a pity to catch them wholesale in this fashion when they might afford such fine angling!

While we are watching the fish another interesting sight approaches from up the river. A man is bringing down a raft of bamboo poles to be sold in our good city of Saga. He glides gently along in the still waters of the dam until he reaches the obstruction; then opening a little floodgate he lets his raft fall over with the current. Closing the gate in an instant, he is on his raft again, gliding swiftly down stream. How fearlessly he goes over the boulders and down the rapids! His frail raft is beaten and tossed about like a feather, but he never loses control of it. We watch him admiringly until he is lost to sight by tumbling over a cataract; and then we again turn our attention to the fishtrap.

A gray-headed man, one of the old regime, representing a civilisation now rapidly passing away, offers to sell us some trout; and after a little bargaining some of the sparkling beauties are purchassd for a few cents. Wrapping them in evergreen we tie them securely to the handlebars of our wheels, and give them no further attention until we reach home.

The Buddhist temple in Kawakami is a large one and is famous throughout this section. We went across the river to see it, pushing our wheels along with us. It stands on a hill, behind a large pine grove. A flight of stone steps leads up to it by easy stages, and there is a rare old stone wall at the side, covered with pretty climbing ivy. On top of the hill is a large level space, and the temple stands in the centre.

Hundreds of stone idols are ranged in rows under the trees, each with a money-box to receive gifts. Some exceptionally costly idols are in nice little houses, built expressly for them. Behind the temples are many more idols, cut in niches in the sides of the cliff. Although there are hundreds of these stone images, the features of no two of them are alike. The sculptor has laboured hard to give to each his individual expression.

In front of the temple, under a separate roof, hangs the great bronze bell, almost as large as Liberty Bell. A piece of timber as long as a man's body and about as thick is suspended horizontally by two ropes, the end being just a few inches from the bell. When the priests ring the bell, all that it is necessary to do is to pull this timber back and let it swing, and a noise will result like rumbling thunder.

The entrance to the temple is extravagantly ornamented with wood carvings, in the shape of lions, dragons, and other hideous beasts. The aim of Buddhism, in her imagery, seems to be to terrify the superstitious beholder.

The temple doors stand wide open and we can see inside. A rope is suspended from a beam, in front of the entrance, and in this rope a knot in tied just opposite a little flat bell. When worshippers come to pray they jerk this rope a few times, and the knot striking on the bell attracts the attention of the gods Inside the temple is a box to receive the contributions of the worshippers, not one of whom comes without his copper. At the back of the room is the large altar, with its images, candles, and flowers—not unlike a Roman Catholic altar.

While we are looking here an old woman comes to pray. She first strikes the bell to call the attention of the gods; then she casts her copper into the box, and kneels before it. Clapping her hands all the while, she bows her head and mutters a sentence of prayer, repeating it over and over. Afterwards she gets up, goes in to the altar and kneels and prays again very devoutly—frequently looking up at us with curiosity, in the midst of her prayers.

From this temple we had a fine view of the Saga plain, dotted with sleepy little villages and fertile farms. Far away through the mist could be seen the quiet waters of Shimabara bay, at the farther limit of the plain. The evening shadows gradually lengthening remind us that it is time to return; so we descend from the temple, recross the river, and at once begin the homeward journey.

There is always a breeze from the mountains, and as it is now at our backs we fly along at lightning speed—literally borne by the winds. In an incredibly short time we are again in Saga, and at our own door.

While we make our toilets the trout are cooked and supper is spread; and then we sit down to a delicious evening meal, feeling in good humour with ourselves and all the earth.

How much brighter and better the world looks when seen from a bicycle saddle!

UNION CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Union Church was held on Monday evening, at Van Schaick Hall, 178, Bluff. The Rev. E. S. Booth, Hon. Pastor, took the chair, and called on Mr. Isaac Bunting to offer prayer. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. I. C. B. Cambier-Holland was called to act as Secretary *pro tem.*

THE PASTOR'S REPORT.

Brethren and Sisters and Members of the Congregation of the Union Church in Yokohama in annual meeting assembled.

Dearly Beloved:—I have the pleasure to present to you my report as Hon. Pastor of the Union Church. It has been an esteemed privilege to serve you in this capacity for the year now closing, and, through the kindness of local missionary brethren and brethren from Tokyo, the regular services of the church have been maintained. The fruits of these services, for the most part, remain to be revealed at the last day.

In looking over the Church roll, I find the following facts, which may not be without interest, viz:—

The total number of names on the roll, not including missionary members, is eighty, of whom nineteen are absent from town, six do not attend or have intimated their intention to attend church elsewhere, and fifteen are Chinese, leaving an active membership of sixty-five, including the Chinese, or eighty-one counting the sixteen missionaries.

Five members have been granted letters of dismissal, one of whom was a Chinese brother. Three have removed without letters.

One, Mrs. Louisa H. Pierson, passed into her rest on Nov. 28th, 1899. She was one of the first to be enrolled in the membership of the Union Church, and was a faithful and devoted servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Her loss is deeply mourned by all who knew her devoted spirit.

Nine members have been received into the church, seven upon profession of their faith in Christ Jesus, of whom four were Chinese. Two have been received by letter.

The removal from the community on account of ill-health of Messrs. Wilkin and Rose with their families has been a sad visitation of providence. We sincerely pray that the church's loss may be their physical and spiritual gain.

Among the changes that have taken place may be noted the following:—

1. Miss M. M. Kuhns was chosen to take the superintendency of the Sunday School, left vacant on the removal from town of Mr. A. J. Wilkin, who had for so many years faithfully and efficiently held this important office. The present condition of the Sunday School shows that no mistake was made in calling Miss Kuhns to that post.

2. The time of the Sunday evening services was changed from eight o'clock to six. The attendance has improved.

3. A few changes have been made in the order of morning service. The difficulty in obtaining and maintaining a full choir is perhaps the chief hindrance to reaping the full benefit of these changes. We can, I trust, hope for better things, in this respect, in the future.

4. A call was sent out early in November to the ladies of the church and congregation, to which a cheerful response was made, and the result was the formation of the "Union Church Ladies' Auxiliary"—an organization which fills a long-felt want in the church, where it has practically a virgin soil in which to expend its efforts. It is already making its presence felt among us through its several sub-committees. I have great pleasure is recommending it to the sympathy and earnest co-öperation of all ladies of the church and community who feel any interest in, and a desire to promote, the cause of Christ among us.

5. Our places of worship have been thoroughly cleaned and done over outside and in, and I feel sure the neat and cheerful aspect which the church has recently assumed will call forth a hearty expression of appreciation from this meeting.

These are some of the changes by way of growth and improvement that have taken place during the past year, which I have thought it worth while to notice in this report.

But if we as a church are to grow and improve there are other changes, and perhaps greater ones, that should be forthcoming in the near future.

The first is to secure a Pastor, whom God would choose for you. He whom you will have presented to you to night would have you make no mistake. He has been for many years a neighbour and fellow worshipper with you. His figure is well known among you. He has not even the advantage of that charm which attaches itself to something new; would not a stranger serve you better? At least, might not a stranger draw the people within hearing shot of his preaching? He whom you will be called upon to choose to-night possesses no novelty. Do not, therefore, make a mistake. If you think novelty is the important quality in the man you would make your pastor, then you must decline to call him.

He is no longer young as he was twenty years ago. If you are looking for a young man, then he is not the one you seek.

He has had no experience in the work of the Pastorate. If you are seeking a man of experience, then he is not the man you seek.

He feels a deep and abiding sense of his unfitness, absolute unworthiness to undertake the duties of the holy office, which has been tendered him by the Consistory and which he has accepted, subject of course, to your approval, simply because he has thought that he must. If any of you have any hesitancy concerning the points above enumerated or any other not enumerated, hesitate no longer, but candidly refuse to place a man in a position where you will afterwards regret to see him.

The only recommendation he can make of himself is that he is a sinner, who is simply trusting day by day that he may be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and he longs to have others know the joy of this salvation.

But supposing this defect is remedied and a pastor is secured. Another change must be wrought in the body of the church itself. If you will bear with me I would notice in the second place that a new and deeper spiritual life is necessary. There is organization enough, but the organism is inert. It floats with the tide, it gravitates, and all bodies controlled by gravity seek rest on some lower plane. The eldership needs to be more alive to the spiritual necessities of the church. The trustees should have other interests at heart than the mere exchequer. There are "Treasures in Heaven" to be held in trust against the day when they shall be revealed!

Were the individual members of the church more deeply alive, we would hear less of the Union Church being a church for any particular circle, calling, or nationality; where the life of Christ shines forth, there will the body of Christ be discernible.

Third.—The third change to be heartily recommended is a faithful attendance by all the members upon the regular services of the church upon the Lord's day. A heart to attend

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and inability to attend are not, I know, incompatible. But usually, where there is a will, there is a way, to prevent either business, or pleasure, or leisure from keeping us away from our Father's House.

Fourth.—As a physical body cannot long survive without breath, so Christ's spiritual body cannot long survive without prayer, and I sincerely hope this meeting will take into consideration the necessity of establishing a week-day church-prayer meeting, and that all the members will try to attend, even at the cost of some inconvenience.

Fifth.—Let me recommend that a year book, or manual, setting forth the characteristic features of the U. C., be prepared for the use of the officers and members of the church. If this recommendation meets your approval a committee might be appointed with power to prepare and publish such a book.

I fear I would over-tax your patience were I to continue this list of necessary and, therefore, possible changes which may be made in our church life. I will, therefore, desist. I wish in concluding this report to express my appreciation and hearty thanks to the Officers of the church for their aid, and considerateness in overlooking my many mistakes and shortcomings. I wish particularly to tender my best thanks to Rev. A. A. Bennett, Chairman of the Prayer-meeting Committee, who with great pains and efficiency has arranged for the Sunday evening services; also to Mr. Southall, the organist; to Mr. Griffin, the choir leader; and Messrs. Bunting and Fitzgerald, the Ushers, for their faithful endeavours in their several places to make the services orderly and helpful.

With these remarks I now tender to you my resignation as Hon. Pastor.

Very respectfully submitted,

EUGENE S. BOOTH,
Hon. Pastor.

Yokohama, January 29, 1900.

The report by the Board of Elders was read by Rev. H. Loomis:—

"As we look over the past year it is very evident that the Union Church has filled a place in this Community, and its need and importance was never more certain than now. Owing to the unsettled state of the pastorate and the removals that have taken place there has not been that growth and power that is desirable in a Community like this. But we have great reason to-night to be thankful for the blessings that we have received. I think that all of us feel that we owe much more than we can express to Rev. Mr. Booth for his faithful and earnest efforts to promote the interests of this organization. No one that has attended our services can fail to realize that our present condition and future prospects are due in a large measure to his untiring efforts. We feel very thankful that we begin the New Year with the prospect of a pastor whom we all know and esteem for his work's sake, and we sincerely believe that God has yet great blessings in store for the Union Church of Yokohama.

In a place like this we cannot ignore the spiritual condition of those around us. As God gives us the wisdom and strength for the work let us go forward trusting in him who is able to use even such unworthy mortals as we are in the building up of a spiritual temple that shall last for ever."

The Treasurer's report was rendered by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. MacArthur, and showed a total of receipts of 3,000 and odd *yen*, and of expenditures 1,100 *yen*, leaving a balance of upwards of *yen* 2,000. Of this, about *yen* 400 was to go to the Church building fund.

The Sunday School Superintendent's report was rendered by Miss M. M. Kuhns.

The report of the Steward for the Poor Fund was rendered by Mr. I. Bunting and the balance handed over to the Treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

The election of pastor and officers for the year 1900 followed, resulting in the choice of the following persons. For Pastor, the Rev. E. S. Booth. This vote was unanimous, the total number of votes cast being in his favour. For elders—Mr. Isaac Bunting, Revs. H. Loomis, J. H. Ballagh, G. F. Draper, and Mr. J. C. B Cambier-Holland.

For Trustees—Messrs. Geo. Booth, C. F. Sale, L. Pollard, H. MacArthur, Wm. Fisher, and T. Southall.

For Deacons—Messrs. Walter Page and Francis Staniland.

For Deaconesses—Mrs. H. Loomis and Mrs. G. W. Colton.

For S.S. Superintendent—Miss M. M. Kuhns.

For Organist—Mr. T. Southall.

The Ladies' Auxiliary was recognized as a part of the Church's working forces, and the amount on deposit in the Hon. Treasurer's hands, viz: 395 05 *yen*, for church building purposes, was to be turned over to the Treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary Church-Building Committee.

The Prayer Meeting Committee, with the Rev. A. A. Bennett as Chairman, was continued, with the name of Mr. F. Staniland added.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Southall for his valuable services at the organ in church and at Sabbath evening services. Also to Mr. Clarence Griffin for his valuable services rendered as leader of the choir in the church and in the Sunday School, and as Librarian for the latter.

The meeting was brought to a close by a prayer, and the benediction pronounced by the Pastor Elect, Rev. E. S. Booth.

CHRIST CHURCH.

The annual meeting of members and seatholders of Christ Church was held on Monday evening at No. 14, Bund. Mr. F. Mitchell presided, and there were also present the Rev. E. C. Irwine, Messrs. J. F. Lowder, E. Flint Kilby, E. J. Moss, H. J. Sharp, J. C. Nicholson (Hon. Treasurer) and K. Wilson (Hon. Secretary).

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, made the following remarks:—

The accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1899, are published for the information of seatholders and contributors to the funds of Christ Church.

There is a small debit balance of yen 6.18, but this has since been converted into a credit balance of yen 33 82 by the payment of yen 40 that was outstanding when the accounts were audited.

I am pleased to say that, although it is impossible to provide special seats under existing conditions, the Community show their interest in the maintenance of the Church by the payment of pew rents, the sum collected being slightly in excess of last year.

Another point of interest is that the offertories show a considerable improvement upon 1898, which is an indication that services on the Bluff are better attended than were those in the Settlement.

Although we have been fortunate enough to close the year with a balance in hand, it is due to the proceeds of a Ball and Children's Party last Jan., which produced 1034.34 yen, and the Committee again desire to express their thanks to the ladies who assisted in promoting the entertainment, as well as those who so liberally subscribed to it. We have the promise of a similar entertainment this year and hope it will be equally successful.

The Committee also desire to record their thanks and appreciation of the services rendered during the year by the Hon. Organist, Mr. Karl E. Vincent, under whose able conductorship the evening Choir has become most efficient.

It having been decided at a meeting of seatholders to build a Church on the Bluff, a very suitable site was acquired and the foundation stone of the new building was laid by Mrs. James Walter on the 18th of November, 1899. Work on the edifice is progressing, and the Architect hopes that the Church will be ready for use next December. The Building Committee desire to record their thanks to Mr. Conder, who is giving his services free of charge.

I will ask the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Nicholson, to give us a statement of the building accounts. The subscription list has been liberally responded to, but as we require more money to complete the edifice and put it in order for public worship, I hope that our friends and supporters will continue to contribute in order that the Church may be opened free of debt.

We regret the temporary absence of Mr. Jas. Walter, the late Chairman, who has taken both an active and substantial interest in the work of the Church and the new Building.

The following statistics have been furnished by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., Incumbent.

During the year 239 services were held by the Incumbent, including 53 Administrations of Holy Communion, with 471 Communicants, 11 Marriages, 17 Baptisms, and 8 Burials.

The last service held in the old building of Christ Church, which was erected in 1862, was the marriage of Miss May Wheeler to Mr. G. C. Murray on April 19, Mr. J. T. Griffin presiding at the organ with his usual ability.

On the 9th of April seven candidates were confirmed by the Rt. Revd. Bishop Awdry in the Public Hall, the offertory, amounting to yen 26.15, being given to the S. P. G. Mission.

At the evening services of March 19 and Oct. 29 some five Cantatas were rendered by the Choir under the able direction of Mr. Karl Vincent. The offertories of yen 28 25 and yen 32.63 respectively were given to the Choir funds.

The offertories of December 10th, amounting to yen 40.12, were handed to the Rev. W. T. Austen, Chaplain of the Missions to Seamen, in aid of the mission, in acknowledgment of his kindness in allowing us the use of the consecrated Chapel of the Mission for Holy Communion, Baptisms, Marriages, &c.

The Offertory for the Poor collected on 10 Sundays mornings came to yen 140.69, which was expended by the Incumbent.

The Offertories at the children's services held on Sunday afternoons, at which Miss Burdett Leach presides at the organ, amounted to yen 65.61, of which yen 45 47 was sent to Dr. Barnardo's Homes for Waifs & Strays, and yen 20 04 was given to the funds for the New Church. The Rev. Mr. Irwine wishes to express his thanks to the Rt. Rev. Bishop McKim for kindly providing for three services for him on Sept. 17, when he was in the country.

The retiring Committee hope that those who are in any way associated with the Church will continue to interest themselves in its maintenance.

THE HONORARY TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TRUSTEES, CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.

1899. Dr.		Yen.
To Pew Rents collected ...	...3,250.00	
„ Offertories	...1,408.47	
„ Proceeds of Ball and Children's Party on 6 & 7 January, 1899...	...1,034 34	
„ Returned Insurance Premia	59 98	
„ Sale of sundry stoves, lamps, &c.	12 50	
„ Interest on current account with H. & S. Bank... ...	76 85	
„ Balance to debit carried forward to 1900	6.18	5,848 32
		5,848 32

Dec. 31, 1899.
To Dependency at credit (uncollected Pew Rent ... ... Yen 40
Dec. 31, 1899. (Since paid in)

Balance to credit with H. & S. Bank	Yen. 159 43
Cash in hands of Hon. Treasurer	49 39
	208 82
Cheques drawn in January, 1900, for account of 1899... ...	2.15
Balance to debit, as above ...	Yen 6.18

1899: Cr.	Yen.
By Debit balance from 1898 ...	236.53
„ Incumbent's stipend ...	...3.300 00
„ Organist's salary	500.00
„ Hire of Public Hall	580.00
„ Ground Rent	179 87
„ Fire Insurance	173 71
„ Momban's wages and sundry labour	198.73
„ Psalters and Hymn books ...	111.80
„ Printing, advert., & stationery	67 35
„ Architect's fee (Report on old Building)...	50.00
„ Sacramental Wine...	26.00
„ Flowers and decorations ...	19.50
„ Collectors' fee...	15.00
„ Fuel, gas, &c....	25 40
„ Repair of Parsonage	60.00
„ Hire of room in Keil's Build.	5.00
„ Disbursement of Special Offertories...	333 43
	5,848.32

KENNETH WILSON.
Hon. Treasurer.

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I have examined the accounts, compared them with the vouchers, and find them correct.

(Signed.) J. H. DINSDALE.

Yokohama, January 11th, 1900.

CHRIST CHURCH REBUILDING FUND: STATEMENT OF "WORKING ACCOUNT" FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ACCOUNT TO 20TH JAN., 1900.

RECEIPTS.		Yen.
Subscriptions received		21,544 21
Interest on Current account with Hongkong Bank to 31 December, 1899 ...		1,631.67
Sale of 2 Bungalows on new lot	1,850 00	
Rent of 1 Bungalow on new lot for 1 month	40.00	
Received from Trustees of Christ Church, being Cash difference on sale of old Church lot and purchase of new...	14,941.07	
Sale of material in old Church	830.00	
Insurance premium returned on cancelling policies on new lot	14.12	17,675.19
Total receipts to Jan. 20th, 1900		40,851.07

DISBURSEMENT.	Yen.
Paid to Mr. Conder on account of New Church and Parsonage to date... ...	11,000 00
Printing and advertising	115 54
Brokerages and Fees	127.00
Paid Dr. Mecre for cancelling lease of Bungalow on new lot	625.00
Rent of temporary parsonage for 8 months to Jan. 14th, 1900, at 90 ...	720 00
Hire of Organ for Services in Public Hall for 7 months to Dec. 31st, 1899..	56.00
Consular Fees & ground Rent to May 31st, 1900	88 64
Sundries (including cost of removing Organ and other Church and Parsonage furniture)	246.78
Total disbursements to Jan. 20th, 1900.	12,978.96
Balance (being the amount to Credit of the Fund in Hongkong Bank)	27,872.11
	40,851.07

J. C. NICHOLSON, Hon. Treasuter.

Yokohama, January 20 h, 1900.

CHRIST CHURCH REBUILDING FUND: GENERAL BALANCE SHEET ON 20TH JANUARY, 1900.

ASSETS	Yen.
Total Subscriptions promised as per List, of which Yen 21,544.21 has been collected...	23,139.21
Interest to December 31st, 1899	1,631.67
Cash difference on purchase and sale of property...	17,675.19
	42,446.07
Deficiency...	5.508 93
	47.955.00

LIABILITIES.	Yen.
Moving and Rebuilding Parsonage (estimated)	5,500.00
Rent of Temporary Parsonage for 12 months	1,080 00
Paid Dr Mecre for Cancelling lease of Bungalow on new lot...	625 00
Printing and Sundries (estimated) ...	750.00
Building New Church (estimated) ...	40,000.00
	47.955 00

There is thus an actual deficiency of yen 5,500, but the Committee consider that yen 4,500 ought to be estimated as a liability under the heading of "Contingencies"—making a possible deficiency of yen 10,000; it is hoped this will be raised during this and next year.

J. C. NICHOLSON, Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. LOWDER proposed that the accounts be passed.

Mr. FLINT KILBY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MUSIC AT THE MORNING SERVICE.

Mr. NICHOLSON called attention to what he considered the unsatisfactory character of the musical arrangements at the morning service, and a long discussion ensued on the question. Finally, on the motion of Mr. FLINT KILBY, seconded by Mr. NICHOLSON, the following motion was passed:—"That the Committee be requested to consider the question of improving the musical portion of the morning service and also as to the remuneration of the organist at both services."

COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of the Committee. At present it consisted of Messrs. E. Whittal, E. J. Moss, W. K. Wilson, K. Wilson, James Walter, H. J Sharp, and F. W. Mitchell. Messrs. Whittal, James Walter, and W. K. Wilson were not at present in Yokohama.

Some discussion took place as to the advisability of re-electing the absent members.

Mr. LOWDER proposed that the present committee be re-elected, with power to add to their number and fill vacancies by temporary absence.

This was lost, and eventually the election of the following was agreed upon:—Messrs. F. W. Mitchell, K. Wilson, James Walter, H. J. Sharp, Flint Kilby, E. J. Moss, and J. Dodds.

It was understood that the other absentees, on their return, would be invited to rejoin the Committee.

SEATS.

Mr. FLINT KILBY brought forward a suggestion which he wished the Committee would consider and bring before the next meeting of subscribers. It had been the practice for banks and firms to take seats which were not always used. The Church was greatly indebted for this liberality, but it struck him that if a canvass were made of British and American firms for subscriptions instead they would increase the income and be able to let seats at a smaller rent than 20 *yen*. He should like to see a great many seats alloted as subscribers' seats, not reserved to any particular person but for subscribers in general. Since the services had been on the Bluff a great many more people attended, especially at the evening service.

The suggestion was considered an admirable one, and it was decided to give it consideration.

A vote of thanks to Mr. K. Wilson for his services as Hon. Secretary concluded the meeting.

YOKOHAMA ROWING CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club was held on Tuesday evening. Mr. H. C. Litchfield presided over a fairly large attendance of members.

The CHAIRMAN read the annual report and accounts as follows:—

REPORT.

The Committee beg to present to the Members the 28th Annual Report of the Club.

ACCOUNTS.—These show a balance in favour of the Club of yen 84.28, including the Profit on the Bar, which amounts to yen 507.60.

ROWING.—The entries and racing at the Spring and Autumn Regattas show that there has been no falling off in the interest in this sport. In the Spring representatives journeyed to Kobe to take part in the Annual Interport Regatta, but were defeated in 3 out of the 4 events, viz., fours, pairs, and double sculls—the remaining event, the single sculls, falling to Yokohama; in justice, however, to the K.R. & A.C. it should be stated that their representative, Mr. P. Sorhagen, had stroked their fours and pair to victory before going out in this race.

SWIMMING AND AQUATIC SPORTS.—The entries for these were not quite as numerous as usual, but were well contested. On 12th Aug., we sent representatives to Tokyo to compete in the Sumidagawa, against the Suisu ryu Otaha Dai Nippon Yuriji, the result being that the 100 yards and ¼ mile were won by our opponents and the ½ mile by the Y.A.R.C.

BOATS.—These are all in good order; the only addition having been the purchase of a single scull with 2 pairs of sculls from Mr. A. J. S. Lefroy, paid yen 150. This boat being an exceptionally good one, is intended for the use of advanced scullers only. It might be advisable for the new Committee, should funds permit, to obtain some new double sculls of rather more racing build than our present ones. Some new oars and sculls should be ordered from home to keep our stock up.

BATHING BARGE AND LANDING STAGE.—With regard to the Barge the Committee acted upon Mr. Clausen's recommendation in having her fitted with athwartship beams to work on rollers to facilitate the annual beaching and launching—costing yen 225.—With the Landing Stage it was found necessary to expend yen 175, in renewing the outer planking and iron fastenings of the pontoons.

By the kind permission of Dr. Hoskyn, the Barge has been hauled up for the winter on the beach under the British Naval Hospital, under the supervision of Mr. Clausen.

PROPERTY AND HOUSE.—Late in the year the Kencho Authorities approached the Trustees on the subject of the lease of the property—which they wished to be made for a term of 5 years, which has been done and the Club is now assured possession of their property until 30th Nov., 1905. The Authorities (verbally) assured the Trustees that so far as it was possible to speak with any certainty, the Club would have no trouble in renewing their lease for a further period of 5 years, when same expired. The typhoon of 7th Oct. did considerable damage to the main slip, which has been repaired at a cost of Yen 87. The smaller slip was practically all washed away, but the Committee thought it best not to spend any money on replacing it until the early spring.

HOUSE.—A great many necessary improvements have been made during the year. The stone fence was blown down and was replaced by the Custom's Officials by a wooden one. The interior of the upper portion and part of the Verandah were re-painted before the Spring Regatta, the outer stairs were renewed and the flooring of the Band-stand mended. The Roof has been thoroughly overhauled so as to make it as watertight as possible. A canvas awning has been fixed to the upper Verandah. The lighting has been improved and increased, the complicated Jammi burners being discarded. A new bookcase, table and chairs have been acquired for the comfort of the reading members, and four new Magazines permanently added to the literature of the Club, which has been further increased by the purchase of several useful volumes of the Badminton series of works on Sport and by the presentation of some well-known works of fiction by members of the Club. The Sendoes have been rendered more comfortable by the re-matting of their room. A successful Auction of old clothes and papers was held during the year and realised yen 89.81.

H. C. LITCHFIELD. President.
E. LEVEDAG, Hon. Secretary.
G. C. ALLOCK, Hon. Treasurer.
W. GODDARD
H. E. HAYWARD
REV. E. C. IRWINE } Committee.
H. ROSE

THE YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB IN ACCOUNT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER.

1899. Dec. 31. Dr.		Yen.
To Wages Account—		
Wages for 1899		502 00
,, Working Account—		
Sampan hire, extra coolies and sundry petties... ...	282 76	
Head Sendo's Medical expenses and cost of trip to Atami ...	48.95	331.71
,, House Account—		
Fire Insurance (Y. 10,000 House; Y. 500 Furniture; Y. 250 Bar Stock; Y. 250 Barometer; Y. 250 Telescope ...	135.25	
Ground Rent ...	79.17	
Gas and Water (including repairs to lights, etc.) ...	262.03	
Repairs ...	355.50	
Heating, Subscriptions for Sporting Papers, & purchase of sundry furniture and utensils ...	397.74	1,229.69
,, Bathing Barge and Landing Stage Account—		
Fire Insurance, Barge Yen 1,500 ...	18.00	
Fire Insurance, Landing Stage Yen 300 ...	18.00	
Hauling and Repairs...	756.46	774.46
,, Boat Account—		
Fire Insurance (Yen 6,000).	73.50	
New Single Sculls Boat...	150.00	
Painting Fitting and Repairs...	272.96	496.46
,, Regatta and Aquatic Sports Account—		
Bands, Refreshments and Sundries ...		449.57
,, Interport Regatta Account—		
Expenses in connection with visit of crews to Kobe (Shipping Boats, &c.) ...		343 42
,, Printing and Stationery Account ...		251.60
,, Prize Account—		
Spring and Autumn Regattas Swimming Races and Aquatic Sports ...		830.60

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„ Swimming Race Account— Expenses in connection with visit to Tokyo		51.49
„ Balance		84.28
	Yen	5 345.28

OUTSTANDING.

	Yen.
Subscriptions	89.00
Bar Chits	303.46
Stock of Jerseys, &c.	386.02
Stock of Spirits and Wines.	307.15
Yen	1,085.63

CR.

		Yen.
Dec. 31, 1899 By Balance brought forward from 1898		837 44
„ Subscription Account— 2 Active Members 2nd half year 1899	12.00	
195 Active Members 1st half year (1899)	1,170.00	
1 Active Tokyo Member 1st half year (1899).	5.00	
190 Active Members 2nd half year (1899)	1,140.00	
1 Active Tokyo Member 2nd half year (1899)	5.00	
56 Honorary Members 1899	560.00	
46 New Active Members	276.00	
1 Boy Member	5 00	3,173 00
„ Entrance Fees Account— 1 New Member (outstanding from 1898)	10 00	
46 New Members	460 00	470.00
„ Prize Account— Entrance to Races		168.00
„ Auction Account		89 81
„ Interport Regatta Account— Refund on one Return Ticket		5 70
„ Interest Account— Interest paid by H. & S. Banking Corp. on c/a		1 95
„ *Boats Rent* Account— Rent received for Storage of Private Boats (1898)	5 00	
Rent received for Storage of Private Boats (1899)	72.00	77.00
„ Bar Account— Profit (outstanding from 1897)	46	
Profit (outstanding from 1898)	14.32	
Profit	507.60	522.38
		5.343 28

E. & O. E.

GEO. C. ALLCOCK, Hon. Treas.

Compared with the vouchers and found correct.

L. MOTTU, Auditor.

Yokohama, January 18th, 1900.

The reports and accounts were passed, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ONDERDONK.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :—President, Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Captain, Mr. F. J. Hall; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. E. Hayward; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. A. Poole. The following Committee men were also elected : Messrs. A. Rose, W. Goddard, G. C. Allcock, and L. Mottu.

THE YOKOHAMA YACHT CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Yacht Club was held on Friday evening at Keil's Building, Mr. G. H. Scidmore presiding over a good attendance.

ALTERATION OF RULES.

A special meeting was first held to consider the adoption of the following alterations in the rules :—

4.—(Substitute for old rule :)

That the Committee shall consist of a Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Hon. Secretary, and two additional members.

That the racing shall be under the control of a Racing Committe consisting of three members who do not belong to the General Committee.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

(To be inserted on page VIII.)

1.—It shall be the duty of the Commodore to represent the Club and to preside at the meetings of the Club.

2.—It shall be the duty of the Vice-Commodore to represent the Commodore in his absence.

3.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a true record of all club matters and to keep a correct account of the Club funds. In case of temporary absence one of the other Committee men shall act in his stead.

4.—These three Officers with two other members shall form the General Committee. They shall control all Club funds and property of the Club and they shall vote all expenditure. They shall decide all questions brought before them by members or by the Racing Committee; they shall appoint an Official Measurer to measure yachts and to calculate their measurements.

5.—The official Measurer shall make a return of the measurements taken to the Secretary, and one of the members of the Racing Committee shall assist the Measurer if required.

6.—It shall be the duty of the Racing Committee to make arrangements for and to take charge of all Races sailed under the direction of the Club; they shall appoint an Officer of the day to start and time the Yachts.

SAILING RULES.

1.—(Substitute for old rule :)

All Races and all Boats sailing therein shall be under the direction of the Racing Committee or of the Officers of the Day appointed by them; all matters connected therewith shall be subject to the approval and control of the Racing Committee, and all doubts, questions, and disputes which may arise shall be subject to their decision. Their decisions shall be based, etc., etc.

(Transferring in this and subsequent paragraphs the power now vested in the Officer of the Day to the Racing Committee. Appeals against their decisions to be decided by the General Committee).

The CHAIRMAN explained with regard to the first alteration that the reason was that the Club had grown to such an exteut and the races were so numerous that it was absolutely necessary to make some different arrangement from that hitherto prevailing, as it was impossible for one man to control all four races and make all arrangements. The second alteration had been mainly adapted from home rules with a few variations in points of detail. By it the Racing Committee would in future have the whole management of the races in hand and would provide for everything, taking over the duties which had been performed before by the Secretary, who would be left to attend to matters more properly coming within the scope of such an officical. The duties of the Secretary had grown enormously. The Chairman also mentioned that under the New Treaties great respect had to be paid to the Harbour Master, and it was necessary to ask his permission to fire a starting gun at each meeting. A general permit for the whole season could not be obtained, and notice had to be given to the Harbour Office three days beforehand.

The alterations to the rules were carried *en bloc*.

GENERAL MEETING.

The general meeting followed.

The report and accounts, already published, were passed, on the motion of Mr. OWSTON, seconded by Mr. K. KINGDON.

The officials were then elected as follows : Commodore, Mr. Scidmore; Vice-Commodore, Mr. Pors; Secretary, Mr. Rose; Racing Committee, Messrs. Talley, C. F. Averill, and R. Boyes. Messrs. E. M. Laffin and F. J. Hall were elected on the General Committee.

Mr. SCIDMORE, in returning thanks for his election, said that he thanked the members heartily for making him the first Commodore of the Club. Though a comparatively new member, no one had more enthusiasm for yachting than himself, or more interest on the Club. He would endeavour to advance the interests of the Club in every way, and to extend enthusiasm for yachting not only among foreigners but among the Japanese, so that some day they might see an Imperial Yacht Club which the Yokohama Club might be the means of founding—(applause). It would give him great pleasure to contribute a Commodore's Cup for the coming season.—(Applause.)

Mr. PORS also returned thanks for his election, and the meeting afterwards proceeded to an informal discussion of various points of detail.

The following is the annual report of the Yokohama Yacht Club for the 1899 season :—

The Committee have pleasure in reporting that during the season 1899, the thirteenth year of the Club's existence, both racing and cruising has been kept up with the usual interest. Fifty-seven races have been raced, as against sixty-eight in the previous year.

The season has been a remarkable one for light winds on Race Days, the light weather boats easily carrying off the Record, *Maid Marion* taking the championship for the 39 Raters, *Abunai* for the 21 Raters, and *Eclair* for the fourth year in succession that for the 17 Raters. In the 12 Rater One Design Class *Titania* through excellent handling won nearly every race, taking 21 Record Points out of a possible 24.

The only addition to the fleet, besides four 12 Raters, is the *Wettinge*, which takes the second place in her class, whilst on the other hand several boats have left Yokohama waters. The total number of Yokohama Yatchts on the Club Register at the end of the season is thirty-five.

The Club has again been favoured by liberal contributions in prizes by those interested in the sport. The Committee recommend the members to consider a thorough reorganisation of the management of the Club, more especially of the racing, as at present nearly all work is left in the hands of the Hon. Secretary.

F. OWSTON
M. PORS
H. ROSE
} Committee.

EXTRACT FROM THE RECORD FOR 1899.

	Rating.	Races sailed.	1st Prize.	2nd Prize	3rd Prize.	Record Points
May	39	5	2	1	1	7
Haidee	39	11	3	3	—	6
Kingfisher	39	12	2	1	—	4
*Maid Marion**	36½	9	4	4	—	12
Spray	34	15	2	4	—	8
Wanderer	32½	10	2	—	—	—
Daimyo	29½	8	2	3		
Svanhild	29½	6	2	2		
Mosquito	26	6	—	1		
Surprise	26	6	1	—		
Molly Bawn	25	2	1	1		
Bonin	22½	1	—	—		
Yugao	20	7	2	1		4
Vixen	19½	5	2	—		4
*Abunai**	19½	7	3	4		10
Nandeska	19½	8	2	3	1	8
Sodeska	19½	5	—	—	—	—

	Rating.	Races sailed.	1st Prize.	2nd Prize.	3rd Prize.	Record Points.
*Eclair**	17	12	7	4	—	18
Wettinge	17	10	4	3	—	10
Daisy May	17	5	—	2	—	3
Coogee	17	12	1	—	1	2
Oscar	17	6	—	1	—	1
Bonito	16½	10	—	1	—	1
Devonia	16½	11	1	1	—	1
Petrel	16½	2	—	—	—	—
White Rose	16	1	—	—	—	—
Titania	12	11	10	1	—	21
Albion	12	4	2	1	—	5
Dora	12	8	—	3	—	3
Susume	12	3	—	2	—	2
Lorna Doone	12	4	—	1	1	1
Nita (Vera)	12	3	—	1	—	1
Thistle	12	4	—	1	—	1
Waratah (Shamrock)	12	10	—	1	2	1

* Champion Flag.

AVERAGE SPEED OF RECORD PRIZE WINNERS.

Maid Marion, 8 Races 100 miles 4 knots per hour
Abunai 7 „ 52 „ 3¼ „ „ „
Eclair 11 „ 63 „ 3¼ „ „ „

Summary of Races.

39 Raters	sailed	12 Races.
21 „	„	10 „
17 „	„	13 „
12 „	„	12 „
Cruising class	„	7 „
39 & 32 Raters to Uraga		3 „
		57 Races.

RECEIPTS.	Yen.
Annual dues from members	260.00
Entrance fees for Races	354 00
Registration fees for Yachts	136 00
Prizes	481.00
	1,231 00

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DISBURSEMENTS.	Yen.
Prizes	980 00
Flag boat hire	35 85
Ammunition	6 00
Printing and Advertising	146 20
Club Sendoe	34.00
Registration at Lloyds	20.15
Sundries	6.41
Balance Cash in Hand	2.39
	Yen 1.231 00

HERBERT ROSE.

Examined with the vouchers and found correct.

HENRY BOYES.

Yokohama, 10th January, 1900.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Another old resident of Yokohama has passed away in the person of Mr. F. C. Boyes, senior partner of the firm of Boyes and Co., whose death is reported from Berlin.

At 8 30 on the morning of the 27th inst., fire broke out in a farmer's house at Nakano, Makino-mura, Kanagawa. The house was burned to the ground, and four other buildings were partially damaged.

From the *Washington Star*:—Li Hung-chang and the Russians.—"Which side do you favour in this Anglo-Russian rivalry for Asiatic influence?" "Can't tell yet," answered Li Hung-chang, "I haven't opened my morning's mail and noted the remittances."

The Shell Line steamer *Telena* was detained at Nagahama on the 26th, a case of small-pox being discovered on board. The patient, a Chinese, was removed to the quarantine hospital, and the steamer was released on Saturday morning, after thorough disinfection.

On the 27th inst. a policeman in Yokohama saw a coolie carrying a large quantity of tins, and, being suspicious, invited the man to the station to explain. Here the fellow confessed to having extracted the tins from a case belonging to Messrs. Weston & Co in the Customs compound.

Judgment was given on the 27th by Judge Fujise and Assistant Judges Odamura and Morii, in the case of Reimers, a Chinese Eurasian charged with forging the name of Mr. L. Salabelle, and obtaining *yen* 748 70 from the Van Tai Exchange.

At the conclusion of the case Mr. Shiranuma, on behalf of the Van Tai, claimed *yen* 748 70, the amount cashed on the forged cheque. Reimers professed his inability to pay, as he was without funds. Judgment in this case will be given at a later date.

About 12.15 a.m. on the 27th fire broke out in a Japanese grocer's store in Ishiwaka-machi, kept by one Ninomiya Eijiro. It originated in the kitchen, the servant not extinguishing the remains of the fire used in cooking *mochi*. Five houses were completely burnt to the ground and four partially. More serious damage would have been done, but for the prompt arrival of the Kotobuki-cho Police Fire Brigade, and for the amply supply of water in the canal. The fire was got under control by 2 a.m.

The plea of the prisoner's counsel for dismissal on the ground that the prisoner had written the name L. Salabella instead of L. Salabelle to the cheque, and that this did not come under the category of forgery, but obtaining money under false pretences, was overruled. The evidence disclosed a clear case of forgery. The crime came under Articles 209 and 290 of the Criminal Code, and the decision of the Court was that the prisoner be sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment, with hard labour. He was given five days in which to appeal.

Dr. Carl Peters is now more certain than ever that he has discovered the Ophir of King Solomon. It is a district lying between the Zambesi and the Pangwe, and is called Fura, which Dr. Peters declares to be a native corruption of Afur, the Sabæan form of Ophir. The inhabitants are fire-worshippers, look rather like Jews, and possess "ancient ruins of an undoubtedly Semitic type." Dr. Peters is by no means the first person to identify "the Ophir of King Solomon;" it is one of the usual processes which precede the flotation of a gold mine in England.

Regarding the *Energia*, which arrived the other day at Nagasaki from the scene of her accident in the Obri Straits, the *Press* says the cargo, which consisted principally of flour, appeared, with the exception of a small quantity in Hold No. 1, to be in good condition and undamaged. The *Press* adds:—It is not possible at present to form any estimate of the extent of the injury which the vessel herself has sustained. Temporary repairs have been effected and one pump, worked at intervals, is found sufficient to keep down the water. There can be no doubt that had the accident occurred in a less sheltered place, the vessel must have foundered. The cargo which it was found necessary to discharge when the ship struck has been salvaged. It is much less damaged than might have been expected and will probably be brought to Nagasaki and disposed of by auction.

H.B.M. COURT FOR JAPAN.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31.

(Before His Honour Judge WILKINSON.)

THE ENSLIE WILL CASE.

Re the will of the late James Joseph Enslie, of Kobe.

His Honour delivered judgment in this case, in which the acting Trustee (Mr. Brushfield) asked for directions as to the disposal of the moneys left under the trust.

The case had already occupied the attention of the Court for several sittings. The testator had under his will left the residue of his estate, after the bequest of certain legacies which have been paid, to his trustees upon trust for conversion thereof, and directed the payment thereout of 3.000 dollars to his housekeeper Kozawa Tori, which has been paid. He further directed as follows: "The principal sum of six thousand dollars together with interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum due by me to the said Kozawa Tori and confirmed by my note of hand dated the 11th day of January, 1892, shall be paid to the said Kozawa Tori as a debt due by my estate, and I request that my trustee will conform to my wishes expressed in the said note of hand." By the note of hand referred to the testator stated his intention, and the wish of the said Kozawa Tori "that, unless paid sooner, the principal sum with accruing interest having been paid as a debt due by my estate, these moneys shall be dealt with by my trustees in manner similar as moneys under the Trust in my will." The will further provided for the investment of the residue and the payment therefrom of 1500 dollars a year to Kozawa Tori during her life, and also the payment of 250 dollars a year to each of the trustees, the *corpus* of the estate after the death of Kozawa Tori to be paid to the testator's two sisters. The income arising from the residue, however, had proved insufficient to pay the 1500 dollars to Kozawa Tori and the 250 dollars to each of the trustees, and the Trustee accordingly petitioned for direction as to how the trust moneys should be applied.

His Honour, in giving judgment, recited the facts of the case, which are already familiar to our readers, at great length, and discussed the authorities and cases submitted to him by counsel in the course of their arguments. With regard to the 6 000 dollars he said the gift was never made in fact, and the note of hand became a voluntary contract between the testator and Kozawa Tori, which could not be enforced against the executor, as it could not have been enforced against the testator in his life-time, unless it could be construed, as counsel for Kozawa Tori contended it ought to be construed, as a declaration of trust. He (the learned judge) did not consider it necessary to decide whether it ought to be or ought not to be so construed, for in the events which had happened the direction in the will gave to Kozawa Tori the same rights as if it had been a valid declaration of trust, neither more nor less. After discussing the terms of the note of hand referred to above, His Honour proceeded:—

Effect, then, must be given to the words "these moneys shall be dealt with by the Trustee in manner similar as moneys under the Trust in my will," and that, it appears to me, can only be done by treating the moneys as part of the residue. I do not understand counsel for Kozawa Tori to contend that effect ought or could be given to those words in any other way. What effect, then, ought to be given to the words in the note of hand "the principal sum with accruing interest having been paid as a debt due by my estate," and the words in the will" I direct the principal sum of six thousand dollars together with interest. . . . due by me to the said Kozawa Tori and confirmed by my note of hand. . . . . to be paid to the said Kozawa Tori as a debt due by my estate." I am of opinion that in the events which have occurred no effect need be given to them at all. If the money were paid to her by the Trustees she would be bound to hand it back to the Trustees to be dealt with as directed, and the Court will not require a useless form to be observed. Having arrived at this conclusion, it will also be unnecessary to consider the claim for interest. Whatever might be the amount of interest decided as attributable to the principal sum of 6.000 dollars, that amount would follow the principal and sink in the residue, and in the events which have happened therefore it is unnecessary to determine what that amount ought to be. It may be observed that if Kozawa Tori had been prepared to forego the annuity and other benefits given to her under the trust, a question might possibly have arisen whether she could not claim payment of the six thousand dollars and interest, but that question cannot arise now. She claimed the annuity, and has received payment in part, and she cannot take the six thousand dollars and interest absolutely and take also the annuity towards the payment of which the testator directed that money should contribute."

Turning to the second question, that of the bequest of the annuities of 1,500 dollars to Kozawa Tori and 250 dollars to the trustee, His Honour entered into an exhaustive consideration of the arguments adduced and the authorities quoted. The judgment concluded:—

'It therefore seems clear that it (the annuity to Kozawa Tori) became and was intended to become a charge upon the whole estate, and I see no reason why it should cease to be such a charge when the investments were made. I am of opinion, therefore, that it is a charge upon the *corpus*. The annual sum of two hundred and fifty dollars payable to the Trustee is undoubtedly a charge upon the *corpus*. There will therefore be a declaration that all the annuities are a charge upon the *corpus* of the trust funds, and are payable out of income if, and so far as, it is sufficient for the purpose, and if there is a deficiency they are to be paid out of the *corpus*. There will of course under these circumstances be no priority between them. The questions raised on this application were proper questions to have been brought before the Court, and the Trustee will have his costs out of the estate. With regard to the costs of Kozawa Tori, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, I consider it right that her costs also should be paid out of the estate, and they will be paid by the Trustee out of the estate accordingly. I may observe that on the hearing of this application no appearance has been put in on behalf of the residuary legatees, although they have been duly notified, but I am satisfied that all that could be urged on their behalf has been brought to my notice by the counsel for the Trustee and that their interests have not suffered by their not having been directly and specially represented.'

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OUR DRAMATIC VISITORS.

By a Wozzbeits.

I have already favoured you with glimpses of the vast array of native talent which is the boast of Wozzle, of ladies and gentlemen who by day follow useful, if humble occupations, from school teaching up to clerking in our brewery; but who by night, when occasion calls, blossom forth, like the June rose, in warbling, singing, reciting, acting, piano-playing, and even skirt-dancing. But I have not introduced you yet to any of the foreign talent which visits us from time to time: the genuine professional article, by whose lustre the noses of our amateurs are quite out of joint, and made to pale their ineffectual fires. Wozzle, is "on the road." It is a half-way house for the travelling companies on their way from our county town back to the Gaiety bar; and our public hall gives them hospitality for one night, or in cases of crowded houses, or want of railway fares, even for two.

We are, indeed, highly favoured. The profession know that our standard is elevated, so they always bring a piece which has been the one success of the London season. You, my dear reader, will probably remember the great excitement in town over the production of a new piece called "East Lynne," about five years ago; well, we had that piece down in Wozzle the very same year, with the same effects as in London, and the actual blue spectacles used by the erring wife there. Ah, that was a piece. There was a baronet in it. His manners were exquisite, so were his trousers. We lost sight of him in the play for some years, and then he came back to us in manners still more exquisite, and more than all, in the very same pair of trousers as he wore in Act I. The endurance of his love went hand in hand with that of his trousers, and I really did not know which to admire most. I sighed to know his tailor, because I never can make mine last more than two years, even when I pull up the knees, which nephew Samuel has taught me is done in the first circles.

Soon after that we had down another great London success, a Lyceum piece, I was told by the money taker, created by the great Sir Henry and the Fair Ellen; and called "Maria Martin; *or*, The Murder in the Red Barn" I stood that *money-taker a whisky*, I was so glad to see anything upon which Sir Henry had set his seal. Mr. De Beauvoir, who played Sir H's part of blank Corder, Esq., I confess, rather disappointed me. He sank beneath an honour to which he had not been born, as Shakespeare pathetically puts it, and in these depressing circumstances had taken rather too much to drink. The first scene in the cottage made me tremble. He broke two chairs by sitting down on them, brought down the mantelpiece with his hand, and in order to make himself agreeable to Maria, fell flat across the table. But that was nothing to the Red Barn and the horrible Murder. I never saw such a murder before, and hope I never may again. I only wish Mr. Rider Haggei could have ridden down to see it, for never was thirst for blood painted redder. He first went for the poor girl with a chopper. The first blow brought down the side scene, with the chopper sticking in it, and he could not stand sufficiently still to draw it out.

He then up with a gun, which he aimed straight at the pianist in front. No man ever got behind a piano quicker. For the first time in my life I felt thankful for the presence of a piano. Fortunately the gun did not go off; and then he aimed it at the sky, while Maria screamed "Spare me! Spare! me!" At the point he seemed to become aware that Maria was the proper target, as per book, and got within three feet of her head; but still the gun would not go off, and he threw it down with a word I am sure Sir Henry never, never uses. He had apparently now nothing left wherewith to kill Maria; but he was quite equal to the situation. He staggered across to the grandfather's clock in the corner. You may be surprised to hear of this clock in a Red Barn; but the Red Barn was really the same scene as the cottage, and the clock had never been removed. With the clock in his arms he literally fell upon poor Maria and buried her, lying on the top of the clock himself immovable, and the curtain fell. We were all aghast. However, someone came out and explained that the clock was hollow, so that she had escaped a horologic death, and that as Mr. De Beauvoir had been taken suddenly unwell, the rest of the part would be played by Mr. Summers Towne. It was decidedly an original murder, and I think there are points in it for Sir Henry when he plays it again.

But it is not all murder on the Wozzle stage. We have the latest London successes also in the way of comic opera. The last we had was the world-renowned Violet Vestris Vivid Variety Company, with the screaming success, "The Empress of the Emporium." They were well-advertised by killing coloured posters, also by a case of beautiful photos at the door of the hall; but I think they might have stopped there. I consider that Violet made herself too cheap. I think it *infra dig.* for an Empress to go round to all our public-houses and be affable at the bars. Public personages must keep well before the public, I know, but before the public and in the public are not, to a very delicate mind, necessarily the same thing. Besides, even if you are an Empress, you are apt to be a little off colour in the morning; especially if you don't comb your hair. Nevertheless, Violet was superb at night. I had never seen an Empress before. It appears that very little protection is needed from the climate in the Emporium, and there is no reserve whatever. Life there is all champagne, jollity, pink tights, and choruses. When the curtain fell Violet kissed her hand to me. Binks said the kiss was meant for him, but he always was conceited. I felt a momentary thrill; but it passed away and only left me thirsty. I had seen her in the Rising Sun that morning, and felt no glamour. Therefore again I say, if you are an Empress, not too much outside.

I was most sorry for the Great Trillionaire Company we had soon after. They played a real, high toned London success comedy, all dukes and rich people. They played two nights, the last time under great difficulties, which we did not understand at the time, but it leaked out afterwards. It appeared that, in spite of their great possessions, the poor things were very short of ready cash, and after paying for the hall from the takings, had very little left. This little they invested in a large beefsteak pudding, ordered to be ready in the dressing-room after the play, but by mistake it came there at 10. Hunger, alas! destroys all mutual confidence, and the members of the company who were on in the last act did not mean the members who were off to get an uninterrupted run of that pudding. The consequence was that the characters in the piece kept on disappearing without any apparent cause, and reappearing suddenly with their mouths full. Perhaps this really helped to heighten the most pathetic parts, for the gulps came so natural; but mastication don't go well with an avowal of tender love, and assurance of undying devotion. When a young lady whispers the words "I am thine" you may like her to falter, but not audibly to chew, between them.

I hardly dare tell you about the Great Illusion Company that was here a fortnight ago, because the wound is still raw. They played a celebrated piece called "Fowst," written, I understand, by a German named Go It. Anyhow, the company did so. They were dazzling. They brought their own effects, and particularly a large sheet of plate glass, to make ghosts come. We had the full benefit of it. Ghosts were cheap that night. If a character sat down anywhere, up popped a ghost at each elbow, and if they went to cross the road, a ghost stopped his traffic. When the devil was not on the stage in his own person he had to be there as a ghost, and if ever a man earned his money the devil did that night. But even the ghosts did not impress me so much as did Miss May Mignonette, who played Margaret. She was quite young, compared to me, not looking more than 40 or 54. She had the most beautiful and the longest blonde hair I ever saw. Some people might have thought her a trifle stout, and indeed when she fell on her knees to pray for her innocence to be guarded she shook the whole hall. But I do not think she was more than 14 stone, a very nice weight for a defenceless woman. Her sorrows touched me to to the quick. The play passed like a dream. The last I saw of that fair Mignonette she was being raised to heaven. How they got her up I don't know; but she has never come down again to me, and I still envy Mr. Fowst.—*The Globe*

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

Nagasaki, Jan. 26.

Despatches of the 22nd state that Reuter's correspondent, wiring from Ladysmith on the 20th, reports that the enemy have placed new guns in position, and the bombardment is more vigorous, but is ineffective. The British troops at Ladysmith are jubilant at Buller's advance. The sound of his guns is heard, and his shells are seen bursting.

A telegram dated the 23rd says the paucity of Buller's despatches intensifies the anxious interest felt in London. Nothing is allowed to transpire concerning the disposition of the troops or the strength of the different commands.

The Times correspondent at Spearman's Camp wires on the 21st that the first Boer position is a long ridge four miles northwest of Tritchard's drift. The enemy's position is semi-circular and the defences are chiefly sangars.

Shanghai, Jan. 26.

A despatch from Buller dated Spearman's Camp says: "Warren's troops on Tuesday night occupied Spionkop, surprising a small garrison, who fled. The position has been held by our troops all Wednesday, though we have been heavily attacked, especially by shell fire. I fear that the casualties are considerable. I regret to state that General Woodgate is dangerously wounded. Warren's occupation of Spionkop has rendered the enemy's position untenable."

Shanghai, Jan. 27.

The censorship is intensified. The telegrams published by the newspapers are merely echoes of the official news.

MacDonald has assumed command of the Highland Brigade at the Modder River.

The *Standard* has a telegram from Rensberg dated the 23rd which says that French is deliberately and cautiously drawing his lines round the Boers at Colesberg. The enemy, numbering 7,000, are alarmed.

Warren's troops found 200 dead Boers in the first line of trenches captured on the 21st inst.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Ladysmith under date 21st that the besiegers are mounting new guns and that points attacked on the 6th inst. have been greatly strengthened, rendering Ladysmith practically impregnable.

Warren abandoned Spion Kop during the night of the 24th.

Shanghai, Jan. 26.

Barton reports that there were eleven casualties at Chieveley on the 23rd, including Captain De Rougemont of the African Horse killed, and Captain Dulton of the Medical Corps wounded.

Shanghai, Jan., 27.

The casualties on the 25th were 6 officers killed and 12 wounded; 18 men killed and 142 wounded and 31 missing. The officers killed were Colonel Buchanan Riddell and Lieutenants Grant, French, and Brewster of the Third King's Rifles; and Captains Murray and Walter and Lieutenant Osborne of the Cameronians.

Shanghai, Jan. 28.

The *Daily News* understands that the Government will ask immediately for not less than 20 millions on account of the war.

The first portion of the 7th Division has arrived at Capetown.

The Times thinks it probable that still greater demands will have to be made on the nation. It says that the Government will be well advised to call out the rest of the militia, also to expedite the mobilisation of the Eighth Division and to despatch immediately the Fourth Cavalry Brigade.

Shanghai, Jan. 29.

Nothing whatever from Buller.

The embodiment of the militia is proceeding.

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Battalions of the Leicestershires and the Berkshires, and the Clare Artillery have been ordered out.

The *Nord.-Deutsch Zeitung* announces that Count Bulow has received Dr. Leyds, who has come for the celebration of the Emperor's birthday.

Later.

A later telegram from Buller says that having decided that a second attack upon Spion-kop would be useless he withdrew his force to the south of the Tugela.

Shanghai, Jan. 29.

The new Japanese battle-ship *Shikishima* sailed for Japan on Saturday, the 27th instant.

Reuter's agent at Lorenzo Marquez, telegraphing under date of the 26th, says that it is reported on good authority from a Transvaal source that Mafeking was relieved on the 23rd instant.

There is a delay in news from the Cape owing to an interruption in the West-coast cable.

Shanghai, Jan. 30.

The *Neue Freie-Presse* says that diplomatists consider the situation in China serious, and expect negotiations pointing to collective action on the part of the Powers.

The Times says that Roberts must decide whether it is possible or prudent to make further efforts to save Ladysmith.

Later.

Dundonald's Brigade has arrived on the South of the Tugela.

The Times advises the Government to prepare 50,000 troops for early despatch, and to take steps in view of another 50,000 being wanted.

Shanghai, Jan. 31.

The officers killed at Spion Kop in the battle on the 24th instant were as follow:—

Staff Captain Vertue.

LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS.

Captain Stewart and Lieutenants Mallock and Fraser.

MIDDLESEX.

Captain Neuriel and Lieutenants Lawley and Milsom.

LANCASTERS.

Major Ross, Captain Kirk, and Lieutenant Wede.

SCOTTISH BORDERERS.

Lieutenant Woleerstan.

SOUTH LANCASHIRES.

Captain Birch and Lieutenant Raphael.

BORDERERS.

Lieutenant Garvey.

THORNIECROFT'S HORSE.

Captains Petre and Knox-Gore, and Lieutenants Grenfell, Mesham, Macorquodale, and Trevor.

IMPERIAL INFANTRY.

Lieutenants Rudall and Shand.

There were also twenty wounded and six missing.

Later.

Buller's casualties from the 20th to the 26th, exclusive of those at Spion Kop, which are still mainly unreceived, are 23 killed and 298 wounded.

Leyds is going to St. Petersburg.

Parliament has opened. The speech from the Throne refers chiefly to South Africa. The Queen is convinced that Parliament will shrink from no outlay in order to place the defensive preparations on a level with the great responsibilities now devolving on the Empire, and that it will not abate anything of its solicitude on account of the efficiency of the Navy and of the coast defences in view of the fact that several other nations are perfecting their naval preparations.

The Russian Bank has advanced to the Persian Government 22½ million roubles at 5 per cent. interest with which to discharge all existing foreign obligations. Persia undertakes to incur no fresh foreign loan. This practically binds Persia politically and financially to Russia.

Shanghai, Feb. 1.

The Boers report that they encountered the British at Crocodile Pools, and retired, but, being reinforced, repulsed the British. This apparently refers to Colonel Plummer's advance, and thus disposes of the report that Mafeking has been relieved.

In the debate on the Speech from the Throne, Kimberley in the Lords and Bannerman in the Commons agreed as to the necessity of vigorously prosecuting the war in order to vindicate the integrity of the Queen's dominions. They, however, criticized the Government's unpreparedness. The Lords have voted the Address.

The Irish Nationalists have re-united on the basis of party independence, thus severing their alliance with the Liberals.

Later.

The Times has a telegram from Ladysmith dated the 28th January which says they can hold out. The garrison is healthier.

The Boers state that their losses at Spion Kop were 53 killed and 120 wounded.

The Fourth Cavalry Brigade has been ordered to embark immediately.

Press telegrams describe the fight at Spion Kop as bitter and bloody. The summit of the hill was exposed to a terrific cross fire of artillery and musketry from the neighbouring heights which the British endured for the entire day with splendid heroism, losing about 500. The enemy's smokeless powder rendered it impossible to locate their guns, and the Spion Kop heights were inaccessible for artillery. Withdrawal therefore become necessary and was effected in good order unmolested.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, Jan. 26.

Warren occupied Spionkop during the night of Tuesday, and held it throughout Wednesday in spite of sharp attacks by the Boers. His losses were considerable.

Saigon, Jan. 27.

A despatch from General Buller, dated the 25th at noon, expresses regret to have to announce that Warren was forced to abandon Spion Kop during the night.

London is in consternation.

Saigon, Jan. 28.

Warren's losses, as ascertained from the 17th to the 25th inst., are 67 killed, 579 wounded, and 60 missing.

The Consultative Committee of the Colonies has unanimously adopted a proposition completely removing all taxes on coffees of the French Colonies.

Saigon, Jan. 29.

The Senatorial Elections took place on Sunday. Most of the Senators have been re-elected, notably MM. Freycinct and Dupuy. The Nationalist candidates have been beaten or are in *ballotage*, with the exception of General Mercier, who has been returned for Nantes.

General Buller retired to the South of the Tugela on the 25th instant.

Saigon, Jan. 30.

The Senatorial elections have not caused any change in the situation of parties, Four Conservatives have been re-elected. General Mercier, M. M. de Montfort and Gauthier, Nationalists, have been elected. All the rest are Republicans. Among those defeated the notables are M. M. Rauc, Thévenet, Siegfried, and Barodet.

It is reported from Lorenzo Marques that the Boers say that the English had 1,500 killed at Spion Kop on the 24th of January.

Saigon, Jan. 31.

The French Government has submitted to the Chamber projects relating to the defence of the coasts and the colonies, the augmentation of the fleet, and the establishment of a system of sub-marine cables.

Saigon, Feb. 1.

The projects of the French Government require an expenditure of 900 millions of francs, of which 476 millions are for the Navy. They include the completion of the Saigon Arsenal.

A telegram from London says that the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament demands the continuation of the war until victory is secured.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG VOLUNTEER GAZETTE" SPECIALLY WIRED TO THE "JAPAN MAIL".)

Nagasaki, Jan. 29.

A Pretoria despatch, dated the 24th, states that two hundred Boers scouting near Colenso were surrounded, but fought their way back with a loss of four killed and 30 wounded and taken prisoner.

A Boer despatch from Ladysmith says that on the 20th Botha made a strong reconnaisance towards the Drakensburg, turning the British advance after a short engagement.

Boer despatches from the Tugela, dated the 19th, admit that the British infantry captured two rows of kopjes.

The Boers report heavy fighting at Colesberg. They succeeded in holding the positions.

There is nothing from Buller. The Boers claim that they checked his advance, but admit that they suffered heavy losses.

The *Daily Mail* correspondent at Lisbon reports that the Boers have committed a breach of neutrality, crossing Portuguese territory into Rhodesia. Artillery is being sent from Lorenzo Marques, and reinforcements are leaving Lisbon.

The Times correspondent at Lorenzo reports that the bridges on the railway between Natal and the Free State are undermined, and will be destroyed immediately a retreat is necessary.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 457.

WHITE	BLACK.
1—R to R5	1—B to K2
2—Kt to Q6 ch	2—R, Kt or B takes Kt
3—Mate.	

If Black play 1. B to R6, 2. P takes B; and if 1. R to K3, then 2. Kt to B5 ch, etc.

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

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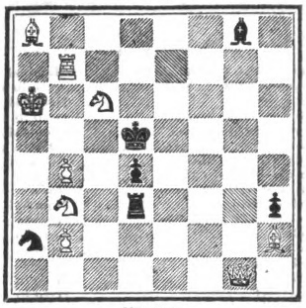
PROBLEM No. 459.
By Miss D. GREGSON.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME No. 588.

We are indebted to "East Anglia" for the following game, which he justly says is well worth reproducing :—

At the Boston Chess Club, recently, John F. Barry brilliantly defeated Harry N. Pillsbury, chess champion of the United States, in an exhibition game played for a purse contributed by members of the club.

The game is remarkable for the new method introduced by White for conducting the Ruy Lopez attack and for the profound and ingenious mating process by which it was terminated.

RUY LOPEZ.

White—Barry. Black—Pillsbury.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	17 Kt B6	PxKt
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	18 QxR	PxP
3 B QKt5	Kt KB3	19 Q Kt3	P B3
4 P Q4	KKtxP	20 B Q2	Q B2
5 P Q5	Kt Q3	21 QR Ksq	B B3
6 Kt QB3	P K5	22 P KR3	B Q5ch
7 Kt Kt5	Kt K4	23 K R-q	Kt B7ch
8 Q Q4	P KB3	24 K R2	Kt K5
9 KKtxP	KtxB	25 KtxKt	PxKt
10 KtxKt	P QR3	26 RxP	BxP
11 Q R4	R QKtsq	27 P B3	B R6
12 Kt Q4	B K2	28 KR Ksq	B QB4
13 Q K3	P Q3	29 R K7	Q Kt3
14 P KB4	Kt Kt5	30 Q Q-q	B KB4
15 Castles	P KB4	31 Q R5	P RR3
16 KKt Kt3	Castles		

At this point white announced that he would checkmate black in thirteen more moves.

32 RxPch	KxR	39 Q Kt3ch	K Rsq
33 R K7ch	K Kt best	40 B B3	QxB
34 QxP	B Kt8ch	41 QxQch	P Q5
35 K Rsq	B Q5	42 QxPch	R R3
36 PxB	QxP	43 QxRch	K Ktsq
37 Q Kt5ch	K Rsq	44 Q mates	
38 Q R4ch	K Ktsq		

GAME No. 589.

The following is an instructive and brilliant game played in the Correspondent Tourney organised by *La Stratégie* of Paris :—

FRENCH DEFENCE.

White—M. Weissman. Black—P. Humbert.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K3	14 KtxP	Kt K5
2 P Q4	P Q4	15 Q KB3	Kt QB3
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	16 P B3	B Q2
4 B Kt5	B K2	17 QKt B2	KtxKt
5 P K5	KKt Q2	18 KtxKt	R Bsq
6 BxB	QxB	19 B Q3	Q R4
7 Kt Kt5	Q Qsq	20 K Ktsq	RxP
8 P KB4	P QR3	21 P KKt4	B R5
9 Kt QR3	P QB4	22 P Kt3	Q Kt5
10 Q Kt4	Castles	23 Q K3	BxP
11 Castles	P B4	24 KtxB	RxKtch
12 Q R3	PxP	Resigns	
13 Kt B3	Kt B4		

NOTES.

5—P to K 5 is one of the most favourable attacks against the French Defence, and White plays it correctly up to 8—P to K B 4. He should have played 8—P to Q B 3, P to Q R 3; 9 Kt to Q R 3, P to Q B 4; 10—P to K B 4, &c. The transposition of the opening moves makes all the difference, White being bent upon the attack commencing with 10—Q to Kt 4, and the subsequent P to K Kt 4, which is not so dangerous as it looks. Instead of 10—Q to Kt 4 he might have still played 10—P to Q B 3, P x P; 11—P x P, Q to R 4 ch, Q to Q2, keeping still an even game. The next weak move was 15 P to K B 3 instead of 15—Q to K 3, followed by Q to B 3 and Kt to B2; but the stereotyped P to K Kt 4 attack being in his mind he neglects temporary defensive measures. Black, however, commences an ingenious counter-attack with R to B sq and Q to R 4, which he carries through brilliantly and with consummate skill. White could not save the game, no matter what he played.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg 1	Sa. Feb. 3
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 2	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru 3	M. Feb. 5
Hongkong	M. M Co.	Laos 4	Tu. Feb. 6
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Feb. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China 5	M. Feb. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Tu. Feb. 20
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of India	Th. Feb 22
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Gaelic	Th. Feb. 22

1 Left Shanghai on the 31st ult.
2 Left San Francisco on the 16th ult.
3 Left Shanghai on the 31st ult.
4 Left Shanghai on the 1st inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 24th ult.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	M. Feb. 5
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Feb. 7
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Feb. 7
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	W. Feb. 7
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg	Sa. Feb. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Tu Feb. 13
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Laos	F. Feb. 16
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W Feb. 21
anada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. Feb. 23
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. Feb. 24

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Telena, British steamer, 3,124, Scott, 26th Jan.,—Batoum via ports, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 26th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 6th Jan., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Tagonoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 541. M. Nishibara, 26th Jan.,—Hakodate, 23rd January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 26th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, 20th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 27th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 26th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Knivesberg, German steamer, 1,033, G. Bruhn, 27th Jan..—Iloilo, P.I., Jan., 16th, Sugar.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 27th January,—Otaru via ports, 21st Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 28th Jan.,—Kobe, 26th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 28th Jan.,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 27th Jan., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, McTavish, 29th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 26th Jan., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, E. W. Haswell, 29th Jan.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 28th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 29th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 28th Jan., Mails and General.—O. & O. S. S. Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 30th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, 24th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisba.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, W. W. Greene, 30th Jan.,—Kobe, 28th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,548, Hayashi, 30th Jan.,—Portland, Oregon, Salt Salmon.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Stentor, British steamer, 4,308, Chas. Jackson, 30th Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 29th Jan.; General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Babelsberg, German steamer, 1,397, Pfaff, 31st Jan..—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 31st January,—Kobe 29th January, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 31st Jan.,—Yokkaichi, 30th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamura, 1st Feb.,—Bombay via ports, and Kobe, 30th January, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Birchtor, British steamer, 2,378, G. H. Balleine, 1st Feb.,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 30th Jan., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 1st Feb..—Kobe, 30th Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 1st February,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 1st Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 31st Jan., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 26th Jan.,—Vancouver via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Saint Irene, British steamer, 2,473, W. Attree, 26th Jan.,—Victoria, B C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato. 26th January,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of London, British steamer, 2,056, R. W. Scaiff, 27th Jan.,,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 27th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sachsen, German steamer, 3,119, F. Mentz, 27th Jan.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Hitachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,827, G. Anderson, 27th January,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, H. Fraser, 27th January,—Seattle, Wash., via Kobe and Victoria, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 27th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 28th Jan.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 27th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Paul, American ship, 1,824, Treat, 28th Jan.,—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Benocrlich, British steamer, 2,164, W. Thomson, 30th Jan.,—Moji, Ballast.—Comes & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 30th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 30th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3.284, McTavish, 30th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu and San Diego, Mails & General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Coptic, British steamer, 2.744, J. H. Rinder, 31st Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 31st January,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 31st Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 1st February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Miss Anna P. Atkinson, Mr. W. P. Crary, Mr. W. W. Bierce, Mr. Alex. Grant, Capt. and Mrs. C. L. Ottley, child and 2 servants, Mr. Paul Worms, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ziegfeld and child, Mr. Sheldon Swope, Mr. A. Blom, Mr. and Mrs. D. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Boothe, Miss Brewer, Mr. O. B. Gottschalk, General J. Stahel, Miss Buckle, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Youmans, Mr. E. E. Ehrman, Mr. George C. Scott, and Mr. F. M. Whitney, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Rev.

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and Mr. W. H. Cossum and 3 children, Mrs. V. L. Mustard and 3 children, and Miss Elsie Harris, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. L. J. C. Anderson, Rev. Geo. J. Blatter, Mrs. C. E. Hampton and child, Mr. P. Hohenadel, Jr., Mr. Jos. Marsh, Mrs. G. L. Painter, Mrs. C. Prescott, Mrs. L. P. Smith, Captain J. M. Vale, Mrs. E. M. Young, Rev. N. J. Bies, Mr. R. Hancock, Miss L. Henderson, Miss G. Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Nichols and child, Mrs. R. H. Power, Mr. C. M. B. Schenkelberg, Captain C. M. Thomas, U.S.N., and Mr. E. F. Van Hootegen, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. Scales, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Swan, and Mr. L. Russell, in cabin; 7 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru*, from Melbourne via ports:—Mr. Ootake, Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida, Miss Yoshida, Mrs. Nomura, and Mr. Akiyoshi, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. H. Butler, Mr. J. Tornoe, Lieut. W. A. Gill, U.S.N., Rev. F. L. H. Pott, Captain Roussine, I.R.N., Mr. C. N. Crosse, Mr. H. E. Hayward, Mr. N. Viloudaki, Bishop Graves, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Mr. Dunlop and Rev. J. Chapman, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Miss Mary Krout, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Com. R. Inch, U.S.N.; Mr. and Mrs. Chew Seung, Mr. T. B. Smalley, Mr. A. G. Hoelscher, Mrs. S. J. Taylor, Mr. H. B. Raylor, Miss Enid Foote, Lieut.-Com. Fiske, U.S.N., Dr. and Mrs. O. T. Logan and 2 children, Miss N. A. Snodgrass, Lieut. Lubinsky, I.R.N., Lieut. Magnus, I.R.N., Mrs. Lys, Mr. L. B Stoddart, Colonel Henry Elsdale, R.E., Mr. D. H. Frew, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Fearon, Miss Daisy Fearon, Miss Foote and maid, Miss Jessie Ure, Mr. and Mrs. O. Moller, Miss A. B. Hartwell, Mrs. G. B. Mosher, Lieut. Vogel, I.R.N., Lieut. Bogdanowitch, I.R.N., Mr. A. Cameron, and Miss Ellis in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mons. Eugene Ancel, Madame Ancel, Mr. A. R. Bodley, Mr. W. E. Cotter, Mr. A. S. Crawley, Mr. C. Dubuffet, Mrs. N. C. Ferguson, Mr. Wm. A. Harris, Mr. Z. Horikoshi and servant, Dr. Laufer, Mr. P. Lagrange, Mr. S. Onodera, Mr. K. Oshima, Mr. W. Otsuka, Mr. Rinman, Mrs. Rinman, Mr. T. Saito, Mr. K. Sano, Mr. N. Takatsuji, Mr. R. Takatsuji, Mr. T. Takemura, Mr. J. B. Van Holy, Mr. T. Wada, and Mr. T. Yamanobe, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, for Bremen via ports:—Mr. H. Ramseger, Mr. Gysin, Mr. J. Witkowski, Mrs. A. S. Rice, Miss E. A. Rice, Mrs. Wright, Miss Penny, Mr. J. Guggenheim, Miss M. Joubert, Mr. Peter Klaeser, Mr. L. A. Lyall, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Drake, Mr. G. B. S. Edwards, Mr. R. Onodera, Mr. S. Hiruma, Mr. M. Itagaki, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Horne, Capt. R. C. Tod, and Mr. W. A. Chamberlain, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. Hancock, Mr. L. J. C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Nichols and child, Miss L. Henderson, Mrs. G. Prescott, Mrs. G. L. Painter, Capt. C. M. Thomas, U.S.N., Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Cossom and three children, Miss C. Hooper, Miss E. Harris, Miss Lewis, Mrs. R. H. Power, Mr. C. E. Hampton and child, Miss Paschal Mr. F. H. Ziegfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Davis, Master Davis, Mr. and Mrs. D. Rice, Miss Gossy, Rev. Van Hootegen, Rev. N. J. Bies, Paymaster M. McDonald, U.S.N., Capt. Vale, Mrs. L. P. Smith, Mr. J. Marsh, Mr. W. J. Treat, Mrs. Mustard and three children, and Mr. F. L. Ogden, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hitachi Maru*, for London via ports:—Com. S. Kato, Surg. B. Oka, Paymaster T. Akiyama, Com. A. Hara, Paymaster R. Fujino, Inspector of Mach. K. Shimada, Lieut. Y. Nishio, Chief Eng. G. Nakai, Lieut. K. Yasumura, Eng. Shigemura, L. N. Iida, Sub.-Lt. S. Matsuoka, Major M. Nagayama, I.J.A., Mr. M. Yabu, Mr. K. Nishio, Mr. K. Nakamura, Capt. S. Ishikawa, Rev. D. A. Dunker, and Mr. M. Tsuchiya, in cabin; Petty Officers M. Torizawa, M. Miyauchi, S. Sato, and R. Furuyama, Mr. S. Ishihara, Mr. Y. Matsumura, Mr. K. Suzuki, Mr. S. Nakazawa, Mr. K. Okumiya, Mr. T. Kosai, Mr. M. Obayashi, Mr. G. Kikuda, Mr. R. Oda, Mr. Y. Nambu, Mrs. R. Sinclair, and Mr. J. McCarthy, in second class; 226 I.J.N. crew, and 2 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. Blaikie, Miss Blaikie, Mr. Th. de Berigny, Mr. A. Becker, Mr. Isaac Bunting, Lt. Bogdanowitch, Sir Rupert Clarke, Mr. E. E. D. Clarke, Mr. A. Cameron, Col. H. Elsdale, R.E., Lieut.-Com. Fiske, U.S.N., Miss Foote and maid, Miss E. Foote, Mr. G. D. Fearon, Mrs. G. D. Fearon, Miss Daisy Fearon, Mr. D. H. Frew, Miss Jennie Freeland, Mr. J. Goodman, Mr. W. Goldner, Mrs. W. Goldner, Mr. A. G. Hoelscher, Miss A. B. Hartwell, Mr. Frank Huxham, Com. R. Inch, U.S.N., Mr. W. C. Kaelin, Mrs. W. C. Kaelin, Miss Krout, Dr. O. T. Logan, Mrs. O. T. Logan and 2 children, Mr. M. Lamadrid, Lieut. Lubinsky, Mr. E. Luthy, Mr. Ernest A. Leather, Mr. C Manuel, Miss G. B. Mosher, Mr. Henry K. Miller, Mrs. Henry K. Miller, Mr. R. D. McWilliams, Mr. C. Moller, Mrs. C. Moller, Mr. R. Mayer, Lieut. Magnus, Mr. T. Noguchi, Baron S. Nishi, Mr. R. Nagelmachers and servant, Dr. I. Papendrick, Mrs. W. H. Patton, Miss E. D. Patton, Mr. O. Roditi and servant, Mr. W. Rinck, Mr. Chew Sung, Mrs. Chew Sung, Mr. L. B. Stoddard, Miss Snodgrass, Mrs. M. W. Smith, Miss Smith, Mr. T. B. Smalley, Mrs. S. J. Taylor, Mr. H. B. Taylor, Miss Jessie Ure, Lieut. Vogel, Dr. E. Vorweik, Mr. J. Larrain Yrarrazaval, and Mrs. J. Larrain Yarrazaval and child, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. L. Jupp, Mr. and Mrs. A. Blum and children, Mr. T. Inouye, Mr. B. Shirasu, Mr. J. Schoeninger, Mr. S. Doi, Mr. K. Matsuda, and Mr. K. Hashimoto, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The continued rise in Manchester prices is preventing business in Yokohama, dealers here refusing to advance in the same ratio as Lancashire. Fancy Cottons and Woollens are firm but quiet.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 2 30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 3⅛ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 3.85
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.00 to 2.15
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.15 to 3.20
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.70 to 4.20
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.29

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0 65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.31 to 0.48
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.31
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0 65 to 0.75
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11 00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-5 inches.	0.90 to 1.15
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.12½ to 2.42½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.70 to 3.75

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	$42.00 to 44 00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	52.00 to 55 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	78.00 to 82.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	104.00 to 106.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	125.00 to 130.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	102.00 to 104.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	116.00 to 120.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	145.00 to 155.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.25
Indian Broach	23 50
Chinese	24.00

METALS.

A fair business has been doing in Iron Bars, Sheets, Plates, Galvanized Sheets and Tin Plates.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.20 to 6 40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized Iron sheets	12 50 to 13.80
Wire Nails, assorted	7.60 to 7 90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to ½ inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

No changes are reported in this market.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market rules steady with little doing. Brown Sugars have declined about 20 *sen* per picul. Refined unchanged.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.40
Brown Manila	5.50 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 5 50
Brown Canto	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

New York has been the only buyer of consequence since the 16th, a fair quantity of coarse size and re-reels being settled. Nothing is doing for Europe.

RAW SILK.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,320 to 1,330
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,270 to 1,280
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,230 to 1,240
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	1,180 to 1,190
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,210 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 2	1,180 to 1,190
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	1,250 to 1,260
Kakedas—No. 1	1,220 to 1,230
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,180 to 1,190
Kakedas—No 2	1,150 to 1,160
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

Very little business is doing, holders being very firm and the stock on offer small with little choice fibre.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	140 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best Noshi—Bushu, Good Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

TEA.

The total settlements for the season to January 27th, amounted to 212, 780 piculs against 207,866 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	32 & upwards
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	28 to 29
Fine	26 to 27
Good Medium	24 to 25
Medium	22 to 23
Good Common	20 to 21
Common	18 to 19

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 1.

Silver ¼ higher from London and discounts firmer. As China is now having holidays local rates are nominal on China, and no change is made for other places.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 7/8
— — 6 months' sight	2/1
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	256
— Private 4 months' sight	261¼
— Private 6 months' sight	262½
America—Bank Bills on demand	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207½
— Private 4 months' sight	214 to 213
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.*
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.*
Shanghai—Bank sight	74*
— Private 10 days' sight	76*
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	154 to 153½
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

* Nominal.

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, February 1.

Engine and Iron Works—A few shares can be had at *yen* 210. Grand Hotels—A small number of shares can be placed at *yen* 235. Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 160. Club Hotels—there are buyers of a few shares at *yen* 80. Oriental Hotels were sold to-day at *yen* 130. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 70. Laundries,—Offers for shares are wanted.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs are wanted at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108. Laundry Debentures can be had at par.

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Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	210 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. yen 50	160 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	235 B.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	230 Sa
Oriental Hotel, Ld (Pdrs.), $125	350 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., yen 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	70 B.
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd, yen 50	...Offers wanted
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	120 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 B.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	N

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=steady N=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, February 1.

Oriental Hotels have been sold at *yen* 130. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 70. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...210 Sales.
Grand Hotel .....237 50 Sales.
Club Hotel..... 85 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel .....130 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co. ..... 70 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co. .....170 Sellers.

TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, January 30.

BANKS.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation..... $337 % prem. S.
National Bank of China, Ltd. $26 Sales

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited..... $57 Sales.
Straits Insurance Company, Limited..... $2 Sales

FIRE INSURANCES.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited ..... $335 Buyers
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited..... $88½ Buyers

SHIPPING.

Hongkong, Canton, & Macao Steamboat Company, Ltd... $31½ Sales
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited ..... $51½ Sales

MINING

Punjom Mining Company, Limited ..... $5⅛ Sales
Raub A'lian Gold Mining Company, Limited ..... $62 Buyers

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.

Hongkong & W'poa Dock Company, Limited ... ... $545 % prem. B.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company, Ld.... $84 Sellers

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Ld.. $116 Sales
H'pluey's Estate & Finance Company, Limited ..... $10¼ Sales

MISCELLANEOUS.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited ..... $120 Sales
Green Island Cement Co. Ld. $30 Buyers

A. C. HUTTON POTTS,
Stock and Share Broker,
75, Main Street.

Tokyo, January 31

Redemption Loan Bonds	95 07
War Loan Bonds	99 07
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	99.50
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	440.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.70
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	288.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	67 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	107.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	29.10
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	74.70
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 41	60.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10 50	26 2.
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	2... 115.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	2... 78.50
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	2... 56.50
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	48.50
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	2... 62.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40...	2... 47.40

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SAVE YOUR HANDS Bathe and soak the hands, on retiring, in a strong, hot, creamy lather of CUTICURA SOAP. Dry thoroughly, and anoint freely with CUTICURA, greatest of emollient skin cures. Wear during the night, old, loose, kid gloves. For sore hands, itching palms, and shapeless nails, this treatment is simply wonderful.

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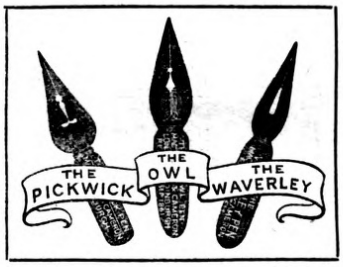

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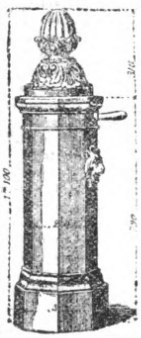

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A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence, Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 10TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

On the 4th February, 1900, the wife of JOHN H. JEWETT, of a daughter.

DEATH.

Died of pneumonia at No 238, Bluff, on the 7th February, 1900, Paul G. FIEDLER in his 35th year. American papers please copy.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Lord Mayor's War Relief Fund stood at £512,000 on the 10th Jan.

THE British have recrossed the Tugela and are making advances towards Ladysmith.

THERE has been some interruption of railway traffic in the North owing to heavy snow falls.

THE *Times* understands that the Government contemplates drastic changes in the War Office.

A DERAILED goods van at Tsurumi caused the 3.10 p.m. train from Yokohama on Tuesday to be delayed by some 2½ hours in reaching Tokyo. Everything was running smoothly by night-fall.

THE performance of Pinero's farce "Dandy Dick" at the Public Hall on Thursday was a pronounced success.

THE Indian famine is becoming more acute. Three and three quarter millions of persons are receiving relief.

MR. W. D. Cox read an amusing paper entitled "Humbugs" at Friday evening's meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society.

DURING the past week 13,700 men and 3,000 officers, including Cavalry, Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers, have sailed for the Cape.

VARIOUS matters of minor importance have come up for discussion in the Diet this week and several representations have been adopted for presentation to the Government.

ON Wednesday morning, at 3 o'clock, a fire occurred in Tsukui District, Kanagawa Prefecture, in a village called Yoseiiki, some 40 *ri* from Yokohama. Forty houses were burnt to ashes.

ONE of the armed robbers who entered a pawn shop in Uragachi, near Yokosuka, was arrested in Tokyo the other day. He was in the employ of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, on a lighter plying to Tokyo.

FIRE broke out on Tuesday afternoon at half-past three at No. 19, Miyagawa-cho, Ichome, Yokohama, a private house in the occupation of Mr. Suzuki. Four houses were destroyed and six partly damaged.

AT 6.40 p.m. on the night of the 5th instant, a manure carrier employed by Ito Masugoro, living in Hanazakicho, 9-chome, was killed at a railway crossing in Hiranuma, Tobe. Two horses he had in charge were also killed.

ROBERTS and Kitchener have left Cape-town, but the censor has cut the date and place of their destination. It is believed that they have gone to supervise large general operations, extending from Sterkstroom to the Colesberg district.

THERE is a marked change in the German press in the direction of friendliness towards England. Even the *Vossische Zeitung*, hitherto bitterly Anglophobe, says that Germany has no inducement to drive the English from Egypt to make room for the French.

WELL accredited reports represent the Free Staters as increasingly weary of the war. Some influential leaders, including one principal commandant, are said to have entered into secret negotiations with the British, with a view to ascertaining the terms that will be accorded to them, if they quit their allies.

A *sendo* employed by Inouye, a shipping firm in Motohamacho, was killed on Tuesday morning at 10 30 while handling cargo on the steamer *Kyoto Maru*. He was knocked against the side of the steamer. The deceased was a young man of 22, and his name Tanabe Kikunosuke.

A COOLIE was found dead in the hold of the sailing ship *J. D. Rice*, on Monday morning, by the chief mate. The man went to work on the ship three days ago, unloading kerosene consigned to the Standard Oil Company. His body was handed to the boarding-house master, were he was staying.

IN the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. before Judge Fujise and two Assistant Judges, the hearing of the case of Ishii Kenjiro against Messrs. Oppenheimer Freres, for a claim of *yen* 18,744, on account of a transaction in alcohol, was commenced. The case was adjourned to March 4th at 11 a.m.

LORD ROBERTS, replying to a communication from Presidents Kruger and Steyn, complaining that the British have caused the destruction of farmhouses, says that the charges are unproven. His Lordship accuses the Boers of barbarous practices and the spoilation and expulsion of British subjects when refusing to fight against their own countrymen.

AN employe of a milk dealer in Yokohama named Watanabe Sojiro during his morning round, found a registered letter, wet and opened. It contained a cheque for *yen* 500, the sender being one Dai, of Numadzu, and the payee Mr. Abe Kobe, a well known sugar merchant of Yokohama. The finder reported the matter to the Bluff Police. The letter was dropped by a letter carrier.

ON Saturday morning, a little before 3 o'clock, a man was seen to jump into the Yokohama canal from a bridge called the Senshubashi. A policemen hastened to his rescue and the would-be suicide seemed none the worse for his wetting. He was taken to the Isezakicho Police Station, where he was identified as Umesawa Kansaburo, aged 22. He had tried to end his life owing to a quarrel with a friend.

AN American exchange says:—So contagious is the enthusiasm at Vancouver about enlisting with the British forces in South Africa that the Japanese of this city are not only willing but anxious to see service on the British side in the Transvaal. They have been organized by an ex-Japanese Consul, Mr. Shimidzu, who has made a formal tender of the services of this Japanese corps to the British Government. Numbers of letters have been received by Mayor Garden of Vancouver from Americans in various Pacific Coast cities desiring to fight for Great Britain.

AT 5.30 a.m. on Saturday a man and a woman were run over by the first down train at Takashimacho railway crossing, near Kanagawa Station. It was found to be a case of *shinju*, the man being a lodger at a seamen's boarding house in Kaigan-dori, Gochome, a seafaring man, named Miyazaki Saizo, and the woman an inmate of a house of ill-fame in the Yoshiwara. When they were found they were quite wet and were clothed only in their nightgowns. From this fact it was inferred that both had tried to drown themselves in the canal, but, failing in this, had gone to the railway crossing.

BY the death of the Earl of Tankerville the House of Lords loses its oldest member. He was not, however, the Father of the Upper House, for that honour belongs to the Earl of Leicester, who, although 12 years younger than the last Earl, who was born in 1810, has sat in the House of Lords for 53 years, where Lord Tankerville's membership covered a period of 40 years. His record of Parliamentary service, however, covered no less than 68 years, for he was elected to the House of Commons for North Northumberland on coming of age in 1831, and he sat for the constituency until 1859, when he was called to the Upper Chamber.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, Feb. 3.

The account just received of the Spion Kop reverse is very suggestive—unpleasantly suggestive. As to the details, they are much what we anticipated: a position exposed to strong artillery fire and not offering any facilities for the use of our own guns. But the disquieting question is, why was such a position attacked. General Buller, in announcing Warren's intended assault, spoke of Spion Kop as "the enemy's salient." He evidently believed it to be the key of the position. In fact, on no other supposition would he have been justified in ordering its escalade. The first aim of a commanding officer in planning the assault of a line of defenses, is to choose the vital point; that is to say, the point whence the other parts of the line are most vulnerable. But Buller seems to have chosen the point which most exposed his own men, and was, at the same time, so inaccessible, or of such peculiar topographical formation, that it offered no site for posting his own guns. Throughout Monday and Tuesday, Warren's men made no advance: they confined themselves to holding the position already won. During these two days the natural occupation of Buller and his staff, as well as of the officers in command of the brigades in the fighting line, should have been to determine where to deliver the next and final attack. They appear to have made a most unfortunate selection. The upshot of the capture effected during the night of Tuesday was that Warren's Division found itself set up as a target for the artillery and small-arm fire of the Boers, without any possibility of replying effectively. Of course nothing is easier than to pen these kind of criticisms, and it may prove that the plan adopted was the best possible under the circumstances. With our present limited knowledge, however, we can only conclude that it would have been incomparably better had Spion Kop been left severely alone. Its capture involved a heavy loss of life and was apparently quite worthless. Warren was supposed to have a special knowledge of the features of the country, but his knowledge was evidently defective here. At the same time, we must not forget that Spion Kop is wholly out of the beaten track. Probably among all the officers serving under Buller, whether of the regular or the local forces, there was not one that had ever been in the district comprised between the Venter Spruit, the Tugela and the Sand Spruit until they were required to fight there, whereas the Boers had spent months exploring every inch of it. Indeed the difficulties of this South-African campaign must be something stupendous for the British Generals.

Monday, Feb. 5.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Jimmin* publish articles speaking in high terms of the spirit shown by the people of Great Britain in this time of stress. Both journals predict that the result of the War will be to greatly enhance England's prestige, for, although weak points in her military organization will have been shown, a striking object lesson will also have been given of national traits which outweigh all questions of organization. There is no mistaking the sympathetic and appreciative disposition of both journals, and indeed we can not choose but express our grateful sense of the genuinely friendly tone uniformly pervading the writings of the Japanese press in connexion with this war. The one exception has been the *Yorozu Choho*, which has only sneers, flouts, and predictions that one or two more defeats will bring England to her knees. Nothing else was to be expected from the *Yorozu Choho*, a journal which represents whatever there is of degraded in the national character. We should regret to find any words of praise bestowed on our country in such columns. The *Jimmin* rightly observes that in adversity the true character of a nation, as of an individual, is shown. Yes, and it is in time of adversity that we discover our genuine friends also. The attitude of the Japanese nation, as reflected in the writings of the newspaper press, will not be forgotten by Englishmen.

Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Marquis Yamagata, speaking to a member of the *Chiuo* staff, expressed the opinion that England has been careless as to the organization of her army, relying too much on her fleet, and that the War in South Africa goes to prove the superiority of the system of conscription over that of a volunteer force or a mercenary force, as it has now become the fashion to call the British army. Of course there can not be, and never has been, the slightest doubt that conscription places at the service of the country much better soldiers than are obtainable by the ordinary process of volunteering. Conscription brings the cream of the population into the ranks, whereas the English system secures chiefly the most thriftless and least educated units of the lowest orders. But those considerations apply to the rank and file only, and, before drawing any hard-and-fast conclusions from the South-African war, we have to ask whether any serious fault can be laid at the door of the private. Has he shown himself deficient in fighting qualities? Has he shown himself to be bad material? By no means. He has fought bravely and resolutely, and has deserved praise for endurance under hardships and for readiness to face dangerous situations. It seems to us that the soldier is not in fault. Probably Marquis Yamagata means that a large and easily mobilized army can never exist under the volunteer system. That seems incontestable, within limits. An army large enough for England's home uses certainly can be organized, but not an army large enough for the purposes of such a war as has now to be carried on in South Africa.

FOREIGN INSURANCE OFFICES.

Over sixty insurance companies, according to the *Jiji*, have made application for official permission to open business in Japan, but, as all the applications have failed to comply with the provisions of law, a favourable answer has not yet been given to any of them. That is an astonishing statement. If it be correct, it argues badly for the development of business in Japan, inasmuch as it suggests the existence of impediments which certainly ought not to exist. We presume that these applications refer to insurance operations conducted outside the limits of the former settlements. Foreign companies, we believe, have not hitherto taken risks on Japanese lives or Japanese property, as was very natural, but, the conditions having changed, and there being an obviously wide field for insurance work, it is not surprising that enterprise in that direction should become active. Considered from the point of view of public interest, nothing could be more desirable than that solid companies of established reputation should offer facilities for insuring life and property in this country. The Authorities should do everything in their power to encourage that result. We presume that they have done so, but certainly the news that not one out of sixty applications has been successful can not be regarded as encouraging. There have been several bogus insurance companies started in Japan, but few now survive, though it may be doubted whether the shock given to public confidence by their fraudulent operations has been entirely effaced. The Kwanto Company, recently suspended, was a very flagrant example. In the matter of life policies, too, even the sound companies are said to follow unwise methods. They do not refuse to pay, but they adopt various expedients to postpone the evil moment, pretexting inaccuracies in original statements and devising other reasons for delay, so that life insurance can not be said to be yet regarded with abundant confidence in Japan. Life insurance, however, is almost as necessary to the moral contentment of a nation as roofed dwellings are essential to its physical comfort. The greater the number of sound companies engaged in the business of insurance, the better for the well-being of the people.

HUNAN.

The Common-language Society of East Asia (*Tō-a Dōbun-kai*) adopted a resolution last year to send to China several Japanese charged with the duty of investigating and reporting upon the condition of affairs in that country. These gentlemen recently returned, and gave an account of their travels at a meeting of the Society held a few days ago. The most interesting report was that of Mr. Shiraiwa Ryoan, president of the Daito Kisen Kaisha. The latter is a steamship company organized by Chinese and Japanese in combination for service in the Yangtsze River. Subsequently the Chinese associates withdrew, and the concern is now in Japanese hands altogether. It is understood to be very prosperous. The scene of Mr. Shiraiwa's travels was Hunan, the traditionally anti-foreign destrict of China. He went right up to Chang-sha, the capital, whither few strangers have yet ventured, with the exception of some courageous missionaries. Mr. Shiraiwa was agreeably surprised to find that the people of Hunan differentiate the Japanese completely from other strangers. They see that Japan and China have a common script; they understand that the philosophies of Confucius and Mencius have always been revered in Japan, and they have learned to think that the Japanese are really well disposed towards China. Mr. Shiraiwa has therefore come to the conclusion that the duty of weaning the people of Hunan from their anti-foreign prejudices devolves upon the Japanese, and that they ought to utilize their opportunities assiduously. One point in his report is a little obscure. He says that the Tung-ting Lake constitutes a kind of barrier between Changsha and the outer world. But surely that fine sheet of water should prove an excellent means of communication?

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THE STUDENTS' DUEL.

Monday, Feb. 5.

Very strained relations have existed for some time between the students of Dr. Hasegawa's medical school, the Saisei Gakusha, and those of the military academy known as the Kanjo Gakko. The lads have grown so hostile to each other that they fight whenever and wherever they meet. They seem to have decided that the best plan would be to submit their differences to the arbitrament of a duel, for some sixty of them made arrangements for a formal meeting on the 2nd instant. The place originally chosen for the combat was Tabata, a suburb of Tokyo in the neighbourhood of Oji. But the police obtained information of what was in prospect and made their dispositions accordingly. The students, discovering that they were likely to be interrupted, made a sudden change of programme, and repaired to the vacant ground behind the Mitsu Bishi Bank buildings in Yuraku-cho. There they commenced their battle shortly before dusk, and when the police arrived upon the scene the fight was in full swing, the combatants using sword-canes and iron sticks. The fortune of war appears to have been distinctly in favour of the medical students, for whereas they were all able to effect their escape, six of the military students remained upon the field, incapacitated by wounds, and had to be taken to hospital. They refused to reveal the name of the opposing faction, and the police had some difficulty in finding out that the Saisei Gakusha lads were the culprits.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The multitudinous duel fought in Tokyo between 30 students of the Saisei Gakusha and as many of the Kanjo Gakko proves to have been just what was supposed, namely, the outcome of general ill-feeling between the two schools. After many petty collisions between individuals or small parties, it was finally agreed to settle all outstanding scores by a good stand-up fight. Thus far the matter reflects no discredit on the lads. But now comes the miserable part of the affair. It appears that both sides agreed not to employ edged weapons. The youths of the Military School (*Kanjo Gakko*) faithfully observed the compact, and came on the ground armed with sticks only. But their adversaries of the Saisei Gakusha brought sword canes, and the result was that six of the Kanjo-Gakko boys were so severely wounded as to be unable to leave the scene of the combat. If that be true, no punishment could be too severe for the young men of the Saisei Gakusha, and, in our opinion, the Authorities ought to close the school altogether. It is impossible to express too much execration of the wretched cowardice and villainously dishonourable conduct of the lads of the Saisei Gakko, if they were really guilty of such action. The public must conclude that schools where characters of that kind are produced can only inflict disgrace on the country. Dr. Hasegawa Tai used to be one of the most bitter assailants of the Educational Department in the House of Representatives. It was he, if we remember rightly, who, in 1892, declared from the rostrum of the House that the Educational Department was a den of thieves, and indulged in violent diatribes against the foreigners employed by it. His own students have now given a pretty demonstration of the success of his educational methods. We trust that some explanation of this miserable incident may be forthcoming.

This affair has caused a sensation in Tokyo. The greatest indignation is said to be expressed by students of all classes against the dishonourable and cowardly conduct of the men of the medical school —we call them "men" for their ages averaged 25 years, whereas their adversaries were lads from 17 to 23,—and it is feared that some severe measures of reprisal will be adopted. It appears that a regular agreement was drawn up and signed, one of the conditions being that no cutting weapon should be employed, and that, however severely combatants might suffer, no complaint should be made to the police. In spite of this compact the medical students came armed with sword-canes and jack-knives, which they used so resolutely that two of the military students—two brothers—are not expected to recover. The military students had announced that their number would not exceed 25, but the medical students, although aware of the intended limit, mustered 35 or 36. It would not be possible to apply too harsh terms to such miserable conduct.

Thursday, Feb. 8.

The moral of the recent students' duel is discussed with evident anxiety by thoughtful persons in Tokyo. It is interpreted in the sense of another instance of the unruly and demoralized conduct of the student class in general, and the *Kokumin Shimbun* asks what kind of men the nation expects to have for its next generation. We do not, for our part, perceive that so much importance attaches to the incident, as far as the fight itself is concerned. A rough-and-tumble struggle between the students of two schools who have learned to regard each other with dislike is common enough the world over. Most of us have witnessed, and even taken part in, something of the kind in our youthful days, though not with such deliberation and due arrangement of details as marked the fight in Tokyo. The one miserable feature of the affair was the treacherous cowardice of the medical students in arming themselves with swords and knives though they had promised to bring only sticks. They are understood to plead in excuse that, whereas the agreement had been for thirty combatants on each side, the military students brought sixty, and they, the medical students, were consequently obliged to employ exceptional means of self-defence. That excuse seems to us to aggravate the outrage. Even granting that a pact as to numbers existed—and we may observe that no such condition appears in the published articles—, its violation could not have been discovered until the place of combat was reached, whereas the medical students must have made provision of cutting weapons before they started for the ground. As a matter of fact, the military students are said to have been in the minority, but, even if they had come a hundred strong, the use of swords and knives would have been unpardonable on the part of their adversaries.

When Prince Henry of Prussia was at Singapore, he received a telegram from Europe to the effect that a little prince had been born to him on the 8th Jan. The Prince resumed his homeward journey on the 14th.

GENERAL LAWTON.

General Lawton, who was killed by a bullet through the heart while in an exposed position at the head of his troops, carried a musket in the ranks in 1861, and had for fellow-private President McKinley. An American journal justly remarks that the story of the two men's later careers show the greatness of American opportunities to men of sterling character. Yet Lawton's chief success came to him with the bullet that ended his career. He had served for forty years without climbing higher than the rank of colonel in the regular army, and his property at the time of his death consisted of a house with a mortgage on it. Now, however, all America is paying a sincere tribute to his memory, and perhaps had he survived, his country would not have been equally ready to acknowledge that the campaign conducted by him finally shattered the resistance of the Philippine insurgents.

Incidentally to this Philippine reference we can not but observe that a great many writers have much to retract. When the Spaniards were battling in Manila, and month after month went by without bringing to them final success, the Anglo-Saxon public was disposed to draw disparaging conclusions as to their military prowess and to talk sententiously of the decadence of Spain. All who did so then owe an apology now to the Castilian. He said very little at the time. With the fine spirit that has always distinguished the Spaniard, he bore detraction quietly, trusting, perhaps, that time would vindicate him, but scarcely hoping that the balm would come so soon. Well, he is vindicated now. There are no better soldiers in the world than the Americans, and it has cost them a long and weary effort to grapple with the difficulties that we were all ready to ridicule the Spaniard for not overcoming immediately.

THE JAPANESE SCRIPT.

A Representation has been introduced in the Lower House urging that a committee be appointed to investigate the question of reforming the Japanese script. We imagined that, in spite of the Diet's previous refusal to sanction any expenditure on this account, the Government had contrived to divert some money to the purpose. But apparently the introducers of the Representation desire to give greater publicity to the matter, and, if possible, to invest it with the prestige of the Diet's sanction. At all events the more the subject is ventilated the better. For many years it has occupied the attention of persons interested in Japan's progress, and the time seems to us to have fully arrived when practical expression should be given to the views of these scholars. For our own part, we do not believe in any tentative measures or half-way house. To divide a reform of such a nature into various stages—such as, first, reducing the number of Chinese characters for daily use; secondly, substituting the *Kana*, and thirdly, passing to the alphabet —would involve several efforts each virtually as costly in the matter of time and labour as a radical change introduced at the outset. There can be no tinkering. The more the problem is examined the less does it lend itself to partial solutions.

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THE SANITARY AFFAIR IN HAWAII.

Monday, Feb. 5.

As a result of the very drastic sanitary measures adopted by the Hawaiian Authorities, no fewer than 2,456 Japanese subjects are said to have been deprived of residence and resources. The houses formerly inhabited by them were in the Chinese quarter, which was entirely demolished for sanitary reasons, the site being afterwards saturated with kerosene and set on fire. Among the Japanese that were so unfortunate as to be involved in this work of destruction, 1,450 can see their way to avoid destitution by hiring themselves out as labourers and servants or by obtaining succour from friends. But 1,006, being entirely without means, have been obliged to seek shelter in the temporary sheds provided by the Government for that purpose. It is understood that their claim to relief and compensation is being pressed by the Foreign Office in Tokyo, but there can be no doubt that under American administration their rights will receive ample recognition.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

There is evidently a great deal of dissatisfaction in connexion with the destruction of Japanese property in Hawaii by order of the Authorities as a precaution against the spread of the Pest. At first it was understood that the Government did not intend to make any compensation except in obedience to the judgment of a law court. Naturally that decision created great consternation, for many of the sufferers were virtually destitute and could not have procured means for an appeal to the law. But happily no such arbitrary method of procedure was adopted. The latest report says that the Government contemplates making good two-thirds of the value of the property destroyed. That is not very satisfactory, and, as it may be made very much worse by harsh methods of assessment, the Japanese are endeavouring to contrive that one-half of the assessors shall be of their own race. It is alleged that they employed Mr. Newman at the outset to look after their interests, and that he accepted the trust with apparent sympathy, but afterwards espoused the Government's cause, and declared that the demolition of houses and the destruction of property for such a purpose must be regarded in the same light as an ordinary conflagration or other accidental calamity. The unfortunate Japanese are therefore much perturbed, and there is talk of appealing to Washington. But one can scarcely suppose that the obvious principles of justice will be ignored by the Hawaiian authorities. If it has been considered necessary to inflict heavy losses on a section of the community for the better security of the whole, compensation is unquestionably due to the sufferers —not full compensation, but certainly the present value of the property destroyed minus a reasonable portion of the sum that has to be provided for purposes of indemnification.

Wednesday, Feb. 7.

A feeling of great and growing dissatisfaction is apparent in Japan with reference to the procedure adopted by the Hawaiian Authorities for checking the spread of the Pest. Newspaper after newspaper is taking up the question. All proceed upon the assumption that the accounts thus far received are accurate and exhaustive, but that is obviously an extensive assumption. We should like to hear from the other side before forming any conclusion.

Thursday, Feb. 8.

The Government is said to have despatched Mr. Hirai, a secretary of the Foreign Office, to Hawaii for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the facts of the sanitary-precautions trouble. Mr. Hirai seems to have made his preparations for departure with much expedition. He appears to have received his orders on Tuesday and started on Wednesday.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

It appears that the Czar and the Pope think differently about the time when the twentieth century begins. His Russian Majesty has decided that the old calendar shall be abandoned and the Gregorian adopted throughout his dominions, and that the change shall take place from January 1st, 1901, which His Majesty considers to be the first day of the twentieth century. But the Pope, in a recently issued decree, declares that the nineteenth century came to an end at midnight on the last day of December, 1899. If only the Pope would tell us, under those circumstances, when the 19th century began, we should understand him better. The fact seems to be that many people believe that the so-called "first year" of the Christian era consisted of one week only, namely, the week beginning with December 25th of the year in which Christ was born, and ending with December 31st of the same year. Hence, according to their way of reckoning, the 1st of the following January was the beginning of the second year after Christ. Arithmetically the question does not admit of any argument, for there is no number which commences with a cipher: all numbers begin at unity. But if we agree to regard as the first year the interval of a week between the birth of Christ and the beginning of the following year, then obviously December 31st, 1899, was the last day of the nineteenth century.

SUBSIDIES TO NAVIGATION.

The principle of subsidies for special steamship services, having been adopted by the Cabinet, has found expression in a Bill which will shortly come before the Diet for discussion. According to our Tokyo contemporaries, the details of the measure are as follows in the case of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha:—

	Yen.
The Kobe-Otaru and Aomori-Muroran services	150,000
The Yokohama-Shanghai service	250,000
The Kobe-North-China service	150,000

These figures make a total of 550,000 *yen*, instead of the general subsidy of 880,000 *yen* hitherto granted. A further subsidy of 127,000 *yen* will be paid by the Hokkaido Administration on account of the Hakodate-Nemuro, Nemuro-Abashiri, Nemuro-Itorup, and Otaru-Soya services. Finally, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha is to receive 250,000 *yen*. Thus the payments by the Treasury would aggregate 800,000 *yen*, instead of 880,000, and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha would benefit to the extent of 250,000 at the expense of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

THE PEST.

Saturday, Feb. 3.

It is pleasant to read a notification in the *Official Gazette* that the precautions against the spread of plague from Kobe and Osaka have now been relaxed, and that neither ships nor railway trains coming from these places will be any longer subjected to medical inspection and disinfection. In Tokyo's case the new system of sanitation is to be persistently applied, but as it causes no special inconvenience and as its usefulness, independently of the Pest, has been amply shown, there is nothing to be said against its continuation. It is perhaps too soon to conclude that we are out of the wood, but with regard to the record thus far, Japan is to be sincerely congratulated. By the thoroughness and scientific character of her hygienic measures she has battled successfully against an enemy of the most cruel nature. There would be great interest in knowing to what particular class of precautions this happy result is attributable. How much gratitude is due to Yersin's serum, for example? The course of the Pest in Japan's case, brief as it has been, was marked by an incident of great pathos—the death of two physicians and the virtual destruction of their families. But these experts did not perish in vain, for the sacrifice of their lives seems to have been the means of diagnosing one of the most virulent types of the disease.

Monday, Feb. 5.

The number of rats purchased by the police in Tokyo from the time when the crusade commenced on the 15th of January until the 29th of that month was 53,568, representing a sum of 2,678.40 *yen*. Some haughty citizens sent in 117 rodents without claiming the reward of 5 *sen* per head. Kanda and Nihonbashi furnished the greatest number; Azabu and Akasaka the smallest. It is understood that the police will soon close their doors to further arrivals.

MR. CARNEGIE.

It is stated by a Tokyo contemporary that several leading Japanese merchants are planning to invite Mr. Carnegie to visit Japan. The great manufacturer is understood to be perplexed as to the best means of disposing of some fifty million dollars of his fortune. After he had formed the resolve to devote his immense accumulations to purposes of public charity, he proceeded, with all the method and accuracy of detail that business men employ, to examine the various objects inviting assistance, and the result of his investigations was that means of satisfactorily disposing of the whole amount—variously stated at from two hundred to four hundred million dollars—were found, with the exception of fifty millions for which no suitable outlet can be discovered. Learning of these things, it occurred to certain Japanese publicists that since this country has been a large purchaser of the products of the Carnegie factories, a portion of the fifty millions might be diverted to the Far East without doing violence to any principle of justice. Mr. Carnegie appears to have been influenced by arguments submitted to him in that sense, and it is thought that, if he could be induced to visit Japan, he would find here some good opportunities for exercising his benevolence.

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THE OFUNADO PROJECT.

The projectors of a harbour and other works at Ofunado have now reduced their scheme to a very definite form. They calculate that the harbour will cost 1½ million *yen*, the railway 6 millions, and the iron-works 4½ millions. Out of that total of 12 millions, they propose to obtain 200,000 *yen* from the proceeds of local taxation, and 7,800,000 *yen* from the public by the sale of shares, and they hope that the Treasury will discharge its usual function of wet-nurse to all infant enterprises by putting up a sum of 4 millions. Ofunado is in the immediate neighbourhood of Kamaishi, where the Government sunk large sums in 1875, 1876, and 1877, in an attempt to develop the iron mines. Viscount Yamao, who then held the portfolio of Public Works, had the foresight to perceive that one of Japan's greatest needs was iron of her own production. But Kamaishi was then a very inaccessible place. Everything had to be carried thither over-sea, and the defective nature of the harbour intensified that disadvantage. Finally the Government stepped out of the business, and it passed into private hands, to be conducted thenceforth in such a desultory manner that Kamaishi iron was scarcely quoted in the market. Nevertheless the place has great natural opportunities, and its accessibility has been much improved by the construction of the Nippon Tetsudo. The line now projected would run from Ofunado to the Nippon road *viâ* Tono and Hanamaki. We presume that the plan is to transport the iron *by railway and* to obtain fuel by sea, but possibly there may be an idea of getting Hokkaido coal also by train. Fuel was always the great difficulty, neither coal nor charcoal being obtainable in the neighbourhood.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The House of Commons is evidently determined that there shall be no change of horses while the nation is crossing the stream. It rejected Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's amendment to the address by a majority of 213. Considering that the whole of the Irish Party, numbering at least 80, voted with the minority of 139, it appears that not more than 60 members from England, Scotland, and Wales were found to declare that the Government had been wanting in knowledge and foresight. It is a very remarkable vote, because a great many critics were proclaiming that the Government had been guilty in both of these respects, and because the country is unquestionably very impatient about the reverses that have befallen our troops. But the Cabinet has now received an emphatic assurance of the nation's confidence, and such an assurance, given in the hour of adversity, will greatly strengthen the hands of Her Majesty's Ministers, and enable them to prosecute the war with vigour. England has set her teeth. She means to win, whatever the cost, and we have profound faith in the bull-dog tenacity of her purpose. As Japanese journals have justly observed, she is fighting against, not the two Republics of South Africa alone, but the greater part of Europe. She is nevertheless undismayed.

THE ECHIGO KEROSENE.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The shares of the Echigo Kerosene companies are among the most favourite securities in the market at present. Since the principal company—the Nihon Sekiyu Kaisha—recently declared a dividend of 40 per cent. and, further, applied a considerable sum to cover the shares not yet fully paid up, there has been a brisk demand for this paper. The last quotations are :—

	Paid up.	Selling at
Nihon Sekiyu Kaisha.....	50 yen	.....200 yen
Takarada Company	50 yen	.....150 yen
New shares of the above..	37.50 yen	..... 95 yen
Zoo Company	22.50 yen	..... 67 yen

It is alleged that foreigners are interesting themselves keenly in the enterprise, and that a trust is likely to be organized.

Thursday, Feb. 8.

Mr. Asano is reported to be endeavouring to organise a trust among the kerosene companies in Echigo. There are quite a number of companies. The largest of them, the Nagaoka, has a capital of half a million *yen* ; eight others have capitals ranging from a hundred thousand to three hundred and fifty thousand, and some 66 have capitals under a hundred thousand. These are certainly ideal materials for a trust, and we observe that an international element is imported into the affair by reminding the people that, if the trust succeeds, it may hope to oust American oil and all other foreign oils. A considerable sum of money would be needed, however, to organize the business on a thorough scale : two or three millions of *yen* are spoken of, and Tokyo journals allege that Mr. Asano is in conference with Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, the idea being that the work can be better managed by a combination of foreigners and Japanese.

OLD AND YOUNG.

Periodically the cry is raised in Japan that the old ought to give way to the young. In the Occident age is never considered to disqualify a statesman. On the contrary it is the highest of qualifications so long as it has not impaired the moral faculties. But in Japan we are sometimes tempted to think that the value of ripe experience is under-estimated. Even the *Jiji Shimpo* urges that the time has come to give a chance to the rising generation. It contends that, although the old men may be still fairly competent, they suffer from the inevitable conservatism that years bring, and are no longer fit to pioneer the nation along the path of progress. The *Jiji's* idea is that there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it. People predicted, it says, that Germany would fare badly when Bismarck went out of office, but Germany has managed to get on excellently without him. But to complete the analogy our contemporary should show that after Bismarck's retirement the conduct of German affairs was entrusted to young hands. It would be difficult to show anything of kind. As in England and France, so in Germany, youth is conspicuous by its absence from the councils of State. The one exception is the German Emperor, but a man of such talents must be an exception to every rule. The German Emperor is one of the great men of the century, and no ordinary rules apply to his case.

A QUESTION AS TO PERPETUAL LEASES.

Mr. Yamada Kinnosuke, a well-known barrister of the House of Representatives, has presented a Question which will furnish an opportunity for a reply of some interest to the foreign community. He wants to know why the word "perpetual lease" is used in the Ordinance of last December—Ordinance No. 458—in connexion with the tenure of land in the Foreign Settlements and parenthetically to the term "superficies." There is no such term in the Civil Code, he says, as "perpetual lease." "Superficies" is distinctly provided for—superficies for a fixed term of years or superficies for an unlimited term — but there is no "perpetual lease," and the Government is asked to explain why such a term was employed in the Ordinance. There is a further question directed to ascertaining whether the Ordinance intends to set up a distinction between "perpetual lease" and emphyteusis, but that part of the object is not of much moment. The Government's reply will doubtless make it quite clear that the "perpetual leases" of Settlement property are specially protected by Treaty and that the use of the term parenthetically in the public registers is intended to differentiate the title from ordinary "superficies" and thus to exclude it from the general purview of Courts of Law, even were there the remotest chance of their intervention being invoked.

EDUCATION.

The latest idea is to obtain funds for educational purposes by issuing public bonds. There is certainly much need of liberal reforms. In 1898, out of 7,700,000 school-age children, 220,000, or over 31 per cent., did not enter the primary schools. That, of course, does not necessarily indicate deficient accommodation. But the inference is plain when we come to the case of the Middle and the High Schools. For admittance to the Middle Schools in 1898 there were 36,000 applications, and only 23,000 could be granted, 39 per cent. being refused. In the same year, 3,100 youths sought admission to the High Schools, and 1,600 were refused, or 51 per cent. Girls fared somewhat better. Out of 4,300 applicants for admission, 3,700 could be accommodated, only 12 per cent. being refused. Without an increase of accommodation it is evident that if the population grows, the students will be placed at a greater disadvantage every year. Moreover, owing chiefly to the very small inducements now offered to join the profession of school teacher, there is a deficiency of no less than 30,977 in the ranks of the teachers, and about a thousand imperfectly qualified persons are temporarily filling some of the vacancies. The Government's proposals, passed by the Diet this session, provide for an enlargement of the premises of the First High School, the organization of another High School for general education, and the establishment of three additional technical High Schools —commercial, industrial, and forestry. But the public evidently regards these measures as inadequate. Hence the proposal for an issue of educational bonds.

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THE NAVY.

The alarm about the *Akagi* has happily been dissipated. She arrived safely in Shanghai on the 30th ultimo, her voyage having been delayed by tempestuous weather.

The *Fuso*, which was sunk last year and subsequently raised, has now been fully repaired. The work was done at the Kure Dockyard. It ought to have been finished by the close of 1899, but as extensive renewals of her machinery were undertaken, she could not be got ready for her public trials until the 28th of Jan. It is expected that she will have shipped her armament and resumed her place in the squadron by the end of this month.

The *Jiji Shimpo* raises a novel question. It says that the only uniform worn by the Emperor—apart from His Majesty's civil robes—is a military uniform. Even when he inspects ships, the Emperor wears the uniform of the commander-in-chief of the army. Our contemporary asks whether that is quite complimentary to the Navy, and whether the big naval manœuvres this spring, when some fifty men-of-war will assemble, independently of torpedo-craft, would not be a good opportunity for his Majesty to make a new departure.

The line-of-battle ship *Asahi*, now under construction at Lord Armstrong and Company's works, to order of the Japanese Government, is expected to have concluded all her trials before the end of June, in which case she will sail for Japan in July. Commander Iida and 300 men, the second detachment of the crew that is to bring her out, are on the eve of starting for England. The *Asahi* is a sister ship of the *Shikishima*, which is now *en route* for Japan.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

The appreciation of commodities continues unabated. Taking the forty principal staples of consumption, and regarding their average price in January, 1887, as 100, it appears that the average last November was 160; that it rose, in December, to 189; and that at the end of January (1900) it reached 190. The following figures are particularly striking:—

PRICES (THE FIGURE FOR JANUARY, 1887, BEING REGARDED AS 100).

	January 1900.	December 1899.	January 1899.
Iron	245	236	188
Cotton	133	126	103
Charcoal	211	190	167
Fire Wood	211	204	185
Oil Cake	219	210	175
Nails	160	154	111

With reference to this subject, Mr. Yamamoto, President of the Bank of Japan, in a paper read before the Yuraku-kai a few days ago, combated the theory persistently put forward in certain quarters that an increase in the volume of the currency is responsible for the appreciation of commodities. The truth is that the latter movement has been going on quite independently of the former. Until last September there was no special increase in the volume of the currency, but in October the Bank of Japan increased its loans by 12 million *yen*, in November by 20 millions, and in December by 18 millions; or some fifty millions in the three months. Instead of regarding that hitherto unprecedented event as a cause of the appreciation of commodities, Mr. Yamamoto considers it to be a consequence. The great rise in the market prices of raw silk, *kabutaye*, copper, coal, and rice—this last plainly due to a defective harvest—can not reasonably be attributed to any swelling of the bulk of the currency, but has obviously the effect of requiring larger sums of money for conducting transactions in these staples. Mr. Yamamoto mentioned incidentally that to fix, with any pretence of approximation, the amount of currency that should be put into circulation *per capita* of the population seems impossible. In England the average is 33 *yen* per head, in France 70 *yen*, in Germany 38 *yen*, and in Japan at present a little over 5 *yen*. Speaking, again, of the charges of conservatism brought against the Bank of Japan because, while lending money on railway shares, it declines to accept the shares of industrial companies as security for loans, the President said, in effect, that the Bank has to cut its coat according to its cloth. Its funds available for lending are only 90 million *yen*, whereas the volume of negotiable securities that may be offered to it comprises 400 million *yen* worth of public bonds, 140 to 150 millions of other negotiable paper, and, perhaps, another 100 millions in kind—silk, cotton, rice, &c.—, making from 600 to 700 millions in all. It is consequently obliged to be conservative even in the matter of public bonds and railway shares, and can not launch out at all into the region of manufactures.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

The Japanese House of Representatives has accomplished one of the least creditable acts of its career. It has rejected, by an overwhelming majority, the Bill introduced by Mr. Ando and others for giving practical recognition to the elementary principle of justice that a husband has no right to demand from his wife the practice of a virtue which he himself ignores. Moreover, the House's method of rejecting the Bill was contemptible. The Special Committee appointed to examine it reported that to legislate in the desired sense did not seem expedient, in view of the fact that the Government was engaged in revising the Criminal Code. Thereupon one of the supporters of the Bill asked the Government Delegate whether there was any intention of embodying such a principle in the amended Criminal Code, and received a negative reply. It is perfectly plain that if the Committee had been actuated by any desire to consider the Bill on its merits, they would have taken the precaution of putting a similar question to the Government Delegate on their own account. But they avoided doing so in order not to be deprived of the wretched subterfuge which they offered to the House as a reason for rejecting the Bill. They had not the courage to deny the principle involved—and their pusillanimity is not without encouraging significance—, neither had they the honesty to adopt the most ordinary precaution against deceiving the House. It is also perfectly obvious that, after the Government Delegate's disavowal, the only proper course was to re-submit the Bill to the Committee, in order that it might receive examination on its merits. Such a step was, indeed, proposed by one of the supporters of the Bill, but scarcely half-a dozen members could be found to endorse it, and the Bill was then rejected by an almost unanimous vote. The Japanese nation, or at any rate their representatives, have thus converted their sin of omission into one of deliberate commission. So long as no public refusal was made to recognise the reciprocal obligation of fidelity on the part of husband and wife alike, the Japanese might be regarded as a people whose moral sense in this respect was dormant. But now that the House of Representatives has openly rejected the principle, this country must be content to occupy a lower plane of civilization than that on which Rome stood in the days of Aristotle, Plutarch, and Seneca.

FUNGUS CARVING.

It appears to us that the new art of fungus carving, invented and developed by Miss Ida Musselman of Somerset, Pa., owes its inspiration solely to the Japanese *netsuke*, though we can not find any reference to such an origin in the appreciative notices published by American journals. "The fungus used for wood carving," we read, "is found on partially decayed oak and maple-trees. It must be carefully removed in order to preserve the delicate and creamy surface, which is easily injured while in a fresh and moist state. It is also necessary to have the fungus properly cured and made as hard and durable as wood before it is worked upon." In short the fungus is an easily worked substitute for ivory or the fine-grained woods in which the Japanese *netsuke*-carver has produced such beautiful works since the sixteenth century. A group of lions carved on a fungus by Miss Musselman and depicted in the New York *Tribune* seemed to us to be a *netsuke* until we read its history and observed that the modelling of the animals differed from the conventional treatment they would have received at Japanese hands. The grouping is precisely Japanese, and the fringe of bamboos in which the group is framed is the exact counterpart of a Japanese design.

URBAN REPRESENTATION.

By way of supplement to what we have already written on the subject of urban and rural representation in Japan, the following table, which we take from the columns of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, very clearly shows the ratios contemplated by the framers of the various bills:—

	Total M'bers.	Urban.	Rural.	Total.	Ratio U.	Ratio R.
Composition of present House	300	17	283	100	6	94
Ito Bill	473	113	360	100	24	76
Yamagata Bill of 1898	445	98	347	100	22	78
Yamagata Bill of 1899	426	91	335	100	21	79
House of Representatives' present Bill	478	77	401	100	16	84

It is very plain that so far from recognising the superior claims of the urban population on account of wealth and intelligence, the House of Representatives is not disposed to do even common justice.

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A SPLIT IN THE SACERDOTAL RANKS.

Things are not moving smoothly with the Buddhist agitators against the Religions Bill. We have spoken of their meeting in Kyoto, and of the sweeping resolutions formulated there. But it now appears that, on the second day of the meeting, a serious divergence of opinion arose. When the question of the Bill came upon the *tapis* originally, some six weeks ago, a violently hostile attitude was at once assumed by the priests of the Eastern Hongwan-ji. But it was soon found that the Western Hongwan-ji took different ground, and would even sever its connexion with the Eastern Hongwan-ji if the latter maintained its views too vehemently. As such a split would have been a serious calamity to the great Shin Sect, the Eastern Hongwan-ji priests modified their claims, and agreed to a compromise on the basis that the Bill should not be opposed *in toto*, but that steps should be taken to obtain some modification of its provisions. In pursuance of that *modus vivendi* a committee of prelates proceeded to Tokyo, headed by the celebrated Mr. Akamatsu. But in the absence of the committee the agitation was renewed in Kyoto—perhaps because the result of the negotiations for compromise began to be disquieting—and a meeting, as already described, took place on the 5th and 6th instant in that city. It would seem that the Nishi Hongwan-ji priests hoped at first to lead the meeting to a moderate mood, but that, seeing the hopelessness of doing so, they resorted to different tactics. For, on the second day, the *chief* representative of the great Western Temple rose and inquired whether the resolutions were intended to signify total opposition to the Bill's passage through the Diet, and, the reply being in the affirmative, he urged that such a course was out of order, inasmuch as a committee, duly appointed with the full agreement of both sides, were even then in Tokyo discussing amendments of the measure. The meeting declined, however, to endorse that view, and the priests of the Nishi Hongwan-ji withdrew in a body, their example being subsequently imitated by Mr. Doki, the high prelate of the Shingon sect, which has its chief monastery at Koya. We may remind our readers that Mr. Doki, like Count Otani of the Nishi Hongwan-ji, issued a manifesto couched in most liberal terms after the Revised Treaties went into operation. There is thus a complete cleavage in the ranks of the Buddhists. It seems scarcely possible that this much-discussed Bill should make its way through both Houses of the Diet this session, seeing that there only remain some eight working days, but at any rate the opposition of the Buddhists is paralysed by their want of unanimity.

THE WALL STREET PANIC.

A hundred million dollars—two hundred millions of *yen*—lost in a day. This is the calculated result of the recent fall of values in the New York market. The brunt of the calamity had to be borne by the trust stocks and bonds, which have now an aggregate face value of fifteen hundred millions. As usual no one is able to diagnose exactly the cause of this sudden decline. Many reasons are alleged. The cessation of the usual monthly supply of 7½ million dollars' worth of gold from South Africa; the steps taken by Great Britain to provide funds for the war; the recent extraordinary expansion of trade without any corresponding expansion of the currency, the wildly speculative floating of trust stocks and bonds, and a sudden suspicion of the soundness of such speculations caused by two or three failures—such are the factors enumerated. The two last on the list seem to have been the most potent.

THE USUAL MISREPRESENTATIONS.

The degree to which misrepresentation can be carried by the *Japan Herald* is quite astonishing. It can not be intentional, we presume, but, if not, it argues extraordinary inability to comprehend the most ordinary statements. We place side by side a paragraph from a recent article of our own and the *Japan Herald's* comments on it:—

Extract from the *Japan Mail*.

There is still one phase of the question which should be noticed, though we do not imagine that any one attaches practical importance to it. It is the suspicion that although the 45th Article of the Law of Operation of the Civil Code enables the Government now to remove the foreign titles beyond the reach of the Code, the protection thus given will cease when the treaty terminates 12 years hence. In other words, the Government, though pledged by treaty to recognise the perpetuity of the leases, will be guilty of the chicanery of interpreting "perpetuity" to mean "12 years," and will withdraw the protection of the Ordinance. Well, even granting the possibility of such a wild chimera, would the danger be averted by having the titles registered as "perpetual leases?" If the Government can not be trusted to keep its solemn engagements, can the Diet be trusted? If it be conceivable that the Government should resort to the twelve-year subterfuge, is it not at least equally conceivable that the Diet, at the end of 12 years, might rescind the special law which the land-renters now desire to have passed, and might decline to continue the system of differentiation? Truly this line of objection does not deserve analysis. If the Government's *bona fides* can not be credited, there is little to be hoped from the liberality of the Diet. But we may take it for granted that neither Government nor Diet will ever be guilty of the gross dishonesty of pretending that a promise to confirm a perpetual lease holds good for 12 years only.

The *Japan Herald's* criticism of the foregoing.

In concluding remarks we note that our contemporary throws out mysterious hints of what the Diet might do with the leases twelve years ahead. The mere suggestion is monstrous, as such acts would be opposed to international law, and no foreign Government would submit to them. The Japanese would be arraigned before the tribunal of the Powers and branded as untrustworthy among the nations. Moreover, our contemporary seems to have overlooked the fact that, when the period of treaty duration has been fixed, and the conditions of the parties have not been altered, no one has the right to withdraw from it unless permitted by the other party or parties, and in this particular case we may be quite sure that the foreign Governments would not permit the Japanese to withdraw from the present arrangements until they had concluded others equally satisfactory. Such an act as that suggested by our contemporary would never be tolerated under the present law of nations, because in this age of comparative enlightenment it is a recognised truth that, apart from times of peace, even in war time it is against this international law to interfere with private rights; therefore what has once been granted can not be cancelled legally, if the Japanese wish to preserve their credit in the eyes of the world.

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

Our readers know that a Bill has been introduced in the Lower House by Mr. Ozaki Yukio, having for its object the restraint of corrupt practices among the members. The method advocated by Mr. Ozaki is very simple. He proposes that members of the Diet should be included in the same category as officials for the purposes of his reform; in other words, that charges of bribery and corruption against a member of the Lower House should come under the jurisdiction of the ordinary Committee, or a Special Committee, of the House. The Bill was handed to a Special Committee for a report, and it is stated that the Committee has decided to recommend its rejection for two principal reasons. The first is that as the system of Parliamentary Cabinets has not yet been introduced in Japan, the Administration can not be trusted to refrain from interfering with the Judiciary, and impartiality on the latter's part is consequently not to be relied on. The second is that the Judiciary in Japan is not yet sufficiently equipped to discharge such functions in a satisfactory manner. We do not vouch for the accuracy of these reasons, but they are published by the *Nippon* which, doubtless, has trustworthy sources of information. Our contemporary's comment is *sate kuchi wa chōhō na mono da* (verily the tongue is a convenient thing), and perhaps nothing more apposite can be said. It would be a vast joke if the Diet rejected the Bill on such grounds. But it would also be most injurious to the country's reputation, for if the House of Representatives pledges itself to the assertion that the Judiciary is still subject to interference by the Executive, and that the judges are still unfit to discharge their functions, how can foreigners possibly be expected to form a more favourable conclusion?

NIGIRI-TSUBUSHI.

Clever as the Japanese are in devising equivalents for foreign idioms, they have not yet found anything that does such graceful duty as the term "slaughter of the innocents." When a Bill meets with that fate in the Diet, they speak of it as *nigiri-tsubushi*, which literally means "grasped and crushed," and is quite sufficiently expressive, at all events, though deficient in elegance. Such seems to be the inevitable fate of the Religious Bill. It has not even reached the stage of a committee report in one House, and the eight working days that remain of the session are quite inadequate to pass it. Meanwhile its opponents, the Shin Sect, maintain their agitation vehemently. In Kyoto as we have seen, their phalanx has been split, but in Owari and Mikawa, where the Eastern Hongwan-ji has many adherents, meetings are daily held, lectures delivered, sermons preached, and newspapers boycotted, the whole movement being conducted with a degree of earnestness that is, at all events, striking, whatever be the real character of its motives. It is said that in the event of the Bill's being pushed in its present form, a monster array of the Owari and Mikawa objectors have resolved to organize a demonstration in Tokyo. They forget, apparently, that such demonstrations are unlawful while the Diet is in session.

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KOREAN NEWS.

Intelligence received by the *Asahi Shimbun* from Korea represents the United States Minister as having taken an unusual step. He has addressed the Emperor direct with reference to a report that certain American citizens had taken part in a conspiracy to overthrow the imperial form of Government and substitute a republic. The American gentleman now employed as adviser to the Korean Government is expressly referred to by the authors of this absurd report. Doubtless the American Representative had intelligence that the Emperor placed some faith in the *canard*, or that the Cabinet was disposed to believe it.

With regard to the Uensan mining affair, the same journal's special correspondent says that the Russian Representative has really lodged a protest against the concession's being given to a British subject, but that Mr. Steyn is proceeding on a misunderstanding. Last spring, an official division of the State property was made, the mines falling to the share of the Household Department. Mr. Steyn's predecessor then proposed that, if mining concessions were reserved entirely for Russian subjects, the Russian Government would undertake to lend Korea any money required by her. No definite reply was given by the Korean Authorities, but the *Asahi's* correspondent thinks that Mr. Steyn is assuming that the arrangement proposed by his predecessor was really made. Meanwhile the British Representative is understood to be very insistent in his demands for recognition of Mr. Morgan's rights, and the latter's workmen are actually on the spot, waiting to commence operations.

The semi-annual meeting of the shareholders of the Söul-Chemulpo Railway has been held, and the following accounts were presented and passed:—

	Yen.
Net profits for the half year	9,406
Brought over from last account.....	5,044
Total	14,450
Dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. ...	11,162
Carried forward	3,288
Total	14,488

It will be observed that the Company reckons its capital at only 744,200 *yen*, a figure which we do not understand, seeing that the line is understood to have been purchased for a million *yen*, and a considerable sum was subsequently spent on its completion. At all events, this account is not calculated to encourage the promoters of the Söul-Fusan line. If the Söul-Chemulpo road, which has admittedly the best prospects of any railway in Korea, can pay a dividend of only 3 per cent., inventors are not likely to be tempted by the shares of the Söul-Fusan line.

The Korean Government has apparently abandoned its heroic policy with regard to the Uensan mine and Mr. Pritchard Morgan. Again and again the telegraph has told as about Mr. Morgan's having sent fifty men to work the mine in defiance of the Korean Government's refusal to grant permission, and about the Söul Authorities having ordered a force of troops to proceed to Uensan for the purpose of restraining the intrepid miners. But a change has come over the spirit of the dream. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is said to have been opposed from the first to any exercise of force, and finding that his peaceful counsels did not receive attention, he finally resigned. That seems to have induced the Government to reconsider its decision, for now, instead of despatching troops to check the enterprise, the Imperial Household Department is about to send 20 men to "guard the mine." The precise interpretation of the phrase "guard the mine" is not evident, but the words are read to mean that Mr. Pritchard Morgan's men are not likely to experience any serious inconvenience.

An interview with Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Representative in Söul, is published by the *Jyji Shimpo*. Mr. Hayashi sets out by denying in the most emphatic manner that any differences exist at present between Japan and Russia. There is not the smallest reason to apprehend that the Masampo affair will ever assume the dimensions of an international question, and no other clouds mar the absolute serenity of the horizon. In fact, since the last conference between Mr. Pablov and Mr. Hayashi, the relations between the two empires may be described as extremely cordial. Mr. Hayashi then goes on to speak of foreign enterprise generally in Korea. He declares that it has never been Japan's policy to interfere in any way with fair competition. An open field, and no favour, is her motto. Nor does he see that displays of force are necessarily conducive to the promotion of industrial or commercial enterprise. The United States of America does not send men-of-war into Korean ports, yet her citizens enjoy more than a proportionate share of the opportunities offered by the country. What the Japanese have to do is to take their courage in their two hands and enter the field of competition in practical earnest. They have the concession of the Söul-Fusan Railway, but others are watching to secure the reversionary interest in it, and so surely as the Japanese promoters allow the fixed period to expire without beginning to construct the road, it will be snapped up by other nationals.

THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE RAILWAYS.

Saturday, Feb. 3.

It is stated that the plan to be pursued in purchasing the private railways, according to the recommendation of the Committee appointed to investigate the question, is to effect the purchase by means of five per cent. bonds. The price to be paid for the nine railways involved in the scheme is 200 million *yen*, and the transaction will extend over 7 years, so that there will be an annual addition of some thirty million *yen* to the volume of Government securities. The price paid for the lines is to be fixed after consultation with the various companies, but is not in any case to exceed twenty-five times the average net profit for a year. We do not exactly know how the average profit is to be determined, or what is meant by "average." At all events the project seems to have finally entered the field of practical politics, for good or for evil.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

It is the *Fiji Shimpo's* opinion that the action of the Railway Committee in recommending a scheme for the purchase of the private railways, and the action of the Government in embodying the scheme in a Bill, are a big bluff. The Committee knows that the scheme is impossible; the Government knows that it is impossible. But the Committee, for reasons of party polities, deems it well to recommend a programme, and the Government, lest it should offend its political supporters by ignoring the recommendation, has drafted a Bill in the sense suggested, trusting that, in the interval allowed for carrying out the measure, something will occur to stay further proceedings. That is a strange theory of the *Fiji's*. Scarcely credible, we should think. If the Bill contains a clause leaving the Government full discretion as to giving effect to its provisions, there may be warrant for assuming that nothing very serious is contemplated, but not otherwise.

Thursday, Feb. 8.

The draft Bill for nationalizing private railways has received final consideration from the Committee appointed last year to examine the question, and has been adopted with very slight amendments; namely, that the period for carrying out the scheme shall be 10 years, instead of 7, and that the railways shall be purchased in the order of the *i-ro-ha* syllabary, instead of being specially designated for precedence. Many people think that the Bill will be put though the Diet this session. If so, the Diet will have to expedite its proceedings in an unusual degree. Since the measure emanates from the Government, it will have to be submitted to special committees in both Houses, which means that at least four days will be required by each branch of the Legislature. But the session closes at the end of next week. We are bound to say that the management of the State lines has not hitherto been of such a character as to suggest the advisability of transferring all the roads to the care of the Railway Bureau.

Friday, Feb. 9.

Count Matsukata has expressed disapproval of certain features in the proposals formulated by the Railway Committee with reference to the nationalization of the railways. His Excellency objects especially, and with obvious reason, to the provision that the purchase must be effected within a fixed term of years. The inevitable consequence of imposing a time limit would be to seriously disturb the stock market. In this matter the Government must be left a free hand, the finance authorities being empowered to watch for favourable opportunities at their own discretion. Another objectionable feature of the recommendations, in the Minister's opinion, is that the Government is required to seek the consent of the Diet to any arrangement for the purchase of a road. That condition ties the Government's hands unreasonably and unnecessarily, and would be most inconvenient in practice. Thus Count Matsukata has allowed is to be clearly understood that the Bill drafted by the Government in the sequel of the Committee's investigations will differ materially from the Committee's draft. We do not imagine, however, that the question has any immediate practical interest. The Diet's session terminates on Saturday week, the 19th instant, and unless it be prolonged—which seems very unlikely—there is no possibility of passing a Bill of such importance through both Houses. Whatever course the Represen-

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tatives might be disposed to adopt, the Peers would certainly refuse to be hurried in their deliberations, for many of them are understood to be strongly opposed to the nationalization of the railways.

MINING PRIVILGEES FOR FOREIGNERS.

Monday, Feb. 5.

The House of Representatives, on the 2nd instant, passed without debate or dissent the important change recommended by the Special Committee in the 3rd Article of the Mining Regulations; the change by which mining privileges will be extended to foreigners organized as juridical persons in accordance with Japanese law. The Bill in which this reform has been embodied by the Lower House was originally presented by the Government to the Peers. Its purpose, as drafted, was merely to extend the scope of the Regulations in the sense of adding certain minerals to the list, and in that form the Peers passed it. But, when it came into the hands of the Representatives, they took the opportunity to amend the 3rd Article in the manner above stated. The Bill must, therefore, be sent back to the Peers. If they approve of the Lower House's amendment, there will be no further difficulty, but, if they disapprove, a Conference of the Houses will have to be held. We can not suppose, however, that the Peers will reject an amendment which comes to them unanimously approved by the Representatives. Indeed, this unanimous approval is a very remarkable sign of the times. However sanguine we were that a majority of the Lower House would endorse its Special Committee's recommendation, we certainly did not entertain any hope that not a single dissentient voice would be raised.

Friday, Feb. 9

The Committee of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce has unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of granting to foreigners the privilege of owning land or mines in Japan. A proposition was also discussed as to the advisability of presenting to the House of Representatives a petition in the sense of the resolution, but the Committee decided that the wiser course would be to refrain from that step, and merely to circulate the resolution among the various chambers of commerce throughout the empire. It may be taken for granted, we think, that this action on the part of the Tokyo Chamber is the beginning of the end of the restrictions upon foreign ownership of real estate. We have always been entirely confident that every restriction of the kind would disappear before long in Japan. The tendency of the nation is essentially progressive. One after another the old-fashioned fetters are shaken off, and there is not the least probability of any tangible retrogression. In 1893, when the "strict-enforcement" agitation was on the *tapis*, and when there was talk of prosecuting every Japanese subject that had lent his assistance to enable foreigners to purchase land, we ventured to predict that before many years had passed the mood of that time would have faded into the realm of bad dreams. It seems that our forecast was justified.

THE DIET.

Saturday, Feb. 3.

Both Houses of the Diet met yesterday, but the proceedings were as usual quite uninteresting. Some discussion took place in the Peers with reference to a Representation for appointing a Committee to investigate the educational system. The object of the advocates of the Representation is to lower the standard of the University so as to bring matriculation within reach of graduates of Middle Schools, the present High Schools becoming, in effect, universities. Professor Kikuchi, President of the Imperial University; Mr. Kinoshita, Governor of Kyoto; and Professor Kato opposed the Representation, but the House adopted it.

The Representatives were mainly occupied with matters relating to education. They voted Representations for establishing High Schools in the Tokaido and Shinyetsu districts, universities in Kiushiu and Tohoku, and a High School of Agriculture and Forestry in Kiushiu. They also adopted a Representation urging the Government to give due aid to a trans-pacific cable.

Tuesday, Feb. 6.

To the surprise of every one the House of Peers has passed the Bill sent up by the Representatives, providing that a cheque need not have the autograph of the drawer if it bears his seal. The declared object of the Bill is to facilitate business by enabling men of affairs to avoid the labour of writing signatures and have it done by proxy, their own part being confined to affixing a stamp. Strong opposition to the Bill was offered by the Government Delegates on the ground that security is of much more importance in such matters than convenience, and a Special Committee of the Upper House reported against the measure by 4 votes to 3. The House nevertheless passed the Bill, most unadvisedly, in our opinion.

Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The House of Representatives on the 6th instant, witnessed the unwonted spectacle of all parties, Liberals, Progressists, Independents and Imperialists, combining to pass a Representation calling on the Government to take steps for the purpose of starting the construction of the Söul-Fusan Railway. No method of procedure was explicitly defined in the document. It was mentioned that the distance is 300 miles, and the probable cost 25 million *yen*, but it left the Government free to select any suitable means of promotion.

The House also passed a Bill enacting that the supervision of all public works in Tokyo shall be entrusted to the Minister of State for Home Affairs, instead of being left to the Governor and Mayor as at present. The reason advanced by the supporters of the Bill was that a special system is necessitated by the great size of the city and the magnitude of the work to be undertaken. The Government Delegate opposed the project but the House adopted it, without even resorting to the usual preliminary of examination by a Special Committee. It is not so many years since this same House used to contend vehemently for the abolition of the special system of Municipal Government in the Three Cities, and used to treat the question as a kind of struggle against the usurpations of officialdom. Times change.

A COMMENT ON THE WAR..

Military experts will have a great deal to say by-and-by, no doubt, about the South-African war and the lessons to be learned from it. Meanwhile, the natural tendency of ordinary minds is to conclude that the origin of the reverses which the British troops have encountered is to be sought in faults of organization or of strategy; in a word, that from a military point of view England is weak. We find an interesting article on that subject in the *Nippon*. The writer contends that to base any conclusion on the events which have hitherto occurred would be altogether premature. The conditions are so exceptional that they upset ordinary calculations. What may confidently be asserted, however, is that Great Britain is displaying, in the face of disaster, a degree of calmness, resolution, and self-confidence rarely if ever shown by any other nation. Our contemporary then cites examples of the conduct of other peoples when their armies met with reverses beyond the seas, but we refrain from reproducing this part of the article, for, since we belong at present to the vanquished side, it is not congenial to adduce comparisons in extenuation of our failure. Nevertheless it certainly does seem to be true, as the *Nippon* says, that the British are the only people in modern times who have never been deterred by reverses from continuing campaigns in foreign lands, and who have managed to hold the fruits of their victories. Very likely we have been presuming too much on our record.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A terrible calamity is reported from Nagoya. Twenty-eight fishing boats have been wrecked off the Miye Coast, and out of their total crews, aggregating 56, only 2 men have thus far returned in safety. There is very little room to hope that any of the others escaped.

The directors of the Tanko Tetsudo Kaisha of Hokkaido decided, at their last meeting, to issue debentures to the extent of 3,900,000 *yen*. The money is to be applied to two purposes; first to extending their lines of railway—2,700,000 *yen*—and secondly, to opening a new coal mine (1,200,000 *yen*).

The Buddhists have held a meeting of the heads of the Shin Sect in Kyoto, and, in spite of the opposition of the Nishi Hongwan-ji, have passed, by overwhelming majorities, resolutions condemning the Religions Bill. A general meeting is to be held in a few days, when these resolutions will doubtless be endorsed.

Vernacular papers say that of the two great copper mines of Japan, the Ashiwo produces ten million catties of copper annually, which is sold for 4,200,000 *yen*, the cost of production being 2,100,000 *yen*; and the Besshi has an output of 6 million catties, which sells for 2,520,000 *yen*, and costs 960,000 *yen* to produce. It would appear, therefore, that the Besshi mine is much more economical to work than the Ashiwo, the ratio of cost being as 16 to 21.

Mr. Ando, not deterred by his failure to procure support in the House of Representatives for his Bill doing justice to

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Japanese wives, has introduced another measure which has for its purpose the abolition of capital punishment. That is not likely to be successful, we imagine, for the profoundest thinkers have not yet been able to come to any definite conclusion on the subject.

There appears to be no question that an issue of postage stamps will take place in connexion with the approaching nuptials of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince. It is said that two engravers have been busy at the work for some time in the Government Printing Bureau, and that there will be two kinds of stamps, a domestic 3-*sen* stamp and a foreign 5-*sen*. They will be issued on the day of the wedding.

The Authorities have at length ordered the suspension of the Kwanto Fire Insurance Company, which distinguished itself last year by paying 5 per cent. of its losses in connexion with the big fire in Yokohama and borrowing the remainder from the policy-holders, and by paying nothing at all to the folks who were burned out at Toyama. The public expected that sentence of suspension would have been pronounced long ago against the Company, for it was undoubtedly a bogus affair.

Marquis Ito, according to the *Chuo*, does not believe that the adoption of an heir to the Chinese throne should be regarded as likely to produce any disturbance, national or international. In short the Marquis takes much the same view as that taken in these columns, namely, that the event has produced a great deal of unwarranted sensation. In the interview which elicited the above expression of opinion, the Marquis further discredited the rumour that Russia entertains any immediately aggressive designs against Afghanistan or that she has despatched an army into Central Asia.

The latest census carries us up to the end of 1898. It shows that the population of the Japanese empire, exclusive of Formosa, aggregated, at that date, 45,193,605 souls, the number showing an increase of 1,960,000 compared with that for 1897. If such a rate of increase be maintained, Japan will have a population of 100 millions in 27 or 28 years. Where are they to find means of sustenance or place to live? Hokkaido still offers large hospitality, but its capacities are totally inadequate to meet such a demand. The wave of Japan's overflow will ultimately inundate the Asiatic continent.

What the Government asks the Diet to do in connexion with the special settlements in China is to sanction a separate system of accounts for expenditures made there. It does not appear that any fixed sum is to be immediately granted for constructing roads and drains. The idea, as explained by Mr. Sakatani of the Finance Department, is that the lands in the Settlements should be acquired by the Government, and that the proceeds of their subsequent sales or leases should be devoted to preparing them for habitation. In short, a system is to be pursued something like that adopted in the case of the foreign settlements in Japan.

Several Japanese papers publish telegrams to the effect that a company of Russian soldiers is encamped near the Yalu on the north of Korea, and that thirty of them have entered Wiju. No information has yet been obtained as to the reason of their presence in that quarter, but the natural conclusion would seem to be that they are a part of the force employed by Russia to protect the prosecution of her Trans-Asian Line.

The *Takao Maru* has gone to the bottom. After lying impaled upon a rock in Enoshima Oki for some days, tempestuous weather completed her destruction. No particulars are published as to whether the rock was unsurveyed, or as to the exact cause of the disaster.

While the citizens of Tokyo are fighting about a street electric railway so that all enterprise in that direction is paralysed, the Kawasaki Electric Railway Company are going ahead. They have elaborated a project for a line from Aoyama *via* Akasaka, Azabu, Meguro, Ikegami and Omori to Kawasaki. The shares are said to have been already taken up. The capital of the Company is 800,000 *yen*, and it is expected that operations of construction will commence in March.

The police have arrested the youth Suzuki Akira, who succeeded in forging and cashing cheques to the aggregate amount of 1,132 *yen*. He was apprehended when attempting to repeat the trick on a Chinese money-changer in Yokohama. The first crime was a common-place forgery, but the second showed much sharpness. Instead of seeking to change a cheque for *yen* 750, Suzuki, asked the First Bank in Yokohama to transmit a sum of 1,000 *yen* to his credit in Kyoto, for which purpose he handed in 253 *yen* in cash and a cheque for 750. He then hastened to Kyoto and drew the money on the arrival of the order. He seems to have squandered all the proceeds of his thefts except 330 *yen*, which he entrusted to a relative in Aichi.

The Industrial Bank shareholders held their half-yearly general meeting on the afternoon of the 3rd instant, when the following accounts were submitted and passed :—

	Yen.
Total profits for the half-year.....	405,536
Expenses	283,043
Net Profit	122,493
Brought over from previous account.	4,224
Total	126,717
	Yen.
To Reserve for meeting losses	19,599
To Reserve for equalizing Dividends	4,900
First Dividend (at the rate of 5 o/o) ...	62,500
Rewards to officers	6,124
Second Dividend (at the rate of 2 o/o)	25,000
Carried over	8,594

A large number of Japanese emigrants —8,000 is the number started—are said to have been engaged by Mr. Takahashi for work on Canadian railways. Mr. Takahashi says that there are about 2,500 Japanese at Vancouver and in the neighbourhood, and that some 1,500 of them are naturalized. During the winter they work on the railways or in the factories, and in summer they engage in the fishing industry on the Fraser River. He believes that fully two hundred thousand labourers are needed for mining in Canada and at Klondyke, and that a splendid opening for Japanese immigrants offers in those regions. A certain Mr. Okayama is said to have secured four rich claims at Klondyke, whence he writes that sugar sells for 5 *yen* per lb., flour for 15 *yen* per 50 lbs., and able-bodied labour for 15 dollars per diem.

The *Hochi Shimbun* says that the cigarette-making business of Japan is practically in the hands of three firms, the Iwaya, the Kimura, and the Murai. Iwaya sells 10 million packets (?) per annum, Murai 6 millions, and Kimura 7 millions. But since the Messrs. Murai are the sole agents for the American "Old Gold," "Pin Head," and "Cameo," their business bulks more largely than that of Mr. Iwaya. The latter uses Japanese tobacco entirely at his factory, but the Messrs. Murai prefer imported leaf. It is stated that the citizens of Tokyo are rapidly abandoning the pipe in favour of the cigarette. Of the tobacco now sold in the city, only 57 per cent. is cut; the remainder takes the form of cigarettes. No such change has occurred in the provincial districts, however. The lilliputian pipe continues to be the constant companion of the agricultural classes.

A gentlemen travelling by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Izumi Maru*, from Yokohama to Hongkong, was so unfortunate as to be arrested at Moji on a charge of violating the regulations for preserving military secrecy. The ship having stopped for the purpose of taking in coal, this passenger—an American citizen, it is said, but his transliterated name is unidentifiable—went ashore for a stroll, and, finding himself in the vicinity of some interesting-looking structures furnished with big guns and various novel apparatus, he proceeded to scrutinise them minutely. A sentry discovered him while thus engaged, and carried him off to the guard-room, where he had to undergo the disagreeable experience of being searched and minutely questioned. The officials of the District Court ordered his release as soon as the depositions were submitted, since it was made evident that he had erred inadvertently.

QUADRUPLE MURDER IN YOKOHAMA.

On Monday morning, about seven o'clock, a well-dressed Japanese presented himself at the Isezakicho Police station, stating that he had killed four persons. The Police immediately made investigations into the matter, and found it to be true. The man turned out to be Nakagawa Kaneo, uncle of Sawada Kaoru, a wine merchant in Hanazakicho, Sanchome, No. 45. It seems that he killed the proprietor of the shop, his wife, aged 23, and a boy servant named Katsuzo, aged 14, and the proprietor's sister, named Masa, aged 16. The deed was done sometime during Monday morning and the weapon employed was a sword, now in possession of the police. The murderer gave as a reason for his atrocious crimes that he had been treated badly by the people of the wine-shop.

The bodies of the four murdered persons were sent on Tuesday morning at 3 a.m. to the Kuboyama burying ground to be cremated.

Persons living in the neighbourhood where the murder was committed have been leaving their houses through horror and superstitious terror.

In an action for libel brought by Mr. U. Nervegna, an Italian merchant in Hongkong, against the Chinese newspaper *Tun Wan Yat Pao*, published in that colony, the jury returned a verdict against the proprietor and the printer and publisher, giving damages against both in the sum of $11,370.

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SUBSIDIES TO STEAM-SHIP COMPANIES.

IT certainly does seem to be a measure of very doubtful expediency that the Japanese Government should apply itself to reducing its subsidies to steam-ship companies—penny wisdom and pound foolishness, we venture to think. Japan has spent and is spending great sums on her army. She has now raised it to the dimensions of a most formidable fighting force. What for? Certainly not for purposes of home defense. She is quite invulnerable within her own territories. No Power at present existing could attack her with even a slender prospect of success. England or France might send a strong squadron of fifteen or twenty battle-ships to destroy her shipping and bombard her coasts; but that is a naval problem and what we are talking of now is campaigning on shore. So far as land defense is concerned, one-half of Japan's present army, or even one-third of it, would amply suffice. If she had any doubts about that question six months ago, they must have been effectually dispelled by the object lessons of the South African war, where the immense power of the defense, under the conditions of modern warfare, has been conclusively demonstrated. We come back, then, to the query, what is the purpose of this army of half a *million men?* Evidently for service abroad. We do not mean that Japan harbours aggressive designs, but we do mean that she harbours the ambition of being able to place a force of two hundred thousand men at any given point of the Asiatic Continent, and to maintain them there. That is almost her unique claim to international greatness. She can not possibly hope to compete with Powers like England, France, Russia and Germany in the matter of sea-fighting. Russia is already engaged in making a large addition to her fleet; France is about to vote nearly twenty millions sterling for hers; Germany, if the Government gets its way—as it certainly will—may be expected to launch out on a correspondingly extensive programme, and England, judging from the Queen's recent speech and from the shock that the South African war has given to the country's prestige and therefore to its security, will not be distanced in this race of competitive armaments. Heaven only knows where it will end, or by what kind of cyclopean collision these gigantic ambitions will ultimately be shattered. At all events, Japan is out of that race: she can not begin to pay even the entrance fee. She must do what she can to save herself from being open to attack on the sea, but that has to be the limit of her reasonable hopes. Her army is her sole title to international consideration—it will be understood, of course, that we allude to belligerent titles only—, and the efficiency of her army for that purpose depends mainly, if not entirely, on its mobility. Unless it can be used on the Continent of Asia, it might as well have no existence in its present dimensions. Could it be so used to-morrow? When the *post-bellum* programme was published, we insisted upon that very point. The projected army was quite in excess of the facilities available for transporting it. Japan managed to send a large force over-sea during her war with China; but the opportunities were peculiar. If she succeeded ultimately in collecting a hundred thousand men on Chinese soil, we must not let our applause for the feat blind us to the fact that this force consisted of several distinct *corps d'armeé*, and that they were transported separately to their various destinations, so that, practically, the steamers employed represented not more than one-third of the flotilla which would have been required for a simultaneous effort of the same total magnitude. It was, plain, therefore, that if Japan intended to have an army available for service beyond the seas, its organization must be accompanied by a very large development of her maritime carrying facilities, and no such development was in sight when the *post bellum* programme first came before the public. But it must be admitted that steamship enterprise has made considerable strides during the past three years. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha alone has added to its fleet twelve new steamers of six thousand tons; vessels of a class entirely unrepresented in the former mercantile marine of the Empire; the Osaka Shosen Kaisha also has shown much spirit, and the same may be said of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and of other companies on a modified scale. In fact, there is a remote hope—only remote as yet—that if the Government continues its policy of judicious aids, the country will ultimately be able to establish the reputation which is its legitimate aim. Marquis Ito showed his invariable foresight when he drafted the *post-bellum* programme, for he included in it a large scheme of navigation encouragement. But the present Cabinet seems to be weakening on the very threshold of success. For the sake of saving a few thousands of pounds it is beginning to cut down its subsidies, though in truth they are already small enough. The amount of the contemplated retrenchment does not signify so much as the impression of timidity and conservatism that it must convey to ship-owners and ship-builders. Such a narrow policy, if it is to be in any sense logical, should be accompanied by a determined reduction of the army-expansion scheme. Japan wants half a million of tons of shipping at least to render her army serviceable, and she could not at present muster even the moiety of that total.

THE IDEOGRAPH QUESTION.

MR. E. H. HOUSE, in an interesting letter which we publish elsewhere, says much that is instructive in his own forceful style and, at the same time, hurls at our head much sarcasm, undeserved we venture to think. He is particularly severe in his denunciations of two phrases used by us, but even when we reconsider them by the light of his condemnation we really do not find them so very reprehensible. Of course Mr. HOUSE knows very well that, though he chooses to read our words in an absolutely literal sense, they were intended to be read comparatively. We said that when it comes to choosing among several substitutes for the ideograph, the Roman Alphabet is "everything that can be desired," and so we continue to say. But we did not say and do not say that the alphabet is a perfect vehicle for rendering sounds. Human ingenuity has not yet discovered any perfect vehicle. For many centuries, however, the civilized world has found the alphabet reasonably well adapted to every-day uses, and there is no appearance of a serious attempt to devise anything better. It is true, as Mr. HOUSE says, that our English method of using the alphabet is often unintelligible. But is that the fault of the alphabet? Is it not rather due to two causes, of which the alphabet is quite independent; first, that a seemingly arbitrary element has been introduced into our etymology, and secondly, that our language is disfigured by homonyms which can not be differentiated without putting the alphabet to some violent uses? So far as the alphabet is concerned, there ought not to be any such curious contrasts as "size" and "sighs," "sleigh" and "slay," "slight" and "sleight," "limb" and "limn," and so on, nor should we write "chough" and pronounce it "chuf," or "though" and call it "tho." But again we say the alphabet is not to blame. It would perform its functions in a plain, straightforward manner were it suffered to do so. At all events, it can be made to represent the sounds of the Japanese language quite satisfactorily, and far better than the *Kana* syllabary represents them. We gather that Mr. HOUSE rather approves of the *Kana*. Has he considered the strange combinations of *Kana* syllables that are made in order to produce Japanese words? Has he examined such puzzles as *Kiyau-to* (Kyoto), *Tenwau* (*Tenō*), *man-yefu-shifu* (*manyōshū*), *shi-youkou* (*shōkō*), *Taikafu* (*taikō*) and so on? The fact is that the *Kana* syllabary, though expressly designed to produce the sounds of the Japanese language, does not produce them by any means as successfully as the Roman alphabet produces them. Celerity of writing is certainly gained by the use of the *Kana*, for the obvious reason that, whereas each syllable is re-

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presented by a single *Kana* sign, two alphabetical letters are generally required to write it in *Romaji*. But in that respect the ideograph is still better, especially the cursive ideograph employed so largely in Japan. Mr. HOUSE finds it very silly and inconsequential to say that as a civilized form of writing a syllabary is as much inferior to an alphabet as long hand is inferior to stenography. One might as well say, he thinks, that a syllabary is as much inferior to an alphabet as long hand is inferior to a syllabary. He calls stenography a syllabary. We do not agree with him. We are, indeed, astonished by his statement. But we must be excused from entering into that part of the question here. Its importance is not apparent. Whether our simile be well chosen or ill chosen, the fact will scarcely be disputed that as a phonographic vehicle an alphabet has many advantages over a syllabary. Neither can we admit the justice of Mr. HOUSE'S reference to the Romaji movement of sixteen years ago and the periodical published in support of it. We were careful readers of the *Romaji Zasshi* week after week, and despite Mr. HOUSE'S sarcasm we adhere to the opinion that its columns provided a liberal education for any Japanese of the old school. Finally, in our own behalf and on behalf of the Japanese who are devoting, and have for many years devoted, close attention to this subject, we can not accept Mr. HOUSE'S very disparaging dictum. We certainly do not claim for ourselves any profound knowledge, but our examination of the subject has not been of the flippant, superficial character suggested by Mr. HOUSE'S strictures, and from direct and indirect intelligence of what the Japanese are doing, we are persuaded that they appreciate the difficulties and the importance of the problem more thoroughly than Mr. HOUSE seems to suppose.

MR. FUKUZAWA AND HIS VIEWS.

Foreigners and Japanese are agreed in thinking Mr. Fukuzawa to be one of the most remarkable men of the day. By his own countrymen he is regarded with profound respect almost amounting to worship. Candour, simplicity, courage, disregard of rank and titles, common sense, earnestness, great decision of character,—these are qualities which are as highly esteemed by the Japanese as by ourselves and Mr. Fukuzawa possesses them all in an eminent degree. Everybody gives Mr. Fukuzawa the credit of being quite sincere in the views he holds and all acknowledge that he wields enormous influence throughout the country. The public reads with great avidity everything he writes. His books run though edition after edition at an astonishingly rapid rate and there are few current questions on which he has not something pointed to say. His newspaper is wonderfully well informed, not only on the internal affairs of this country but also on the policies of Western countries. Old though he is, Mr. Fukuzawa shows no signs of having lost his interest in the march of events. A recent article in his newspaper, to quote only one instance among many, maps out with remarkable accuracy the probable course of events in the Transvaal when the present war is over and the two Republics become English protectorates.

Although all are agreed that Mr. Fukuzawa is a very striking personality, there are not a few Japanese and a great many foreigners who hold that his views are anything but elevating. They think his ideal to be a low one. Some writers pronounce it to be materialistic to the core, in the sense that, according to them, nothing but wordly ends are represented to be worthy of constant pursuit. Others affirm that in stating his views Mr. Fukuzawa uses exaggerated language and that his followers are misled by this and push his doctrines to undesirable extremes. Others say that Mr. Fukuzawa has figured too much as an opportunist and that he has sanctioned and even recommended his followers to outwardly conform to forms of religious belief which he himself does not think worthy of acceptance for the sake of the secondary benefits such outward conformity confers. All this and much beside has been said of him. He has been condemned for his scepticism, and it has been said that he has no adequate idea of the important place that man occupies in the Universe. The present writer has for many years studied Mr. Fukuzawa's writings with considerable interest, and in order to show precisely what are the actual views of the Mita sage on religious belief, human life, and kindred subjects has gone to the trouble of examining very thoroughly his 100 short essays, a book which as early as last April had reached its twelfth edition and has now reached the sixteenth. In this volume he has given us his maturest thoughts and convictions. The various essays furnish abundant data whereon to base an opinion of the general character of Mr. Fukuzawa's teaching. In as short a space as possible we will state what he has to say on the principal subjects discussed.

Essay I. is on the "Universe." All thoughtful men, says the essayist, are agreed that there is a certain sublimity and a certain mystery about the Universe, that the way in which numbers of diverse laws work together in realising certain ends is very wonderful. It is admitted that there is something inexplicable connected with the Universe. It would be no doubt convenient to give this a name, and religious people call it "God," whom they assume is the maker of the Universe. I cannot use that name as I know nothing of God. When young I was taught to speak of all things beyond man's strength to perform as the work of "Heaven," and nature's laws were spoken of as Heaven's way. This language is used for the sake of convenience. It teaches us nothing. All that is certain is that there are many things that are beyond our comprehension. The feeling that nature produces in us is one of wonder and admiration. As to actual causes we have no certain guide.

Essay II. is on nature's work and dwells on the uniformity of nature's laws and of their wonderful comprehensiveness. Nothing great or small is uncontrolled by the law from huge planets to specks of dust. And we human beings are part of the great system of nature.

In Essay III. the view is expressed that nature is favourable to man. The following is the gist of what Mr. Fukuzawa has to say on this subject. In all times there has been much discussion over the question of nature's attitude towards mankind. The Chinese philosophers asked whether Heaven's laws were for or against us *Temmei ze* (是) *ka*, *hi* (非) *ka*? The principal features of their treatment of the subject consisted in lamentations over the many misfortunes and drawbacks encountered in this life. There are those who contend that floods, tempest, earthquakes, war, robbery and the like are all proofs that Heaven's laws pay no regard to man's comfort and happiness. But it must not be forgotten that man is endowed with intelligence that will in the end enable him to conquer most of the ills of life. Judging by the rate of progress he is now making, in five or six thousand years there will be few calamities that his skill and forethought will be unable to prevent. Distant generations will be able to surround themselves with happiness of which we have little conception.

In Essay IV., the title of which is "Hope for the Future," the same subject is continued. The history of the past is pronounced to be most encouraging. The appearance every now and again of moralists like Confucius and great scientists like Sir Isaac Newton enables mankind to make rapid progress. Such lights will go on appearing for centuries to come and eventually man will have no complaint to make against his environment.

Essay V. deals with "Cause and Effect." It is contended that the assumption that nature is favourable to us and that there is no real injustice in the conditions to which she has subjected us implies that the whole chain of cause and effect as seen in things material and things mental cannot be justly taken exception to by us. Most of the evils of mankind come from their own sins. Though there are cases of innocent people suffering, yet on the other hand the wonderful intelligence displayed in nature's arrangements, the superiority of her ways to our ways, should keep us from charging her with causing the misfortunes which cross our path. Instead of accusing nature, we should do better to set about righting ourselves.

Essay VI. asks and answers the interesting question, "Should we or should we not entertain a feeling of gratitude" (to nature)? This essay appears in full with a translation on p. 322 *et seq.* of Mr. B. H. Chamberlain's "Introduction to the Study of Japanese Writing." From Mr. Chamberlain's translation we make a few short extracts. After enumerating various sources of happiness furnished to us by nature, the essayist proceeds thus—"Such is the condition of man, swimming in a sea of happiness. Nevertheless, when we proceed to ask whether he ought or ought not to feel grateful for these favours,—whether, to speak colloquially, he should say thank you for them,—a doubt naturally suggests itself. For mark the word 'favour.' It includes the notion of benevolence, kindly action; and gratitude for these presupposes the existence of some person by whom the benevolence is exercised. But the great machine of the Universe, marvellously as it is constructed, shows no trace of any special constructor; and even if, for argument's sake, we coin the word 'Creator' and apply it in this

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context, attaining thereby to apparent logical satisfaction, then we must find some maker for the maker of the Creator. Thus we should go on *ad infinitum*, and, when all was said and done, the only conclusion arrived at would be that the world is a great machine marvellously constructed. It is a great machine originated by chance, and we human beings are born by chance, and really form part of the machine. We may illustrate this by the case of an engine which should move of itself in a marvellous manner, while yet there was absolutely no means of ascertaining the existence of the motor power, steam; and man would correspond, say, to one nail, or to a minute particle of the iron of that engine; in all those revolutions he would participate, but as he would naturally ignore* the causes which brought it all about, no search on his part would bring to light any one whom he ought specially to thank for the favour of whirling him round. All that can be done is to contemplate the vastness, the infinity, the immeasurableness, the marvellousness of the great machine, and to discern ever more and more clearly our own insignificance and weakness." In the same essay nature is defined as "merely a marvellous and spontaneous series of events, from which it is impossible to deduce the existence of any person causing those events to be what they are." And the conclusion arrived at is thus concisely and lucidly stated: "*A single immutable order of nature can justly excite neither gratitude nor resentment; for it is plain that, being so vast as it is, we, in our position as human beings, can no more dare to praise than to blame it.*" (The translation is Mr. Chamberlain's, the italics are ours). The sage continues: "Calm, unbiassed reflection shows us that the fact of human beings being born as human beings belongs to the same order as that of fish being fish, or birds being birds, or a man or woman of thirty being thirty; there is in it no special cause for joy, or yet for astonishment. Nature suits man and all other living creatures. This is simply because nature is nature; it is no mark of any special and particular favour. If nature did not suit man and other creatures, then men and things as we now know them would not exist on the surface of this globe,—nay! the globe itself could not then wear its present aspect. Thus it is only because nature is suitable to their origination that things exist at all. It is not because things exist that we are justified in inferring any special favour towards them on nature's part. To notice things and then treat them with particular kindliness is an exclusively human trait, *and it argues want of appreciation of the greatness of the great machine to judge nature's handiwork by our petty schemes.*" In a note at the end of this essay Mr. Fukuzawa tells-us that this discussion is only designed for the learned, and he expresses a fear that the ignorant may misunderstand it. As translated by Mr. Chamberlain, he says, "In fine, gratitude being a sentiment which springs from piety, the proper course for wise men to pursue in the present uncultivated condition of the world is to foster virtue in the foolish by leaving such piety undisturbed, whether its origin be superstition or emotion." [The above words express Mr. Fukuzawa's habitual teaching on the treatment that religion should receive at the hands of the learned: it should be tolerated as a necessary superstition for the sake of its good effects on the ignorant.

The title of Essay VII. is *Ningen no Anshin* ("Man's Composure of Mind"). It lays special stress on the insignificance of mankind in the great scale of creation. It is in this essay that man is compared to an insect that is born in the morning and dies at night, to dust, and to a maggot. His life is represented as quite unimportant. The world can get on without him. The argument is that most forms of anxiety and discontent originate with over-estimation of the importance of life. Life should be regarded with the indifference and lightness of heart with which we regard our sports. Nothing lasts long, not even the most distressing circumstances, and therefore nothing is worth harassing one's soul about. But at the same time we must make the best of life and fulfil its duties. Indifference should be carried far enough to fortify us against being crushed by reverses, but not to the length of making us neglect any of the means of bettering our position placed within our reach. As the views expressed in this have been very much misunderstood and misrepresented by both Japanese and foreigners and have been pushed to greater lengths than is fair to Mr. Fukuzawa, we quote a few lines of the essay in order to show that he guards against the wrong use of his argument. The passage in which the objections of these critics are forestalled and answered is on p. 38 of the Essays and begins, for we cannot quote the whole, *Sude ni sekai ni umare ide taru ue wa, ujimushi nagara sōō no kakugo naki wo yesu, sono kakugo to wa jinsei wa honrai tawamure to shiri nagara, kono tawamure wo tawamure to sesu shite, adakamo majime ni tsutome, hinku wo sarite furaku ni kokorozashi*, &c. "Having come into the world, though we be nothing but maggots, we must make a suitable preparation for living. And this preparation for living will mean that though we regard life as a joke we shall act as though it were a very serious affair and endeavour to avoid both poverty and pain and aim at obtaining wealth and pleasure, etc." Mr. Fukuzawa goes on to say that all the duties of life must be scrupulously fulfilled. The lightness of heart which he enjoins is intended to be an antidote to the despondency which an over-serious view of life is apt to cause in a certain class of minds.

Essay VIII. treats of the Standard of Right and Wrong. This standard, according to the essayist, is no other than the embodiment of the opinion of mankind generally, or of that of various nations, in reference to the quality of actions. It may be said that actions of which a community disapproves are wrong and those of which they approve are right. Thus the standard must ever change with the change of men's opinion as to the quality of actions. Men reason about all actions and come to some definite conclusion about them, that is, they declare them to be good or bad. Religion attempts to set up a higher standard than this, and teaches that actions have inherent qualities quite irrespective of what people think about them. The standard of morals with people who believe in religion is derived from the teaching of men who are supposed to have been sent by God to tell mankind what is right and wrong. This founding of moral teaching on supernaturalism no doubt offers many advantages when it is sought to influence certain minds. Though I myself do not believe in religion, I can see how it becomes profitable to others and how there are cases in which as a device for leading men into the paths of virtue it may succeed.

In Essay IX. Mr. Fukuzawa maintains that good is held in higher esteem than evil by most men. Man is naturally inclined to be good. Even bad men respect goodness in others and in their better moments wish to be virtuous. Wickedness is not usually the result of a deliberate preference for what is bad, but is only the result of folly. The numerous pleasures attached to virtue and the pain that is so frequently a concomitant of vice teach most men to strive to attain to the former and to avoid the latter.

The argument elaborated in Essay X. is not easy to follow and to not a few it appears contradictory. The essayist himself seems conscious that the view of man that he propounds here stands in apparent if not actual antagonism to the teaching of Essay VII. The limitless desires and high aspirations of man form the theme of Essay X. Man finds himself in possession of a mind that can free itself from all the trammels of time and space and soar to sublime heights. This is some compensation for the extreme insignificance of his existence here and at times it leads him to forget how unimportant he is. Compared with the existence of the millions of units of which the universe is composed the span of life of any individual man is infinitesimally trifling, and his remembering this helps him to bear his lot with composure, but it is given to him to conceive of higher states of existence than any that he can enjoy, to live in a world of thought and imagination. His aspirations know no limits. The consciousness that he possesses an all-exploring mind imparts to his life a loftiness and dignity it would not otherwise possess.

In Essay XI. it is maintained that a virtuous disposition is in many cases nothing but an appreciation of what is beautiful in conduct. This is the old Greek idea. Their *kalos* expressed both the beautiful and the good, just as *aiskros* was used for the ugly to look at and for the morally bad.

In Essay XIII. the benefits of regarding things lightly are set forth in a somewhat new aspect. Light-heartedness is declared to be conducive to activity and zeal. It must not be over-looked that the levity of mind on which Mr. Fukuzawa dwells so much is a quality that the whole nation has cultivated more or less for years, and that it has been repeatedly commented on by foreign observers as one of the most conspicuous traits of national character. It is a form of Stoicism. Mr. Fukuzawa thinks that it does not in this country lead to fatalism, nor according to him does it engender carelessness. The title of Essay XIII. is striking. *Jibutsu wo Karoku mite, hajimete kwappatsu naru wo ubeshi.* (It is only by looking at things lightly that one can become energetic.)

To those who have asserted that Mr. Fukuzawa is a mere man of the world, who grovels in the dust and possesses no lofty

* The translation here seems to us a little misleading. The original is, *mizukara sono shikaru yuen wo shirazareba*, which means simply "as he himself would not know the causes which brought it about." "Naturally ignore" introduces another idea, it seems to us.

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ideal. we would recommend Essay XIV., which urges in eloquent language the necessity of our ever setting before us a high ideal and of our daily striving to reach it. Men of learning have the means of finding out what is the highest ideal of virtue, and as for those who have no other guide, they should fall back on religion, which can furnish them with better ideals than they can frame for themselves. In Essay 100, he takes up the subject of ideals again, and points out that in the present state of the world absolute perfection is unattainable, but that in the far distant future, when knowledge will have so advanced that the material world will have disclosed all its secrets to man, when in all spheres of inquiry the chain of cause and effect will be quite clear to all inquiring minds, absolute perfection may be attainable. This last essay, as it is the longest, is in many ways the most interesting of the series. It gives the basis of the optimism that pervades all Mr. Fukuzawa's writing. Mr. Fukuzawa is an optimist because he has unbounded confidence in man's potentiality. He thinks that the world's evils are all curable and that man's happiness during his sojourn here can be made quite complete. His belief in the future of mankind is based on the marvellous progress in knowledge that has been made in the past.

We have confined ourselves in this review to a consideration of Mr. Fukuzawa's opinions on the deeper questions of philosophy. But in so doing we have failed to give an adequate idea of the comprehensive nature of the volume of essays as regards subjects. There are few topics of interest connected with human life on which he has nothing to say. He discusses many types of virtue and many types of vice and he brings to all his discussions practical common sense. His system of philosophy seems to us incomplete and in many particulars inconsistent. His unqualified optimism is only possible because he fails to give due weight to the many irremediable evils of man's existence in the world, and he expects from the study of physics and other sciences far more than it is in the nature of these branches of knowledge ever to yield. But with all this he displays a wonderful knowledge of human nature, and no writer that we have studied shows clearer discernment of what is and what is not possible in the sphere of ethics.

Great umbrage has been taken by some at the attitude assumed by Mr. Fukuzawa to religion. They say that it is an insult to the learned men who still profess Christianity to say that it is a religion that is not needed by the highly educated, but that it doubtless proves useful to ordinary folks. But after all is not this just the very attitude tacitly assumed by the majority of thinkers in Europe and America? Thousands—we may perhaps say millions—of men steer quite clear of religion themselves, never enter a church except for a funeral, a wedding, or a baptism, but they think it natural that their women folk should go to church, and that even a certain class of men should find religion helpful to them. The only difference between Mr. Fukuzawa and the majority of Western thinkers is this. He states in the plainest language his opinion on the subject of religion and its function in the world; they usually maintain a discreet silence. But their practice and the confidential communications made by them to friends conclusively show that in reality their attitude to religion is precisely that of Mr. Fukuzawa. Surely Mr. Fukuzawa is not to be blamed for having the courage to say what he thinks on this subject. We fail to see any real disrespect for the convictions of others in the attitude complained of. Orthodox Christians must bear in mind that other people can have convictions on religious subjects that are quite as conscientious as theirs. One of these convictions is that religion as received and explained by the orthodox is false. The motto of this class of thinkers is *vigeat veritas, et pereas mundus*. Nothing can induce them to accept teaching that to them appears absolutely unreliable. But they are advocates of liberty of belief and do not attempt to interfere with the conscientious convictions of other people. They even hold the view that there are many illusions that do good; that comfort and help of various kinds can be received from falsehoods. History shows that men and women are capable of being deeply affected by lies and may perform many good actions under the impulse received from teaching that subsequently turns out to be quite false. To Mr. Fukuzawa and to many western thinkers religion appears to be a device for getting a certain class of people to perform virtuous actions, which they would not otherwise perform. Now the world is better for these actions, and as a machine for turning them out religion has never been surpassed. It therefore makes little matter whether supernaturalism is capable of proof or not. To assume a personal God, miracles, heaven, and hell gives an authority to moral precepts that they could not otherwise possess. Hence let them be assumed. Don't try to knock down effective error in order to established ineffective truth. The world is not educated up to the higher philosophy. To proclaim it prematurely and indiscriminately would do more harm than good. "A certain degree of general ignorance," says a well-known western thinker, "is the condition of every religion and is the element in which alone it is able to exist, while as soon as astronomy, natural science, geology, history, knowledge of countries and nations have spread their light universally, and philosophy is finally allowed to speak, every faith which is based on miracle and revelation must perish and then philosophy will take its place." This is Mr. Fukuzawa's view and he adds, "In the meantime, encourage religion." It fills a space and thus the vacuum which nature hates is avoided. But when Mr. Fukuzawa goes still further and recommends young men to profess a religion whose doctrines they consider erroneous for the sake of secondary benefits to be obtained thereby, as he did some years ago in a most public manner, we can no longer defend him. This, it seems to us, is recommending dishonesty. Those who enter the Christian Church are called upon to make a public confession of their faith. To repeat words affirming belief in doctrines which the candidate deems false to most right-minded people would appear absolutely heinous. Yet this is what Mr. Fukuzawa recommended some years ago. Whether he still holds such a proceeding allowable we do not know.

But these minor discrepancies and imperfections in his views can never hide from us the greatness of Mr. Fukuzawa's life as a whole. For nearly four decades he has figured as an out-and-out advocate of the superiority of Western thought and learning. This advocacy has been a most whole-hearted affair. There have been no faltering moments, no retrograde steps. In essay 34 he argues that nothing great can be accomplished if a man's mind is never made up on any question. The half-way house between doubt and belief is not a place where one should stop long. The opinions which he has expressed have all a ring of decision about them, and this it is which has made his writing so popular. The majority of his readers read in order to be informed and they welcome fixed opinions. Dogmatism carried to a certain degree is absolutely essential to successful teaching. In all the subjects which he treats Mr. Fukuzawa takes a side and so presents his views that there is no room for an opposite theory. Mr. Chamberlain has pronounced Mr. Fukuzawa to be shallow. We confess we have failed to discover in what his shallowness consists. He has treated some of the deepest questions of life and of philosophy in, as it seems to us, a very effective manner, and has shown no tendency to shirk difficulties of any kind. The essay which Mr. Chamberlain translated for his "Introduction to the Study of Japanese Writing," already cited, struck us as displaying depth rather than shallowness. His contention in that essay would be supported by many great writers in the West. Shallowness is a term of reproach that we should never think of applying to Mr. Fukuzawa. To us it seems that what he discusses he discusses thoroughly. Subjects that could not possibly be made intelligible to ordinary readers he leaves alone. For mysticism of any kind he has no taste. He is eminently practical and hence represents the English or American type of mind rather than the German. In Japan he is quite a new product. He is in every sense of the word a self-made man. It would be hard to find a man that knows Japan better than he and impossible to find any one who has won for himself more universal respect from all classes of society. His pen is still active. Even while we write a series of supplementary essays written by him is appearing in the *Jiji Shimpō*, and in the leading columns of that journal we often recognise his practised hand. Advanced scholars are wont to talk of the Mita sage as a man of the past, but among a very large number of people his popularity has never been greater than it is to-day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. CLARK'S COMING VISIT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Japan is soon to have the pleasure of welcoming, entertaining, hearing, and seeing the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Francis E. Clark. They will be accompanied probably by one of their four children, Harold, a lad eleven years of age.

As all the world knows, Dr. Clark is the man who organized at Portland, Maine, 19 years ago this present month, the first society of Christian Endeavour. There are now some 60,000 such societies scattered all over the world, while their members number more than three million and a quarter. The wonderful growth of this organization has been called "the miracle of the nineteenth century."

Thanks to the tireless efforts and high ideals of Dr. and Mrs. Clark and others associated with them, Christian Endeavour stands not alone for private acceptance of the great truths

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of Christianity, but as well for a public profession and practice of those principles; not alone for closet consecration but for social service. Hence, in addition to secret prayer and Bible reading, observance of its pledge, and a public profession of religion, it lays strong emphasis on such practical issues as civic righteousness, temperance, social purity, and international fellowship.

In America, England, Australia, and many other lands, Christian Endeavour and kindred societies have accomplished a mighty work "for Christ and the Church."

The annual meeting of the society at Detroit, Michigan, last summer, was one of the most powerful and beneficial meetings of the whole year in all the world. It was attended by some 26,000 people, and was addressed by many of the ablest Christian speakers of this age. Next summer will witness a similar gathering in London, England.

Dr. Clark, its founder, still remains at the head of this great interdenominational and international organization.

Born in Canada in 1851, he is not yet fifty years of age, and is thus in the prime of his vigour and usefulness. He is starting out for a tour around the world with especial reference to China, Russia, and England, and he will spend a full month in Japan.

The committee who have in charge his tour through this country are arranging for meetings at Yokohama, To-yo, Maebashi, Sendai, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Okayama, and Nagasaki, and for the holding of a general convention at Kobe, March 9, 10, 11.

It is the belief of many that Japan needs at the present time the restraints and the inspiration of those methods of aggressive work peculiar to the C. E. Movement.

Certainly all who are interested in the common service of establishing, strengthening, and *enlarging Christian work* in Japan will desire to meet Dr. and Mrs. Clark if practicable, and to hear their statement of what Christian Endeavour is, how it works, and what it aspires to accomplish.

Lest some, who may desire to welcome, either in person or by letter, on their arrival at Yokohama, these world-renowned leaders of young people, may not have heard the exact date of their coming, I crave the liberty of using your columns to spread this notice.

Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Clark are expected on the P.M. steamer *China*, which is due in Yokohama on February 12th.

Rev. T. Harada, of Kobe, the President of the Japan society, will meet Dr. Clark on the arrival of the steamer, and further matter pertaining to the itinerary in Japan will be decided then.

Any who have suggestions or requests to make concerning the matter may address Dr. Clark at the steamer office or write beforehand to Mr. Harada or to Miss S. A. Searle, No. 60, Hill, Kobe.

Yours gratefully,

JAMES H. PETTEE.

Okayama, February 3rd, 1900.

AMERICAN SYMPATHY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—While you naturally prefer to do your own editing, you will not, I am sure take it amiss, in view of the anxiety of some in America and else to show that public opinion is against Great Britain, if I call your attention to an article in *The Outlook* for Dec. 23rd, a copy of which I send herewith. The article includes an extract from an address of Emerson's fifty-two years ago.

In the New York *Independent* of Dec. 21st, I find also the following passage:—

"In this hour of her extremity England feels that the same sympathy that was given us not many months ago is returning to her manyfold. We believe her victory is needful for the best interests of the world, and, while we would not withhold meed of praise for her brave and courteous enemy, we must give to England our best hopes and sympathy during the trying months that are before her."

I am sure that paragraph expresses the judgment of the great mass of Americans, in spite of what a few demagogues like Senator Mason and Congressman Sulzer may say.

Yours truly, G.

England in Adversity.

Many Americans believe that the war in South Africa is without moral justification; many more that, although English rule in South Africa is to be desired from every point of view, the present war is unnecessary; but it is to be hoped that no American read the story of last week's disasters to the British arms without a deep feeling of sympathy, and that no American has seen the spirit in which England has taken her calamities without a thrill of admiration. One of the chief uses of great experiences is the searchlight they throw on national ideals and character. A profound individual experience always brings character out in clear and individual lines. A man is often lost in the rush of activity, but when there comes some tremendous event in his life the activities cease for a moment, and the man stands revealed to himself and his fellows. In like manner, a great nation carrying on world-wide activities suddenly shows its heart when a great calamity strikes home. The Continental press, as a rule, has reported with undisguised delight the story of British disaster, treating the English precisely as it treated us at the beginning of the war with Spain, and for precisely the same reasons: ignorance of our motives, instinctive antagonism between institutions which diverge at fundamental points, and instinctive fear of commercial competition.

The English will look to their own colonies and to their kin beyond the sea for insight into their motives. They will also expect, and they will receive, recognition of the essential qualities of character which inspire all their enterprises. The secret of English greatness in adversity has perhaps never been better expressed than by an American. Speaking at a dinner at Manchester fifty-two years ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson said:—

"For I must tell you, I was given to understand in my childhood that the British island from which my forefathers came was no lotus garden, no paradise of serene sky and roses and music and merriment all the year round; no, but a cold, foggy, mournful country, for nothing grew well in the open air but robust men and virtuous women, and these of a wonderful fibre and endurance; that their best parts were slowly revealed; their virtues did not come out until they quarreled; they did not strike twelve the first time; good lovers, good haters, and you could know little about them till you had seen them long, and little good of them till you had seen them in action; that in prosperity they are moody and dumpish, but in adversity they were grand. Is it not true, sir, that the wise ancients did not praise the ship parting with flying colours from the port, but only that brave sailer which came back with torn sheets and battered sides, stript of her banners, but having ridden out the storm? And so, gentlemen, I feel in regard to this aged England, with the possessions, honours, and trophies, and also with the infirmities, of a thousand years gathering around her, irretrievably committed as she now is to many old customs which cannot be suddenly changed; pressed upon by the transitions of trade and new and all incalculable modes, fabrics, arts, machines, and competing populations. I see her not dispirited, not weak, but well remembering that she has seen dark days before—indeed, with a kind of instinct that she sees a little better in the cloudy day, and that in storm of battle and calamitiy she has a secret vigour and a pulse like a cannon. I see her in her old age, not decrepit, but young and still daring to believe in her power of endurance and expansion."

THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Is this the last year or the first year of a century? The fact that such doughty disputants as the German Emperor, Kato Hiroyuki, ex-President of the Tokyo University, Takahashi Goro, and some American College presidents and professors have entered the arena in favour of this being the first year of the 20th century, gives the question an added zest. The Pope, on the other hand, orders that at midnight of Dec. 31st, 1900 solemn ceremonies of praise for the benefits of the 19th century, and of prayer for the coming century be observed, so as to auspiciously open the 20th century, while the Czar of Russia orders that the Gregorian calendar be adopted on Jan. 1st, 1901, which he considers the first day of the new century. It is thus a case of Protestant Emperor against Roman Pontiff re-enforced by Orthodox Czar, in which for once at least the Protestant pulls the shorter. It is not surprising that ordinary mortals should be in a dilemma. The kindergarten methods as repeated in the *Literary Digest* to make the German emperor's side ridiculous really do not touch the difficulty. Where lies the cause for this uncertainty?

The basis for solving the question is usually found in analogy. One side, in arguing for 1900 as the 1st year of a century, reasons as follows:—

First analogy.—The Christian era is like a man's age. Up to an age of full 12 months we say he is x months and y days old but not yet a year. From full 12 months to full 24 months he is 1 year x months, and y days old. Hence there is a year naturally marked 0 in stating a man's exact age. Hence also we say a man is 100 years old when he is really 100 years plus months and days and is actually in his second century. In other words from 0 to 99 is 100, by including both 0 and 99 in counting. A man's age is thus numbered by its completed year, not by the year entered upon and incomplete. If the Christian era follows this analogy,—if 1900 is in this fashion to mark Christ's age (on the assumption that Dionysius Exiguus was correct in fixing the birth of Christ, which as we know he failed in by 4 years according to some authorities or by 6 years even, according to Ramsay, the most eminent authority of to-day), then it is evident that as the era would begin with a year 0, every succeeding century would begin with the year $x00$.

Second analogy.—Again from $x01$ to $x99$ we always call the $(x+1)$th century e.g. 1801 to 1899 we call the 19th century. This is certainly correct for 99 years. Why, therefore, should we say that one more year marked with an 18 in the first two figures viz. 1800 should not also belong to the 19th century and thus preserve symmetry?

Symmetry would therefore seem to demand that 1900 belong to the 20th century and not to the 19th.

It is thus evident that several analogies may be found in favour of the German Emperor's dictum, who is said to have based his opinion on the poet Heine's claim to be one of the first men of the 19th century because he was born in 1800. Evidently also the German Emperor's order to the schools to appropriately observe the beginning of the century on Jan. 1st, 1900, was not altogether without the consent of at least some eminent scholars. This question also affects the way of counting decades. Does the beginning of the Franco-Prussian war, 1870, for instance, belong to the 7th or the 8th decade. Ordinarily, without reflecting further, most people would unhesitatingly call it the first year of the 8th decade. This would be incorrect, however, if the century and therefore also the first decade began with 1801, not 1800.

Moreover we have many large celebrations, conferences, exhibitions, &c., located purposely in 1900 under an impression among many that thus we becomingly open another century.

The other side, arguing also from analogy as a rule, says: In writing a specific date we never have a zero month or zero day, hence we ought not have a zero year. Thus May 5th means the 5th day of the 5th month, *i.e.* the incomplete period, not the completed period and a fraction thereof. But let us write May 5th 10h. 30min. 15sec., A.M. and see what this means. The month and day are the incomplete periods, while the hours minutes, and seconds are completed periods. That is, while there is no 0 mo. or 0 day, there is a 0 hr. in the day, and so with the minute and second as all well know who are at all, acquainted with astronomical statements of time. To put it in another way, the age of the year on May 5th, 10 30 a.m., is not 5 months 5 days 10 hours 30 minutes, nor yet 4 months 4 days 9 hours 29 minutes, but 4 months 4 days 10 hours 30 minutes. Hence it is evident that this analogy points both ways and can not help us over the

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difficulty. For if you use the hours-minutes-seconds analogy, then 1900 is the beginning of a century; if the month and days analogy then 1901 is the beginning.

Again we say a man is 30 years old or in his 31st year, the two being equivalent expressions for the same age. Hence is 1900 to be used in the first or in the second sense? Mere analogy cannot decide this question. Disputants have as a rule rested merely on analogy instead of seeking a historical basis. The simple question is, do we write a year 0 or a year 1 as the 1st year of the Christian era? This is not a question of opinion or of analogy but of convention among historians in chronology, i.e. it is a question of fact. What does Chronology say?

Here I shall quote from the introductory note to the Chronological Essays in Andrew's Life of Christ, regarding Andrews as eminent qualified to be an authority,—"Reckoning backward from Christ, the year 1 of Rome corresponded to the year 753 B.C. The year, of Rome corresponding to the year 1 of the Christian era was 754. . . . If we would obtain the year of Rome before Christ, we must subtract the number in question from 754; thus if Herod died 4 years before the Christian era or 4 B.C., 754—4 would give 750 of Rome. Again to obtain the year of Rome after Christ we must add to 753 the number in question. Thus the year 30 A.D. would correspond to 753+30 or 783."

The following simple diagram will apply this to both sides of the dispute and show whether we have a year 0 or not in the Christian era.

B.C.	X	A.D.
753 .....4,3,2,1 equals ..... 1 A.U.C.....	1,2,3,4,5 0,1,2,3,4	.....1900 1900

The perpendicular *X* represents the moment of the beginning of the Christian era. Now it is evident that if there, be a year 0 then to get to 1 A.D. you have to count 753.....4,3,2,1, 0 1 which gives 755 A.U.C. while 30 A.D. would give 784 A. U. C. But Andrews above says that 1 A.D. is 754 A. U. C. and 30 A.D. is 783 A. U. C. Hence it is clear that our authority does not recognize a year 0 of the Christian era, and here we find then the basis for a decision. Hence, beginning with 1, the first century ends with 100, and each succeeding century with *x*00. Thus we reach a demonstrated solution of the matter, and can say without fear of successful contradiction that this year is the end of the 19th century and not the beginning of the 20th century unless indeed it could be proved that there is a year 0 in the Christian era.

There is one little point that might be raised here, which, however, does not affect the main question in dispute. If Dec. 25th, was accepted by Dionysius as the *day* of Christ's birth, did he put this one week before Jan. 1st, 1 A.D., or did he put it 51 weeks after Jan. 1st, 1 A.D.? Evidently one week before. In this case he really regarded Christ as born before the beginning of the Christian era by one week, and so according to him the 20th century would begin on Dec. 25th, 1900, not Jan. 1st, 1901. But this comes close to hairsplitting.

In conclusion let me call attention to the fact that most, if not all, eras, are begun with the year 1 not 0. Witness for example the era of Rome, the Meiji era of Japan, the Mohammedan and Grecian eras, the French era of 1792, &c.

Respectfully, H. M. LANDIS.

A CRITICISM.

We have received the following letter, which contains so many humorous points that we have decided to print it exactly as it reached us:—

AGENCE LITTÉRAIRE
BORIS POMORSKY
TRADUCTEUR JURÉ
6, RUE ARMÉNY
Marseille

TRADUCTION DE
LANGUES ÉTRANGÈRES
COURS DE RUSSE
& D'ANGLAIS

Editor Lier, *Japan Mail*, Yokohama, Japon.

Having these days received, from a friend in London, the 21st No. of Your liefull paper (Vol. XXXII.) dated November 18th and having patiently read Your article under the title South Africa, page 512, I consider it my duty for the sake of truth and of justice to invite You to read the two enclosed articles of mine written after a careful study of the different informations coming from the theatre of the God's own war against a band of thieves and gold and bloodthirsty *Brutish* scoundrels like Cecil Rhodes and Co.

If You are a Japonese I am very much surprised at finding You so ignorant of the *outward civilisation* which every Brutisher is trying to impose upon You and others.

If, however, as I suppose, you are an Englishman the more I am surprised to see you ignorant of the communications which General Buller and even Churchill have given as to the human treatment of the Brutishers by the Boers nobleminded in their patriotism and nobleacting in defense of their homes against cruel invaders,—God's own hand is raised against all such like You for I see Your brain is troubled by the terrible disease called *lie*.—It is noble on the part of every man to stand up for the honour of his and of his nation,—for the glory of the past and even for the pride with which one can boast, but it is worthless of a man's reason to stand up for acts like the acts of the Chartered African Company and their supporters and chief promoters Rothshild the Jew, Cecil Rhodes the Judas, and Jameson the highway robber.

The cruelties You dare impute to the Boers are the cruelties of the Brutishers themselves and the lies you preach are the lies of as a great scoundrel like Lucifer himself.

Take it for good son of a gun and learn to be just before you try to be wise.

I pity You the more for Your sin of lying because, if You are a Japanese, it proves to me that You are the worthy pupil of Your teachers the Brutish liars.

You cannot in justice boast very much of British civilisation if, as a man civilised by them, you show your heart and your mind so perverted and devilstamped as are the mind and the heart of Your past teachers and masters the worthless sons of the bloodthirsty and accursed Albion.

Yours truly, POMORSKY.

Marseilles, Dec. 25th, 1899.

[This is accompanied by two tissues of charges against British soldiers, who, according to Mr. Pomorsky, are veritable monsters of brutality. —ED. *J.M.*]

A LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—With a view to the study of library administration and other matters relating to libraries, the first meeting of the Western Library Association, on the proposal of the librarians of the Kyoto Imperial University, was held at the University Library last Sunday. Those present numbered 50, and included librarians of Osaka, Nara, and Shiga. It was decided that such a meeting should be held four times a year, and, as soon as matters will permit, a magazine will be published. I hope and believe such an Association will be welcome to the world.

Yours truly, R. YAMAOKA.

Kyoto, February 4th, 1900.

ROMA-JI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In an editorial article published on January 24th you brought forward a subject much too important to be careles-ly or superficially treated;—namely, the reform of the Japanese language and the application of Roman characters thereto. There may be strong reasons for desiring and believing that alphabetic signs will be adopted, sooner or later, but the question of their availability cannot be settled, off hand, by conventional criticisms of the methods now followed, or by the assertion of extravagant claims on behalf of the usage prevailing in most Western countries. Many Japanese scholars cling tenaciously to their writing, and so long as there are nations on the other side of the globe which reckon time by obsolete calendars, keep their accounts in systems of computation a century behind the age, and steadily refuse to amend the absurd defects of their own orthography, Europeans have no spare stones to throw at people who adhere to forms in which they have at present implicit faith. To win them from this faith may be a difficult task, but it ought not to be hopeless. It can never be satisfactorily accomplished, however, by proclaiming that the superiority of the foreign plan is incontestable, or, to use your own words, that the Roman alphabet "has everything to commend it." The Japanese know better than that. Even those who most energetically advocate the proposed change are perfectly aware that the Roman letters are open to objections, and that the most effective arguments in favour of them have nothing to do with the question of their fitness. To say that the plan has "everything to commend it" is to invite protests from its opponents and weaken the position of its supporters.

One thing that does *not* commend the Roman alphabet is its inability to represent all the sounds of Japanese speech. It does not, in fact, represent the sounds of any modern tongue. Whether it satisfied the requirements of the ancient Latins, or not, is a matter of conjecture. But it plays the various parts imposed upon it in later years only when subjected to unnatural and arbitrary distortions which destroy much of its original integrity. A good many centuries ago the Saxons resolved to adopt it,—not because it suited their language, but for reasons similar to those which now influence the Japanese. The Saxons had an alphabet which was really akin to their speech. This they discarded, though for several of their peculiar utterances they were compelled to assign abnormal duties to the Latin characters, and in some cases invented combinations utterly without justification or sense, the separate letters of which bore no relation whatever to the sounds they were forced to indicate. Perplexities of the same nature will necessarily confront the Japanese when they undertake to adjust the alien signs to their tongue. They have also to consider that there is absolutely no standard of pronunciation for Roman letters. In France they are sounded one way, in Italy another, and in Germany (where their use is spreading) still another. The English pronounce them in all conceivable and many inconceivable ways, giving to most of the vowels at least half-a-dozen different sounds, making some of the consonants responsible for double or treble service, without the slightest regard to their real value, and—as a sort of compensation, perhaps, —relieving others from vocal duty altogether. Let us suppose that the adaptation be effected, here, with the utmost possible skill. There would still be no uniform authority of enunciation to refer to. I am ready to admit that this disadvantage is shared by all nations that depend upon the Latin emblems, but it is none the less a disadvantage, and cannot be overlooked in discussing the merits of a plan which, on examination, does not appear to have quite "everything to commend it."

Another detail in which the Roman alphabet falls short of ideal perfection is the impossibility of writing it with sufficient speed to accompany the ordinary processes of human speech, leaving mental processes out of calculation. This is a point to which scientific students are giving a great deal of attention, and it is reasonably certain that the literary world will not long be content with a medium which interposes vexatious obstacles to rapid transcription and often clogs expression to a paralyzing extent. I realize the uselessness of putting in a plea for *kana*. Cultivated Japanese, as a rule, are not fond of it, and very few have a word to say in its favour. They may, like the Indian, throw away a pearl, but the pearl is their property, and, if it does not please them, no foreigner can make it estimable in their sight. And, besides, *kana* would not advance the particular aim they have in view. It is

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nevertheless indisputable that by this despised system their language can be put on paper with extraordinary swiftness. No other civilized race possesses so facile a verbal mechanism. The feats of phonography belong to an exceptional class of craftsmen, whereas the *kana* is familiar to the entire population of these islands. No one denies it the superior merit of celerity. The *Mail*, however, condemns it in a sentence which is curiously misleading, if it can be held to have a clear meaning of any kind. It is a syllabary, and "a syllabary," says the *Mail*, "is as far behind an alphabet as ordinary long-hand is behind stenography." What is a syllabary? A set of marks each one of which signifies a complete and intelligible sound;—a sound which may be a whole word or the component part of a word. What is stenography? A system of marks which similarly signify sounds. In comparing the two with "ordinary long-hand" the same definition may stand for both. When we are told, in such a connection as this, that a syllabary is as far behind an alphabet as ordinary long-hand is behind stenography, it is like hearing that a syllabary is as far behind an alphabet as an alphabet is behind a syllabary; or that phonetic writing is as far behind long-hand as long-hand is behind phonetic writing. Reasoning by illustration which runs round in a circle is not impressive. But, setting illustration aside, on what rational ground can it be alleged that a method of syllabic writing is behind alphabetic writing? The language of a country consists of words—not of the marks upon stone, or metal, or paper, which with more or less precision indicate those words. A word is always the same, whether presented to the eye in arrow-heads, ideographic emblems, series of redundant alphabetic figures, or compact phonetic symbols. When the Latin letters were substituted for Saxon tokens, was the language of England thereby changed? Does any one imagine that the majesty of Shakespeare's diction is exalted or diminished by the *alterations of spelling* it has undergone since the *first folio* was issued? In one sense, the devices by which words are put on record are of comparatively little moment, provided the words themselves are so faithfully reproduced as to insure immediate recognition. In another sence, the scriptory form that is most expeditious and convenient is the best, if it is honest and truthful. There is no warrant for asserting that a phonetic method is "behind" an alphabetic method. Reason and common-sense point to exactly the opposite conclusion.

The Roman plan has undoubtedly one thing to commend it;—that is, Expediency. Nations, as well as individuals, are much in the habit of being guided by this consideration. It was on the ground of expediency that the number of monthly holidays in Japan was cut down, and every seventh day made a day of rest. For the sake of expediency the Gregorian calendar was introduced, notwithstanding its manifest imperfections. The acquisition of the alphabet will be an additional step towards assimilating Japanese civilization with that of the West, and this is the one substantial reason for approving it. Other benefits may incidentally ensue, but these, apparently, could be secured by less radical means. The single motive is, however, so powerful that it is sure to prevail, and the consummation is not likely to be very long deferred. But it is most essential that the reform be conducted with due regard to its great and lasting importance; that those to whom its preparation is confided shall thoroughly comprehend the gravity of an undertaking which proposes to revolutionize the entire educational system of the country. If it be approached in a frivolous spirit, mischievous results will follow. It would be a ruinous mistake to start with a supreme confidence in the merits of the scheme and an inadequate perception of its deficiencies;—to accept the optimistic theory that it has "everything to commend it," and that nothing can be urged against it. No one whose counsel has weight is justified in contributing to such a delusion.

It is to be earnestly hoped that before the time arrives for determining the letters in which the language shall be re-cast, the Government will awaken to the necessity of making proper provision for the cautious, faithful, intelligent, and thorough execution of that duty. No evidence has yet appeared that it is looked upon as a service of unusual difficulty or delicacy. The immensity of its bearing upon the future progress of the nation seems to be very dimly apprehended. The remembrance of earlier experiments in the same direction is not as reassuring as it might be. Gentlemen who enlisted as volunteers in the Romaji campaign of sixteen or seventeen years ago appeared to be more active in launching immature whims and fancies of orthography than in studiously investigating the neglected fabric of their own tongues and acquainting themselves with its most pressing needs. The *Mail* is profusely laudatory in reviewing the performances of that period, but the force of its compliments is somewhat counteracted by their excessive resplendency. The glare of superfluous gilding is especially visible in the declaration that to read the weekly record of Roma-ji proceedings "was always a liberal education." A liberal education! Such hyperboie is pretty enough when employed by a writer of an artificial age to celebrate the graces and fascinations of a fine lady, but its application in the present instance has rather a sound of "sweet bells jangled out of tune." It may be a pleasant pastime to say agreeable things that have no meaning, but the persons to whom they are addressed sometimes fail to grasp the fact that they have no meaning, and then the consequences are apt to be harmful. Indiscreet eulogy is not appropriate when circumstances call for the exercise of calm judgment and modest as well as strenuous endeavour. Here, certainly, there is too much at stake for anything but the plainest sincerity of speech. The labour of Romanizing the Japanese language is one for which the participators should be qualified by the severest scientific training, not only in all that relates to the vernacular, but also in connection with the foreign material to be handled. I am far from implying that such training is beyond the limitations of Japanese scholars. I believe that their best men are capable of rivalling the intellectual achievements of foreign experts in almost any practical field, if they put their faculties to the highest and worthiest use. But among them all, there is not one who has yet mastered the principles of European philology, and perfected himself in studies that would enable him to deal authoritatively with recondite questions that must of necessity arise in the movement now contemplated. When these present themselves, the aid of foreign scientists of unmistakeable standing must be sought, or the work will not be well done; and unless well done it had better not be done at all. Prudent delay can be turned to good account, and any amount of delay is preferable to hasty action which tends to produce an abortive measure of reform.

E. H. HOUSE.

February 1st, 1900.

THE NEW BISHOP OF KYOTO.

Consecration Ceremony in Tokyo.

An interesting ceremony took place at Trinity Cathedral, Tsukiji, Tokyo, on February 2nd, when the Rev. Sidney Catlin Partridge, D.D., was consecrated as Bishop of Kyoto. This is the first time a Bishop has been consecrated in Japan, and the ceremony attracted a very large congregation of foreigners and Japanese Christians, many journeying from Yokohama and more distant parts of Japan. Altogether there were considerably over 40 clergymen present. Among the congregation were Bishop Nicholai, of the Greek church, and Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister. The service commenced at 10 a.m. with the singing of a processional hymn in Japanese. The long train of surpliced clergy was headed by Bishop Schereschewski, Bishop Awdry of South Tokyo; Bishop Fyson, of Hakodate, Bishop Foss of Osaka; and Bishop Evington of Kiushiu; and among those following were the Ven Archdeacon Shaw, the Revs. A. F. King, L. B. Cholmondeley, W. C. Gemmell, A. E. Webb, F. W. Kennedy, C. T. Warren, W. T. Austin, T. S. Tyng, F. L. H. Pott (of the China Mission), George Wallis, E. B. Sweat, C. H. Evans, A. Lloyd, H. S. Jefferies, James, J. Chappell, A. W. Andrews, H. G. Limric, J. C. Ambler, I. Dooman, J. I. Chapman, H. St. G. Tucker, J. A. Wellbourn, A. W. Cooke, Evans, Dr. Motoda, &c. The service was almost wholly in Japanese. The first portion consisted of the reading of the preface of the Ordinal, and the greater part of this was read by Bishop McKim; Bishop Foss read the Epistle, and Bishop Evington the Gospel; Bishop Fyson repeating the Litany.

The sermon was preached by Bishop Graves, of Shanghai, who spoke in English, Dr. Motoda interpreting. He took for his text the words "As my father hath sent me, even so send I [you." St. John xx., 21. The Bishop said they were met there for a purpose of no ordinary importance and solemnity—to consecrate a Bishop. This was the first time that a missionary Bishop had been consecrated in Japan among the people among whom he would have to spend his life, and by a service in the native language of the country. It was well at such a time that they should consider what was the nature of that office of Bishop and what was the meaning and significance of the service in which they were engaged. The office of Bishop was no new office. There was no time in the history of the Church since the ascension of our Lord when the office of Bishop had not existed. There had been a succession of men who had received the office from their predecessors and had handed it down to those who came after them. It was an office venerable from its antiquity, from the powers with which it was invested, and from the lives of the many Saintly men who had borne it from the earliest times. But when they had said that they had still fallen far short of a full appreciation of the grounds on which the office was held venerable by the church. If it were only venerable for its antiquity, or as a convenient form of church government, they would not feel as they did the solemnity of that service. The full significance of the episcopacy was not to be found in these things; they were only incidental accompaniments. The apostles were sent by Jesus Christ in the words of the text, to be as witnesses, as Ministers, to carry out the work for which he had been sent by his Father; and from the day when Our Lord ascended to Heaven the Apostles were recognised as leaders of the Church, not indeed ruling arbitrarily, but still acting as those whom the church depended for guidance. In process of time these men who had so long been the leaders passed away, but at their death there was no violent change or revolution in the government of the Church. While the Apostles were living they had been preparing men like Timothy and Titus, and these men seemed naturally and inevitably to succeed them, and ever since those days the office of Bishop had been handed down from generation to generation. Go back as far as they would, they would never find this office fail. It rested neither on popular assent nor on convenience of Church government; it rested solely on the words of the Lord. They felt that day that they were in the presence of reality and historical fact. It was sometimes objected that to seek so high a source was to exalt unduly the person who held the office, but in the noble words of an English Archbishop, it was the labours and not the honours that they lay claim to. If the Bishop was like his Lord he must toil and suffer to carry out the work to which he had been called—the glory of God and the salvation of souls. They had seen in their own times a revival of the ideal of episcopacy and a deeper conception of its meaning and duties; ease and leisure were now no part of the office. But there were some who doubted, however well episcopacy might work in the home Church,

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whether it was adapted to the circumstances of evangelical work in a foreign land. Yet here, too, episcopacy had vindicated itself, and had spread from land to land with marvellous rapidity. It had been shown that it could disperse with honours and endowment and still make progress among every race, relying solely on its inherent qualities. Thus not only by its antiquity but by its power of adapting itself to new condi ions it had proved itself the greatest instrument of church government. The place of episcopacy in missionary work was a very necessary one. What converts needed to look up to was a strong, wise head, some one whom they could trust and respect as a leader, canons and rulers were of little utility compared with the man who represented eighteen centuries of Christian opinion. Again in matters of discipline there must be some one to exercise authority and to whom appeal could be made—someone with will and power and at the same time with a deep sense of his responsibility. The Bishop went on to refer to the glorious names among the roll of missionary Bishops, and concluded with a few eloquent words to the candidate for consecration.

The ceremony of consecration was then performed by Bishops Graves and Scherechewsky, who put the usual questions to Dr. Partridge. These having been answered the laying on of hands followed, and Dr. Partridge was declared to be consecrated a Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of North America.

The Holy Communion was afterwards administered to the clergy present, and the service, which was a very long and impressive one, lasting nearly two hours and a half, concluded with the singing of a recessional hymn in Japanese.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS.

"DANDY DICK" AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

An amateur performance of Mr. A. W. Pinero's three-act farce, "Dandy Dick," was given on Thursday evening at the Public Hall in aid of the Ladies' Benevolent Association and the Charity Hospital (Jizen Byo-in). The hall was packed, and the affair was a thorough success.

Mr. Pinero's work is so well known that it is quite superfluous to attempt to sketch the plot of a farce already familiar, probably, to most of our play-going readers. "Dandy Dick" is an ingenious trifle of the author's anti-"Second Mrs. Tanqueray" days, and has the usual characteristics of a Pinero farce—no special brilliance of dialogue or felicity of wit, but plenty of mirthful incident, and an infinitude of those stage-tricks of which Pinero is a master. Of course no woman in this world ever talked or conducted herself as does *Georgiana Tidman*, the "horsey" lady, and part owner of "Dandy Dick;" but what would you have? A farce is something to laugh at, and, if a laugh is secured, even at sacrifice of common sense and good taste, well and good. Officers of the British Army never conducted themselves as the *Major Tarver* and *Mr. Darbey* of the —th Hussars, but it is one of the canons of farces that officers should be comic persons of weak intellect, and who can complain? One gathers from "Dandy Dick" the impression that the *summum bonum* is to own a race horse, that the next highest good is to lay money on a race, and that every being who neither owns a horse nor bets on a race is a poor-spirited creature or a hypocrite. But what reasonable-minded person will object to that so long as the main purpose is served, and some good fun is extracted from the Dean's turf experiences and *Georgie Tid's* eccentricities?

So much for the piece. As to the acting it was on the whole good—perhaps not so uniformly good as on some past occasions, but still creditable generally and in some instances excellent. Mr. G. G. Brady certainly maintained, if he did not add to, his reputation by the impersonation of the *Very Reverend Augustine Jedd, D.D.* His make-up, his unctuous accents, his comic horror at the situations in which he finds himself, were all admirable. And—what is high praise—Mr. Brady managed successfully to conceal that he was acting. Ridiculous as are the situations in which the sporting Dean finds himself, he appeared to fall into them quite naturally, and he remained the Dean throughout, not losing the manners of a gentleman even in the wildest situations. Mr. Brady has generally appeared in wild, uproarious characters demanding chiefly an abundant flow of animal spirits. His appearance last night showed that he is equal to a more restrained and higher kind of humour. Mr. Stanley Moss, as *Sir Tristram Mardom*, the sporting Baronet, is a new face on the local stage, and was naturally handicapped by the nervousness attendant on a first appearance, but he did well. One of the officers, *Major Tarver*, was well personated by Mr. E. C. Davis; Mr. L. Plummer's conception of the subaltern, *Mr. Darbey*, was, it struck us, more that of a clerkly dandy of Suburbia than that of even an officer of farcical comedy. Mr. Cecil Guinness—also, we believe—a new face, took not unsuccessfully the part of the villainous butler *Blore*; Mr. A. R. Owen was a comic constable; and Mr. A. R. Riddle, though he had little to say, was admirably made up as *Ratcham*, the groom. As to the ladies, the chief honours of the evening were secured by Mrs. McWilliams, the flashy, "horsey," masculine *Georgiana Tidman*. It would be impossible to say that Mrs. McWilliams' acting was natural or life-like, for no human being ever breathed whose conversation resembled that of the dramatist's *Georgie Tid*; but the lady to whom the part was entrusted made the character what the author intended it to be, and her personation, while in the nature of things it could not be an artistic one, developed all the humorous possibilities of the case. She fully deserved the cordial applause she received throughout. The Dean's two daughters, *Salome* and *Sheba*, were well represented by Miss Andrews and Miss Nina Smith. Miss Lloyd Thomas was capital as *Hannah Topping*, her carefully cultivated Hampshire dialect being very mirth-provoking. The ladies were presented as the close with several lovely bouquets.

Of the stage arrangements nothing but praise can be said. The scenery was admirable and the set in the second act was, we think, almost the best even arranged in Yokohama—and perhaps in the Far East. For this thanks are due to Mr. C. F. McWilliams, who was responsible for the scenery and properties. Mr. E. Beart made the most efficient of stage managers. The Town Band rendered some acceptable selections. The recent improvements which have been made under the proscenium arch and the new electric lights considerably add to the appearance and convenience of the stage.

A GERMAN VIEW OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION.

It has repeatedly been said that, while the English pretend to have numerous reasons for complaint against the Boer Government, the Germans and other nationals are quite satisfied, and are therefore in sympathy with the Boers in their present trouble with England. That there are Germans who sympathise with the Boers is no doubt true, but it is equally true that many Germans in South Africa are in full accord with the British, and justify England's present course. A German Boer sympathiser in Cape Town, published a latter *in Das Echo* (Berlin) in October last, in which he defended the Boers in the usual manner. To this a German resident in Natal made a vigorous reply in the same paper. After saying that he must protest against the tone and contents of the letter from the gentleman in Cape Town, and that, "while leaving it to an abler pen to explain and defend the English standpoint in the Transvaal affair," he desires to record the fact that there are many good Germans there who entertain exactly the opposite view, and that they have every reason to regard their view as the correct one. "In so doing we can point to our Kaiser, who, when his English regiment left for Africa, telegraphed his good wishes. Does this not prove, at least that His Majesty entertains a very different view from that of Herr K. in Cape Town? And many Germans, living here in South Africa, are ready to contradict the statement made by this gentleman." The writer says further, "I wish to call attention to the fact that the equal rights which England demands for her subjects in the Transvaal are not more than she grants to all nationals in her South African possessions. All must admit that here in Natal, for instance, full equal rights are accorded to all white inhabitants, so that the German, Norwegian, Frenchman, &c., has the same rights as the native-born Englishman, and the same is true of the Boer here. . In order to obtain the franchise (full political rights,) a two years' residence is required, after which the oath of allegiance must be given. . One can find Germans here in high official positions. . There are Germans of high character, and proud of their descent, but highly respected. There are also native Boers in official positions. They have, in fact, been specially favoured by the Government. That the inhabitants here, under such liberal treatment, feel content, goes without saying. Grumblers, of course, there are here also, but where are they not? It is extremely regrettable that in this war there are Germans fighting on both sides; even brethren and near relatives are standing over against each other in deadly combat. Among the volunteers of Natal, there are several German divisions who have already distinguished themselves, especially those of the 'Umvoti Mounted Rifles,' and the 'Border Mounted Rifles.' Among the latter is Major Sangmeister in command, and with the former are Captain Reiche, and the two Lieutenants Moe. Alas, some of the Germans have already fallen fighting on the English side! That the English forces were not large enough when this war began, and that in consequence thereof our Colony, too, has become, as it were, a battle-field, is extremely regrettable."—*Communicated.*

A FRACAS AT HONMOKU.

A serious disturbance took place at Honmoku on the afternoon of the 7th inst. consequent on the action of some parishioners, who, in the interest of speculators in Tokyo, had signed an application for the purchase of a hill near the village shrine. It appears that Mr. Naohara of Tokyo and another gentlemen applied to the Government some time ago for permission to purchase the hill with the object of reclaiming a part of the foreshore of Honmoku. This request was granted on December 20th. The fact was, however, unknown to the villagers until some time later, when they discovered that the application was countersigned by Uyeno Eizaburo and another resident of Honmoku, purporting to represent the parishioners of the Honmoku Shrine. No authority had been given by the inhabitants at large, and the arbitrary step aroused the popular anger. The villagers met several times to consider what steps should be taken, and an indignation meeting took place on the 7th at the close of which a serious row occurred necessitating the presence of 150 policemen.

A couple of saké casks from an unknown quarter reached the party, and the liquor served as a stimulant to the more excitable to immediately demand an explanation from the Shinto priest Takemoto, Uyeno, and a third person, who had presumed to represent the parishioners. The party proceeded to the houses of the persons involved, with the intention of demanding an explanation. The priest and Uyeno refused, and a quarrel ensued, both being violently assaulted on the spot. The police hurried to the scene, but, owing to the large crowd, nothing could be done before the arrival of reinforcements. Finally Mr. Okada, Chief of the Bluff Police, accompanied by a number of constables, with difficulty dispersed the mob about 11 o'clock. Four persons were arrested.

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LOCAL LAW CASE.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Saturday morning, before Judge Fujise and two Associate Judges, Lam Pak Tsen, proprietor of the *Shingiho*, a Chinese journal published in Yokohama, sued Messrs. Bavier & Co., Yokohama, for the payment of insurance money amounting to *yen* 4,935.65. Mr. Akiyama appeared for the claimant, and Mr. Sawada, of Tokyo, for the defendants.

Mr. Akiyama stated that Lam Pak Tsen had concluded a contract on the 10th January, 1899, with the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Company, insuring a wooden building at No. 139, containing printing machines, papers, cases, etc., for *yen* 5,000, *yen* 2,500 for the machines upstairs and the balance for those downstairs in the same building, a policy being issued by J. H. Gielen, of Messrs. Bavier & Co., who are sub-agents for the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Co. On the 27th February, the same property was re-insured with the same Insurance Company, for *yen* 1,000, for one full year. A portion of the insured property left undamaged being deducted, the balance of *yen* 4,935.65 should have been paid by the Insurance Company immediately after the fire but this was refused by the Company, on the plea that the applicant, Lam Pak Tsen, was not the only representative of the concern. The policy, however, was actually made out in the name of Lam Pak Tsen, as the representative of the *Shingiho* office. Mr. Akiyama asked the Court to order a speedy payment.

Mr. Sawada, representing the defendants, replied that H. V. Gielen of Bavier & Co. was no longer agent for the Norwich Fire Insurance Company, which Company was at present represented by Mr. W. W. Till. For that reason, no such action ought to be instituted against H. V. Gielen. The complainant's name appeared in the complaint as Rin Hok Sen, while the policy was issued in the name of Lam Pak Tsen. The Company therefore had no relations whatever with the complainant. Mr. Sawada further pointed out that according to the provisions of Arts. 16 and 17 of the agreement printed on the policy, no suit nor action on the policy for the recovery of any claim should be sustainable in any Court of Law or Equity, until after full compliance by the assured with all other requirements; and also that any differences which might arise between the Company and the assured ought to be submitted to the arbitration of two independent persons to be chosen by each party. The complainant, supposing him to be the assured, brought this matter to the Court contrary to the agreement which he had concluded with the Company.

Mr. Akiyama said that the question whether or not Mr. W. W. Till was the representative for Japan of the Insurance Company had nothing to do with the matter, as it was clearly proved that the policy was issued by the defendant "duly authorised" by the Norwich Union Insurance Company, as mentioned in the policy. As to the name of the complainant mentioned in the policy as Lam Pak Tsen, the Chinese pronunciation was Lam Pak Tsen, while Japanese pronounced it Rin Hok Sen, but these two names referred to the same person. Concerning the defendant's statement that the said Lam Pak Tsen was mistaken in bringing this action into this Court, Mr. Akiyama said it would have been necessary for the claimant to place the matter before arbitrators as provided in the Rule, had it been a difference arising with respect to the amount of any loss or damage by fire, but the case was entirely different, as the Company had entirely refused to pay the Insurance money.

At this juncture, Mr. Sawada asked the Court for the production from the Noshomusho of the report which had been forwarded some time ago to that office by Mr. W. W. Till, now representative of the Insurance Company, and also of the power of attorney conferred upon Mr. Till by the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Company.

This request being granted, the Court adjourned till 11 a.m. on the 23rd February.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Hojo Toshiwo, better known by the name of Reimers, who was sentenced the other day by the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, to seven years' rigorous imprisonment on a charge of forgery, appealed to the Tokyo Court of Appeal on the 31st ultimo.

A letter received from a naval officer who was standing by when Commander Egerton, of the *Powerful*, had his legs blown off, says:—"Egerton was a very keen cricketer, and his last words were, 'That's put an end to my cricket!' He lit a cigarette, and calmly smoked as he was carried away on a stretcher."

The funeral services of the late Mr. Chang Chow, the well-known tailor at No. 16 Bund, Yokohama, took place on Monday and were of a more imposing character, the Chinese community turning out in force to pay the last tribute of respect to a man who had earned their regard and esteem. A native of Ning-po, Mr. Chang Chow was about 50 years of ago. His body has been embalmed and will, as is the custom of the Chinese, be sent to his native city.

For some time past a quantity of lead has been missing from the repair shop of the Water-work's, near Hodogaya, some *yen* 760 worth being lost since December. The culprits have now been arrested by a Detective of the Kotobukicho Police. They are three *sendoos* named Saito, Suzumura and Itami, and it appears that they sold the lead to a hardware merchant in Matsukagecho, named Okano, for *yen* 150, who in turn sold it to a merchant in Tokyo for *yen* 490.

The death of Mr. Paul G. Fiedler from pneumonia came with shocking suddenness on Wednesday. Only a few days ago be returned from Nagoya, whither he had been on a business trip, complaining of a slight chill. On Saturday it was apparent that pneumonia was supervening, and he took to his bed; within four days the end came. He leaves a widow but no children. A native of Boston, U.S.A., Mr. Fiedler came to Japan about 3 years ago, and for a time was with Messrs. Walsh, Hall & Co. He then joined the China and Japan Trading Company, and was with them up to the time of his death. The body is to be cremated and the ashes sent to the States.

Amid expressions of profound regret the mortal remains of the late Mr. William Gordon were laid to rest in Yokohama cemetery on Friday afternoon. The weather turned out showery after noon day, but this did not prevent a very large number of the foreign community from attending, while the coffin and hearse were covered with many beautiful wreaths. The Rev. E. C. Irwine conducted the service, giving a short address at the close Messrs. J. H. Curtis and W. R. Bennett were chief mourners, while the pall bearers from the house to the hearse were Captain Haswell, Messrs. C M. Duff. J. J. Johnstone, C. W. Ure, N. W. McIvor, and J. Stewart; and from the hearse to the grave, Messrs. J. D. Hutchison, Geo. Philip, A. J. McGlew, J. J. Johnstone, J. Stewart, and Captain Haswell.

The Yokohama Engine and Iron Works are to be congratulated on the handsome steam launch which they have just completed for the Kobe branch of Messrs. Ahrens & Co., Nach., for service there on behalf of the N.D.L. In length 56 feet, with a beam of 11 feet, and a speed of 10½ knots, the launch, we have no doubt, will answer all expectations. The trial trip took place on Wednesday afternoon and at the invitation of Messrs. Ahrens & Co., a large number of German residents and others were present. After a delightful run down to the Honmoku Lightship and back, Mr. Coates, the German Consul-General, proposed in hearty terms success to the new launch, the *Lloyd*. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

AMERICAN NOTES.

It is estimated that the production of coal in the United States for the year 1899 will amount to 200,000,000 tons, an output in excess of Great Britain's probable production.

Of the 21,458,294 children of school age in the United States, 70 per cent. are in attendance in the public schools. Twenty years ago the percentage was only 61½.

The fire-loss statistics of the *Journa of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin* show for the United States and Canada a total of $136,773,200 in 1899, an increase of $17,000,000 over last year and $26,000 000 over 1897. The December loss was $13,260,650

A statement prepared by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association shows the sugar output of the islands for the year ending September 30, 1899, to have been 282,807 tons, or about one-tenth the consumption of the United States. Of this total twenty-four companies on Kauai sent 65,359 tons, nine companies on Maui 54,389 tons and seven companies on Oahu 45,820 tons. The largest output of beet sugar in California in one year is 38,705 tons.

The death of Mr. Daniel S. Ford, the proprietor of *The Youth's Companion*, removes one of the leading newspaper publishers of the time. The almost unexampled success of that paper was due to his remarkable business ability. From an insignificant journal, it became one of the most prominent and profitable papers in the United States, and has for more than a generation brought pleasure and profit to the various members of the family.

Ernest Bauer, says the New York *Tribune*, an extensive poultry raiser, of Coffeyville, Kan. having read in an agricultural journal that boracic acid would preserve chicken meat almost indefinitely, assumed that the chemical should be mixed with the feed of the fowls and given to them to eat. He tried the experiment with the result that 762 of his 800 chickens died within twenty-four hours. He sued the editor of the paper, but the court held that any man of ordinary intelligence should have known better than to try to preserve the flesh of living fowls by means of chemicals.

Prosperity, remarks *Bradstreets*, is strikingly evidenced by the statistics given in the annual report of the New York Superintendent of Banking. Nothing like the development in the business of the trust companies during the past year has ever before been known. Eight new trust companies were organized during the year and five were in course of organization when the year closed, representing in capital and surplus $22,000 000. For the first six months of last year the resources of the trust companies showed an increase of $195,000,000. The State banks showed a gain of $50,000,000 in resources during the year, or over 15 per cent., and the resources of the savings banks a gain of $45 500 000 for the first six months of the year, or more than during the whole of the preceeding year.

Mr. Attorney-General Griggs has filed an answer in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in the proceedings for prize money for captures at Manila Bay by Admiral Dewey. The Attorney-General asks that the cause be referred to a commissioner and that Admiral Dewey, his officers and crew and also the United States may have leave to take testimony. The Attorney-General concedes that a state of war existed, but denies that the squadron under Dewey's command captured the Spanish cruisers *sla de Cuba*, *sla de Luzon* and *Don Juan de Austria*. These vessels, he says, were sunk during the engagement. He asks for fuller information in regard to the other points and says that although captures of property were made, such capture does not authorize its condemnation as prize to Dewey and his men. The Attorney-General has filed a similar answer in the case of Admiral Sampson and the destruction of Cervera's fleet.

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TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

Shanghai, Feb. 2.

The total casualties since crossing the Tugela were 301 killed, 1,584 wounded, and 130 missing.

The Times understands that the Government contemplates drastic changes in the War Office.

The press generally condemns idle partisan recriminations in debating the Address to the Throne.

The completion of the list of the Spion Kop casualties show that the missing number 215.

Col. Baden Powell reports from Mafeking that he has forced the enemy to move the positions of their big guns, and he hopes shortly to shift 2 strong works with dynamite. The garrison is healthy and cheerful.

General Buller, thanking the troops after the Spion Kop operations, said that he hoped to relieve Ladysmith within a week.

Mr. G. Wyndham (Under Secretary for War) replying in the House of Commons to the criticisms of Sir Charles Dilke, defended the conduct of the war and said that within a fortnight Great Britain would have in South Africa, 180,000 troops of all arms; 48 batteries of Artillery, and 110 guns of position (seige guns). He added that he would ask the House for a further war vote and also for means to reorganize the military defences.

Shanghai, Feb. 3.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Spearman's Camp under date of the 30th ult. that Dundonald reconnoitred on that day to Nongerpoort above Trichard's Drift, but did not see any signs of the enemy.

The Indian famine is becoming more acute. Three and three quarter millions of persons are receiving relief.

Mr. Balfour, speaking in the Commons, said that it was not intended to send any Indian troops to South Africa.

Shanghai, Feb. 4.

A fresh movement by Buller is believed to be imminent, if it has not already commenced. All accounts show that the spirit of the troops is splendid.

French is at Capetown consulting Roberts.

Methuen's command is being rapidly reinforced.

In the debate on the Address, Mr. Goschen said the Admiralty is able to assist the Army without depleting the Navy. The drainage of troops from the country requires that the Navy should watch with greater vigilance.

A French Yellow Book shows that England on the 25th December suddenly withdrew her previously determined opposition to the extension of the French Settlement at Shanghai.

Shanghai. Feb. 5.

Well accredited reports represent the Free Staters as increasingly weary of the war. Some influential leaders, including one principal commandant, are said to have entered into secret negotiations with the British, with a view to ascertaining the terms that will be accorded to them, if they quit their allies.

A later telegram says that Buller apparently has made no movement.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Spearman's Camp under date of the 3rd that the enemy to-day fired from the hills upon our cavalry which was reconnoitering. The Boers are burning all cover along the last British line of advance.

The Boers from Vryheid have captured a British magistrate at Ingutu (?) in Zululand; also 11 white and 34 coloured policemen with horses and ammunition.

Shanghai, Feb. 6.

There is no confirmation of the reports published by the newspapers that Buller has re-crossed the Tugela and is marching to the relief of Ladysmith.

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Spearman's Camp telegraphed on the evening of the 4th inst that the infantry lining the low ridges on the north bank of the Tugela opposite Potgieter's Drift check the Boer snipers. Messages are freely interchanged between the camps of Buller and White.

The War Office has heard absolutely nothing concerning the advance of Buller. No immediate movement on his part is anticipated, the roads being rendered impracticable by the rains.

The passage of foreigners to the Transvaal from Delagoa is unceasing. The Portuguese restrictions are derisory.

In New York, Mr. Alger, late Secretary of War, strenuously denounces the growing pro-Boer agitation in the United States in oblivion of the immeasureable debt of gratitude that the Americans owe England for her attitude during the Spanish War.

Shanghai, Feb. 7.

A new American Commission sails for the Philippines in March to establish a civil government.

There is a marked change in the German press in the direction of friendliness towards England. Even the *Vossische Zeitung*, hitherto bitterly Anglophobe, says that Germany has no inducement to drive the English from Egypt to make room for the French.

A heavy cannonade has begun on Ladysmith and continues.

Shanghai, Feb. 8.

The *Standard* has a telegram from Koppiesdom, dated the 5th instant, which says that Macdonald's Highland Brigade, with a field battery and the 9th Lancers, arrived on the 4th instant at Koodvoosberg, and now holds both banks of the River. Its arrival was opportune, as it prevented two large commandos from joining. The light infantry are bivouacked on the north bank of the River.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's amendment to the Address to the Throne, regretting the want of knowledge, foresight, and judgment shown by the Government in South-African affairs since 1895 and in the preparations for the War, was rejected by 352 votes to 139.

[Note.—Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice is member for North Wiltshire, and is brother to the Marquis of Lansdowne, Minister for War. He occupied the post of Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Gladstonian Administration of 1880-85.—Ed. *J.M.*]

Roberts and Kitchener have left Capetown, but the censor has cut out the date of their departure and their destination. It is believed that they have gone to supervise large general operations, extending from Sterkstroom to the Colesberg district.

It is reported that Gatacre is already engaged.

The War Office announces that Buller crossed the Tugela on the 5th, and is now advancing towards Ladysmith. The operations are proceeding, but no information has been received as to their result.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France in Tokyo.)

Saigon, Feb. 2.

The House of Commons is discussing the reply to the Speech from the Throne. Many speakers blame the Government.

The project of a system of French submarine cables includes a line from Hué to a point not yet fixed on the north of Hongkong.

Saigon, Feb. 4.

The French Senate has resumed its regular sittings. It is proceeding to verify the election returns.

News from London is to the effect that no intelligence has been received from the seat of war, but the public is nevertheless convinced that Buller has re-commenced his movements, and important news is to be expected immediately.

Saigon, Feb. 6.

The War Office denies that Buller has commenced any new offensive movement, as the journals announced.

Saigon, Feb. 8.

The House of Commons has rejected the amendment to the Address censuring the Government.

The French Minister of Marine, acting in conjunction with the Minister of the Colonies, has decided to organise 14 batteries of marines for service in Indo-China. They will constitute a regiment named the Regiment of Marine Artillery of Indo-China. There will be eight batteries for Tonkin and six for Cochin-China, under the command of a Lieut. Colonel.

("Hongkong Volunteer Gazette" Service specially wired to the "Japan Mail.")

Shanghai, Feb. 8.

Nothing further has been reported by General French, except that the Boers report that the British are now within seven miles of Achtertang.

During the week 13,700 men and 3,000 officers, including Cavalry, Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers, sail for the Cape.

Lord Roberts, replying to a communication from Presidents Kruger and Steyn, complaining that the British have caused the destruction of farmhouses, says that the charges are unproven. His Lordship accuses the Boers of barbarous practices and the spoliation and expulsion of British subjects when refusing to fight against their own countrymen.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	M. eb. 12
Hongkong	P. & O. Co	Rosetta 1.	M. Feb. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China 2	M. Feb. 12
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern 3	Sa. Feb. 17
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 4	Tu. Feb. 20
Hongkong	C. P. R Co	Em. of India	Th Feb. 22
Hongkong	M. M Co.	———	Th. Feb. 22
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Gaelic	Th. Feb. 22
America	T. K. K	Nippon Maru	W Feb. 28
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa Mar. 3

1 Left Hongkong on the 3rd inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 24th ult.
3 Left Hongkong on the 8th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 1st inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg	Sa. Feb. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	M. Feb. 12
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Tu Feb. 13
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Feb. 14
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Laos	F. Feb. 16
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Feb. 21

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BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, Feb. 3rd :—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000 000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	17.007.540
Amount of convertible notes issued...	241,220 708
Government deposits	59,858,223
General deposits	3.703,396
Exchange liability	33.451
Total	351,823.319

Cr.	
Discount notes	80,789 070
Foreign discount notes	16,097,425
Loans to Government	22,000,000
General loans	67,123,176
Exchange liability	1,968,269
Government bonds	55.855,691
Property...	2,020.425
Bullion and Specie	105,969,260
Total	351,823.319

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	245.454.518

Bullion and Specie :—

Gold	101,009,498
Silver	4.000,000
Total	105.009,498

Securities :—

Government bonds	28.256,788
Government certificates	22.000,000
Government bills	12,388,495
Commercial notes	77.799.737
Total	140.445,020

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	144.758
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	3,769,956
Government deposits	—	2,950,883
General deposits	95.626	—

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

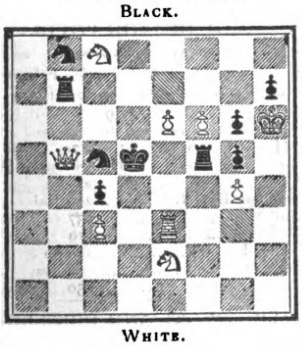
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 458.

WHITE	BLACK.
1—R to Kt 8	1—Kt moves
2—R to Q R 8	2—Any move
3—R to R sq mates	
	1—P to Kt 4
2—R to B 5	2—Any move
3—R to 5 mates	
	1—P to Q 6
2—R to B 4	2—Any move
3—R to R 4 mates	

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 460.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mate in three moves.

Game No. 560.

The following game was played in the Pillsbury National Correspondence Tourney, Mr. Somerville, the winner, calls especial attention to the fact that it presents the unusual feature (for a correspondence game) of an announced mate at the end of only fifteen moves.

EVANS GAMBIT.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	8 Kt K5	P Q4 (b)
2 Kt K B3	Kt Q B3	9 PxP	K KtxP
3 B B4	B B4	10 KtxB P	KxKt
4 P Q Kt4	BxP	11 Q B3ch	K K3
5 P B3	B R4	12 R K sq	KtxQ P (c)
6 P Q4	P Q3	13 RxPch	KxR
7 Castles	K Kt K2	14 PxKtch	KxP (d)
	(a)	15 BxKt	QxB (e)

And white announced mate in six moves.

Notes by Mr. S.

(a) Once known as the Mead Defence, but long obsolete. It permits an immediate and dangerous attack.

(b) Of course not Castles, because 9 Q to R 5 would give White an irresistible attack.

(c) Very much better seems P to Q Kt 4 first, followed by the text-move.

(d) If K to K 3, then 15 Q to K 4 ch, K to B 3; 16 B takes Kt, and Black has no resource.

(e) Black's game is irretrievable. If here R to K sq; 16 B to Kt 2 ch, K to B 4; 17 B to R 3 ch, K to Q 5; 18 Kt to B 3, B takes Kt; 19 R to Q sq ch, K to K 4; 20 Q takes B ch, and wins easily.

Black's 6th move is not a good defence. P takes P is the move.

Games No. 561 and 562.

The following games show uncommon variations of the French Defence. The first was played at Copenhagen recently, the second in the first-class tournament at the Manhattan Chess Club, New York :—

FRENCH DEFENCE.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
White.—S. Pritzel.		Black.—Dr. A. Tackholm.	
1 P K4	P K3	19 Q B3	R(Q sq)Ktsq
2 P Q4	P Q4	20 K B sq	Q B2
3 PxP	PxP	21 R K5	Kt K5
4 B K3	Kt K B 3	22 PxKt	PxP
5 Kt Q2	B Q3	23 QxB P	R R8ch
6 B K2	B K3	24 K K2	RxR
7 P K R3	Q Kt Q2	25 Q K2	Q Q2
8 K Kt B3	P K R3	26 Kt B sq	R Rsq
9 P K3	P B3	27 Kt Kt3	R K R7
10 P B4	Q K2	28 B B5	Q B2
11 P B5	B B2	29 BxBch	PxB
12 Castles	P K Kt4	30 RxP	R Rsq
13 Kt R2	B B5	31 R K7	Q Q sq
24 Kt Kt4	P K R4	32 Q K5	R Q Kt8
15 KtxKt ch	KtxKt	33 Kt B5	RxPch
16 BxB	PxB	34 K Q3	R Q7ch
17 R K sq	Castles Q R	35 K R3	R R4
18 B Q3	Q Q2	36 R K8 and wins (a)	

(a) This game has provoked some discussion among the Scandinavian chess players, 3—P takes P is now somewhat uncommon, but recently has found advocates once more. It frees Black's Q R, which is the real objection to it. 7—P to K R 3 is weak generally, and seems here to be useless, besides assisting Black's attack (see moves 12, 14, 21, &c.). White appears to have had narrow escapes, and the game affords plenty of scope for analysis. A pretty point is when Black plays 34. R to Q7 ch. If White captures the rook, Black replies, Q to R4 ch, and draws.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
White—D. G. Baird.		Black—C. P. Weeks.	
1 P K4	P K3	12 R Q B sq	PxP
2 P Q4	P Q4	13 KtxP	Q Kt K4
3 Kt Q2	Kt K2	14 B Ktsq	Kt Q Bsq
4 K Kt B3	Kt K3	15 Q B2	P K4
5 P B3	PxP	16 Kt B3	P KB4
6 KtxP	P QK3	17 Kt(K4)Kt5	KtxB
7 B Q3	B Kt2	18 Kt K6	KtxKtch
8 Castles	B K2	19 PxKt	Q Q4
9 R Ksq	Kt Q2	20 KtxR	QxBP
10 P KR3	Castles	21 K B sq	Kt B5
11 B Q2	P QB4	White resigns (a)	

(a) Here the whole method of development is original and suggestive. The departure from beaten paths is refreshing. White appears to have lost the game through allowing the Black Kt to attack first at 4 and then at B 5; 14. B-B sq was better. Mr. Weeks (a new player) conducts the game in vigorous and attractive style.

One of the armed robbers who entered a house in Suyeyoshicho, 1-chome, on the night of January 12th, was on Thursday morning arrested by a defective belonging to the Isezaki-cho Police Station.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, W. E. Filmer, 2nd Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 16th Jan., Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 2nd February,—Shanghai via ports, 27th Jan., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sikh, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 3rd Feb., —Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., 14th Jan, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Canton, British steamer, 2,164, C. F. Lockstone, 3rd Feb.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 2nd Feb., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 4th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 2nd Feb., General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 4th Feb.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 3rd February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Warfield, British steamer, 2,090, J. Pattie, 4th Feb.,—Batoum via Hongkong, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, A. Horsfall, 4th Feb.,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 2nd Feb., General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hyson, British steamer, 4,232, J. S. Hogg, 5th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 4th Feb., General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 5th February,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 4th Feb., Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ssechuen, British steamer, 1,158, A. H. Hall, 5th Feb.,—Hongkong, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Westphalia, German steamer, 2,048, C. Strunck, 5th Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, and Shanghai, 31st Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Breconshire, British steamer, 2,323, Geo. Eliott, 6th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 4th Feb., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Langbank, British steamer, 2,966, W. J. Rout, 6th Feb.,—New York via Labuan and Moji, 3rd Feb.,—Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 139, J. T. Harrison, 6th Feb.,—Guam, Copra and Hides.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Oldenburg, German steamer, 3,167, H. Prager, 6th Feb.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 5th Feb., Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Laos, French steamer, 2,331, Flaudin, 6th Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 5th February, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,533, K. Knuth, 7th Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 30th Jan., General.—C. Illies & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Indus, French steamer, 2,331, G. Duchateau, 2nd Feb..—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General. —M. M. S.S. Co.

Telena, British Tank steamer, 3,124, Scott, 2nd Feb.,—Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Knivesberg, German steamer, 1,033, G. Bruhn, 2nd Feb.,—Karatsu via Nagasaki, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Babelsberg, German steamer, 1,397, Pfaff, 4th February,—Havre, Amsterdam, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, E. W. Filmer, 4th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 5th Feb.,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Birchtor, British steamer, 2,378, G. H. Balleine, February 5th,—Moji via Kobe, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Limited.

Stentor, British steamer, 4,308, Chas Jackson, 6th Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 6th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu and San Diego, Mails & General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 7th Feb.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 7th February,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Breconshire, British steamer, 2,323, Geo. Elliott, 7th Feb.,—Victoria, C.B., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sikh, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 8th Feb., —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

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Canton, British steamer, 2,164, C. F. Lockstone, 8th Feb.,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. A. France and wife, Mr. R. B. Teusler and wife, Mr. H. M. Richards, Mr. S. Misaki, Mr. Kendzo Tabata, Mr. W. R. P. Freeland, Miss Bainbridge, Mr. K. Ishi, and Mrs. M. Shibata, in cabin; 24 in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. D. Kubule, and Mr. S. P. Jeusen, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Rev. W. B. Schwartz, wife and three children, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. J. D. Ludwig, Miss Clara Rieske, Miss Carrer Rieske, Mrs. Leon Roudiez, Miss Helen Roudiez, Mrs. L. R. Holbrook, Mrs. A. S. Towar and son, Mr. W. H. Martin, Mr. R. R. MacDougall, Mr. P. Rieveley, Mr. Wm. Whiley, Jr., Mr. A. Hockwold, Mr. W. J. Carlisle, Mrs. S. B. Tainter, Mr. J. H. Saulen, and Mr. Loo Choy Ying, in cabin; 85 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Warlorsky, Mr. A. B. Glover, Capt. T. Sahaku, Com. F. Fukuda, Mrs. K. Kato, Miss K. Kato, Master Y. Kato, Mr. G. Motoda, and Mr. U. Yamakawa, in cabin; Mr. G. E. Cardazo, and Mr. M. Hata, in second class; 15 Japanese, and 3 Chinese, in steerage.

Per German steamer *Oldenburg*, from Bremen via ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Munro, Mrs. Clarke, Lieut. von Bosse, Mr. V. Herrmann, Mrs. M. Nebling and children, Mr. J. Guggenheim, Mr. J. Witkowski, Mr. Holstein, Mr. M. Wright, and Mr. Dittert, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Laos*, from Marseilles via ports:—Major E. J. Larkins, Mr. Holloway, Mrs. Mayodni Matz and child, Mr. Shibuya, Mr. L. Mottet, Mr. Pope, Mr. Denbigh and son, Mrs. Montaka, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Gysin, Mr. Barstow, Mr. Pila, Mr. Adet, Mr. Alexander Edie, Mr. Pasumal, and two Chinese, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Indus*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. T. Guigard, Mr. Lonifin, Mr. Sueji, Mr. R. Otsuki, Mr. S. Kinkozan, Dr. Roger Tremolieres, Mr. H. Von Veltheim, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, Mr. C. Eymard, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhard, Mr. and Mrs. A. Pohl, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Kan and child, Mrs. Wassilieff, Mr. Lun Jo, Mr. O. Lee, Mr. B. Dubois, Mr. K. Taromall, Mr. K. Kodama, Mr. H. C. Brushfield, Mr. H. F. Hennage, Mr. B. Matsui, Mr. T. Takezawa, Mr. Y. Yamaguchi, Mr. K. Niwa, Mrs. Jourenet, Mr. Siegel, Mr. and Mrs. C. Rogge, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Machaele and child, Mr. K. Kitajima, Mr. S. Kobayashi, Mr. H. Otaki, Mr. Salabelle, Mr. Matsubara, Mr. Albert Jourdan, Mr. S. V. dos Remedies, Mr. C. Poirson, Mr. C. N. Crosse, Mr. A. N. P. Da Cruz Farias, and Mr. W. F. Mitchell, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. Rondiez, Miss Rondiez, Mrs. J. B. Carruthers, Mrs. T. Amber, Mr. Charles Riveley, Mr. E. O. Brownlow and servant, Mr. A. Hockwold, Mr. D. Kulmbe, Mr. S. P. Jensen, Mr. Wm. Whiley, Mr. A. J. McClew, Mr. Geo. Bayfield, Mr. W. Grautoff, Mr. A. Serho, Mrs. Holbrook, Mr. A. S. Towar, Mr. A. Towar, Miss Carrie Rieke, Miss Clara Rieke, Rev. Mr. Schwartz and family, Mr. R. J. Kirby, Mr. J. D. Ludwig, Mr. T. B. Pocklington and Mr. V. L. Boeck in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, frem Hongkong via ports;—Mr. F. H. Ziegfeld, Count Rossi Martini, Mr. R. C. McKerrow, Mr. Fai Villahermosa, Mr. E. Ralphs, Mr. A. F. Gardner, Mr. Middleton, Mrs. S. Hatabu, Dr. A. Gorin, Mrs. Watson, Miss Hughes, Mr. A. L. Jones, Dr. L. S. Little, and Mrs. Middleton, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Dr. D. H. Morgan, U.S.N., Mr. L. W. Buskett, Mr. Richard Pitrot, Mr. J. H. Mahoney, Mr. Jas. Craw, Mr. Robt. Watt, Mr. Herm. Wolf, and Mr. Wm. Kopp, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. J. Westphalm, Mr. H. Inman, Mr. C. Holstein, Mr. James Waddilove, Mr. L. Prevost, Miss Giese, Mr. E. de Puth, Mr. H. Okawa, Inspector of Machinery O. Shimojo, I.J.N., and Mr. A. Ishibashi, in cabin; Mrs. Miki Saki, Mr. T. Yegoshi, Mr. S. Miyoshi, Mr. S. Fukushima, Mrs. Miyo Kukawa and Miss Haru, Mr. Chin Sho Ki, and Mr. T. Nagaoka, in second class; 48 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Dr. and Mrs. Barrett, Mr. G. M. Los Remedios, child and infant, and Mr. C. H. Wilson, in cabin; 13 Chinese and 4 children, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. F. T. Bedford, Mr. Wm. W. Bierce, Mr. Charles B. Boothe, Mrs. Charles B. Boothe, Mr. L. W. Buskett, Mr. J. B. Cogswell, Mr. James Craw, Mr. Chas. R. Haynes, Mr. S. Hirai, Mr. H. Kinze, Mr. Y. Kanno, Mr. Wm. Kopp, Mr. K. Kurasawa, Mr. J. H. Mahoney, Dr. D. H. Morgan, U.S.N., Mr. S. Ozagaki, Mrs. S. Ozagaki, Mr. Richard Pitrot, Mr. C. R. Strong, Mr. Alexander Tison, Mrs. Alexander Tison, Mr. C. W. Thompson, Mrs. C. W. Thompson, Mr. Robert Watt, Mr. Hermann Wolf, Mr. E. M. Whitney, Mr. C. M. Youmans, and Mrs. C. M. Youmans, in cabin.

CARGO.

The following are the shipments of tea and silk per N. P. steamer *Breconshire*, which sailed for Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 6:—

TEA.

	CHICAGO AND CANADA.	NEW YORK AND WEST.	NEW YORK AND EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	HONOLULU.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Kobe	470	152	—	—	—	622
Yokohama	—	670	—	—	—	670
Total	740	822	—	—	—	1,292

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL.
Hongkong	50	—	50
Shanghai	—	—	—
Yokohama	—	—	—
Total	50	—	50

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is still a general rise in yarns and cotton fabrics, and buyers for the most part decline to enter into large transactions. Prices, however, are still below Manchester rates, and must rise further. The "country New Year" has interfered with business, which has been on a very limited scale during the past week.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 2.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 3.85
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.00 to 2.15
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.15 to 3.20
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.70 to 4.20
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.29

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.34 to 0.48
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.31
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.65 to 0.75
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.96 to 1.15
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.12½ to 2.42½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.70 to 3.75

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/21, Singles	$42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	52.00 to 55.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	78.00 to 82.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	104.00 to 106.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	125.00 to 130.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	102.00 to 104.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	116.00 to 120.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	145.00 to 155.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.25
Indian Broach	23.50
Chinese	24.00

METALS.

There is little doing, the Japanese being still indisposed to buy at the present rates, which, however, show a tendency to further advance.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.20 to 6.40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized iron sheets	12.50 to 13.80
Wire Nails, assorted	7.60 to 7.90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 18 inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market firm at last quoted rates.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

Market steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.40
Brown Manila	5.50 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A quiet week, the movement by one or two houses of a few days ago has not been followed up by the market generally, and holders are willing sellers at quotations. News from Lyons market still continues to be dull and depressing.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,240 to 1,250
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,210 to 1,890
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	None
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 2	1,120 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	None
Kakedas—No. 1	1,190 to 1,200
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,170 to 1,180
Kakedas—No 2	1,160 to 1,165
Kakedas—No 2½	1,140 to 1,150

WASTE SILK.

Some business continues in Filature Kibiso on the basis of quotations, but in other sorts there is nothing doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	140 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best / Noshi—Bushu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	130 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 8.

Silver from London $\frac{3}{16}$ lower, followed by a decline in China sterling quotations, has caused local rates on China to advance, whilst easier rates are practical for private paper generally.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 5/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 15/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	256
— Private 4 months' sight	261
— Private 6 months' sight	262
America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207½
— Private 4 months' sight	214 to 213
Hongkong—Bank sight	3½% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4½% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	75
— Private 10 days' sight	76
India—Bank sight	151
— Private 30 days' sight	154 to 153½
Bar Silver (London)	27 5/16

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, February 8.

Oriental Hotels have sellers at *yen* 132.50. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9. Japan Breweries have been sold at *yen* 156 for forward delivery. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 70. China Fires have been purchased from Hongkong at $89.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...210 Sales.
Grand Hotel ...237.50 Sales.
Club Hotel ... 70 Buyers.
Oriental Hotel ...132.50 Sellers.
Langfeldt & Co. ... 70 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co. ...150 Steady.

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, February 8.

Engine and Iron Works—A few shares are obtainable at *yen* 210. Breweries are steady at *yen* 150. Grand Hotels can be had at *yen* 237.50. Club Hotels are steady at *yen* 80. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 130. Langfeldts have buyers

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at *yen* 70. Laundries—Offers for shares are wanted.

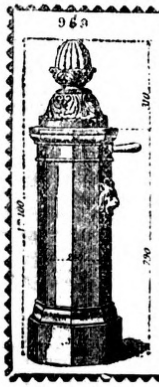
Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs are wanted at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108. Laundries are obtainable at par.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50 ...	210 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50	150 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100 ...	237.50 S.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100 ...	80 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100 ...	130 Sa
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Pdrs.), $12½ ...	350 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100 ...	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100 ...	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10 ...	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100 ...	70 B.
Helm Bros., $50 ...	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., *yen* 50 ...	Offers wanted.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100 ...	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100 ...	108 B.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100 ...	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100 ...	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100 ...	N

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries

Tokyo, February 8.

Redemption Loan Bonds ...	95 50
War Loan Bonds ...	99.50
Tokyo City Loan Bonds ...	99.80
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200 ...	440.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50 ...	68.70
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100 ...	287.50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50 ...	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50 ...	67 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100 ...	107.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25 ...	29.10
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	76,80
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 41 ...	61.80
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50 ...	26 60
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45 ...	115 00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 ...	78.50
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 ...	56.50
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	48.60
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	60.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40 ...	47 50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	99.70
Hokkaido Colliery R'way, 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	83 50
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	90.50
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	47 80
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	32.50
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	48 00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50 ...	28.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50 ...	59 00
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38 ...	30 20
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25 ...	18.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13 ...	23 70
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50 ...	219 00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50 ...	210.50
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50 ...	68 90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25 ...	27.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 10 ...	14.50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21 ...	32.70
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23 ...	20.00
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25 ...	39 80
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20 ...	32 00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60 ...	31.00
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40 ...	14 80
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50 ...	242.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50 ...	210 50
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50 ...	143 00
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25 ...	93 50
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5 ...	8.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50 ...	54 40
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50 ...	25.50
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50 ...	90 00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 22 ...	69 00
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40 ...	88.50
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50 ...	20.00
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50 ...	54.40
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40 ...	78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50 ...	55.80



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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 17TH, 1900.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE British are being heavily pressed at Rensberg.

A JUNK was burnt in Yokohama harbour on Wednesday.

ASAMA-YAMA is showing signs of renewed activity.

LADYSMITH, Kimberley, and Mafeking are still holding out bravely.

THE news from South Africa is less exciting this week. General Roberts has reached the Modder River.

ANOTHER disturbance is being fomented among the farmers in the Ashio Valley.

THE Children's Fancy Dress Dance at the Public Hall on Wednesday was a more successful affair.

THE Interport football match between Kobe and Yokohama will be played this afternoon at Kobe.

THE Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Society gave a successful concert at the Shorei-kai on Friday evening.

DURING next week an entertainment will be given in the Public Hall in aid of the Widows and Orphans Fund.

ON Wednesday night a house in Honmura road, Yokohama, inhabited by a Chinaman, was destroyed by fire.

THE Commission of the French Chamber of Deputies has decided to propose the removal of Déroulède from his seat as deputy.

THE body of a British seaman who fell into Yokohama harbour on Jan. 3rd, has just been recovered on the beach at Tomioka.

THE St. George's Society of Yokohama and Tokyo do not propose giving a Ball this year. The money will be sent home to England instead.

THE supplementary British Army estimates provide 14,000,000 pounds sterling and 120,000 more men, making the grand total 338,853.

LIEUT. WADE, of the Royal Lancaster Regiment, killed at Spion Kop on the 24th ult., was a son of the late Sir T. F. Wade, British Minister to China.

THE body of the British quartermaster Nicholson, which was washed ashore at Tomioka, has been buried at the expense of the village authorities of Kanazawa.

A TELEGRAM from Vancouver, British Columbia, states that the skeleton of Sir Arthur Curtis, of London, has been found in a cave near Klondike, where he perished last winter.

DURING the coaling of H.M.S. *Peacock* at Shanghai on the 6th inst., James Tozer, a chief stoker, while walking over the boats alongside, slipped and fell into the river and was drowned.

THE annual meeting of the St. George's Society was held on Thursday afternoon at Keil's Building, Mr. W. W. Till, the President, in the chair. The proceedings were of a private character.

REUTER'S agent telegraphs from Rensberg under date 11th inst., says two patrols, consisting mostly of Australians, were the previous day surrounded by the enemy. Some escaped, several were wounded, and 12 were captured.

BARON HESSE VON WARTEGG, the well known traveller, accompanied by his wife (née Minnie Hauk) are passengers by the German mail to the Far East. They intend to stay for some time in Singapore.

AN epidemic of influenza is rampant, says the *Kobe Herald*, among the foreign community of Kobe. The medical men are borne down under a burden of extra duty on its account, as many as 60 influenza patients being under one doctor's attentions.

ANOTHER effort is being made to induce the American Government to bid for the "Danish West Indies." The price expected is not known, but it is believed to be three millions. Both the Navy and State Departments are strongly in favour of the purchase.

IT is reported that Japan has allowed the Government to take over four 4.7 inch quickfirers ordered by her at Armstrong's. Other European States are acting in a similar manner regarding orders being executed at the Vickers-Maxim works, England thereby acquiring one hundred guns.

THERE is an old man named Okamura Kakuo, of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, now staying at Tsuchishoya, Futsuka-itsukamachi, Minami-Shinagawa, near Tokyo. He is aged 105, and is celebrated for his pictures of storks, tortoises, bamboos, plums, etc. He always walks, using neither *jinrikisha* nor railway.

THE steam yacht *Victoria*, having on board Prince and Princess de Broglie, their son, and other exalted personages, has arrived at Singapore *en route* for China and Japan. The yacht is a handsome vessel, commanded by Captain R. A. Lunham, who is English, has a crew of fifty-one, and carries two guns.

MR. GERALD WYNDHAM, Under Secretary of State for War, has announced in the House of Commons that it has been decided to send seventeen more battalions of Militia and 300 more Yeomanry to South Africa, bringing the grand total to 194,000 men, exclusive of ineffectives.

NEWS has been received in Yokohama of the death in Paris a few days ago of Mr. Pietro Beretta, who had resided for many years in this port, and who left Yokohama only last December Mr. Beretta had been an invalid for some time, suffering from an affection of the heart. He was a native of Milan, and had served with distinction in the Austrian war of 1859. He was about 60 years of age, and highly esteemed by all who knew him.

CONSIDERABLE sensation has been caused in Berlin by the publication in the *Lokal Anzeiger* of what purports to be the gist of the contents of the secret treaty between Great Britain and Germany, with respect to the Colonial possessions of Portugal. Roughly speaking it sets forth that Great Britain will purchase Delagoa Bay and all the country up to the Zambesi, while Germany will take over the small Portuguese Colonies in Asia. Germany also stipulates to secure to England the occupation of Delagoa Bay against possible objections from France, Russia, or any other Power.

IN the House of Lords last week the Marquis of Lansdowne (Minister for War) explained the Government's Army scheme. He said that the first duty was to provide a field army of 130,000 men which would form a reserve for further reinforcements for South Africa. The Government proposed to add to the Regular Army 15 battalions, 43 batteries, and seven Cavalry regiments. This proposal was changed in the sense of adding 30,000 regulars and 50,000 auxiliaries, making a total force of nearly 600,000

A JAPANESE coal lighter known as the *Mimre Maru*, of 2,800 *koku* burden, while moored opposite the Japanese hatoba at Yokohama on Thursday, was seen to be on fire. The fire brigades of the Japanese warship *Kongo Kan* and of the *Chitaya Maru*, belonging to the Communications Department, were soon on the spot, and the flames were extinguished, but not before the junk had been burnt to the water edge. A watchman was supposed to be in charge of the junk, but he went ashore at 8 p.m. and did not return after the fire broke out. The junk belonged to Messrs. Helm Bros.

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MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

The matrimonial engagement between His Imperial Highness the CROWN PRINCE and Princess SADAKO, daughter of Prince KUJO, and niece of the deceased Empress-Dowager, was officially announced on Sunday, the 11th instant. That day was doubtless chosen as being the anniversary of the accession of the first Japanese Emperor, 2560 years ago. The exact date of the marriage is not yet published.

In a previous issue we spoke of the lineage of the lady who is to be the future Empress of Japan. Her family traces its line back to the celebrated KAMATARI, who, in the eighth century, received the title of Fujiwara for eminent services rendered to the Throne. The Fujiwara, which stands at the head of Japan's noble families, has given consort after consort to the Sovereign. Prince KUJO, whose fourth daughter's betrothal is now announced, bears a title created some nine centuries ago. He himself occupied the post of *Sa-Daijin* (Minister of the Left) during the reign of the last EMPEROR, thus ranking, at the Imperial Court, second only to the Prime Minister. Princess SADA is in her seventeenth year. She is a graduate of the Peeresses' School, and has thus received an education differing radically in many respects from that of the ladies hitherto chosen as Imperial Consorts. We respectfully offer sincere congratulations to the illustrious couple.

Attention is drawn to the fact that in connexion with the engagement of the Crown Prince, His Imperial Highness despatched an equerry in his own name to the residence of his intended father-in law, whereas, according to the custom hitherto observed, such things would have been managed solely by the Imperial Household. The *Kokumin* interprets the fact as a new departure, in the sense of indicating that the wishes of the principal parties are to be consulted hereafter in marriages of the kind. There may be something in our contemporary's inference, but we apprehend that the prospective wearers of crowns will always have to subserve personal predilections to considerations of expediency in matrimonial affairs.

It is expected that the wedding of the Prince Imperial and the Princess Sada will take place at some time between the end of April and the end of May. The ceremony will be performed in the main hall of the Palace, and it is anticipated that in connexion with it a grand entertainment will be organized, to which foreigners as well as Japanese will be invited. Tokyo newspapers say that there will be amnesty for a special class of prisoners, and that large alms will be distributed among the poor. Investigations for the latter purpose have already been commenced in Tokyo and Kyoto. It is understood that the Imperial Treasury officials have appropriated about half a million *yen* for the expenses of the ceremony. The citizens of Tokyo, also, will inaugurate a fête of some kind, and it is possible that the foreign community may think the occasion suitable for a demonstration. We offer the suggestion.

"Miyake Setsurei" writes one of his subtly worded articles in the *Nippon* with reference to the wedding. He wraps up his meaning in many pretty paraphrases, as is natural to a Japanese discussing such a subject, but the gist of what he says is a plea for more intimate intercourse between the Crown Prince and the people. Borrowing Marquis Ito's simile which compares the Emperor to the sun and the Empress to the moon, "Miyake Setsurei" admits that when either luminary has climbed high in the heavens, the majesty of its effulgence is awe-inspiring. But when it is still low upon the horizon, still in the Prince-Imperial or Princess-Imperial stage to put the matter bluntly, it shines with a soft and genial light sympathetic rather than dazzling. That is the time for the future Sovereign to study his subjects closely and obtain an intimate knowledge of their character and condition by allowing them to approach him.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, Feb. 10.

It is not possible to agree with the strictures passed by a local contemporary on the methods of the censors at the seat of war. Persistent reports were circulated that Buller had recrossed the Tugela on the 1st or 2nd of February, and our contemporary assumes that, though he had really crossed, the fact was suppressed by the censors. But Reuter's telegrams show that Buller did not resume the offensive until the 5th of February, and, as the news reached us on the 8th, it is plain that the censors did not stretch their power beyond the usual limit of prescribing a three days' interval between the commencement of operations and their public announcement. At all events we can be quite sure that the censors exercise their authority in the best interests of the nation, and that, if they keep back details, it is not merely for the sake of mystery. In this particular instance of Buller's movements, rumour was premature. The censors did not suppress anything, since there was not anything to suppress.

It is almost hopeless to attempt to form any conjecture as to the nature of the operations in which Buller is now engaged. Whether he is really delivering his attack at two points, as news from Paris suggests, or at one only, is uncertain. An interesting fact is that Dundonald's Brigade, though it consists entirely of mounted men, did not regain the main body after the retreat from Spion Kop until the 25th of January. Where was the Brigade during that interval of a day? Apparently it had moved round to the west of Spion Kop and captured Acton Homes, thus getting altogether in rear of the Boers' left. Had it been possible to push on direct from Acton Homes by the Dewdrop road, the plateau of Ladysmith would have been reached. Of course that would have involved the ascent of the Venter Spruit bluffs at the foot of which Acton Homes lies, and we can not tell what obstacles present themselves to such a movement. But there seems to be some reason for supposing that the operations now in progress include a more effective movement along the line followed by Dundonald's Brigade on the occasion of the last attack.

Lord Roberts' plan of campaign seems to be that recently suggested by us as probable. He proposes to deal with the Boers at Stormberg and Colesberg, and then, having effected a junction between the De Aar column, French's column, and Gatacre's column, he will cross the Orange River and seek to turn the Maggersfontein position, Methuen, with the Guards' Brigade and various reinforcements just received, being left to hold the Boers on the Modder. This programme commenced when French moved against Colesberg—though that operation was not directed by Lord Roberts—, and the second step was the occupation of Thebus by the Sixth Division, a strong force being thus placed on the West of Stormberg. The third measure was to move the Highland Brigade down the Orange River, so as to prevent the Free-Staters from sending reinforcements to Colesberg and Stormberg, and also to oppose the retreat of these two places' garrisons across the Orange River. These various dispositions made, the next move in natural sequence would be a simultaneous advance against Stormberg by the Sixth Division from Thebus and Gatacre's Brigade from Molteno. Thus the news that Gatacre is already engaged does not surprise us. One of the telegrams, however, says that the Boers have commenced their attack upon Gatacre. We should have expected a message with the terms reversed. If the Boers have really taken the initiative, there is a bare possibility that they have moved down from the Stormberg highlands by Pen Hoek, a pass lying east of Bushman's Hoek. Such a move would threaten Gatacre's communications and embarrass his tenure of Bushman's Hock. But we can scarcely doubt that he held Pen Hoek as well as Bushman's Hoek, and, as there is little probability of the Boers' attacking him in front, we are disposed to think that the offensive has been assumed by Gatacre, not by the Boers.

Monday, Feb. 12.

The news of General Buller's third failure to relieve Ladysmith is not accompanied by any statement of his casualties, and we shall probably be justified in concluding that they were comparatively light. Doubtless the positions on the northern slopes of the hills between the Tugela and Ladysmith are all exposed to shell fire from the Boers, whereas the positions occupied by them on the southern stopes are entrenched and have regular artillery emplacements. The difficulty in the present instance, however, seems to have been that the route to Ladysmith from Kranzkloof is so thoroughly commanded by the Boer positions that to advance by it would be a sanguinary operation. It is plain that Buller is not in possession of any accurate map of the enemy's fortifications. To compile such maps must be almost impossible under the conditions of modern warfare.

There is some uncertainty in the latest telegrams. We can not ascertain clearly whether Methuen has withdrawn from the Modder River, or whether he has ordered Macdonald to withdraw to the Modder. On the whole, the former seems the more probable hypothesis. If so, it doubtless indicates a complete change of strategy, ordered by Lord Roberts.

The fatal fault of the Boers' methods,

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their invincible aversion to assume the tactical offensive, seems likely to prove the ultimate cause of their ruin. Rather than risk any attacking movements, they will allow England to mass, at her leisure, an overwhelming force. England is thoroughly roused. She is going to employ three hundred and forty thousand men to crush the Boers. It would be at least three months before the whole of such an army can be collected, but the delay will not inconvenience Great Britain in the least, and will probably embarrass the Boers considerably.

Thursday, Feb. 15.

It seems very plain that Buller's last crossing of the Tugela was a mere make-believe. There was an "off chance" that he might find an easy route, but he did not anticipate anything of the kind. His real object was to hold the Boers; to prevent their detaching any large force for operating on the South-Western frontier of the Free State. The Spion Kop affair was a genuine attempt to relieve Ladysmith; but it showed Buller very plainly that he could not hope to succeed without force large enough to attack both flanks of the Boer entrenchments while, at the same time, leaving a strong body of men in the centre. Doubtless he then concluded that another interval of waiting would be necessary, but inasmuch as complete inaction on his part would enable the Boers to withdraw a considerable part of their men for service elsewhere, he resolved to renew his attack as soon as possible, in appearance at all events. The declaration that he made when addressing his troops after Spion Kop was significant. He hoped to *relieve* Ladysmith in a week, he said. We *think* it highly improbable that had he really entertained such a hope he would have given open expression to it. The same thought doubtless occurred to Joubert, and Buller knew that it would occur to him. But Joubert can not afford to act upon conjectural inferences. Buller might have meant what he said, and if the Boers, regarding his statement as a bluff, had detached a large number of men for the Free State, the Krantzkloof affair would probably have ended in the smashing of their lines. Similarly Buller has now given out that he means to make another attempt. He will make it, not taking any needless risks, but always disposing his troops so as to be ready to utilize every opportunity. His business now is to hold the Boers in Natal. Every day they remain there is a day gained by the British for the purpose of increasing and marshalling their forces. If Roberts can smash the Boers at Maggersfontein, the whole character of the situation will be changed. We do not refer to the relief of Kimberley: that is quite a secondary consideration. What we mean is that if the Boers' lines on the Modder can be forced, Roberts will be much closer to Bloemfontein than are the Boers now operating in the Colesberg and Stormberg districts. He can easily strike at the latter's communications. We take it that he has collected all his available strength of cavalry and mounted infantry on the Modder, and that one part of his plan is to cut in between the Boers at Maggersfontein and the Boers beyond the Orange River. If that be the idea, one of his attacking columns —a very strong one, accompanied by a large body of mounted men—will strike at the Boer lines in the direction of Jacobsdal, while two others attack in the centre and on the left. We know nothing of the state of his preparations. Several days may still elapse before he undertakes anything serious. There is no hurry. In fact, there is every reason for deliberation. But we hold to the belief expressed frequently in these columns, that the first real light will be let into the situation by the operations in the Free State, and that a strong blow struck there will do more to lessen the pressure at Ladysmith than any attack Buller can deliver with his present forces.

THE RELIGIONS BILL.

Tokyo journals state that the Government is exerting its influence to hasten the discussion of the Religions Bill by the House of Peers. A long time has elapsed since the Bill was submitted to the Peers, but their committee has not yet given any sign of reporting on it, and the delay is naturally construed as a sign that the House wishes to kill the measure by neglect. Unless, however, the Diet's session be prolonged, there could not be much use in bringing forward the Bill now, as only 3 days remain.

Meanwhile the Western Hongwan-ji and its two principal affiliated temples have addressed to both Houses a letter strongly urging the passing of the Bill. The writers say that they should like to see an amendment in the sense of placing on firmer ground the relations between principal and affiliated temples, but that they are emphatically opposed to any legislation discriminating between indigenous and alien creeds. Such a law would be contrary to the spirit of the age. All the Sects, they add, were agreed upon this point until quite recently, when suddenly a meeting was convened calling itself the *Kakushuha Rinji Daikwai* (great extraordinary meeting of the various sects), at which resolutions were passed inconsistent with the previous understanding. Hence the representatives of the Nishi Hongwan-ji and its affiliated temples withdrew from the meeting. The sending of such a letter to the Diet fixes the gulf firmly between the two parties of Buddhists.

COUNT OTANI.

Count Otani, High Prelate of the Western Hongwan-ji—the Buddhist Pope, he may almost be called—is said to be dangerously ill with heart disease. He has long suffered from the malady. It was probably accentuated by recent occurrences. At all events, his condition is said to be critical. We trust that the crisis may be tided over, for the loss of the *Hossu* at this juncture would be a severe blow to the cause of religious toleration in Japan.

Count Otani's condition is evidently very critical. The most favourable accounts do not represent him as likely to survive for more than a week. On the 14th he was at death's door, but he partially recovered consciousness on the morning of the 15th. A telegram has been sent to Colombo summoning his son, who is now in Ceylon studying Buddhism.

CHINESE PARTY AT THE MAPLE CLUB

It appears that the account hitherto given of the party at the Maple Club on the 11th instant was somewhat incorrect. The Chinese were hosts, not guests. About a hundred of the leading Chinese merchants of Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki and Hakodate determined to organize a social gathering for the purpose of celebrating the opening of the country, and concluded that the 11th instant, being a great national holiday, would be an appropriate day for the fête. About two hundred prominent Japanese statesmen, politicians and merchants were invited. The principal Chinese promoter delivered a short speech, proposing the health of the Emperor and Empress; expressing the satisfaction felt by his nationals at having participated in the privileges secured by treaty revision, and desiring a steady growth of the friendly relations between Japan and China. Count Okuma then made one of his essentially practical speeches. He pointed out that whereas the populations of China and Japan aggregate nearly one-third of the inhabitants of the world, their trade with foreign countries is only one-tenth of the world's international commerce. While, therefore, he desired to see the friendship between the two countries grow perpetually closer, it was his earnest hope to see that friendship placed on a practical basis with a view to commercial and industrial development. Viscount Aoki followed. The gist of his remarks was that, having opened her territories to foreign trade, travel and residence, Japan had no intention of making racial distinctions. She wished it to be clearly understood that all peoples were free to live within her borders, and might count upon finding there equal security of life and property. He then spoke of the importance of combination for business purposes. In feudal times, the Japanese had been greatly deficient in the spirit of combination. The country had been divided into a large number of petty principalties, each hostile to its neighbours. But the teaching of modern experience was that cöoperation could scarcely be over-estimated for commercial or industrial purposes, and he urged that important results might be achieved by applying that principle to the case of China and Japan, especially since Chinese investments in this country would be fully and conscientiously protected just as Japanese investments are. Mr. Kioura, Minister of Justice, also spoke. He paid a high compliment to the courage, enterprise and commercial ability of the Chinese, but he ventured to offer one criticism; namely, that they relied solely on the results of their own experience, and attached no value to the civilization and organization of other peoples. They never coalesced with the nations among whom they settled, but they always clung so tenaciously to their idea of alienship that even to leave their bones in foreign soil shocked them. Such prejudice and exclusiveness seemed to the speaker a great obstacle to material success. Mr. Okura Kihachiro was the last speaker. He confined his remarks to expressions of appreciation of the compliment paid to the Japanese guests.

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LAND TITLES IN YOKOHAMA.

Monday, Feb. 12.

The provisions of Japanese law, as applicable to the titles under which landed property is held by foreigners in the former settlements, seem to be still misapprehended. A local contemporary warns its readers that the leases they possess are of no value in the eyes of a law court since the latter is bound to consider the certified entry in the register only, and can not take any notice of a lease. Such an assertion is apt to create much disquiet in the minds of land-holders, and we ask them, therefore, to listen to a few plain facts.

The first of these facts is that, according to the explicit language of the 45th Article of the Law of Application of the Civil Code, the titles under which foreigners hold their Settlements lands are excluded from the scope of the Code. A court of law, asked to deal with such titles, would be clearly exceeding its powers if it attempted to apply to them the provisions of the Civil Code as they stand. An Imperial Ordinance, issued in compliance with the Government's treaty obligations, has distinctly guaranteed the titles against such treatment, and a law court is bound by the terms of the law to respect that Ordinance.

The second of these facts is that a flagrant breach of its treaty obligations on the Government's part, must precede any reference of such questions to a law court. No law court has competence to interfere arbitrarily between landlord and tenant. It has nothing whatever to do with their relations so long as its interference is not solicited by one side or the other. Now the Government has entered into a solemn international contract that it will respect the perpetuity of foreigners' titles. Does any one seriously imagine that there is the faintest danger of the Government's appealing to a Court of law to invalidate that contract? The notion seems to us quite farcical. Japan has always adhered to her treaty engagements with scrupulous good faith. Is it likely that she will now deliberately perpetrate a most iniquitous and conspicuous violation of them? So long as she does not attempt such an act of dishonesty, the law courts can never be invited to deal with the land titles, since their power to interfere can not be exercised until one of the parties makes formal application for its exercise.

The third of these facts is that if the Japanese Government is so unworthy of confidence, the idea that it could be held to its engagements by a mere distinction of phraseology is surely a little extravagant. In order to approach a law court in the sense apprehended, the Government, *qua* Government, would have to begin by rescinding its own Ordinance of last December; and then, *qua* landlord, it would have to make application to the law courts in diametrical opposition to its treaty pledges. Assuming for a moment that there is danger of such procedure, would the danger be averted by special legislation providing for the registration of foreigners' titles as "perpetual leases?" Could not a Government, so careless of its obligations, submit a Bill, at any time in the future, asking the Diet to put an end to the discrimination in favour of foreign leases? It seems to us that one danger is just as real as the other. So soon as we begin to grapple with chimæras, there is no limit to the operation.

The plain truth is that the Government has availed itself of the powers vested in it by law to give effect to its treaty engagements, and that, so long as it observes those engagements, the foreign land-holder is safe. If it ceases to respect its treaty pledges, then indeed the deluge may sweep away more things than land leases.

Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Referring to the vexed question of the registration of foreign land-holders' titles the *Japan Herald* declares it to be a fact that "the Japanese Government is virtually attempting to rescind a right guaranteed by treaty," and calls that "a more difficult thing to accomplish" than the rescinding of an Ordinance. Indeed, our contemporary goes so far as to allege that "the rescinding of one of the Government's own Ordinances, with the assent of the Diet, would not probably prove of much difficulty." We do not suppose that there is any intention on our contemporary's part of preferring an accusation of deliberate bad faith against the Japanese Government. The land-renters, at their recent meeting, were most careful to show that they did not entertain such a suspicion. Our contemporary doubtless means that the use of the term "superficies (perpetual lease)" amounts, in effect, to an abrogation of the right of "perpetual lease." In short, the addition of the word "superficies" is the whole subject of complaint. But the Japanese Government's reply, as we understand it, is that they have fully recognised, and do fully recognise, the right of "perpetual lease," and that in registering it as a "perpetual lease of the surface of the ground," they are simply adopting the most convenient nomenclature furnished by existing laws. To alter that arrangement would be to admit that it exposes the land-holder to dangers against which the Government is pledged by treaty to protect him, and we do not think it probable that such an admission will be made. If any of the persons that condemn the arrangement would take the trouble to state a case showing how the danger they apprehend can be incurred, it would be easier to understand their position. Will they say in plain terms what they fear and how their fear could be realized. A descent from the clouds of vague suspicion to the region of hard facts would be welcome.

Now, as to our contemporary's assertion that "the rescinding of one of the Government's own Ordinances, with the assent of the Diet, would not probably prove of much difficulty," we would inquire, what then is the security desired? The resolutions passed at the land-owners' meeting asked for the registration of their title in the unadulterated form of "perpetual lease." How could that be effected? Obviously by an Ordinance of the Government with the Diet's endorsement, or by a law of the Diet with the Government's endorsement. But we are now told that the rescinding of such an instrument "would not probably prove of much difficulty." What is to be done then? If neither the Government nor the Diet can be trusted to observe the country's treaty obligations, where can security be found? And what is the use of setting so much store by a particular form of phraseology if the ordinance or law embodying it may be at any moment annulled without "much difficulty"? Discuss this question how we may, the point of departure and the point of arrival must always be Japan's Conventional *bona fides*. If that be a myth, then no Japanese ordinance or law can transmute it into a reality.

AGE OF JAPANESE OFFICIALS.

Some interesting remarks appear in the columns of the *Jimmin* with reference to the age of Japanese officials. The *Fiji Shimpo* recently expressed the opinion that the time had come for the elder statesmen to make room for the younger, its idea being that the former, though useful in their generation, have fallen behind the rate of the era's progress. To that we demurred, and we accompanied our objection with the remark that there seems to be a tendency in Japan to undervalue the advantages of ripe experience, and to thrust young men to the front merely because they are young. The *Jimmin* joins the controversy. Its view is that we formulated the general rule as to the value of age and experience, but that Japan's case is exceptional, and that the *Fiji Shimpo* recognised its exceptional character. To put the matter briefly, the *Jimmin* thinks that, considering the extraordinary nature of the problem Japan has to solve, and considering the fact that she may be said to have approached it seriously not more than thirty years ago, it must be quite obvious that the young men are better equipped than the old for undertaking the solution. In fact, according to the *Jimmin's* estimate, the young men alone have received the necessary training and education. We quite admit the truth of that view. It accounts for the fact that many posts in Japan's public service, especially in the Army, the Navy, and the Judiciary, are filled by men who, in an European country, would not have attained, or nearly attained, such positions at their age. More than once in the past, when the extreme youth of the Japanese official has been criticised in foreign journals or books, we have pointed out that in this matter the country had no choice, and that the fault will gradually be corrected as the nation grows older in its adoption of Occidental systems. But it is our conviction that the present tenure of authority by young men is apt to educate an unjust and unwise irreverence towards age, and thus to intensify the evil which it represents. Looking at the various Japanese services, we see that the average age of the prominent office-holder is far below the average for corresponding officials in Europe and America, and when, in spite of that fact, we hear a cry that the time has come for the old to make way for the young, we can not but feel astonished. Another point to be noted is that it has always been the custom in Japan to put men on the shelf at an age when in the Occident they would be said to have barely passed middle life. nA official or the head of a family, or the master of a business, often became *inkyo* at 50 or 55, and seldom remained in harness after 60. That is a fact quite independent of the exceptional conditions of modern times. It may be true that the Japanese matures at an earlier age than the Occidental, but surely he does not decay so much more quickly?

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THE ROMA-JI QUESTION.

Mr. E. H. House writes again about the Romaji. He sets out by charging us with misinterpreting him. We said that he "called stenography a syllabary." He denies having done anything of the kind, and explains that what he did intend to say was:—"A syllabary is a set of marks each one of which signifies a complete and intelligible sound; stenography is likewise a system of marks which signify sounds." Well, if that does not mean that stenography is to be regarded as a syllabary for the purposes of comparison with an alphabet, we really do not know what it does mean. Even by the light of Mr. House's second definition, we fail to discover the "misapprehension" of which he complains. And if we go back to his original language, on which alone our comments were based, our justification seems still more complete. Here are his words:—

> The *Mail*, however, condemns it (the *Kana*) in a sentence which is curiously misleading, if it can be held to have a clear meaning of any kind. It is a syllabary, and "a syllabary," says the *Mail*, "is as far behind an alphabet as ordinary long hand is behind stenography." What is a syllabary? A set of marks each one of which signifies a complete and intelligible sound?—a sound which may be a whole word or the component part of a word. What is stenography? A system of marks which similarly signify sounds. In comparing the two with "ordinary long-hand" the same definition may stand for both. When we are told, in such a connection as this, that a syllabary is as far behind an alphabet as ordinary long-hand is behind stenography, it is like hearing that a syllabary is as far behind an alphabet as an *alphabet is behind a syllabary*; or that phonetic *writing is as far* behind long hand as long-hand is behind phonetic writing. Reasoning by illustration which runs round in a circle is not impressive.

If that is not calling stenography a syllabary for the purposes of the comparison, we do not know what our correspondent intended to say. He accuses us of an "illustration which runs round in a circle," the point of departure being the *kana*, and the point of arrival, stenography; he finds that we have thus set out with phonetic writing and arrived at phonetic writing, yet he complains that we misinterpret him when we suppose him to have called stenography a syllabary. Even in his protest he says that "the same definition may stand for both" stenography and a syllabary, yet in applying the same definition to them we misinterpreted him, it seems. And all this, too, when we were the originally assailed party, and when it was because we ventured to set up a distinction between stenography and a syllabary that we were accused of writing in a "curiously misleading strain" and using an "illustration which runs round in a circle." Mr. House's own illustration appears to obscure the matter still more. He claims that the same definition may stand for a steamship and a propeller for the purpose of comparing their speed with that of a sailing vessel, but that, he argues, "is very far from asserting that the steamship is a propeller." We are unable to perceive how any comparison can be set up between the speeds of a steamship and a sailing vessel unless the reference is to the propelling machinery of the steamship, and it therefore appears to us that the propelling machinery can not possibly be a third object of comparison. Separate it from the ship and the latter becomes a hull incapable of any motion at all. So if we separate from stenography the syllabic element which Mr. House himself assigned to it originally, it declines to move into place in his argument.

These things, however, are mere controversial subtleties to which Mr. House doubtless attaches as little importance as we do. Perhaps the same comment applies to the question of our reference to different ways of spelling English words which have the same sound. Mr. House originally asserted that "the English pronounce the Roman letters in all conceivable and in many inconceivable ways, making some of them consonants responsible for double or treble service, without the slightest regard to their real value, and—as a sort of compensation, perhaps—relieving others from vocal duty altogether." We naturally supposed that our correspondent was here speaking of the vagaries of English spelling, which uses different combinations of letters to convey identical sounds, and we ventured to object that the fault does not lie with the alphabet itself, but mainly with the forced uses to which it is applied for the purpose of distinguishing homonyms. Mr. House now says that "the circumstance that English words pronounced alike are differently written is entirely aside from the present purpose," and adds, "all that you say on that head is as wide of the mark as it would be to talk of the relative propriety of using capitals or small letters, italics or German text." Yet he himself set out by alleging that "the English pronounce the Roman letters in all conceivable and in many inconceivable ways." What does that mean if it does not mean that different combinations of letters are used in English to represent the same sounds? Mr. House erects an unmistakable finger-post, and then declares that to follow the route indicated by it is wholly irrelevant.

But our correspondent now takes the plain ground that the Roman alphabet is inherently unable to represent all the sounds of modern tongues, including the Japanese, and he adduces certain instances of the arbitrary devices employed to supplement its deficiencies. That objection does not appear to us to have any practical importance. The Roman alphabet has for many centuries served the uses of nearly all Occidental languages. Were there the smallest prospect of its being replaced by some better system of writing, the imperfections of the alphabet would become an interesting study. But there is no such prospect. The wit of man has hitherto failed to invent anything superior to the alphabet. Imperfections may be found in it: nothing human is perfect. But the hard fact remains that the civilized world, by a virtually unanimous verdict, has declared the Roman alphabet to be the best available medium for transcribing the great majority of languages. Is it suggested that Japan should seek to improve upon the Roman alphabet? If not, what useful purpose is served by discussing the insignificant defects of the alphabet in connexion with the question of its adoption by the Japanese?

We pass now to another point. Mr. House is "struck with amazement" by our assertion that "the *kana* syllabary does not produce Japanese sounds by any means as successfully as the Roman alphabet produces them." He doubts whether we can have "put forward so extraordinary a declaration with deliberate intent." He need not be under any doubt whatever. We did put it forward most deliberately and we continue to do so. But before stating our reasons we have one remark to make. Mr. House alleges that "the *kana* syllabary could never have had an existence except as an exact and absolute representation of Japanese sounds," and that it "reflects them as faithfully as a mirror gives back the objects set before it." If such propositions were exact, Mr. House's amazement would be warranted. But we find them very inexact. The *kana* is not an exact and accurate representation of Japanese sounds. The *kana* does not reflect Japanese sounds as faithfully as a mirror gives back the objects set before it. The *kana* can not truly be called "a set of symbols expressly created by the Japanese to stand as signs for the sounds of their speech, not merely to resemble them, but to be identical with them, so far as written marks can be identical with articulate utterances." The constructor of the *kana* syllabary did not have a free hand. What he did was to go to the Sanscrit language for vowel sounds. He found *a, i, u, e, o*; that is to say, he found vowel sounds identical with those of the Roman alphabet pronounced as the Romans are believed to have pronounced it. Then, with those vowel sounds he constructed a number of syllables, representing as nearly as might be, the sounds of the Japanese tongue. Then he selected Chinese ideographs having sounds as nearly as possible equivalent to the sounds of these syllables. Then he reduced the ideographs thus selected to skeleton forms, and the final result was the *kana* syllabary. But it was very far from being a satisfactory result. The Japanese language abounds in long vowel sounds. The *kana* provides no means of representing such vowels except by combinations of syllables which, if pronounced as they are written, would bear no resemblance whatever to the sounds they are intended to represent. The Japanese language abounds in heavy consonants. The *kana* provides no means of representing such consonants except by combinations of syllables which, if pronounced as they are written, would bear no resemblance whatever to the sounds they are intended to represent. Did Mr. House consider these points before he declared the *kana* to be "an exact and absolute representation of Japanese sounds," and before he concluded that as "an incontrovertible fact," "the syllabary takes in the whole range of Japanese speech?"

We now state our reasons for giving preference to the alphabet. First, whatever phonographic facilities the *kana* furnishes belong equally to the alphabet, since all *kana* syllables may be written with the alphabet, and the transcription can be effected without any appreciable impairment of representative efficiency. Secondly, many sounds which can not be even appreciably represented by the *kana*, may be accurately represented by the alphabet with the addition of two simple diacritics. Thirdly, the duty performed by 48 *kana* syllables, many of them written in two or three different ways, together with two diacritical signs, can be at least equally well performed by the 26 letters of the alphabet with the addition of two diacritical signs. Mr. House will, of course, demur to these propositions. He finds that *chi* does not express the *kana*

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sound for which it is used; he advances a similar objection to *shi*, and he declares that the articulation of *ro* begins with a sound which is exclusively Japanese and which is produced by a vocal process quite different from that required by *r*. Without by any means endorsing these assertions in their entirety, we would ask, of what practical importance are they. A Japanese can not experience any difficulty in giving to *ro* the sound that he associates with the symbol ロ, or to *shi* the sound he associates with シ. He does, in fact, find no difficulty.

And the conclusion—what does it all come to? For what is Mr. House pleading? Merely, it would seem, for caution and deliberation. He evidently admits that the Roman letters should be introduced, for he says "when the time comes for introducing them." All that he wants is that "no effort should be spared to secure an orthographic system that shall conform as strictly as circumstances will allow to natural and scientific laws," and that "every step in the reform shall be carefully inspected by experts." With these suggestions and with everything following them in Mr. House's letter we cordially agree. Our only comment is that the experts have been pondering for a quarter of a century; that to the Roman alphabet they must inevitably come, and that we do not want to see them perplexed any longer by prettily worded platitudes.

A STRANGE MISCONCEPTION.

A very singular story appears in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpo*. It is to the effect that the promoters of the recent concert in Tokyo, in aid of the widows and orphans of British soldiers engaged in the South-African war, made application originally for the use of the *Shorei-kai* at Tora-no-mon. Their application being refused, they next tried the Imperial Hotel, but they were equally unsuccessful. Finally, they had to fall back on the British Legation. The *Jiji* adds that these obstacles were placed in the way of the promoters by Viscount Aoki, in his capacity of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and that they became the subject of official remonstrances from the British Representative, who has with difficulty been placated. We can assure our contemporary—and we speak from personal knowledge—that this story is absolutely baseless. The idea of asking for the *Shorei-kai* never occurred to the promoters; or, if it occurred to them, was immediately dismissed, for the *Shorei-kai*, being in the possession of the Imperial Household Department, could not, with any semblance of propriety, have been used for such a purpose. Application might have been made for the salon of the Imperial Hotel, and would doubtless have met with favourable response. But the British Legation was placed at the disposal of the promoters from the very outset, and as it satisfied all purposes, beside having the advantage of entailing no expense whatever, it was at once chosen. Our contemporary will of course appreciate the extremely mischievous tendency of the story it has been betrayed into circulating, and will lose no time in contradicting it, for we affirm with absolute certainty that every detail of the narrative is untrue.

A CRY FOR A SPEECH.

In an article, the first part of which is highly eulogistic of Viscount Aoki's foreign policy, the editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, writing over his own signature, suggests that the Minister shows a want of courage in not coming forward and making a plain statement in answer to the challenge of Mr. Oishi Masami. The writer of the article finds in recent European history a precedent for the course he advocates. Russia, he says, on the outbreak of the South-African War, endeavoured to form an European combination against England, but could not obtain the desired cōoperation. Thereafter M. Delcassé, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered a long speech in the Chamber, explaining that France's aim must be to retain what she already possesses, not to extend her possessions. Similarly Mr. Chamberlain, in the House of Commons, gave a full exposé of his views. In short, open and exhaustive pronouncements have been, and are, the rule with European statesmen, whereas they are altogether the exception with Japanese Ministers, and the *Mainichi* arrives at the conclusion that in this particular case Viscount Aoki shrinks from crossing lances with Mr. Oishi. Surely our contemporary is comparing great things with small? The occasions that evoked public statements from M. Delcassé and Mr. Chamberlain can scarcely be said to rank with an occasion created by a question presented in the House of Representatives. Mr. Oishi Masami is not without weight in Japanese politics, but that a question propounded by him should be placed in the same category with an European crisis or a great war between two foreign countries, is more than can be claimed. Questions presented in the British House of Commons do not elicit general declarations of policy from Her Majesty's Ministers. They elicit very brief answers, and truly it appears to foreigners that Mr. Oishi's queries do not demand greater consideration.

MR. KATO ON ENGLISHMEN.

Mr. Kato, formerly Japanese Representative in London, has delivered another of his very interesting addresses. On this occasion his audience consisted of about 350 members of the *Kokka Gakkai*. He took for his subject the character of Englishmen, and dwelt, at the outset, on their high conception of business obligations, and on the moral qualities inseparable from the term "gentleman." He also spoke in very eulogistic terms of the English home, and the mutual confidence and helpfulness that exist between an English husband and an English wife. In England, he said, the husband tells his wife everything about his affairs. She takes her part in the struggles of his life, is at once his counsellor, his comforter, and his supporter, and makes his family circle such that he finds there the sweetest moments of his existence. A conspicuous contrast, that, to the custom in Japan, where a man leaves his house in the early morning and returns to it late at night, never tells his wife anything of the affairs he is engaged in or the difficulties he has to surmount, and rarely sees his children except by lamp-light. The home, according to Mr. Kato, is the basis of society; the latter can never be in a satisfactory condition unless the former is graced by virtues and enlightened by the display of qualities which unfortunately are not seen in Japan. Another point on which Mr. Kato dwelt was the large-minded cosmopolitanism of the Englishman in England. There all differences of race are ignored. Whatever a man's nationality, he is treated in England as an Englishman. "When I walked in the London parks, it happened not infrequently that an English rustic asked me to tell him the way to a place, taking no account at all of the fact that I was not English." Very different is the state of affairs in Japan, where the children call out names as the foreigner passes, and many people still regard the alien as a kind of strange animal. But Mr. Kato had not praise alone for the Englishman. He spoke also of that unsightly quality which we are all beginning to recognise, overweening self-confidence, often taking the form of most offensive conceit. It was that which betrayed the Englishman into resting content with an army not much better than the force which Wellington commanded. This South-African war will bring a rude awakening, Mr. Kato thinks, and we think with him.

THE JAPAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The Nippon Tetsudo Kaisha has held its half-yearly meeting for the second half of last year, and passed the following accounts:—

Net Profit	2,485,265
Government Subsidy	439.587
Proceeds from the sale of useless articles	12,688
Brought over from last account	51,034
Total	2,988,574
Distributed:—	
To Reserve	121,163
To Rewards to officials	86,980
To Discharge of Liabilities	21,838
To Interest and Sinking Fund for Debt	21,807
Sub-Total	254,888
Balance	2 733 685
Distributed:—	
To dividend (10 per cent. per annum)	2,235,000
Carried to next account	498,685

The mileage of the company's lines open to traffic totals 855; the gross receipts were 4,417,283 *yen*, and the working expenses 1,932,018 *yen*, or 43½ per cent. The following are the names of the principal shareholders:—

305.223 Shares...XV. Bank.
33 482 Shares...Iwasaki Hisaya.
24.422 Shares...Imperial Treasury.
17.947 Shares...Asano Nagakoto, Marquis.
13.848 Shares...Tokugawa Mosho, Marquis.
12,782 Shares...Mitsui Bank.
12,348 Shares...Mayeda Toshitsugu, Prince.
11.583 Shares...Shimazu Tadashige, Prince.
10 076 Shares...Tokugawa Girei, Marquis.

It will be observed that, after paying a dividend of 10 per cent. and making ample additions to its reserve and to its fund for discharging liabilities, the Company was able to carry over to its next account a sum of nearly half a million *yen*, or sixty thousand *yen* more than the Government subsidy of which it is still in receipt. The Nippon Tetsudo Kaisha is reaping the advantage of having been the pioneer private railway company of Japan. The temptations offered by the Government to induce private capitalists to enter the field of railway enterprise in 1881, look somewhat excessive in 1900.

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THE RAILWAY BILL.

Saturday, Feb. 10.

The project for the State purchase of private railways is understood to have been examined by the Cabinet at a special meeting, and to have been approved, with slight modifications. According to newspaper reports, the Minister of Finance was believed to object strongly to the fixing of a period of years for completing the operation of purchase, on the ground that such a limit would certainly disturb the market to an injurious degree. But it is now stated that His Excellency did not enter any strong objection at the Cabinet meeting, his opinion being that the difficulty might be overcome by leaving to the Government discretionary power to extend or reduce the time. Further, the assertion that the order of purchase was to be determined by the *kana* syllabary is now contradicted: the present idea is that this should be left to the Government's discretion. For the rest, the total purchase price is put at 200 million *yen*, and the bonds are to bear 5 per cent. interest, or less. It is not clear how the total figure has been calculated, since the price of each railway has to be determined by independent negotiation, but we presume that the idea is to limit the issue of bonds to 200 million *yen*. As we have already stated, there does not appear to be the least probability of the Bill's passing the Diet this session, unless the sitting of the Houses be prolonged beyond the 19th instant. The Sovereign's consent to the introduction of such a measure must first be obtained; then the Bill has to be drafted, and then it has to be debated in each House, with the usual formalities of Special Committee's reports. Very likely the opinion of the Privy Council also will have to be sought by way of preliminary, which would entail another delay.

Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The Bill for the State purchase of private railways has been actually submitted to the House of Representatives, and will doubtless be pushed through its various stages with all possible alacrity, though it cannot possible become law unless the session be prolonged. Such a measure can wait, however. Ten years are allowed for carrying it into operation, and the term may be extended at the Government's option, with the consent of the Diet. The railways indicated are the Nippon, the Nishinari the Hokkaido Tanko, the Hokuyetsu, the Kobu, the Kwansei, the Sanyo, the Kiushiu and the Kyoto. Their total purchase price must not exceed 200 million *yen*. It will be paid with Government bonds bearing interest at 5 per cent. or less, but the Government is to have competence to buy up the shares of companies if it finds that plan economical. Another important power is vested in it. If terms of purchase can not be arranged satisfactorily with a company, the Government may proceed to construct, on its own account, an alternative line over the same route. This operation, as well as the purchase of shares, would be effected with funds obtained under the Railway Construction Loan.

Early on the morning of the 14th inst., Asama Yama again erupted, and ashes fell in Mayebashi, Tochigi, and Mito.

MARINE PRODUCTS OF HOKKAIDO

In session after session of the Diet attempts have been made to procure the abolition of the tax upon marine products of Hokkaido. Last session the House of Representatives passed a Bill in that sense, but the House of Peers rejected it, on the ground that the income derived from the tax had already been included in the Budget. This session, however, the Representatives have met that difficulty by voting for the abolition of the tax, but appending a rider that the change shall not become operative before the year 1901. The proceeds of the tax are only 360,000 *yen* yearly, but the total burden to the tax-payers is about 400,000 *yen*, the expense connected with paying the impost being estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000. It appears that the number of persons liable for the tax is 10,000, so that each pays 4 *yen* a head, which is some seven or eight times the tax imposed on the agricultural class generally throughout the empire. Moreover, 260,000 *yen* of the total falls upon fish manure, and since the policy of the Government is to exempt from import tax all fertilizers coming from abroad, it is unjust and inconsistent that an exception should be made to the disadvantage of the Hokkaido product. These arguments, together with a contention founded on the manner of assessing the tax, are marshalled by the *Shogyo Shimpo*, which strongly advocates the abolition of the impost.

THE ASHIWO AFFAIR.

Another invasion of Tokyo by folks from the prefectures of Tachigi and Gumma is threatened. It is the old story of the poisonous refuse from the Ashio Copper mine. In spite of all Mr. Tanaka Shozo's agitation, and in spite of the steps taken by the Government, the people seem to be still discontented. Two thousand of them assembled, provided themselves with 10 pairs of straw sandals each and a stock of dried rice (*hoshi i*) sufficient for 10 days' consumption, and set out for Tokyo on the 8th instant.

The Ashiwo-mine trouble seems to be assuming quite serious dimensions. In consequence of the evident determination of the sufferers to proceed to Tokyo in great numbers for the purpose of making a demonstration, the local police determined to try to check their progress at Tatebayashi, where they had to cross the Tonegawa. Recourse was had to violent measures, and over fifty of the peasants are said to have been wounded. Their irruption into Tokyo is thought to be nevertheless inevitable, and the police of the capital are making preparations to preserve good order.

Tokyo journals contain long accounts of the collision between the police and the Ashiwo-mine complainants. The police claim that they refrained as long as possible from the use of physical force; that three warnings were given to the peasants, and that no attempts to effect any arrests were made until the peasants tried to break through the cordon of constables placed on the river bank. Two newspapers allege, on the contrary, that needless and excessive cruelty was shown by the police, and that the flying peasants were pursued, struck down and maltreated long after all idea of advancing towards Tokyo had been abandoned. The discrepancy in the stories may be estimated when we say that whereas the *Asahi* puts the number of wounded peasants at fifty, the *Yomiuri* declares them to be over three hundred. What may be accepted as certain is that the peasants tried to cross the Tonegawa at two places, with the object of proceeding to Tokyo *en masse*; that the police resisted their passage; that a struggle ensued, and that several were injured on both sides. There is always room for recrimination in such incidents, but the peasants stand in the position of aggressors. There can be no mistake, however, about the reality of their grievances. It is possible that the rights which they claim as agriculturists can not be fully asserted without unfair discrimination against the rights of the miners, but it is not possible that all this discontent and agitation can have continued for so many years without any reason whatever. The affair has now become a public scandal, and continued failure to adjust it will reflect badly upon the Government's competence.

ANOTHER STUDENT'S DUEL.

There has been another student's duel. It was fought on Tuesday night near the Toyama rifle-range. Only two combatants were engaged, lads of the Waseda Semmon-gakko. It appears that they had becomed involved in a dispute about the rights and wrongs of the recent fracas between the Medical students and the Military students, and that they finally agreed to submit their difference to the arbitrament, not of sticks or swords, but of brick-bats. One of the combatants, unable to leave the field of action, was arrested by the police, together with three comrades who were dressing his wounds. If the newspaper accounts of this affair are correct, the police behaved with singular ineptitude. The station where the news of an impending combat was first received, telephoned to the local head-quarters, and the latter passed the message on to the Chief of Police, so that before any preventive steps were taken, the fight was over.

THE HOUSE TAX.

With regard to the question of the House Tax, a plausible case in favour of either view can be made out of the records. But there is one general argument that deserves consideration. Does there exist in the civilized world any intelligent system of local government under which the contributions of householders to the municipal treasury are independent of the quality and dimensions of their houses? Yet it is to such a system that we come when we claim that an uniform land tax includes all charges on account of municipal outlays. Two landholders may have lots of exactly the same size in the former foreign settlement. One builds on his lot a handsome pile of edifices, mercantile offices, a warehouse, and what not. The other limits himself to a cheap shanty. Yet, if we take the view that the land rent includes the municipal taxes, each of these landholders makes exactly the same contribution. Surely that can not be considered a rational system, neither can we conceive that such a system was ever seriously contemplated by the framers of the various treaties and conventions.

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COUNT KABAYAMA ON EDUCATIONAL TOPICS.

Speaking to a representative of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, Count Kabayama made it clear that the policy of the Department over which he presides is to encourage private enterprise in the educational field as far as possible. His Excellency evidently does not think that the restriction with reference to religious teaching or religious exercises ought to operate injuriously. He points out that the veto is strictly limited to instruction or ceremonials conducted by the school as a corporate body. With the religious views and professions of individual teachers or students, or with the methods they adopt as individuals to propagate or inculcate their views, no official interference is contemplated, provided only that the requirements of law and order are satisfied. This means, apparently, that religious instruction may be given or religious exercises conducted so long as such things do not form part of the school course and so long as they are organized on absolutely voluntary lines.

The Minister further protests against the very severe strictures passed upon the conduct of the student class in connexion with the recent duel between the Saisei-gakko and the Kanjo-gakko. No general theory should be based on an isolated affair of that kind, and, further, the mere fact of the fight is comparatively trivial. The one really evil feature was the bad faith shown by the medical students in arming themselves with cutting weapons, after having promised to use sticks only. It is against that act that the public should protest. There we (*Japan Mail*) entirely agree with Count Kabayama. We attach no importance to the fight itself. There is not a school in England where stand-up fights do not take place between students, many of them being duly preceded by challenge and deliberate arrangement. But if one of the lads engaged in such a fight were to produce a knife and slash his opponent, expulsion and perpetual execration would be his certain fate.

Concerning this affair, it would seem that the lads of the Kanjo-gakko harbour no ill-will towards their treacherous opponents. They sent deputies to visit the medical students who are in prison and to commiserate with them. The prison authorities would not permit a meeting, but the intention, at all events, found expression. We may add that there are still hopes for the lives of the two brothers whose wounds were originally reported to be fatal.

THE NARA AND NAGOYA AFFAIRS.

We have already spoken, from time to time, of the association formed in Nagoya by certain philanthropists, under the inspiration chiefly of the Rev. U. G. Murphy, having for its object the release of unfortunate women who have pledged themselves to a life of ill-fame in order to procure money for parents or family. The case of one of these women, Koroku by name, came before the law courts, and led to various complications, the final result being, we believe, that the girl obtained her liberty. Another instance is now reported from Nara. A woman called Umeko —her real name is Toki—of the Hosoyaro in that town, expressed her determination of following Koroku's example. The proprietors of the brothel, however, foreseeing that if further publicity were given to such attempts their business would be seriously imperilled, thought it wiser to set the girl free by mutual agreement before she had recourse to the law. We gather these facts from a Tokyo contemporary. If they are correct, it would seem that the Nagoya Association has accomplished a great deal more than the liberation of a single girl. Of course the keepers of brothels will find means to protect themselves against such incidents, for as the matter now stands they are liable to be made the victims of extensive frauds. Still the system has been shaken.

POSTAL RATES FOR NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

A Bill relating to posts and telegraphs, submitted by the Government to the Diet this session, was amended by the House of Representatives in the sense of increasing from 16 *momme* to 25 *momme* the weight of newspapers and periodicals carried by post at a charge of 5 *rin*. But the House of Peers, at the instance of the Government, has rejected the amendment. This subject evokes some very severe strictures from the *Jiji Shimpo*. Our contemporary says that the 16-*momme* limit was fixed in 1883, when no newspaper consisted of more than 2 sheets, whereas 6 or even 7 sheets have now become a common size. The Government claims that to raise the weight limit to 25 *momme* would involve a loss of 15,000 *yen* of revenue, and an additional expense of 480,000 *yen* on account of carriage. But the *Jiji* traverses the latter estimate. The Government reached it by applying the correction of 56½ per cent. to the total number of newspapers and periodicals now passing through the post in one year —namely, 915,000,000—, whereas it is obvious that only a very small fraction of the total would benefit by the change. It is admitted, however, that there would be a loss of 15,000 *yen* to the Treasury at least. In point of fact there are very few journals in Japan which are so large as to exceed the 16-*momme* limit. The *Jiji* itself is the most voluminous of all.

SAGHALIEN FISHERY QUESTION.

Wednesday Feb. 14.

The new regulations issued by Russia for the control of fishing enterprise in the Saghalien waters are said to be causing much hardship to Japanese fishermen. According to the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, upwards of sixty Japanese stations have had to be closed, involving a loss of 706,620 *yen*, and it is probable that a further number of 145 stations will share the same fate. It is also alleged that some important provisions of the regulations are ambiguous. They can be read so as to recognise the priority of all Russian subject's claims, thus differentiating against Japanese subjects even in cases where the latter's right seems to be guaranteed by ordinary principles of justice. We do not by any means accept these statements in their entirety, but the fact that friction and dissatisfaction have been caused can not be doubted.

Friaay, Feb. 16.

The grievance that principally evokes protest in connexion with the new Russian regulations for the control of the Saghalien fisheries is that a right of priority is given to Russian subjects as against all other nationals. That would not present itself in the light of a serious cause of complaint were there question only of engaging in fishing enterprise for the first time. The real irksomeness of the regulation consists in its application to persons who have been residing in Saghalien for some time, and earning a livelihood by fishing. It would seem that if Russian subjects come to settle in such places, the regulations will enable them to monopolise the fishery grounds to the exclusion of the Japanese who have been living on the spot for years. The *Yomiuri*, which publishes a full account of the affair —though we can not by any means vouch for its accuracy—alleges that great difficulty was experienced in ascertaining the exact official interpretation of the regulations, but that no doubt exists any longer as to their conferring this prior right on Russian subjects. Our contemporary affirms that the regulations were inspired by observing the prosperity of the Japanese fishing operations, and that no hope remains except of the possibility that the Russian Authorities may be induced to postpone the operation of the obnoxious provision for three years, so as to allow the Japanese to wind up their affairs and retire quietly from the scene of their labours.

KOREAN NOTES.

The Peddlers are said to be again *en evidence* in Söul. They are agitating in the case of Mr. An Keiju, who recently surrendered himself to justice and made confession of his political offences. The Emperor is said to be strongly disposed to show clemency towards An, but some members of the Cabinet are pressing for his severe punishment.

An, the Korean refugee, whose career has been giving some occupation to the wires during the past few days, fled from Söul last year under suspicion of complicity with the plot for the dethronement of the present Emperor and his replacement by a more competent ruler. It appears, however, that An was not really connected with the conspiracy, and that his fault was limited to a knowledge of what was going forward. Hence he concluded that, instead of lying *perdu* in Japan, his better plan would be to proceed to Söul and surrender himself to justice, as there was not much apprehension of capital punishment, and a sentence of banishment might easily be commuted by the aid of money. It remains to be seen whether he judged wisely. He is now lying in prison, and the Peddlers' Guild, who seemed disposed at first to come to his rescue, have been persuaded to remain quiet. The *Jiji Shimpo*, commenting on An's procedure, says that it shows the Koreans to be possessed of a spirit of daring for which the general public are not disposed to give them credit.

The Japanese Representative in Söul is said to be lending his good offices on behalf of Mr. Kawakita Kanshichi, who desires to obtain whaling concessions in Korean waters. The concessions sought being of a maritime character only, do not fall under the same category as the concessions recently ob-

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tained by Russian subjects for the establishment of fishing stations on shore. Hence the benefit of the most-favoured-nation clause can not be claimed on Mr. Kawakita's behalf.

It is now stated that the company of Russian soldiers whose presence in the Yalu district and at Wiju was recently reported, are a sanitary corps *en route* for Port Arthur. The explanation leaves us still in doubt as to the reason of their presence in that part of the Far East, though it is conceivable that a journey through Manchuria for the purpose of observing climatic conditions and taking other observations relating to hygiene, may have been considered necessary.

It would be indeed a pitiable thing if, having left a place of perfect safety for the purpose of surrendering himself to justice, An Keiju should be punished with death. Telegrams from Söul show, however, that his fate is still in abeyance. A section of the Imperial Household officials is said to be strongly in favour of executing him, and one of the leading judicial officers has resigned, though his reason for doing so is not apparent. It is further alleged that attempts have been made to stir up some of the Peddlers' Guild to assassinate An—a curious idea, seeing that the Peddlers are supposed to be his political partizans. There is hope, however, that the upshot of it all will be the adoption of a merciful course. Justice seems to be administered in a miserable manner in Korea.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

From Taipeh, in Formosa, one fresh case is reported and one death. The record for that town since the outbreak of the malady is 67 cases and 57 deaths.

The French Government, we read in the *Shogyo Shimpo*, has given notice that France's possessions in India and the West Indies desire to adhere to the Revised Treaty.

Our readers will be glad to learn that the supposed case of Pest on the steamer *Kinshiu Maru* proves to have been a false alarm. After the fullest investigations medical experts have decided that there were no Pest symptoms.

Captain Sakamoto, of the Navy, has been ordered to make arrangements for the reception of Prince Wlademar of Denmark, in conjunction with Viscount Inaba, of the Board of Ceremonies. The Prince is expected to arrive on the 24th instant.

A company calling itself the "Imperial Gold Dust Company" has been organized in Tokyo with a capital of 100,000 *yen*. Its object is to exploit the mineral wealth which has been discovered in the Esashi district of Hokkaido, and people speak largely of its prospects.

In spite of the determined opposition of Viscount Tani, the House of Peers yesterday endorsed the Representatives' amendment of the Mining Regulations, in the sense of granting mining privileges to companies organized by foreigners according to the provisions of Japanese law. Viscount Tani argued that the time had not come for such a concession. Probably it would never come in his opinion. But the House was against him. This is the wedge and no mistake. We ourselves anticipated that mining concessions would follow the ownership of real estate.

The latest statistics are said to show that 270 foreigners are in Japanese employment for educational purposes. Of these, 177 are engaged in private schools, 68 in Government schools, 23 in technical schools, and 2 in elementary schools. The great majority of these teachers are American, English, and French.

The Tokyo Police have announced that from the 15th instant, the purchase of rats ceases, in consideration of the fact that the danger of an epidemic of Pest seems to be averted, for the present at all events. The citizens are, however, strongly recommended to continue their crusade against rats, since these animals have been clearly proved to be most efficient agents in propagating the disease.

Five of the six men who made a wholesale robbery of wearing apparel, etc., from a lady-passenger's baggage on board the *Nippon Maru*, were quickly apprehended. But the sixth—Nagai Jusaku—effected his escape to the United States. News has now come that he was arrested at the moment of disembarking, and that he is on his way back to Japan.

Fifteen *geisha* are starting for Paris. They are under the care of an enterprising dame, the landlady of the *Sempo-tei*, a well-known restaurant at Karasumori-cho in Tokyo. This lady intends to open a puppet stall at the Exposition and the fifteen *geisha* will dance by way of accompaniment to the sale of dolls. The *Chiuo*, in publishing the news, says that it hopes there will not be anything *jumeiyo* about the affair. Vain hope.

The electric railway between Odawara and Yumoto has been finished and successful trials have been made, but it is stated that the line will not be open for traffic until the 1st of March. The carriages are to come into the immediate vicinity of the platform of the Tokaido railway, so that passengers by the latter for Hakone or Miyanoshita will be able to step from one train into the other. This will be an immense improvement on the present system.

Count Inouye has given his decision as arbitrator in the Kiushiu-Railway dispute. He does not declare unequivocally in favour of either side. Briefly speaking, the gist of his judgment is that, owing to the difficulties experienced by the company originally in obtaining capital, there had been much scamping of work, with the inevitable result that extensive and costly repairs subsequently became necessary. He recommends that the contemplated extensions be abandoned, with the exception of the Hakata-Shinakuri line, that the staff be reduced, and that retrenchment be practised in every branch according to a detailed scheme sketched by him.

We have now arranged to have the Hongkong Volunteer Service of Telegrams wired direct from Shanghai. This is the only available course to improve the news previously received, and we have adopted it in consideration of the special subscription recently forwarded by a correspondent. The cost of the extra service, however, will be more than twice the amount of the subscription in question, and we shall be glad to know whether any additional support is forthcoming. Our readers can judge after a few days whether the Volunteer telegrams are worth procuring. Probably they are. At all events, they place Yokohama on the same level with Hongkong.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs has considered it necessary to issue a notification forbidding free emigration to Hawaii for the present. The obvious reason of the veto is that the privilege has been abused, so that from three thousand to four thousand Japanese, who went to Hawaii without any contract or any certain prospect of employment, now find themselves in a state of distress. It is probable, also, that the complications in connection with the sanitary proceedings of the Hawaiian Authorities have had some influence in determining the Minister's action, since one result of the trouble has been to add about a thousand Japanese subjects to the number of those threatened with indigence.

A Japanese traveller, who has just returned from Manchuria, informs a representative of the *Chuo Shimbun* that the methods followed in laying the Russian railway through Manchuria to Port Arthur and Talien, are based upon considerations of speed rather than of good work. Across the plains, he says, the engineers simply lay sleepers and bolt the rails to them, the outcome being a terribly bad road and frequent accidents. He further alleges that no detour is considered too great if it enables the engineers to dispense with tunnelling or bridging. Thus the length of the line immensely exceeds the distance between its terminal points. It may be assumed, however, that the Russian experts know what they are about, and are proceeding with a full appreciation of what is wanted.

Mr. Takano's case against Count Matsukata, as Premier of the Cabinet under which Mr. Takano was removed from the Bench, has been rejected by the Court of Appeal. It is impossible not to feel a great deal of sympathy with Mr. Takano. We never believed in the legality of his claims, because they rested on the contention that Formosa was an integral part of Japan for legislative purposes, a doctrine not observed by any State in the world under similar circumstances. But he certainly labours under a deep sense of grievance, and our admiration is commanded by the stout perseverance he has shown in standing to his guns through all these years.

The project for establishing railway communication across the Shimonoseki Strait appears to have been revived in a very practical form. Hitherto the only idea mooted has been a bridge; an undertaking that presents many difficulties. Now, however, we read that a submarine electric railway is planned by Mr. Yamagata. Its terminal points would be Chofu, on the Sanyo line, and Osato in Kiushiu, a distance of 16,152 yards, 7,040 of which would be tunnelling. Nothing is stated as to the expense, but the impression is that such an enterprise would certainly pay. Kiushiu, as the *Jiji Shimpo* justly remarks, has a popula-

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tion of eight millions, or nearly one-eighth of the total population of Japan, and from every point of view it is entitled to be connected by rail with the main island.

THE BOOK-SHELF.

Valda Hânem; the Romance of a Turkish Harîm, by DAISY HUGH PRYCE. London, Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd.; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

THE preface to this most interesting book says that the writer has based her work on "a careful study and intimate personal knowledge of the Osmanlis and their ways." The declaration is so well borne out that when the time comes for laying down the volume the reader is in possession of facts and observations that will enable him, or her, to better realise the position of the Turkish lady of the present day and the relation she bears to her husband, her children, and the other inhabitants of "the hushed Seraglio."

The Lady Valda is the beautiful wife of a Turkish Pasha of some renown in the military circles of the Ottoman Empire, with a large acquaintance of female friends both in Constantinople and Cairo. Married at 15, the only men-folk who have ever seen her unveiled after she reached a marriageable age, are her brother, her husband, and her own little son. Surrounded with every luxury, with troops of friends; worshipped by her husband, a Turkish gentleman with chivalrous ideas on the subject of monogamy; and loving with a passionate devotion her only child, the Lady Valda seemed blessed above most ordinary mortals. But there was a crumpled roseleaf even in her luxurious couch. Vain, scarcely tangible, longings to mix with the bustling, free, and seemingly unfettered life which flowed incessantly beyond the gates of her *harîm*, gradually lead her to almost desire partial emancipation from the restraints which Turkish custom, etiquette, and the Islamic law have gradually woven around Mohammedan ladies of the higher classes. When this deep unrest is at its strongest, Fate throws across her path the handsome figure of an English officer attached to the Kedive's Court. An accident allows him to see her face unveiled, and, though it was only for a moment, her wondrous beauty causes him to make endeavours to bring about another meeting. What stratagems he uses, how accident, or unlucky chance, befriends him, and how he succeeds in destroying the Lady Valda's peace of mind and ultimately wrecks the happy household of the Pasha—all these incidents are told in clean-cut, graphic English. The characters of the Pasha, Valda Hanêm and Miss Grey, the English governess, who so unwittingly plays such a sinister part in the tragedy, are all well drawn; while the descriptions of life in Cairo inside as well as outside the *harîm*; the life of the foreign colony, and the many happy descriptions of Osmanli customs, observances, and religious festivals—all these things go to make up a book which rises high above the level of the average commonplace novel.

Via Crucis, a Romance of the Second Crusade; by FRANCIS MARION CRAWFORD. London, MacMillan and Co., Ltd.; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

MR. MARION CRAWFORD has departed altogether from his usual fields of study in the volume under review, and the departure, we venture to think, will not be regretted by his admirers. In the stirring story of the ill-starred second crusade, the historical novel writer has opportunities of no mean order, and Mr. Crawford has availed himself as only a skilful story-teller can of the materials that he found at hand.

The narrative chiefly concerns Gilbert Warde, a young Norman gentlemen whose father, espousing the cause of the Empress Maud against King Stephen, falls in the fight at Faringdon by the hand of a whilom friend. Thereafter the son loses his estates by the base intrigues of this same man, who marries his mother, and has to seek his fortune in lands beyond the sea. His quest leads him into the society of such distinguished people as Queen Eleanor of France and Aquitaine (afterwards the wife of Henry Plantagenet), of St. Louis of France, Bernard of Clairvaux, Arnold of Brescia, and later still among the paladins and knights who fought with Frederick Barbarossa and the Emperor Conrad for the repossession of the Holy Places. Throughout the book a vivid impression is given of the rough and boisterous character of the age; and of the simple ideals of chivalry which some gentlemen strove to carry out, but so seldom managed to achieve. But the clash of arms, the doing of knightly deeds, the day-dreams of fanatic monks and soldiers, the pageantry of Kings and Queens and the disasters that befel the Crusaders, are not the only subjects of the novel. A noble lady has to be wooed and won, and thus the golden thread of a well-told love-story runs through the book. And then when the lady has plighted her troth and both are back in Merrie England, we come gradually to see how Gilbert Warde realised the true inwardness of the lesson which the Crusades have impressed upon a gentler age: "That the cause of God lies not buried among stones in any city, nor even in the most holy city of all; for the place of Christ's suffering is in men's sinful hearts, and the glory of His resurrection is the saving of a soul from death to everlasting life, in refreshment and light and peace."

AGRICULTURE IN JAPAN.

The *Jimmin* dwells at considerable length upon the condition of agriculture in Japan. A brief summary of its arguments may be of interest to our readers. Though Japan's future should be sought in commercial and manufacturing industries, agriculture at present constitutes the principal occupation of the people, farmers being still regarded as the foundation the nation. The period which has elapsed since the opening of the country has brought about marked progress in all branches of industry and commerce; but, strange to say, agriculture has failed to keep pace. Statistics show that the land owned by private individuals in the 15th year of *Meiji* comprised an area of 12,708,547 *cho*; in the 20th year 13,368,560 *cho*; in the 25th year 12,849,250; and in the 30th year 13,788,448. From these figures it may be inferred that agriculture has made little or no progress during the past fifteen years. As to dry and wet fields the record is still more remarkable, the figures being as follows:—

Year.	Wet fields. cho.	Dry fields, cho.
1882	2,630,889	1,875,878
1887	2,697,726	1,987,033
1892	2,602,164	2,175,070
1897	2,736,268	2,736,268

As to forests, uncultivated land, pastures, mineral springs, marshes, and swamps, and other miscellaneous classes of land, the figures stood as follows:—

Year.	Forests. cho.	Other Classes of land, &c. cho.
1882	6,220,521	1,629,347
1887	7,291,794	1,037,568
1892	6,638,882	1,075,096
1897	7,298,092	1,107,645

Thus, although more or less increase has taken place in wet fields, no increement is noticeable in regard to forests, dry fields, &c. The above statistics, however, are still insufficient to show clearly the lack of development of forestry and agriculture. To demonstrate this, the area of land yielding agricultural products must be given. It is as follows, the two staples, rice and wheat, being taken as the basis of illustration:—

	Rice. cho.	What. cho.
1882	2,580,255	1,468,694
1887	2,637,069	1,591,374
1892	2,755,101	1,737,373
1897	2,788,845	1,749,571

With regard to the area devoted to other agricultural staples, especially tea and mulberries, the following figures are given:—

Year.	Tea. cho.	Mulberry. cho.
1882	42,023	112,413
1887	46,043	—
1892	63,648	231,400
1897	58,888	298,596

As regards food products other than rice and wheat, and special products other than tea and mulberries, the figures stood as follows:—

Year.	Agricultural produce for food. cho.	Special agricultural products.
1882.....	1,066,641	—
1887.....	1,220,185	352,571
1892.....	1,227,701	328,974
1897.....	1,359,816	303,150

Thus in mulberry farms a certain degree of progress is noticeable, and also in wheat and other food products. But in comparison with the development in commerce and manufacturing industry, there is really no cause for gratification. Advancing a step further, if we investigate the amount of agricultural produce for the four periods under review, we are struck by the insignificance of the figures. Thus:—

Year.	Rice. Koku.	Wheat. Koku.	Tea. Kwan.	Cocoons. Koku.
1882...	30,692,327	12,938,952	5,514,678	—
1887...	39,999,199	15,823,144	7,111,221	1,224,478
1892...	41,378,956	15,941,276	7,211,865	1,480,705
1897...	23,039,293	18,005,490	8,470,182	2,124,238

These figures, compared with some of the products of manufacture, show little or no progress. Take for example cotton yarns. In the 20th year of *Meiji* the output amounted to 1,165,073 *kwan*; in the 25th year it increased to 9,987,208 *kwan*, and by the 30th year the figure had swelled to 26,555,495 *kwan*. In the case of raw silk the aggregate total for the 15th year of *Meiji* stood at 495,037 *kwan*; in the 20th year at 819,966; in the 25th year at 1,096,088; in the 30th year at 1,537,561. As regards woven goods, the output in the 20th year reached 27,475,408 *yen* in value; in the 25th year 48,940,536 *yen*; in the 30th year 104,977,691. From these facts it is clear that Japanese agriculture is by no means in a hopeful condition.

The *Echo de Chine* states that a project has been formed by M. Doumer, Governor-General of French Indo-China, for connecting the French and Russian telegraph system in China. The project includes the laying of a short cable to connect Cape St. Jacques, at the mouth of Don-Hsi, a river in Saigon, with Pulo Condor, an island about 80 miles from the mouth of Mekong, on the route from Bangkok to Singapore. The English cable connecting Haiphong and Feichow would be repurchased, and prolonged by an overhead wire to Kwang-chow-wan, and thence a submarine cable would connect with the Russian system at Amoy.

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JAPANESE OPINION ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

IT has been very interesting to watch the effect produced by the South-African war upon the Japanese public, as represented in the columns of the press. All the Tokyo journals, with one exception, have shown great staunchness to England, and while not extenuating her reverses, have said what could be said in her favour, at the same time wishing her final and speedy success. The *Nippon* has not hitherto differed from its contemporaries in that respect. But it now publishes an article which suggests a change of view. The writer makes a comparison and draws a conclusion. His comparison is between the situation in Japan at the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the position in South Africa. Just as large numbers of Japanese *samurai* from Kiushiu, Shikoku and elsewhere made their way *viâ* Mitajiri to Choshiu in the days of the latter's complication with the Tokugawa, and added such an element of strength to the southern clan that its subjugation by the Tokugawa troops became a matter of exceeding difficulty and ultimate impossibility, so the large accessions of strength that the South African Republics are receiving from France, Russia and Germany *via* Lorenzo Marquez, have raised the Boers' forces to an altogether unexpected figure, and rendered the task lying *before England* one of stupendous dimensions. Of course, if this comparison has any validity, it must be interpreted to mean that as the Tokugawa fell, so England will now fall. The *Nippon*, however, does not go so far as that. It does not foresee the fall of England, but it does think that, even if she ultimately succeeds in overcoming the two Republics, her weakness will have been so fully exposed that she will no longer occupy her old place among the nations, and that the dawn of the twentieth century will consequently see a new ranking of the great Powers. Our contemporary hints very plainly that the question has much importance for Japan, since she has hitherto regarded Great Britain as her main support, if not her prospective ally.

We can not deny that these ideas of our contemporary seem very just from a superficial point of view. But we do not think that they will bear close examination. In the first place, what this war has demonstrated thus far is, not England's weakness, but the fact that modern weapons are chiefly effective for purposes of defence. It is an old mathematical truism that what is gained in one direction is lost in another. The rifle of the present day has gained enormously in range and accuracy as well as in rapidity of fire, but in order to utilize those properties fully, there must be correspondingly greater skill of marksmanship. Now it is evident that there can be no comparison between the aids to skill possessed by a man firing from behind a parapet, or out of a trench, at objects approaching him over accurately ascertained distances, and the obstacles to skill that present themselves to a man advancing over ground quite new to him, under fire all the while, and having to aim at objects the distances of which he is obliged to guess as he proceeds. The Boers occupying a position like Spion Kop, for example, know the exact distances of all points within range of their weapons, and from the security of shelter can direct their rifle-bullets or cannon-balls with a degree of precision impossible to an assailing force. In the old days, good marksmanship was valuable, of course. But before the soldier's weapon began to be really effective, his assailant could get so close that the distance still separating them was generally traversable without fatal disaster. Now, on the contrary, the limits of the deadly zone have been enormously extended. But it is precisely in the outer annuli of the zone that the skill of the marksman tells most, for while it is comparatively easy to shoot straight at a range of from 300 to 600 yards, the difficulty of getting in one's bullets when the latter distance is passed increases out of all proportion to the mere arithmetic of the matter. It appears to us, looking calmly at the events of this war, that the British reverses have been due almost entirely to their want of perception of the altered conditions resulting from the use of modern weapons. The Boers themselves probably had no idea of the immense value of protecting cover under the circumstances. They set out with the purpose of an offensive campaign, but Glencoe and Elandslaagte taught them that they must change their tactics, and since then they have acted almost uniformly on the defensive. It can not be denied that the story of the war has furnished no fiascos on the British side comparable with those made by the Boers at Kimberley and Mafeking, and, we may even add, at Ladysmith. If they have themselves shown defensive strength when attacked by the British, the British in Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking have displayed far greater defensive strength when attacked by the Boers. That must be admitted by all observers. The net result is that the victory, thus far, rests with the defence, and what the war has shown is, not the weakness of England, but the wholly unanticipated strength of modern weapons for purposes of defence. We do not mean to deny that there may have been strategical mistakes on the British side. If there have been such mistakes, it will be found, we think, that the British themselves will be the first to recognise them. But it is an old experience that the more profound a critic's ignorance of the art of war, the less diffident does he show himself in pronouncing wholesale judgments on the operations of armies. The prudent man suspends his verdict until the facts are fully known. It is possible to draw with confidence deductions based on the evidence of the two belligerents' experiences, when such evidence is fully collected, but to estimate the exact nature of one side's operation, when we have only vague telegrams and amateur correspondence to guide us, in mere presumption. Were we ourselves required to pronounce an opinion at this stage, we should say that had the conduct of the two forces been reversed, had British forces played the part that Boer forces have played and *vice versâ*, we should frankly acknowledge that the traditions of the English army were upset. But we shall not here elaborate that point.

The most interesting question is, what effect will this war have upon England's position among the nations. Will it impair her prestige and lower her rank among the Powers? Undoubtedly it will, if she emerges completely vanquished; if she has to retire from South Africa defeated. But since, knowing the stuff of which Englishmen are made, we do not anticipate that issue for a moment, we may be permitted to put the question in this form: after England is victorious, will her international rank be lowered: will it be considered that she has shown weakness? The answer seems to be that this war will prove to have been of enormous advantage to Great Britain. The English are an intensely self-opinionated people. That is the great fault of their character, though, in certain circumstances, it is a source of strength. They have such overweening confidence in themselves that they are almost wholly unable to profit by the experience of others. Had it fallen to the lot of Germany, or of France, or of Russia to fight this South-African campaign, Englishmen, instead of appreciating its teachings, would have attributed the results to German, or French or Russian shortcomings, and would have rested happy in the conviction that had they themselves been charged with the same task, they would have excuted it differently. But the bitter experience is now their own. They will feel it and profit by it. One is tempted often to wish that some other country could have been the *corpus vile* of this experiment; but then comes the inevitable reflection that all other countries would have taken the vicarious object lesson more thoroughly to heart than England would. It can not be doubted that the issue of the war will be to bring about very great changes in England's military system. We believe that it will also produce a radical effect on the military systems of the Continental Powers of Europe, for it has shown that offensive warfare, and therefore the invasion of a neighbouring country must be regarded in a new light. Passing by that phase of the matter, however, we would ask, in conclusion, whether England has really shown

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herself weak in the matter. Would it have been supposed possible, a year ago, that she should make the effort she is now making? We say nothing of the qualities she has displayed in the face of adversity. Even to us the columns of *The Times* are at present a source of astonishment, for they show that throughout the length and breadth of the country men are everywhere putting up great sums of money to equip troops, and everywhere volunteering for service in South Africa. As a national display, these things appear to us to be of incomparably greater significance than a few reverses to our arms. What we suggest, however, as a practical fact, is that Great Britain will soon have nearly 340,000 men fighting under her banners in South Africa. Could any one, speaking a year ago, have ventured to predict the possibility of such an achievement? Surely not. And equally sure is the fact that no other Power in the world could begin to do anything of the kind. The Governments of Europe, and the nations, will give due weight to these facts when they come to cast up the balance.

CORRUPT PRACTICES.

WHILE we admire the motives of Mr. OZAKI YUKIO in introducing a Bill for making members of the House of Representatives amenable to ordinary courts of justice in respect of bribery and corruption, we can not feel at all surprised that the House rejected the Bill. After all is said and done, the fact remains that the House of Representatives itself is the proper tribunal to examine and punish immoralities committed by its members in the discharge of their legislative duties. It has ample power to do so. True, it can not pronounce a sentence of imprisonment or fine, but it can publicly expel a member from its precincts, and there can scarcely be any severer penalty than that. Every one must agree with the contention that the dignity of the House would be impaired if it transferred to the law courts a part of the jurisdiction it possesses for restraining the *laches* of its own members. Mr. SHIMADA SABURO argued that since the law courts are already competent to try cases arising out of election disputes, and since the offence of bribery and corruption thus comes under their purview in connexion with contests for a seat in the House, there would be nothing incongruous in extending their jurisdiction to offences of the same kind committed by members sitting in the House. But that argument seems to be based on imperfect consideration of the facts. The British House of Commons used to exercise jurisdiction in the matter of election petitions, but it deliberately divested itself of that power and transferred it to the law courts—much to the latter's disgust—because, since election petitions must, in the nature of things, be party questions, their investigation by a House divided into parties must always be at least invidious, if not inimical to the strict execution of justice. But the sin a member's receiving bribes on account of the functions he has to discharge in the House belongs to a different category, and its trial and punishment by the House itself is not open to any objection, unless we admit the inadmissable theory that party politicians, sitting as members of the Legislature, are prepared to condone even bribery and corruption in party interests. It is a fair and proper supposition that no member of the House, whatever his political complexion, is willing to tolerate the abuse of bribery and corruption within its walls, and the reasons which recommend the trial of election petitions by ordinary law courts have consequently no validity in the case of the sin of corrupt practices among the members. These considerations are so obvious, and the House's deliberate resignation of its judicial powers in this matter would be such a plain acknowledgment of want of confidence in its own ability to discharge elementary functions of justice, that the rejection of the Bill by a majority of only 12 is surprising. The Special Committee appointed to examine and report upon it could not muster more than a majority of one against it, and 121 members of the House actually recorded their votes in its favour. These figures seem to indicate the existence of a strong feeling that the House has failed to do its duty in matters of bribery and corruption. Undoubtedly a similar feeling exists among foreigners. Apart from the ugly rumours recently circulated with reference to the Yokohama reclamation scheme and other matters, there is the plain and flagrant case of Mr. KOYAMA KINNOSUKE, who still sits as a member of the House, though he has openly admitted the receipt of bribes, and though he has had the consummate shamelessness to institute a law suit for the recovery of a claim arising out of a corrupt transaction. It may be that rumour has exaggerated Mr. KOYAMA'S doings, but we can confidently affirm that neither in America nor in England would such a volume of accusation have been allowed to pass without parliamentary notice being taken of it. The inevitable impression produced is that Mr. KOYAMA is sheltered by the ægis of party politics. The Progressists, to whom he belongs, will not arraign him because he does belong to them, and the Liberals will not arraign him because he is understood to have been bribed in their interests. Thus we arrive at the unwelcome conclusion that even in the case of such a sin against common morality as bribery and corruption, party politics obscure the House's sense of justice. All will be disposed to endorse the contention that to resign its jurisdiction to the law courts would be an open confession of the House's inability to enforce the practice of elementary virtue among its members, but no one can fail to see that the House has furnished solid materials for constructing a charge against its ability in that respect.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Last month we gave an epitome of Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō's important address on religion. Other learned men have been turning their attention to the same subject and have published their views in various magazines. Among them Dr. Motora's contribution to the Comparative Religion Society's Transactions, entitled *Shūkyō Kwannen no Kenkyū* (An Investigation of the Religious Idea), reported fully in the *Tetsugaku Zasshi*, is specially worthy of reproduction. It seems to us highly important that the precise attitude towards religion of Japan's leading men should be known. They are all apt to be classed in the same category, but in reality their views differ on very essential points. The following is the gist of Dr. Motora's answer to the question "What is religion?" The headings given are those of the original essay.

1. THE INVESTIGATION OF RELIGION CONSISTS OF THE ANALYSIS OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS.—Speaking generally the difference between religion and morality is this. Morality has to do with the relation of men to each other, is the embodiment of what is considered by society to be the correct way of acting towards others under various circumstances. It is custom founded on sentiment in the relations we bear to each other. But religion is connected with man's attitude to nature. In the language of the biologist, it is an instance of adaptation in nature.

2. RELIGION MUST BE CONSIDERED UNDER TWO ASPECTS, THE OBJECTIVE AND THE SUBJECTIVE.—What is called the religious idea is an extremely complex thing and it is not easy to find any formula that shall describe it accurately and comprehensively. There is great variety among religions, some profess to rely entirely on influence external to man's mind. When I speak of objective and subjective religion, I mean by the former religion that has in itself the power to affect man's whole mind even against his will; by the latter, religion which man adopts voluntarily as a precautionary measure or with a view to obtaining comfort.

3. RELIGION REGARDED OBJECTIVELY. Belief in a power external to man that is capable of moulding his actions has gradually declined with the progress of science. In our country at one time such a power was ascribed to the fox. In the West for a long time men believed in an anthropomorphic Deity that could weep, laugh, or grow angry as human beings do, who was represented as wielding great power. But as knowledge advanced it was perceived that this conception of deity was crude in the extreme and faith in the personality of God gradually died out.

4. RELIGION REGARDED SUBJECTIVELY. Religion in the heart of man is the result of vigorous mental powers. Man's mind is so active that it explores all kinds of

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distant regions of thought. But eventually man has to draw a line between what he knows and what he simply believes. Knowledge is founded on the experience of mankind. Faith is founded on assumptions that have never been disproved, but yet are incapable of logical proof. Though from the scientific point of view there is an enormous difference between knowledge and mere assumptions, in the minds of many persons the two are so mixed as to be undistinguishable, and this is one reason why religion has such a hold on them. Doubt is to be regarded as the friend of science, as it leads to endless investigations resulting in the discovery of new facts, but it is an enemy of religious faith, as perpetual questioning when no satisfactory answer can be given undermines religious belief altogether.

(5) RELIGION CONSISTS IN ADAPTING ONESELF TO AN IDEAL, hence it concerns us as individuals principally. The public methods it adopts to express itself are mere adjuncts and do not constitute its essence. A man's ideal is quite a separate entity from the *ego* of will and feelings; and the work of his life consists in bringing the latter into conformity with the former. A man's ideal changes with the advance of his knowledge and the development of character. What satisfies him at one stage of his career seems inferior at another.

(6) THE VALUE OF THE IDEAL CALLED RELIGION IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE METHOD IN WHICH THIS IDEAL IS DEVELOPED.—It is said that with a great many people religion begins with fear. They wish to make peace with a power or with *powers that* may punish them. With others a certain superstitious credulity is the beginning of religious belief. Christianity seems to labour to remove the feeling of fear in man by teaching that God is love and that he should not be regarded as an object of fear. But it seems to me a matter of little consequence as to what first induces a man to set up an ideal for himself. If he has that ideal and strives to follow it, he is a religious man.

(7) RELIGIOUS IDEALS REVEAL THEMSELVES IN VARIOUS WAYS. The great religions of the modern world may be classified as forms of faith in which self-reliance is the leading feature and forms of faith in which the soul is saved by relying on another. These two modes are tersely expressed in Japanese as the 自力, *Jiriki*, method and the 他力, *Tariki*, method. In Europe there are a large number of devout souls who believe that what atonement can be made for past sins must be made by those who commit them and that the notion that the penalty should be borne by another is contrary to strict justice. In Asia there are numerous thinkers who maintain that by solitary contemplation and self examination a knowledge of the highest truths may be obtained. In both these instances the devotee relies on his own efforts alone for salvation. But in the case of orthodox Christianity and Buddhism the teaching is that by reliance on another salvation is to be obtained; the one preaches belief in Christ, the other belief in Amida. But the extent to which reliance on external help should be placed is very different according to the teaching of the two religions. The Buddhist Shin Sect go to the extremity of saying that a feeling of gratitude only for what Amida has done for mankind, even without uttering special prayers, suffices for salvation. But Christians teach that a certain amount of effort on the part of the suppliant is necessary to insure a favourable answer to his prayers.

(8) IN ALL RELIGIONS OF ANY VALUE AND PERMANENCE THREE DISTINCT ELEMENTS ARE PRESENT.—(*a*) There must be a scientific view of the origin of the Universe and of the laws of nature. In olden times, before science had developed, philosophy and mythology supplied thinking men with theories respecting the origin of the world. In these modern days we have a knowledge of the great law of evolution, which is a key to unlock the door of nature's treasure house and reveal to us her wondrous stores. The study of the laws of nature is essential as a basis of religious belief. (*b*) There must be what I would call cosmic emotion, that is, a feeling of awe, admiration and wonder produced by the vastness, the majesty, the sublimity of nature. (*c*) In order that the constitution of the universe may have due effect on the mind it is necessary that all our mental faculties should be concentrated on nature as an object of contemplation. The mind, should be thoroughly absorbed by the thoughts suggested by nature. As in Shintō, Buddhism, and Christianity, so even in Confucianism there is this bowing before the greatness of nature, and hence, though Confucianism bears none of the outward marks of a religion and lacks the organisation which characterises other creeds, she has that important element, cosmic emotion, as shown by so many of the sayings of Confucius and Mencius. The above remarks are only an analysis of the chief elements of religion, treating it as a subject of study, and are not to be interpreted as recommending any special creed or system of teaching.

* * *

In the *Shinri* the Rev. H. Minami discusses with his usual broad-mindedness the subject of Christian education. The recent action of the Mombushō has altered the situation somewhat, but Mr. Minami's general observations, coming as they do from an earnest Christian worker, are of considerable value. He says that mission schools are objected to by many on two grounds. First, the general education imparted at them is said to be inferior. Secondly, it is asserted that the students they turn out are lacking in independence of spirit. Mr. Minami does not tell us whether he endorse these charges or not. He then goes on to comment on the action of the Mombushō respecting Private Schools, which has since been much modified, dwelling on the importance to be henceforth attached to Sunday Schools and to Confirmation Classes. Discussing the former, he says that hitherto too great an importance has been attached to memorising. This method of teaching no longer finds favour among the best teachers in the West. The child's mind is too much occupied with forms to the neglect of the substance of Scriptural history. Mr. Minami is in favour of teaching both Old and New Testament history, but with certain limitations. No child, Mr. Minami thinks, should be allowed to read such a passage as is found in Gen XIX. 31-38. He is in favour of publishing an expurgated edition of the Japanese Bible, for use in families, like that possessed by the Germans. Even with such an edition in use great care would need to be exercised lest the children carry away wrong notions. Modern science has shown the impossibility of giving the traditional interpretation to Gen. I. The belief in dreams so prominent in the story of Joseph's life can not be held up as a type of ordinary life without sowing the seeds of silly superstition in the child's mind. The story of Adam's fall needs to be very delicately handled by the teacher. In dealing with the New Testament the same amount of care is required. The story of the miraculous birth of Christ cannot be explained as a fact in the light of modern science.

Turning to another subject, the instruction of candidates for confirmation, Mr. Minami points out that the number of persons who have been baptised in infancy is now very large in Japan, and he goes on to say that many of these are very inadequately taught, so that they grow up to be a source of weakness to the churches to which they nominally belong. There is far more energy shown in the work of Sunday Schools than in the training of boys and girls who have reached the age of 14 or 15, says Mr. Minami. Made Christians when they were quite unconscious, it is quite possible for these young folks to grow up to be unbelievers. The responsibility of the Church in this matter is very great, and hitherto has not been fully realised.

* * *

A writer signing himself "Hokuriku Inshi" writes in the *Tenchijin* on Buddhism of the Hongwanji type. The purport of his article is that the Otani sect is about as corrupt as it can be; that thorough worldliness permeates everything. The relation of what are called *matsuji*, branch temples, to the *honsan*, or main temples, is simply an affair of money. The subject-temples are regarded as the merchant regards his branch offices, as the means of enriching the head temple. When the payment of money becomes slack, the Chief Abbot sets out on a kind of begging expedition, and donations then flow in at a great rate. On these occasions the Chief Abbot pays most attention to the large donors. There is no feeling of regard for the ruling body as chief instructors or as a set of holy men. This sentiment has quite gone. In the collecting of money the priests insist on commissions. It is unnecessary to give every detail of "Hokuriku Inshi's" picture. Suffice it to say that it accords with what the *Fiji Shimpō* and other newspapers have been saying about Buddhism. It is impossible to believe that writers of widely different opinions should agree so precisely in the representations of the internal state of Buddhism were these representations not based on truth.

* * *

The *Bukkyō* writes in a very liberal and a very discerning manner on the attitude of the Mombushō to religious schools. It says that the blow struck was designed to injure the Buddhist as well as the Christian cause, but that Christians felt it most, as they have so largely relied on education as a method of propagating their religion. This mode of propagation cannot be regarded as normal, says the *Bukkyō*. Preaching and holding services are no doubt the chief means of spreading a knowledge of any religion, and had the Christian Missionaries confined themselves to these from the beginning they would have been saved their present distress. But the raid against religion

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instituted by the Mombushō is highly discreditable to the nation, and we Buddhists feel quite ashamed of it. But the point of view of the authorities was that these schools are dependent on foreign money, and that therefore they are in a measure placed beyond the control of the State. To take them over and maintain them on their present lines was of course out of the question. They were felt to be an anomaly in our system of education and hence could no longer be allowed to go on.

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The *Sangan* (Three Eyes) continues to give Count Okuma's views on religion. In the number before us the following is what the Count is made to say:—The fundamental idea of Confucianism is 仁, *jin*, benevolence, that of Buddhism is compassion or mercy, and that of Christianity, love. These feelings form the basis of all religion. The founders of the different religions knew their own people and their own part of the world only, and hence could not devise any system of teaching that should suit all countries alike, but they did an immense deal in the way of drawing attention to the importance of certain principles. For the multiplication of sects their disciples are resposible. Their interpretation of the meaning of the words said to be used by the founders differed widely and each variation was perpetuated by special forms and ceremonies. What is most desirable now is to get rid of the superstructure and lay bare the foundation. Benevolence, compassion, and love!—cannot Buddhists, Christians, and Confucianists come together on these principles and work in harmony? This union may not be witnessed in my time, but it will come some day. Even now there is no such spirit of persecution as existed a century or two ago.

The *Sangan* comments in its usual spirit on the Nagoya prostitute case, reported in these columns some weeks ago by the Rev. U. G. Murphy. This gentleman's action is grossly misrepresented by the *Sangan*, and bad motives are imputed to him. Whilst on this subject, it may be well to mention that the *Rikugō Zasshi* states very clearly the facts of the case and discusses the legal questions involved in it. The *Rikugō* expresses the opinion that legally there is nothing to prevent any number of prostitutes applying for release from the service in which they are engaged and that the police cannot refuse their requests. The pecuniary obligation of these women to their masters is quite another question, and there is no law in Japan sanctioning their being held in bondage as security for the money loaned. It is generally understood by the parties who engage in these transactions that each side shall be true to its word and that there shall be no resort to the law. The question which Mr. Murphy tested, according to the *Rikugō Zasshi*, need not have been tested, as it was certain beforehand what the decision of the court would be. But there was great difficulty in getting the sentence carried out, because the police found themselves confronted by an established custom, namely, that the release of a prostitute from service in a brothel is only effected by payment of the money lent by the brothel-keeper on her account. Does it not seem anomalous, asks the *Rikugō*, that the police should be allowed to use any discretion in the carrying out of the order of a Court? Why did not the Minister of Justice insist on the supremacy of the Court's authority? It is establishing a serious precedent for the police to be allowed to act as they did in Nagoya on this occasion.

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To the *Rikugō Zasshi* Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki contributes a remarkably thoughtful article on "Missions and Territory-grabbing" in which the moral effect on the minds of Orientals of the recent action of Western powers in the Far East is fully and carefully discussed. This is a subject which calls for the most serious consideration of all missionaries. We give an epitome of Mr. Matsumura's article:—Nobody pretends that the excellent men who have gone to benighted regions and, in addition to preaching the gospel of Christ, have brought Africans and Asiatics into contact with numerous elevating influences have ever intended to be in any way the means of placing the people among whom they have laboured under the yoke of a Western power. Yet this in not a few instances has been what has happened. To think that this fact is not plain to all intelligent Christian converts throughout the whole of Asia, even if not in Africa, shows ignorance of the deeper feelings of these converts. I have talked with Christians from India and from China, and they invariably have mourned over the fact that the countries from which the Missionaries hail should on one plea or another rob them and their fellow-countrymen of their political independence. Though the missionaries cannot in any way be held responsible for the course of events, it is impossible to conceal the fact that the action of so-called Christian Governments has been most detrimental to the success of their work. It does not in any way lessen the difficulty, from a missionary point of view, to say that India is better under English rule than she would be under any kind of native rule, and that China would be immensely benefited by the establishment of Western government throughout her empire. To the Oriental Christian there seems to be something absolutely contradictory in the gospel preached by the missionaries and the action of their Governments. They say, naturally, the very sins which you denounce are committed by your own authorities. You say that Christianity has done such wonders among the nations of the West, but the action of your Christian Governments tell a different story. It is a case of "physician heal thyself." You preach to us a doctrine that your own people do not act on. The use of force in connection with missions under any circumstances does irreparable harm to the cause of religion. To say that any earnest Oriental can regard with indifference the subjection of his country to foreign rule shows ignorance of Oriental feeling. . . . Coming to Japan, from year to year I observe in the published reports of the missionaries endless excuses for want of success. Japan is said to be unfavourable for missions. The people are declared to be conceited and what not. Or it is, "this year a wave of conservatism has swept over the land." Next year it is something else. It is plain that Christianity is not making headway. Does it not occur to these missionaries that the cause of failure may be in the discrepancy that exists between practice and preaching? The first propagators of Christianity, men like Paul and Barnabas, underwent untold hardships in the propagation of their faith. Their devotion and self-denial attracted the attention and drew forth the admiration of all with whom they came into contact. But the lives led by foreign Missionaries in Japan to us Japanese appear luxurious and we cannot help feeling that preaching and practice are not in harmony. Take the missionaries labouring in semi-civilised countries; ought they not to be prepared to suffer violence for the sake of the gospel? Paul had no men-of-war at his beck and call, and would not have used them if he had. The events of the last few years have done inreparable harm to the Christian cause, and under existing circumstances the Missionaries would do better were they to become naturalised in the countries where they are labouring. They would thus effectually put a stop to the practice of making their special grievances an excuse for foreign interference.

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Under the title of "Solid Progress" the *Tōkyō Maishū Shimpō* (hitherto the *Kirisuto-Kyō Shimbun*) reviews the state of Christianity in Japan at the present time, reaching the conclusion that past progress has been anything but steady. Periods of earnestness have been followed by periods of sluggishness and indifference. Religious development, says this organ, in individual Christians must consist of the strengthening of three distinct powers of the mind, namely, the intellect, the will, and the emotions. The excessive development of one of these at the expense of the others is an evil which we frequently see exemplified in the lives of Japanese Christians. Then the long-standing cause of weakness in our Churches, dependence on foreign aid, still exists to a large extent.

Discussing the subject of Christian education, the *Tōkyō Maishū Shimpō* says the hostile action of the Mombushō in August last has led to a very strong coalition of persons interested in Christian education, and the final result of the present deliberations is likely to be the establishment of non-sectarian Christian schools that will be more efficient than any that have hitherto been in existence. What the *Maishū Shimpō* advises is that Japanese Christians should take the lead in furthering the cause and not allow the foreign missionaries to do all the organising. If the plan now under consideration is carried out, the action of the Mombushō will prove to have been a blessing in disguise.

According to the magazine from which we are quoting, the Kumiai Churches are taking steps to open a new Divinity School to take the place of the Dōshisha Divinity Hall, which has been closed. Hitherto the American Board of Foreign Missions and the Japanese Churches have been acting separately, but since the object in view is the same, efforts are being made to unite the two classes of workers. A meeting was announced to be held in Tōkyō on January 30th to discuss preliminaries, the result of which has not yet been reported. Whether the doctrinal differences between the parties are too great to make a union of strength impossible, we are not in a position to say.

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In the *Tōkyō Dokuritsu Zasshi*, Mr. Uchimura Kanzō, the editor, uses very strong language in reference to the desi-

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rability of totally disconnecting Japanese churches from foreigners. These are his words:—"What Japan needs at the present time is Christianity that is not dependent on foreigners. Whether Congregationalist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Unitarian, or Universalist, Churches that rely on foreign help can never save the nation. I am a Christian, but I don't believe in Missionary Christianity (*Senkyōshi teki Kirisutokyō wo shinzezaru mono nari*). To believe in Christ is one thing, to subject oneself to a missionary is quite another. It is because we believe in (the real) Christianity that we refuse to accept Missionary Christianity." (*Warera wa Kirisutokyō wo shinzuru mono naru ga yuye, senkyōshi teki Kirisutokyō wo shirizokuru mono nari*).

* * *

The January number of the *Taiyō* has a very thoughtful article entitled "The Conflict between Buddhism and Christianity, and two great influences in the Religious World," of which the following in an abstract. Buddhism has declined and become corrupt in many ways, but the fact remains that two-thirds of the Japanese people are Buddhists. Christianity is only professed by one fortieth of the population (?) of this empire, but it has European civilisation at its back from which it receives great prestige. The two religions have competed with each other for years and will doubtless still go on doing so. It may be well to try and discover what precisely is the cause of the perpetual strife between them. It is not so much a matter of doctrine as a question of authority. The extreme sections of each party denounce each other as usurpers of religious authority. The followers of the Pope of Rome and the Greek Patriarch claim supreme authority for their leaders. The same may be said of the Shinshū Buddhists. When we get away from these sticklers for authority and consider the sentiments of those Buddhists and Christians who think that faith, devotion, and the moral truths taught and enforced by their creeds only are of paramount importance and that all else is insignificant, we find a large amount of agreement and harmony. Does not the conflict over authority savour of wordliness as well as show a want of confidence in the inherent power of religious truth to make its influence predominant? The present conflict then resolves itself into deeply seated hostility between the extremists among Christians and Buddhists, and nothing more. And this hostility is not caused by difference in doctrines so much as by resentment against authority claimed. On this question of authority it seems to us, says the *Taiyō*, that the contests within the Christian pale on the one hand and the Buddhist pale on the other are quite as bitter as those carried on by one sect with the other. The Roman Catholics and the Greek Church Christians are always at war, and the same may be said of the Eastern and Western Hongwan sects and of the two great sections of the Shingonshū. There are no doubt disputes about forms, about objects of worship and the like, but these all fall into the shade when compared with the question of authority. But still more important than the conflict between the two great sects on the subject of authority is the fight between the conservatives and the liberals, the rationalists and the traditionalists that is going on within the precincts of each sect. The ideas that form the basis of this disagreement can never be reconciled. One party maintains that in religion there can be no such thing as change, development, or improvement, that the highest excellence was attained hundreds of years ago, and that faithful transmission of doctrinal heirlooms is all that is required. The other party holds that the faith delivered to the saints of old was in the form of germs that are capable of endless development; that nothing in the sacred books is binding on the present generation but the truths which they embody, and that these truths were not invented by the writers nor did they receive authority from them. What is called religious strife resolves itself into a conflict between two principles that are in their very nature antagonistic to each other.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CENTURY QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—As every century contains one hundred years, the first century ended with the last day of the *first* hundred years; and as nineteen centuries contain nineteen hundred years, the nineteeth century will end with the last day of the *nineteen* hundred years. It would seem that this should be accepted as true in any æon of time or any region of space in which arithmetic is taught in the Primary Schools.

The precise date of the birth of Christ, and therefore the precise date at which the Christian era actually began, is a question that has never been settled, and is not likely to be settled until after time shall have ceased to be reckoned by centuries. Rightly or wrongly, however, the world has agreed to *regard* the present year as the year of our Lord 1900; and, so long as that is true, it must also *regard* it as the last year of the nineteeth century.

The Emperor of Germany, however, and Miss Caroline Hazard, the President of Wellesley College, have decided that the present year is the first year of the twentieth century. Historically they may, or they may not, be correct. But if they are to persuade men generally to accept their decision, they must also persuade them to regard the present year as 1901. This is not likely to happen outside of Germany and the precincts of Wellesley College; excepting perhaps among the 16 to 1 silver men in the U.S., whom partiality for fiat money may lead them to look with favour upon fiat centuries.

Yours, DIONYSIUS EXIGUUS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I read in the *Mail* of the 6th inst., under the above heading, that the Pope is somewhat confused in his arithmetic with regard to the beginning of the twentieth Century. I should rather think that the translator of the Decree alluded to has forgotten his Latin. The Decree, a printed copy of which is before me, is dated November 13th, 1899, and says:—

".....Cum media nocte postremæ diei mensis Decembris futuri anni præsens absolvatur sæculum novumque habeat initium....."

Which means:—

".....Whereas the present Century will come to an end at midnight on the last day of December of the next year, and then will a new Century begin....." In other words, the XIXth Century will end on Dec. 31st, 1900, at midnight, and the 1st January, 1901, will be the beginning of the XXth.

Yours truly, CENTURY.

Yokohama, 8th Feb., 1900.

ECCLESIASTICAL INCONSISTENCY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Although I do not desire to pose as a pedantic fault-finder or supercilious critic of the misdoings of others, I may perhaps be allowed to suggest that our local ecclesiastical "powers that be" appear to possess peculiarly distorted vision, which prevents them appreciating their own idiosyncracies and incongruous arrangements.

Granted that some narrow-minded folk (among whom I am content to be numbered) cannot be quite reconciled to the scheme of supporting the Church by Balls, Fancy-Dress Dances, and the like (which point can pass for the moment,—abler pens than mine being engaged thereon), I am tempted to enquire whether the weekly desecration of the Sabbath, which must be laid to the charge of a local ecclesiastical organization, can be as readily defended,—for to me it seems flagrantly inconsistent for Christian Church-goers to listen to the reading of the fourth Commandment, and respond to the same by praying that their hearts may be inclined to "keep this law", while they are practically hiring labourers just round the corner to build them a new church, employing them for the full seven days per week. True, some protest has already been lodged against this point, and has had the eminently practical result of arranging for the gate of the new compound to be closed on the Sabbath, although any ordinarily observant passer-by will note that the work-men are shut within, and are chipping stones, arranging bricks, etc., with exceptional industry. For my part I should prefer to see the gate open, and the work performed publicly if it has to be done at all, but apparently we do not all see alike on this point.

Whether a Ball is, or is not, an appropriate method of raising the ecclesiastical wind may still be an open question, but can there be two opinions about the incongruity of preparing the Ball-room, or hall, on Sunday? Even admitting that the theatrical performance of Saturday evening prevented the preparatory committee from starting their work in the previous week, my narrow vision prevents me from appreciating the necessity of employing labourers to clean the hall, raise the floor, commence the decorations, etc., on Sunday,—while under identically the same roof, (in a different apartment, I will allow), Divine Service was being held by the same body of Christians, who were thus sanctimoniously observing the Day of Rest, and actively preparing for the frivolities of the week at one and the same time. Blissful breadth of vision,—I would that I could smother conscience as readily!

A liberal allowance must be made for human inconsistency (in which imperfection we all share), but when a public ecclesiastical body so flagrantly disregards one of its primary tenets, one may perhaps be pardoned for soliciting enlightenment, and it is in the hope that the apparent incongruity will be satisfactorily explained that I have ventured to intrude upon your space at this length.

Yours faithfully, A: B. C.

Yokohama, Feb. 12th 1900.

EDUCATIONAL REFORM IN JAPAN.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I notice that many Japanese are discussing questions of educational reform. That is a good sign. There is great hope for an individual or for a nation that realizes its own defects and wants to do better. And perhaps a suggestion here might be helpful. I would like to suggest a reform in the construction of school-room seats and desks. I visited a new Middle School not long since and was struck with a question asked by one of the ladies in the inspecting party. She had not seen much of Japanese school rooms, so when we were shown one of the class rooms, she innocently asked if that was for the infant class. She did not know that Chugakko students would resent being called infants. But she was judging from the seats. But I should pity any infants who had to sit on them. They were made on the gridiron principle about a foot square, and for a back two cross pieces fastened to perpendicular posts. Some of the boys carry cushions with them from one class room to

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another. It is difficult to conceive of anything more unscientific, more unhygienic, than to compel children to sit on such benches for four or five hours every day.

Then, too, outside of the larger cities nothing is done to warm school rooms unless it be with a *hibachi*. In the primary schools little children sit for hours on the miserable benches, with their legs bare—the little girls especially wear nothing on their lower limbs—for their little loose *kimono* is no protection against the cold while sitting on benches. The little things shiver all day and go home looking as if their blood had almost stopped circulating. It seems to me that unless they propose to have stoves in their school rooms and furnish more comfortable seats it would be far better for them to have *tatami* and sit Japanese style. They could thus keep their bodies warm. Japanese can never adopt the western method of sitting in chairs till they also arrange to warm their houses. I called at a Japanese house a few days ago to see a gentleman who had just returned from America. It was a freezing cold day, but, it being a Japanese house, I had to take off my shoes as I went in. But I found some comfort in sitting down on a good *za-buton*, thus hiding my stocking feet under my body and keeping them warm. In a moment, however, a table and chairs were brought in and in spite of my protests we were compelled to occupy those chairs and warm our finger tips over a *hibachi* on the table, while our toe tips were freezing on the floor. Of all the uncomfortable experiences I've had this sitting in a cold Japanese room, on a narrow chair with a straight back, is one of the worst. And the comical part of it is that the Japanese who thus entertains a foreigner thinks he is doing the proper thing. There are some Japanese customs that are not capable of a half-way reform: they must be let alone or else done away with altogether. *Hibachi* don't sort up with tables and chairs, and benches are out of place in any room that is not capable of being heated.

Yours truly, WILL PATTILLO.

RESIDENTIAL RHYMES.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—You have probably forgotten your condescending notice of that "humble author" who wrote *Residential Rhymes*. He does not dispute your verdict that he is "good humoured and sometimes funny," but wishes to correct your error in supposing that the verses were "evidently intended to accompany the efforts of the publisher rather than to be accompanied by them." The publisher did, indeed, desire "doggrel," which could be set to well-known tunes, but the pictures were in every case suggested in every detail (though not, of course, drawn) by

Yours faithfully, OSMAN EDWARDS.

11 Eldon Road, Kensington, London,

Dec. 26th, 1899.

CHRISTIANITY AND EDUCATION IN FRANCE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—M. Inoue Tetsujiro said:—"In the west, with the exception of France and Switzerland, Christianity is the basis of ethical teaching"—(*Japan Daily Mail*, January 29th.)

In France Christianity is not so separated from ethical teaching and education as M Inoue and some other folks seem to suppose.

In France there are two kinds of schools, public and free ones of every degree (viz, primary, middle, and high).

Free schools are more prosperous every year, as statistics show, and this ever increasing prosperity is due to the fact that Christianity is quite the basis of ethical teaching and education in those schools. There are now 92 368 pupils in free middle schools only. Public middle schools do not number so many. I think.

But even in public middle schools Christianity is not absent. In every school a Catholic priest is appointed and paid by Government to teach religion to the pupils whose parents desire, and so great is the number of those so desirous that the majority of pupils, even in public middle schools, are taught Christianity.

Conclusion: Perhaps religious liberty is not yet so great in France as in America, the classical land of liberty; but, as for the connection of religion and education, as for the moral efficacy of Christianity (namely in high class), France is practically about the same as other great civilised nations, and is quite different from Japan, where Christianity is prohibited even in private schools.

Your Obedient Servant,
A FRENCHMAN.

MOVEMENTS OF TRANSPORTS AND WAR DIARY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I enclose movements of transports and diary for November, 1899. I have omitted the detachments of the Royal Army Medical Corps and Army Pay Department and Corps which accompanied nearly every Transport.

Yours faithfully, A. G. CHURCHILL,
Lieut.-Colonel.

Tokyo, February 9th, 1900.

Movements of Transports Completed in November, 1899.

Transport.	Left.	Arrived.	Troops.
Nineveh.	Eng. Oct. 10	Cape Town Nov. 2	Sq'dron N.S.W. Lancers.
Yorkshire ...	Eng. Oct. 20	Dur'n Nov. 14	2nd Royal West Surrey.
Roslin Castle..	Eng. Oct. 20	Dur'n Nov. 12	2nd Brigade Staff; Special Service Officers; 2nd West Yorkshire; Signalling Officers; A S C.; Civilian Medical Officers.
Harlech Castle..	Eng. Oct. 20	Cape Town Nov. 14	Det. 2nd East Surrey; Half 2nd Northamptonshire;
Lismore Castle..	Eng. Oct. 20	Dur'n Nov. 14	H.Q & 7 companies 2nd East Surrey;
Manila..	Eng. Oct. 17	Dur'n Nov. 10	2nd Devonshire; Details, Staff, &c. of Mounted Infantry;
Nubia...	Eng. Oct. 21	Cape Town Nov. 13	1st Scots Guards; Half 2nd Northamptonshire; Details.
Gascon..	Eng. Oct. 21	Cape Town Nov. 11	2nd Coldstream Guards; 1st Telegraph Division R E; 31st (Fortress) company R E., Ordnance Survey R.E., Details; L. of C. Staff.
Goorkha	Eng. Oct. 21	Cape Town Nov. 15	1st Brigade Staff 3rd Gre'dier Gds; 10th (Ry) Com. R.E.; Regtl Staff (1st div.) R E.; 17th (Field) com. R E.
Mongolian ...	Eng. Oct. 21	Cape Town Nov. 18	2nd Seaforth Highlanders.
Waiwers	New Zeal. Oct. 21	Cape Town Nov. 22	New Zealand contingent of 213 officers & men and 280 horses.
Jamaican	Eng. Oct. 21	Cape Town Nov. 19	Squ'ron 14th Hussars.
Orient...	Eng. Oct. 22	Cape Town Nov. 13	2nd Royal Highlanders; Mounted Infantry Staff (2nd Cavalry Brigade); Northern company M.I.; Western company M.I.
City of Vienna.	Eng. Oct. 22	Cape Town Nov. 16	1st Cavy. Bde. Staff; Squ'ron 12th Lcrs.
Mohawk	Eng. Oct. 22	Cape Town Nov. 16	Squadron 12th Lancers.
Malta ...	Eng. Oct. 22	Cape Town Nov. 16	1st Coldstream Guards; R.E. Details; M.I. Staff (1st Bde); Aldershot company and Southern company M.I., Machine gun section.
Pavonia.	Eng. Oct. 22	Dur'n Nov. 23	2nd Royal Fusiliers; 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers.
City of Cambridge..	Eng. Oct. 23	Cape Town Nov. 16	2nd Scottish Rifles.
Oriental.	Eng. Oct. 24	Dur'n Nov. 15	6th Bde. Staff; 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
Hawarden Castle..	Eng. Oct. 23	Dur'n Nov. 16	2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers.
Aurania.	Eng. Oct. 23	Cape Town Nov. 12	3rd Bde. Staff; 1st Highland Lt. Infy; Regt. Staff R.E. (2nd div); 11th (field) Compy R E.; South Eastern and Cork Companies M I; Machine gun section.
Armenian	Eng. Oct. 23	Dur'n Nov. 15	Bde. div. Staff 1st div. R.F.A; 7th Batty R.F.A; 14th and 66th batteries R.F.A; Ammn. col. 1st Div. Field troop R.E.
Nomadic	Eng. Oct. 23	Cape Town Nov. 15	10th (Ry) Compy R.E.; 17th (Field) Compy R.E.; Remounts.
America.	Eng. Oct. 24	Cape Town Nov. 19	R battery R.H.A 1st Cavy Bde. Ammn. col.; Det. Field troop R.E;
Cephalonia	Eng. Oct. 24	Cape Town Nov. 18	4th Bde. Staff; 1st Durban Lt. Infy; Dublin and Eastern comps. M. I. Machine gun section; Details A. O. C.
Oceana..	Eng. Oct. 25	Cape Town Nov. 17	1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
Britannic	Ire. Oct. 26	East L'don Nov. 17	2nd Roy. Irish Rifles.
German.	Eng. Oct. 27	Cape Town Nov. 20	1st Rifle Bde; 28th (Field) Comp. R. E.; 1st Field Park R. E.
Glengyle	Eng. Oct. 27	Cape Town Nov. 20	O battery R.H.A; Ammn. col. 2nd. Cav. Bde.
Pindari..	Eng. Oct. 28	Cape Town Nov. 25	Bde. Div. Staff R.H.A; G & P Batteries R.H.A, Det. Ammn. col. 2nd Cav. Bde.
Sardinian ..	Q'bec Oct. 30	Cape Town Nov. 29	Canadian contingent of 1000 Infy.
Manchester Post ...	Eng. Oct. 30	Cape Town Nov. 22	1st Royal Dragoons; Det. 2nd Cav. Bde. Staff.
Medic ...	A'de Oct. 31	Cape Town Nov. 26	Victorian contingent; Tasmanian contingent; S. Australian contingent.
Urmston Grange	Eng. Nov. 1	Cape Town Nov. 27	Bde. div. Staff R. F. A. 2nd Div; 64th batt R. F. A; Det. 1st Durham Lt. Infy.
Wakool.	Eng. Nov. 3	Cape Town Nov. 28	H. Q. and half 6th Dragoon Guards.
Idaho ...	Eng. Nov. 3	Cape Town Nov. 25	75th Batty R. F. A.; Ammn. col. 2nd Div; R. A. for Base.
Briton ...	Eng. Nov. 4	Cape Town Nov. 20	2nd Somerset Lt. Infy; Details.
Kildonan Castle ...	Eng. Nov. 4	Cape Town Nov. 22	1st Welsh Regt; 2nd Northumberland Fus. Det. 2nd Roy. Highlanders; Pontoon troop R.

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				E; Balloon section & Factory R. E
Servia	I.e.	Nov. 4	Cape Town Nov. 25	3rd King's Royal Rifles; Det. 1st A. & S. Highlanders; A.
Catalonia	I.e.	Nov. 5	Cape Town Nov. 30	5th Bde. Staff; 1st Roy. Inniskilling Fusiliers; A. O. C.
Formosa	Eng.	Nov. 5	Cape Town Nov. 29	2nd Duke of Cornwall Lt. Infy.
Englishman	I.e.	Nov. 6	Cape Town Nov. 30	Bde. Div. Staff R. F. A. 3rd Div; 7th & 77th batteries R. F. A.; Ammn. col. 3rd Div.
Cheshire	Eng.	Nov 9	Cape Town Nov. 29	1st Gordon Highlanders; Reservists A. S. C.
Bavarian	I.e.	Nov. 10	Cape Town Nov. 28	Foreign Mil. Attaché.; Regtl. Staff R. E. 3rd Div.; 12th (Field) Comp. R. E.; 1st Connaught Rangers; 1st Roy. Dublin Fusiliers.
Scot	Eng.	Nov. 11	Cape Town Nov. 28	1st Suffolk.

SHORT DIARY.

Nov. 1.—Ladysmith isolated. Telegraph wires cut. Free State Boers invade Cape Colony.

Nov. 2.—Colenso evacuated. Stormberg Junction abandoned.

Nov. 3.—A special Army Order was issued embodying 38 Militia units. Cavalry action to the South of Ladysmith.

Nov. 10.—Skirmish at Belmont. British casualties, 5.

Nov. 11.—An Army Order was issued for the mobilisation of a 5th Division for service in S. Africa.

Nov. 13.—500 Boers attacked Kuruman, but were beaten off with an estimated loss of 30 killed and 28 wounded.

Nov. 15.—Armoured train from Estcourt shelled by Boers. British casualties, 1 killed, 18 wounded, 43 missing.

Nov. 17.—Boers advance on Estcourt and reach Ennersdale.

Nov. 19.—Skirmish at Mooi river. British casualties, 3 wounded.

Nov. 20.—An Army Order was issued for the mobilisation of a 6th Division for service in S. Africa.

Nov. 23.—General Lord Methuen attacked and defeated 5,000 Boers entrenched at Belmont. British casualties, 52 killed, 245 wounded, 2 missing. Boer casualties estimated at 140 and 51 prisoners.

General Hildyard attacked Beacon Hill from Estcourt and drove off the Boers.

Nov. 24.—A special Army Order was issued embodying 8 more Militia units.

Nov. 25.—General Lord Methuen attacked and defeated the Boers at Gras Pan. British casualties, 24 killed, 163 wounded, 7 missing. Boer casualties estimated at 400. Sortie from Kimberley in which 29 Boers were captured. British casualties, 5 killed and 26 wounded.

Nov. 26.—British advanced from Estcourt.

Nov. 28.—General Lord Methuen attacked and defeated 11,000 Boers entrenched on the Modder river. British casualties, 72 killed, 396 wounded, 7 missing. Boer casualties estimated at 500.

Sortie from Kimberley in which a Boer laager and 4 redoubts were captured. British casualties, 22 killed and 31 wounded.

A PROTEST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In case Colonel Churchill should imagine that the remarks made in the *Japan Herald* yesterday, represent in the slightest degree the feelings of the subscribers to that paper, I take this opportunity of saying that I have heard from many of them nothing but expressions of profound disgust at such an utterly unreasonable and malicious attack, which is as equally devoid of foundation as of decorum.

Should, however, it be considered that the very nature of the article renders condemnation or mere reference unnecessary, my letter may, at least, serve the purpose of disabusing the minds of many of the idea that the *Herald* is the accorded mouthpiece of Yokohama opinion, or that its sentiments on this, as well as on many other subjects, reflect the views of its readers.

Yours, etc., A MERCHANT.

Yokohama, Feb. 14th, 1900.

"ROMA-JI."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Discussions relating to the reform of the Japanese language are probably dull and unattractive to most readers, but the great importance of the subject is my excuse for asking permission to resume it, and to correct your misapprehension of certain passages in my previous letter,—passages which I thought were too clearly written to leave any reasonable doubt as to their meaning. Since you do not take pains to reproduce your own editorial words with liberal exactness, even though using quotation marks, it is perhaps expecting too much to look for accuracy in the interpretation of a correspondent's ideas; but I am nevertheless disinclined to be made responsible for opinions which I have not expressed. You say that Mr. House "calls stenography a syllabary," and that you are "astonished by his statement" I should be astonished, myself, if I had made it. What I said, in answer to a proposition which seemed to me untenable, was that a syllabary is a set of marks each one of which signifies a complete and intelligible sound; that stenography is likewise a system of marks which signify sounds; and that in comparing the two with ordinary longhand, the same definition might stand for both. I may speak of a steam-ship as designed to expedite travelling upon the water, and of a propeller as similarly designed; and say that in comparing their speed with that of a sailing vessel the same description stands for both. That is very far from asserting that a steam-ship is a propeller, or that the two objects are identical. It may be a singular weakness, but I really do dislike to be credited with absurd remarks which I have not made, and could not make, by any possibility.

My references to the Roman alphabet were connected solely with its inherent inability to represent all the sounds of modern tongues, including the Japanese. I did not touch the question of irregular or contradictory spelling, in English or any other language. The circumstance that English words pronounced alike are differently written is entirely aside from the present purpose. All that you say on that head is as wide of the mark as it would be to talk of the relative propriety of using capitals or small letters, italics or German text. The question in debate has nothing to do with vagaries of spelling. It concerns only the legitimate pronunciation of individual letters. The fact to be considered is that many of the *sounds* belonging to living languages cannot be properly indicated by the Latin characters. The English sounds for which the combination "th" is used (as in *then* and *thin*), have no suggestion of either "t" or "h" about them. The device is purely arbitrary, and as obviously a makeshift as "p q" or "x z" would be for the same articulation. Another illogical combination is "ch" (as in *church*). An Englishman applies this conjunction of letters to one sound, a Frenchman to another, and a German to a third. Each country does what it pleases with the Roman signs, without pretending to find authority for its manipulations in the signs themselves. The absence of uniform values constitutes one of the scientific objections to the general use of these characters. They do not and cannot satisfy the actual requirements of a single language, and they appear to do so only when some of them are distorted from their original purpose. Yet you do not hesitate to affirm that the *kana* syllabary, which could never have had an existence except as an exact and absolute representation of Japanese sounds,—which reflects them as faithfully as a mirror gives back the object set before it,—"does not produce them" (that is to say, does not represent them) "by any means as successfully as the Roman alphabet produces them"—(*i.e.*, represents them).

I confess that this statement strikes me with such amazement that I scarcely know how to frame a reply to it. Is it credible, Mr. Editor, that you have put forward so extraordinary a declaration with deliberate intent;—that you are prepared to place yourself on record as averring that a set of symbols expressly created by Japanese to stand as signs for the sounds of their speech, and for no other end,—not merely to resemble them, but to be identical with them, so far as written marks can be identical with articulate utterances,—are less successful in performing their special duty than an alien alphabet constructed thousands of years ago as the scriptory medium for a language not allied to the Japanese, and lacking some of the elementary sounds of the Eastern tongue? I cannot believe that, upon reflection, you will adhere to a proposition which appears to have been too hastily conceived and too incautiously expressed to be seriously regarded. Think what it means. What was the origin of the *kana* emblems? The man (or the men) who invented them certainly knew the sounds of his (or their) own speech. He (or they) gave to each of these sounds a particular written character, and the complete set fulfilled all the requirements of the language. It has never ceased to fulfill them. There may have been shades of change in pronunciation in the course of centuries, but at no time has the *kana* been invalidated by such alterations. Vocal modifications have been inevitable, as with all languages, but the symbols have always represented the current utterance, in successive periods, as they represent it at this day. The theory that they are intrinsically less appropriate than an alphabet which does not cover all Japanese sounds, or fails to account for even a single one of them, has no foundation to rest upon. It might as confidently be alleged that a person's natural eyes are inferior, as organs of sight, to a pair of artificial eyes; or that his own skin does not fit him as well as would the skin of another man, unlike himself in size, colour and shape. The circumstance that the signs are, or have been, irregularly employed, has no bearing whatever. The inquiry is not whether "taiko" and other words are logically or illogically written but whether the syllabary does or does not include signs which accurately indicate the pronunciation of those words. Your allusion to "strange combinations," in "taiko," etc., has, I submit, no more to do with the broad issue than the inconsistent spelling of English words has to do with the question of affinity between Roman letters and English sounds. The incontrovertible fact remains, that the syllabary takes in the whole range of Japanese speech, which the Latin emblems cannot do in their ordinary capacity, since they can be made serviceable only, in several instances, by a despotic perversion of their true attributes. Look at the second character of the *kana* system.—that which becomes "ro" in foreign guise. Its articulation begins with a sound which is exclusively Japanese, and which is repeated in several other syllables. It has no counterpart in any European tongue. Foreigners, as a rule, do not attempt to pronounce it. They are generally content to get as near it as they can by giving the sound of "r."

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I am aware that a recently published dictionary states that its usual pronunciation is really like "r," but this is a mistake for which no excuse can be admitted. It is produced by a vocal process quite different from that required for "r." This is one of the cases in which the Roman alphabet, however tried, is found wanting. Look at the *kana* sign to which the transcription "chi" is applied. There is, as I have mentioned above, no authority, outside of England and America, for the employment of "chi" to express the sound here aimed at, and neither "c" nor "h" suggests it in the slightest degree. In Italy, "c" alone sometimes stands for it, but not always. Again, take the syllable to which the letters "shi" are assigned. The combination "shi" is an arbitrary English device, not recognised everywhere, for which the original Latin characters afford no sufficient warrant. It is of course understood the Roman alphabet, pure and simple, is here discussed,—not the alphabet tinkered and corrupted to suit the exigencies of this or that modern tongue. It will not do to say that Japan may adopt the compulsory usage of England as regards some sounds, and of continental countries as regards others. Nor will it, I presume, be proposed that the existing English practices should be copied wholesale, for "that way madness lies." Of the twenty-six alphabetical letters, more than half are used in England to indicate two or three different sounds, while some are saddled with not less than half a dozen With the Roman alphabet, we at least know where we are, and—which is perhaps more essential—where we are not.

Concerning the relative efficiency of a syllabary and an alphabet "as a phonographic vehicle," you are pleased to say that the advantages of the former over the latter "will scarcely be disputed." I, for one, dispute them most emphatically. I am willing to go farther, and declare my conviction that an alphabet without fixed and unalterable rules for the enunciation of each letter is practically valueless as a phonographic vehicle. Its deficiencies, in this respect, would be aggravated by its application to the Japanese language. But its employment in this country, will not be, primarily, with a view to phonographic service. It will be a measure of political expediency, and as such the question of fitness will not have the first consideration. I observe that in one part of your latest article on the subject you use the modified phrase that the Latin signs "can be made" to do the required work,—that is, to represent Japanese sounds. There, indeed, you are on comparatively safe ground. Undoubtedly they can be "made" to represent anything you like, if you choose to disregard what they actually signify, and impose upon them duties for which they have no proper qualification. They have been made to do numerous eccentric things all over Europe, and the process will have to be repeated in Japan. But when the time comes for introducing them, no effort should be spared to secure an orthographic system that shall conform as strictly as circumstances will allow to natural and scientific laws. Every step in the reform should be carefully inspected by experts competent to investigate all branches of the subject. The native scholars who uphold the ideographic system should not be antagonized, but the coöperation of the foremost among them should be invited, if possible, for the reason—(as I am informed and believe, though my own knowledge on this point is necessarily imperfect)—that they are best acquainted with the history of the language, and can throw light on many debatable questions of construction and legitimate pronunciation. The prejudices of the few who cling to *kana* should be respected, and not intensified by unjust disparagement of the method they prefer; that course is not likely to persuade them that their convictions ought to be sacrificed for the common welfare. The requisite investigations should be conducted with the determination to leave no field of pertinent inquiry unexplored, and no conclusions should be taken for granted, no matter how plausibly they may appeal to the imagination, without rigid scrutiny on all sides. In this way, and in no other, can a result be achieved that will deserve to be permanent, or even approximately satisfy the conflicting demands of the arduous enterprise.

Your, &c., E. H. HOUSE.
February, 1900.

TRIALS BY JAPANESE CRIMINAL COURTS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Although somewhat late, may I venture a few comments on a paragraph in your columns entitled "Trials by Japanese Criminal Courts?" It appeared in the *Weekly Mail* of January thirteenth.

You wrote, "We are very far from thinking that Japanese judicial procedure is secure against just accusations of tardiness, but we do not believe that it is much worse than legal procedure in our own country, and, before condemning it in wholesale terms, some comparative statistics should be furnished."

The remarks which called forth this paragraph I have not seen, and will not take it upon myself to say how far your rebuke may have been deserved. Certainly I have no sympathy with merely captious criticism; but in view of the large influence the *Japan Mail* has deservedly won, I regret that you should even seem to make light of the very serious hardship to so many, technically speaking at least, presumably innocent persons entailed by the slow movement of the Japanese criminal courts.

It is impossible at short notice to obtain complete statistics for the Courts of Great Britain with which to compare the report of the Kajibashi House of Detention which you give in the first few lines of your note, but in the *Spectator* of July first, 1899, it is said that, "reckoning prisoners tried at the Assizes only, there were [in 1897] one hundred and twenty cases in which the imprisonment before trial exceeded sixteen weeks."

As I understand the matter, aside from London, Middlesex, and certain parts of Kent, Surrey, and Essex which are within the jurisdiction of the so-called Central Criminal Court, the entire criminal business of England is committed to the Assizes. The Central Criminal Court sits, I am informed, twelve times a year, and judging by the *Spectator's* article, cases of hardship under that jurisdiction are not numerous enough, or striking enough, to demand special remedial legislation. Hence the writer, taking his figures from Mr. Montagu Crackenthorpe, directs his attention to the Assizes, which he regards as responsible for the hardship imposed upon the presumably innocent persons represented by the one hundred and twenty mentioned above. He closes his plea with these words:—

"Of all the subjects which call for inquiry as a prelude to legislation, none seems so urgent as this, and we greatly hope that Ministers will not allow the session to come to an end without an announcement that such a commission is to be appointed."

Now, as I have intimated, the cases in which prisoners were obliged to wait trial for more than sixteen weeks, for all England, save London, Middlesex, and certain parts of Kent, Surrey, and Essex, during the entire year, 1897, numbered one hundred and twenty. According to the figures you quote from the report of the Kajibashi House of Detention, there were confined there *at a given time* twenty-eight persons who had waited six months or over, and fifty-five who had waited three months and over. This, I suppose, means eighty-three persons in all who have waited more than three months. What the statistics of this single house of detention would be for a whole year, one can only conjecture, but it could hardly be an exaggeration to say that the number of cases of extreme hardship would prove several times greater than for the whole of that large fraction of England committed to the Courts of Assize. Moreover, it seems probable that Kajibashi, being in an especial degree under the stimulati g influence of the central Government, would compare favourably with the houses of detention in other prefectures.

So far as I can see, there is no escape from the conviction that the Criminal Courts of Japan stand at a very great distance behind those of Great Britain as regards the prompt administration of justice. How great that distance seems to me, I dare not trust myself to say. This unfortunate condition of affairs surely deserves the careful and immediate attention of His Imperial Majesty's Government.

There are many reasons for this grave contrast, no doubt, but I will mention only two. They are,

(1) The relatively large place which summary procedure plays in the English system.

(2) The readiness with which bail is accepted even in very grave cases by the English judges.

How far these causes of difference may suggest the path to reform, I will not say.

Pardon me if I have written too strongly. My estimate of what has already been accomplished in Japan in the way of judicial reform is so high, that I am ready to pay a large tribute to the philanthropy and intelligent public spirit of those to whom this reform is due; but I should be sorry to have them or their successors content with any standards but the highest, or remit in any degree their efforts in behalf of these untried prisoners, among whom there will always be a considerable number of innocent persons.

I remain, yours, etc. D. C. GREENE.
Tokyo, Ichgaya, Feb. 12th, 1900.

THE TANKO IEISUDO KAISHA.

This Company held its general meeting (semi-annual) on the 13th instant, when the following statement of accounts was presented and passed:—

	Yen.
Total net Profits	708.648
Brought forward from previous account	46,714
Total	755.362
To Reserve	36,000
Rewards to officials, &c	60,235
Liquidation of Debentures	10,000
Dividend (at the rate of 12½ per cent. annually)	633,180
Carried over	15 947
Total	755.362

An extraordinary meeting was then organized, when it was determined to construct an extension of the main line of railway for 38 miles, from Momijiyama to Kanayama, and also to build a two mile branch. The expenditure is estimated at 2,700,000 *yen*. The meeting further voted to spend 800,000 *yen* in developing the coal beds rendered accessible by the new road. The total amount, 3½ million *yen*, is to be obtained by issuing debentures.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The fine plum-trees at Sugita will shortly be in full bloom.

Fire broke out in a house, No. 165, Honmura-road, about 9 o'clock Wednesday evening, but was quickly got under control, there being a plentiful supply of water. The occupier of the burnt house is a British Indian.

There will be a special service at the Union Church at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning to install the Rev. E. S. Booth, M.A., who has been chosen as Pastor. Addresses will be given by the Rev. G. M. Meacham, D.D., and the Rev. A. A. Bennett. All will receive a cordial welcome.

Sir William MacCormac's references to the rapid recovery of the British wounded are con-

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firmed. Thanks to good climate, doctors, nurses, and appliances, men wounded in early actions are returning to duty in hundreds. The Bishop of Lebombo has shown a splendid spirit of devotion. His episcopal bed and the whole house are given up to the use of the wounded and refugees.

General Macdonald, whose name figured so largely in South African news, was presented with a sword of honour at the Hotel Cecil last May. With the modesty of a brave man, he declined to have all the credit that had been bestowed upon him for Omdurman, and called attention to the fact that the three batteries of artillery which Lord Kitchener had, with wisdom and foresight, placed under his command, had greatly contributed to the victory.

A badly decomposed corpse was found on the beach at Tomioka on Wednesday. Papers on the body showed it to be that of Andrew Nicholson of the British ship *Cowrie*. This was the seamen who fell into Yokohama harbour on the night of January 3rd while returning to his ship in a sampan. The body was temporarily taken in charge by the Headman of Kanagawa, but an Inspector of the Water Police went to Tomioka to make the necessary investigation before handing over the body to the British authorities.

A Naval Court of Inquiry has been held at H.B.M. Consulate, Nagasaki, into the circumstances attending the stranding of the steamer *Energia*. Mr. J. H. Longford, British Consul, presided and was assisted by three assessors. The finding of the Court was that the casualty was owing to the pilot not exercising sufficient caution in approaching the Obri Channel at full speed in the darkest part of the night and failing to observe the land-marks; that the master was justified in leaving the navigation wholly in the pilot's hands, but that he should have been on the bridge, though the casualty could not be in *any sense ascribed* to his absence; that no *blame* could be attached to the mate; that the steps taken by the master after the stranding were prudent and seamanlike, and that discipline was properly maintained. The Court ordered that the certificates of the master and first mate should be returned to them. The Court regretted that pilotage licenses had ceased to be issued by the Imperial Japanese Government for the district between Rokuren and the entrance to Nagasaki Harbour, this being one on which it was customary for the masters of ocean-going steamers to employ pilots, most of them believing the latter continued as formerly to be fully licensed for it.

JAPANESE STEAMSHIP SERVICES IN THE FAR EAST.

Mr. Kondo, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, is represented by the *Hochi* as having forwarded to each of the Ministers of State a document embodying his opinions in regard to the necessity of extending steamship services to those Oriental countries through which he lately made a tour of inspection. He asserts that if Japan desires to extend her commercial advantage in China and augment her influence in the interior of that country, she must take steps at once to improve her steamship communication and at the same time establish a Japan-China Bank in order to afford facilities to traders. His programme in regard to the extension of the steamship service is stated to be as follows:—

1. Yokohama-Shanghai line.—Two ports, Kobe and Shimonoseki, to be called at *en route*. Voyages from Nagasaki to be undertaken twice a week. Six ships to be placed on the service, each having a gross tonnage of over 3,000 tons and an ordinary speed of 13 knots, with a maximum of 16 knots. All to be passenger ships.

The above line would be of the greatest importance in the Chinese coastwise trade, as it might be connected not only with the Yangtsze lines and the North and South China lines, but also with those to America and Australia. The necessity of connection with these lines is imperfectly recognised at present, inasmuch as connection is now made with the European lines at Shanghai. The weekly service hitherto undertaken by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is not sufficient to meet present requirements, and the number of voyages should be increased to two a week.

2. Yangtsze line.—(a) The service on this line to be chiefly between Shanghai and Hankow, via open ports. Voyages to be undertaken every other day. Number of ships, 5, each of 2,000 gross tonnage and ordinary speed of 12.5 knots, the maximum speed not exceeding 15. All to be passenger ships. Hankow is a most important place, and promises to be the centre of Chinese commerce when the railways in Lohan and Hanwat are completed. That passengers and freight will greatly increase in future is beyond doubt. Passengers and cargo coming from the interior to Shanghai through Hankow would be transported by the Yokohama Shanghai or South China lines or thence to Europe, America, or Australia, while freight for the interior through Hankow would be brought to Shanghai by the various lines above mentioned, and thence transported to Hankow. To increase the efficiency of the existing lines to China it is absolutely indispensable to establish a service to Hankow, which is likely to be the great emporium of the empire. Various steamship companies have already opened services to that port, and it is advisable that Japan should attempt to secure equal advantage to herself by establishing a frequent service between Shanghai and Hankow.

(b) Hankow Gichiong branch.—To call at Sachi *en route*. Voyage once in five days. Two passenger ships of over 1,500 tons each, with an ordinary speed of 10 knots and a maximum speed of 12. Gichiong is next in importance to Hankow, being a convenient point of connection for passengers and freight coming from, and going to, Tiongkeng, which is also one of the great commercial towns of the west of China. Not a single company engaged in marine enterprises seems to be inactive in opening service to Gichiong. In connection with the service to Hankow a regular voyage to Gichiong is absolutely essential. The number of voyages should not be less than one every five days.

(c) Branches of the Yangtsze line should be established as follows:—

1. Hansui Section.—This line would extend from Hankow to the north of Opok, Honam, and Hiapha provinces, and a part of Bongchwan.

2. Tongteng-o Section.—This line would run from Hankow as far as Tongteng o, whence one of its branches would reach Tiongsa and Siongtam by way of Siongkong on the south, and the other would reach Kuichiu through Gwankong on the west.

3. Pwanyang o Section.—The starting point of this line would be Kuikong. Steamers would run up the river via Tongteng-o, and finally reach province.

4. Lines to the vicinity of Chinkiang.
(*a*) From Chinkiang to Namking along Soiho.
(*b*) From Chinkiang to Yongchiu.
(*c*) From Chinkiang to Chengkong-po.
(*d*) From Chinkiang to Suchow.

5. Lines to the vicinity of Sohong.
(*a*) From Shanghai to Suchow or Hongshiu.
(*b*) From Suchow to Hougshiu.
(*c*) From Suchow to Namking via Buseku.

NOTE.—Many of the lines that should be established along the tributaries of the river Yangtsze have not yet been surveyed.

The five sections above enumerated are the most important branches of the Yangtsze line with regard to passengers and goods from Hankow, Kiukiang, Chinkiang and Shanghai. The necessity of opening or extending a service to the tributaries of the Yangtzekiang is obvious.

3. Shanghai-Chefoo-Tientsin line.—Voyages to be made at weekly intervals, and two vessels of 2,000 tons each, with a speed of from 12 to 15 knots, to be placed on the service. These vessels to be both cargo and passenger boats.

The importance of this line is clear from the fact of its securing communication between Peking, Tientsin, and Shanghai, three of the emporia of China. Provisions from the south of Peking as well as foreign imported articles, passengers, and freight for the south, depend for transport upon the facilities afforded by the line under notice, while the Yokohama-Shanghai line and other important lines are connected with it.

4. Shanghai-Chefoo (or Talienwan)—Newchang line.—Weekly voyage with two vessels of about 2,000 tons each and a speed of from 12 to 15 knots. These vessels to be passenger and cargo boats. Newchwang and Talienwan will become important places for the export of merchandise from Manchuria and Siberia, and for the import from Shanghai of goods from South China, on the completion of the East China railways. That those two places will be developed to an extraordinary extent in the future its beyond doubt, and the expediency of opening a weekly service on the part of Japan is evident.

5. Hongkong-Shanghai and Nagasaki-Vladivostock lines.—Weekly service with four vessels of 2,500 tons each and a speed of from 13 to 16 knots. Ships to be available for passengers and cargo.

The completion of the Siberian and East China Railways is likely to make Vladivostock one of the most flourishing ports in the north. The service to Vladivostock hitherto maintained by the Yusen Kaisha with steamers calling at the various ports in Korea and China is ineffective to compete with other companies. The number of voyages with calls at intermediate ports ought therefore to be reduced, so that the passage between Vladivostock, Hongkong, Shanghai, and Nagasaki may be more quickly performed.

6. Kobe-Vladivostock line.—The intermediate ports of call to be Shimonoseki, Nagasaki, Fusan, and Wonsan; the service to be weekly; three steamers for passengers and cargo to be provided, each of about 3,000 gross tonnage and a speed of 13 knots, with a maximum speed not exceeding 16 knots.

As stated above, the development of Vladivostock is likely to increase the number of passengers and the quantities of freight from America, and also from Europe and Hongkong. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's fortnightly service is utterly insufficient to meet the case, and a weekly service is absolutely necessary.

7. Kobe-Chin-nampho line.—Ports of call—Shimonoseki, Nagasaki, Tsushima, Fusan, Mokpho, and Inchhon. Weekly voyages to be maintained by four vessels of about 1,000 tons each and a speed of from 11 to 13 knots, available for passengers and cargo.

The Korean service so far carried on by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has secured connection with the North China line, but in order to guarantee greater expedition in the voyages to North China, it is necessary to establish a distinct service to Korea and North China. Since the Sōul-Inchhon railway and the Sōul-Fusan line are likely to secure for Japan the advantages of inland communication in Korea, it is highly advisable that measures should be adopted towards securing also the coasting trade of the peninsula. Hence the necessity of maintaining a weekly service to Korea.

(8) Kobe-Tientsin line.—Ports of call—Shimonoseki, Nagasaki, and Chefoo (the last-mentioned port only on the outward voyage). Weekly service to be maintained by four vessels of about 2,000 tons each and a speed of from 12 to 14 knots. The vessels to be passenger and cargo boats. Japan's share of transport business in connection with Tientsin has recently shown a marked development and still greater progress is to be reasonably anticipated. If the service to Tientsin is to be hampered by calling at the various ports in Korea, as hitherto, no small inconvenience will be entailed. It is therefore advisable to establish a direct service at weekly intervals.

(9) Kobe-Newchwang line.—Shimonoseki and Chefoo to be ports of call (the last mentioned only on the outward voyage). Weekly service to be inaugurated, with four vessels of

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2,000 tons each and a speed of from 12 to 14 knots. The ships to be available for passengers and cargo.

The reasons given in the case of the Kobe-Tientsin service apply with equal force in this case.

10. Hakodate-Otaru-Vladivostock line. — A weekly service with two vessels of about 1,000 tons each and of a speed of from 12 to 14 knots. Passenger and cargo boats.

To provide ample communication between Japan and Vladivostock it is necessary to establish a weekly service to Hakodate and Otaru for mails, passengers, and freight, avoiding the delay inevitable by the Kobe-Vladivostock line, the steamers on which call at the Korean ports. The new line under notice would be connected with the Yokohama-Hakodate line.

CHINA NOTES.

A Wuchang dispatch, printed in the same paper, states that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung of that city received lately a private telegram from one of the Princes of the Empress Dowager's party, advising him to apply for permission to proceed to Peking for an audience, "thereby saving the Empress Dowager from the necessity of commanding his presence in the Capital, a step which would raise much talk and conjecture amongst the people of the empire." Viceroy Chang, it is averred, will not, however, take the hint, and if invited by Imperial decree to go up to Peking intends to reply that many of his public works and factories demand his presence in Wuchang, which will therefore prevent his leaving his post at present.

Shanghai has got hold of another bunder to the effect that a young Manchu who recently visited Wuchang was the Emperor Kuang Hsü. The authorities at Wuchang, says a contemporary, tried to hush the matter up, but Chang Chih-tung's excitement was intense, and an endeavour was made to stifle discussion by substituting a young man who somewhat resembled the "stranger." The latter, however, had a Pekingese accent, and signed his name in English "Wang K. S." on a registration slip. The "stranger" was taken to Nanking, but many of the coolest-headed Chinese at Wuchang are convinced that he is really the Emperor Kuang Hsu, who has succeeded in escaping from the clutches of the Empress Dowager, and is biding his time.

There are numerous telegrams in the Japanese vernacular papers giving conflicting accounts of the situation at Mr. Pritchard-Morgan's concession in Korea. The fact is, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the Unsan mines are now in Mr. Pritchard-Morgan's possession, some four or five of his European representatives being on the spot with a sufficiently strong force of Japanese; and as the Korean miners and the inhabitants of the villages round about are all most friendly with Mr. Pritchard-Morgan and his people, there is no fear of his being dispossessed of the concession that he has secured in proper form and with the full approval of the British representative at Sōul. No credence need be attached to the reports current in the Japanese Press of German or Russian opposition to Mr. Pritchard-Morgan's operations in Korea.

On the 26th January King Lien-shan, manager of the Imperial Chinese Telegraphs and 1,231 other signatories, on receipt of the news of the deposition of H.M. Kuang Hsü, sent the following telegram to the Princes and Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen :—When we received the edict of the 24th instant, in which the Emperor proposed to abdicate on account of illness, we were amazed, and the mandarins, gentry and merchants from all the provinces residing in Shanghai became full of anxiety and discussed the matter everywhere in the streets. We, therefore, wire to you to beg of you to be loyal and faithful, and on behalf of the nation to implore the Emperor not to think of abdicating, though he should be unwell, so that the Empress Dowager at her advanced age may not have the extra burden of ruling a distracted Empire, and so that the spirits of our ancestors may be at rest and the people live in peace. Signed by King Lien-shan, prefect, and by 1,231 in all, 12th moon, 26th day.

To judge from the following telegram, which our senior Shanghai contemporary prints, the Reform Party in Peking have found it advisable to "bide a wee":—Since the receipt by the Tsungli Yamên of such a large number of protests from the provinces against the appointment of an Heir-Apparent to the late Tung Chih's Throne, ignoring the right heir, Kuang Hsü, his Majesty seems to be treated with more consideration now by the Empress Dowager who also congratulates herself that she did not follow the advice of Prince Ch'ing and his faction in accepting point blank the so-called resignation of Kuang Hsü and placing the six-year old son of Prince Tuan on the Throne. It has shown her also that the country is still faithful to the Manchu dynasty in the person of Kuang Hsü. It would not be good policy, therefore, to be hard upon the Empress-Dowager, at present, and drive her to extremities, but she should be allowed in her own person to counteract the intrigues of his Majesty's bitterest enemies, Prince Ch'ing, Prince Tuan, Kang Yi, Huai Tapu, Wang Wên-shao, etc. The Empress-Dowager seems to have availed herself of the loop-hole given her in the various protests, namely, laying all the blame on her advisers, and it is right that we should let well alone for the time being. There is yet time to devise stringent measures when she allows herself to be unduly influenced by those inimical to the Emperor.

AMERICAN NOTES.

The New York Board of Rapid Transit Commissioners on Jan. 16th awarded the contract for the building of the underground railway in New York to J. B. McDonald of 100 Broadway, one of the two bidders. His price was $35,000,000.

The Auditorium tower, 320 feet high, and the Masonic Temple, 302 feet high, hitherto the tallest structures in Chicago, are now overtopped by the tower of a new business building on Michigan Avenue, 385 feet high. A searchlight will be put on the tower as a help to lake vessels.

The city of New York has Bonds outstanding to the amount of $358,104,307, which, less $105,435,841 in the sinking funds, leaves a net funded debt to provide for of $252,668,436. Chicago owes $34,527,000, of which $11,000,000 grew out of the construction of the drainage canal.

The removal of a few shovelfuls of earth on the second day of the new year, letting the waters of the Chicago River into the great drainage canal begun over seven years ago, marked the practical completion of what *The Outlook* says is "the largest purely artificial canal in the world." Intended at first merely as a channel to carry off impurities, the idea and the work have grown until it is now predicted that it will some day be a great commercial waterway, connecting the busy ports of the lakes and the Mississipi, and making Chicago the country's commercial centre. Although it has cost one third as much as the Suez canal, it has been built by the municipal corporation.

On October 8, 1898, Harada Jiro was crossing the railroad track at the crossing of Park and Everett streets in Alameda, California, when he was run over by a local train. Harada alleged that the train was running at great speed and that the bell on the engine was silent. As a result of the accident he lost a leg and three fingers. He began a suit against the railroad company for $20,000 damages, and his case was presented in the United States Circuit Court by Mr. Schlesinger and Assistant United States District Attorney Marshall B. Woodworth. On the first trial the jury disagreed on the extent of damages, but at the second trial the jury awarded him $5000. The jurors stood ten for $10,000 damages, but they compromised with the minority for the sum stated.

A dreadful tragedy is reported to have taken place at North Brookfield, Mass., on January 19th. Martin Bergen, late catcher of the Boston baseball team of the National League, who had been mentally unsound for some time, killed his wife and two children and then committed suicide. Mrs. Bergen and one child were killed with an axe, and then Bergen used a razor to cut the throat of his other child and his own. The affair was discovered by the neighbours, who found the body of Bergen and his little girl by the kitchen door. The bodies of Mrs. Bergen and the little body were in the bed. Bergen was 29 years old, his wife about the same age, his girl 8 or 9 years old, and the boy a little younger. Bergen had a prosperous farm and considerable livestock. He began playing with the Wilkesbarre Club in 1893, and later held positions n teams of Pittsburg, Kansas City, and Boston.

Replying recently to inquiries from the Industrial Commission, Mr. John Rockefeller said that "it is too late to argue about advantages of industrial combinations. They are a necessity, and if Americans are to have the privilege of extending their business in all the States of the Union and into foreign countries as well, they are a necessity on a large scale and require the agency of more than one corporation." Mr. Rockefeller makes these suggestions regarding legislation to control trusts:—First, federal legislation, under which corporations may be created and regulated, if that be possible. Second, in lieu thereof, state legislation as nearly uniform as possible, encouraging combinations of persons and capital for the purpose of carrying on industries, but permitting state supervision, not of a character to hamper industries, but sufficient to prevent frauds upon the public.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the sixty-ninth report of the Court of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 17th February, 1900, at noon.

To the proprietors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and balance-sheet for the half year ending 31st December, 1899.

The net profits for that period, including $963,532.06, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provisions for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to $3,118,624.31.

The directors recommend the transfer of $500,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of reserve fund, which fund will then stand at $11,500,000.

After making this transfer and deducting remuneration to directors there remains for appropriation $2,603,624 31, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of one pound and ten shillings per share, which at 4/6 will absorb $533,333,33, and a bonus of ten shillings sterling per share, which at 4/6 will absorb $177,777,78.

The difference in exchange between 4/6, the rate at which the dividend and bonus are declared, and 1/11⅛, the rate of the day, amounts to $931,669.64.

The balance, $960.843,56, to be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. N. A. Siebs has been elected chairman for the year 1900 and Mr. R. Shewan deputy chairman.

Mr. E. Shellim and Mr. Robert H. Hill having resigned their seats, Mr. D. M. Moses and Mr. R. L. Richardson have been invited to fill the vacancies; these appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

Mr. A. Haupt, Mr. A. McConachie, and Mr. P. Sachse retire in rotation, but, being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

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AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. A. G. Wood, the latter acting for Mr. C. S. Sharp, who is absent from the colony.

Mr. F. Henderson offers himself for re election, so also does Mr. C. S. Sharp, who is shortly returning to the colony.

R. M. GRAY, Chairman.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1900.

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO.

The following report was submitted to the annual meeting held on Thursday evening :—

St. George's Day was celebrated by a very successful Ball last year, and the Society, in conjunction with the St. Andrew's Society, arranged a very successful Entertainment, the entire proceeds of which, yen 1,513.00, were devoted to the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund in aid of the Widows and Orphans of British Soldiers.

The combined Societies have also opened Subscription Lists in aid of this Fund and are pleased to report that yen 2,953.84=£300 have been remitted home, and there is still an available balance of yen 832 000.

HARRY J. SHARP, Hon. Sec.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.	Yen.
To Advertising	26.00
,, Stationery, Books of Rules, etc.	24 25
,, Hire of Room for Meeting	10 00
	60.25
,, Balance in hand	61.75
	122 00
By Subscriptions 122 Members at Y. 1	122.00
	122.00
By Balance in hand	61.75
Dependency 1 Subscription uncollected Y. 1	

BALL ACCOUNT.	Yen.
To Decorations	300.35
,, Hire of Public Hall	100.00
,, Supper, Wines, Cigars, etc.	1125.85
,, Donation to Band (H.M.S. Barfleur).	25.00
,, Programmes' Invitations, Stationery, etc.	116.12
,, Collector's fee	20.00
	1687 32
,, Balance in hand	56.68
By 98 Subscribers at Y. 10 each. Y. 980 00	
,, 382 Guests at Yen 2 each ... 764 00	1744.00
	1744.00
By Balance in hand	56 68

E. & O. E.

F. J. HALL, Hon. Treasurer.

February 10th, 1900.

ROMAN CATHOLICS AND THE WAR.

Cardinal Vaughan has issued the following circular letter :—

Archbishop's House, Westminster, Dec. 20, 1899.

Rev. dear Father,—The fortune of war in South Africa fills the public mind with justifiable anxiety.

While the negotiations were proceeding public prayers *pro pace* were offered throughout the diocese in every Mass when the rubric permitted. Since the declaration of war prayers have been offered in like manner *pro tempore belli*. These prayers continue.

A solemn requiem was sung last month at the Pro-Cathedral for the souls of those who had fallen in battle. A second public requiem will be sung at the Oratory on the first day available. Functions in other churches will be duly announced.

In addition to prayers for the dead, we should now offer public and united supplications for our Army, officers and men, and for speedy success to the British arms.

Whatever doubt was entertained as to the lawfulness of enforcing the British demands by recourse to the sword, there can be no doubt now that we have been forced into war, and that justice is on our side.

It has been clearly ascertained that Boer leaders in both Republics had long since determined to strike for the establishment of the Boer supremacy throughout South Africa; that military preparations on a large scale had been secretly carried out for that purpose. It is also clear that the negotiations for a peaceable solution of the difficulties that had arisen were suddenly broken off by the ultimatum declaring war within a few hours, unless England at once withdrew her soldiers from her own colony or forbade her troopships to enter her own African ports. There can be no mistake as to the intention; the invasion of British territory has been accompanied by a formal and repeated declaration of the annexation of the invaded territory to the Boer Republic. It is always lawful and sometimes necessary to resist invasion and annexation *vi et armis*.

It is now a question of something more than of what is lawful. The question is, Shall the British Empire be allowed to fall to pieces by supineness and by want of determination and self-denial? The answer is, No.

This Empire has been raised up by the same Providence that called the Roman Empire into existence, and, as God used the one towards the attainment of His own Divine purposes of mercy, so does He seem to be using the other.

In spite of the blunders and crimes committed by many of her sons in building up the Empire, the Empire has made for peace, for liberty, for law and order. An Empire that has power to establish these conditions, which are preliminary to the spread of Christianity, is possessed of a great and sacred trust, not to be surrendered until God Himself shall demand the surrender. At the present moment countless millions in the Dark Continent depend for their temporal and external salvation upon the establishment of that reign of law which usually follows British supremacy.

Let us remember that we are "as a drop of a bucket," that we are His instruments to be used or cast aside at His good pleasure. Let us not provoke Him to reject us by pride, self-righteousness, and contempt of others. Rather let us humble ourselves as a nation before Him, confess our sins, and repent.

While we realize with grateful confidence the most honourable mission with which God seems to have entrusted us, we must endeavour not to be altogether unworthy of it, and must determine to make God, both in national and private life, the first object of our love and service. And then, we must be ready personally and collectively to make every sacrifice necessary or useful for the fulfilment of His trust.

For these purposes, you will please to recite on Sundays, until further orders, after the principal Mass or at Benediction, the prayers to be found in the Manual among the "Occasional Prayers," and headed "In times of Calamity."

Believe me, Rev. dear Father, to be your faithful and devoted servant,

HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

THE BURMO-CHINESE RAILWAY QUESTION.

A correspondent learns that Captain Wingate's recent journey from China into Burmah has led him to take the same views as to a railway extension from Burmah into Yunnan as those of another recent traveller, Mr. Carey. Captain Wingate has been in eleven out of the eighteen provinces of China, and thinks Yunnan and the adjacent Kweichow the poorest of the whole. It would be much better, he thinks, for those concerned in the extension of railways in Burmah to turn their attention to the vast tracts still existing in an undeveloped state in that province and to Siam. If in place of dreaming about railways to cities in South Western China the line now in course of construction to Lashio, in the Northern Shan States, were completed, and the line extended to Bhamo and thence to Momein, they would, Captain Wingate says, attract almost all the trade that is likely to pass through Burmah for many years to come. Such a line would be of value politically as well as commercially. He regards the natural trade routes of a large part of Yunnan as being by Canton, Hankow, and Tong-king, and not by Burmah at all; and no railways will alter this. As to mineral wealth, this has never been investigated by experts. It is curious how unanimous all competent travellers in this region are against railway extension from Burmah into Yunnan.

The same correspondent states that he has seen an Indian authority who assures him that the Viceroy's Government have at this moment no intention of proposing any extension of railway policy in the immediate future. The whole matter, it seems, has been carefully considered since Lord Curzon went to India, and the conclusion is that the country can do much better with railways within its own borders. In particular, the statistics of the existing trade between Burmah and South-western China show that its volume is very small and is diminishing, while the trade with all the States adjacent to Burmah is increasing, in some instance by leaps and bounds. The correspondent adds that he believes Lord Curzon entertains the opinion that there is no trade worth speaking of in Yunnan, that Szechuen trade will always use the Yangtzse, and that railway development in Burmah is badly required and will be followed by a large increase of trade in such regions as the northern and southern Shan States and in the Chin country. It is probable that the line now being completed from Mandalay north-eastward to the Salween will stop at the Kunlon Ferry, and that its extension northwards into China will be left for some future time.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, Feb. 10th :—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	17,069,227
Amount of convertible notes issued	225,768,772
Government deposits	59,062,135
General deposits	4,989,721
Exchange liability	23,468
Total	336,913,325

CR.	
Discount notes	69,448,698
Foreign discount notes	14,925,560
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	66,101,821
Exchange liability	921,764
Government bonds	55,855,692
Property	2,020,959
Bullion and Specie	705,658,830
Total	336,913,325

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	229,695,747
Bullion and Specie :—	
Gold	100,108,740
Silver	4,000,000
Total	104,108,740
Securities :—	
Government bonds	20,128,120
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	12,487,441
Commercial notes	70,977,326
Total	125,516,367

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	900,758
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	1,921,358
Government deposits	—	796,088
General deposits	—	1,286,325

SIR WILLIAM BUTLER.

A DEFENCE AND AN EXPLANATION.

"X" writing in *The Westminster Budget*, says Sir William Butler is probably at the present time the best-abused man in the British Isles. Ignorant people call him a "Pro-Boer." The amateur strategists at the club—and for the nonce the clubs seem to be peopled exclusively by amateur-strategists—say roundly, from their posts on the hearthrug, that "Butler" (they never allow the unfortunate gentlemen any title or prefix to his name) is to blame for this, that, and the other; for the inaccurate counting of the Boer guns, for the underestimate which was formed of the forces which the enemy could put into the field, for the numerical weakness of our army in South Africa at the outbreak of hostilities, and for a thousand other things besides. The wild accusations hurled at Napoleon in the delightful parody of the verses of a forgotten poet, preserved to us in "Rejected Addresses," are scarcely more exaggerated than some of the complaints preferred against Sir William Butler to-day. Many people appear to believe that this fine soldier is quite capable of "filling the butchers' shops with large blue flies," and of

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committing every other atrocity possible and impossible.

A rush of "patriotism" to the head is perhaps accountable for this, as for many other things; but as the bulk of the Press in England has seen fit to join its voice in this senseless clamour—contenting itself with telling people what they want to hear, rather than what they ought to know—I think that the time has come to place the public in possession of a few facts concerning the brave man who has been thus mercilessly thrust into the pillory, while his official position renders it impossible for him to defend himself from the calumny and insult to which he is daily exposed.

To begin with, then, I state fearlessly—and the Blue-books which must eventually appear, if printed *in extenso*, will certainly bear out my contention—that Sir William Butler's sole offence lies in the fact that he failed to estimate rightly the pugnacity of the Cabinet, and, further, that he, more clearly than any other man, foresaw the magnitude of the struggle in which we were engaging with so light a heart, and the strain which would be put upon our national resources before we could hope to bring it to a successful issue.

Everybody knows that Sir William Butler was appointed to act as Governor of Cape Colony and High Commissioner of South Africa during Sir Alfred Milner's short visit to England. Everybody does not know, or, having known, has forgotten, that up to the time of his departure for Europe Sir Alfred Milner had scrupulously refrained from adopting any strong line of policy as regards the Transvaal and the grievances of the Uitlanders. Sir William Butler, to whom no definite instructions were given, was left to fill Sir Alfred Milner's place, and he proceeded to do what in nine cases out of ten would have been the thing most earnestly desired by the Government which he was serving. That is to say, he did all in his power to keep things quiet, and to avoid what in common parlance we term a "row." Everyone who has served in outlying portions of the Empire is aware that this is the line which most generally commends itself to the authorities in Downing Street; and if any blame attaches to Sir William Butler in this matter, it is that he was somewhat more outspoken in the cause of peace, somewhat more definitely opposed to magnifying grievances than a more reticent man would have been. This is to be accounted for in two ways. To begin with, Sir William belongs to a race which has the gift of speech in a marked degree, and his blood undoubtedly led him to say more than was strictly necessary. Also, Sir William Butler distrusted the capitalists of South Africa and all their ways and works. That monstrous monument of criminality and ineptitude, the Jameson Raid, was to him a thing impossible to forgive. That the men who lent themselves to such an undertaking were capable of driving the Imperial Government into hasty, ill-considered, and unjustifiable action seemed to him to be certain; and, believing this, he was determined that, come what might, he would not aid them in any of their schemes. But behind all this there lay one other reasons for the maintenance of peace, if peace could by any means be maintained. Sir William Butler saw only too clearly what the public at large is beginning to realise at last by the aid of a humiliating experience, that the Government in England and the authorities at the War Office failed utterly to appreciate the magnitude of the campaign which would be needed to subdue the Boer Republics, the disabilities under which our troops would labour, and the difficulties which would be experienced in fighting with our infantry against so warlike and so mobile a foe.

Meanwhile, Sir Alfred Milner—a wise man in his generation—was personally acquainting himself with the views of the Cabinet, before committing himself to a policy so momentous, and when he at length returned to South Africa he knew that he would be backed by the Government were he to decide to bring all pending questions to the grim arbitrament of war. Landing in Cape Colony with his mind practically made up as to the course of future events, he found that the speeches of his *locum tenens* were incidents hampering his actions. His own views and those of Sir William Butler on all the question at which we have glanced were widely opposed, and in the end he made representations upon the subject to the Colonial Office. The cogs of the machine clutched one another, and the War Office was set in motion. Something resembling a reprimand was addressed to Sir William Butler, who at once acted in the generous and unselfish manner which was to be expected from him. He pointed out that he had done what he believed to be the thing most desired by the Imperial Government; that he had every right to believe that he would be supported in such action, both on account of all that had gone before and from the absence of any definite instruction as to the line which it was desired that he should take; and he wound up by offering to resign his command if his presence in South Africa in any way hampered the executive. As we all know, his resignation was accepted by the War Office, though as a proof that his action had not been of a kind incapable of defence, he was promptly gazetted to a command which is technically superior to that from which he was removed. This move had also the effect of preventing Sir William Butler from uttering a word in explanation or defence of the conduct which, during the last few months, has been made the object of so much thoughtless abuse.

But before he left the Cape Sir William Butler gave some advice which, if followed, might well have altered the whole course of the present campaign. Natal must be abandoned so far as its northern districts were concerned, he said. A force of some twenty thousand men must be placed to guard the line of the Tugela, and an army of not less than a hundred thousand more must be employed in the advance on Bloemfontein through Cape Colony. At the time the figures were regarded as ridiculously large. The experience of the past few weeks show only too plainly how accurately Sir William Butler gauged the seriousness of the situation with which the Government was confronted.

Sir William Butler had not been at the Cape for a very long time before the War Office took the disastrous step of accepting his resignation, and the shortcomings of the local Intelligence Department must be attributed to the neglect of his predecessors rather than to any failure upon his part. When all is known it will be found that he estimated the task before us with a sure accuracy in which our other military authorities have been sadly lacking; that the loss of his advice and local knowledge at a critical moment is a price paid for prejudice which is positively incalculable; and that the senseless outcry raised against him by the Press, which renders it practically impossible for a weak-kneed Department to send him back to a place where the want of a really scientific general is making itself so wofully felt, is robbing the country of one of its best weapons. England is rightly proud of her soldiers in South Africa, but the actions of her generals have not hitherto been of a character to make her throb with enthusiasm. We are waiting breathlessly to see what Sir Redvers Buller can do; Sir Charles Warren, in whom many of those who know centre their best hopes, only landed in Capetown a day or two ago; Sir William Butler, who knows the tricks of the difficult game better, perhaps, than either, is eating his heart out in England, scorned, abused and slandered, because he foresaw more clearly than his fellows the horrors of the present, and strove valiantly to avert what he believed to be a nationaly calamity.

CHINESE TURKESTAN.

Captain H. H. P. Deasy recently arrived in London after spending two years in exploring and survey work in Central Asia. Some particulars have been published of Captain Deasy's various journeys, and of the results which he has obtained. Throughout his travels he met with the greatest obstruction from the Chinese. In spite of this, however, he succeeded in accurately surveying all but a few miles of the unknown parts of the Yarkand River. After completing his survey of the Yarkand River, Captain Deasy went to Kashgar, in order, if possible, to arrange for another journey in the mountains to the south of Polu. In the negotiations with the Taotai, Captain Deasy received every assistance from Mr. Macartney, but, unfortunately for British interests, and for the comfort of British travellers in Chinese Turkestan, Mr. Macartney's official position is not such as to lend authority to any representations which he may make to the Chinese officials. Mr. Macartney is officially designated "Special Assistant for Chinese Affairs to the Resident in Kashmir," and his official status is, to to say the least, somewhat doubtful. But what is perhaps of more practical importance is that Mr. Macartney is not provided with even a single Sepoy by way of escort, while Russia is represented at Kashgar by a Consul General with an escort of nearly a hundred Cossacks under the command of a Russian officer. It may easily be imagined how difficult is the situation in which Mr. Macartney at times finds himself placed. The Taotai, and even subordinate officials, do not hesitate to remind Mr. Macartney of his want of official status, and of the fact that he has no escort, when it is convenient for them to do so, and it says much for Mr. Macartney's personal influence that he has been able to do as much as he has in fact done to maintain British interests at Kashgar. The system of government in Chinese Turkestan is simplicity itself. The officials receive no salaries from the State. The Taotai, or Governor, must send a certain tribute to Peking. He orders the Ambans, or district magistrates, to collect a certain amount in their districts, the amount in each case being considerably in excess of the sum remitted to Peking. The Ambans instruct the Begs to collect a certain amount of revenue which will leave them a considerable surplus after satisfying the Taotai. The Begs, in their turn, repeat the process with their subordinate officials, and so the process goes on.

SPION KOP.

New York, January 17.

A *Sun* cable from Spearman's Farm, Natal, dated January 17, 9.10 p.m., says:—Lord Dundonald, with a mounted brigade, pushed suddenly forward on Thursday last and seized the Springfield ridge. Then, hurrying forward, he took a very strong position at Zwartskop, commanding Potgieter's Drift, finding the Boers totally unprepared for the British advance. A number of the enemy were bathing in the river when Lord Dundonald's force appeared.

General Lyttelton's brigade was sent to hold the position. The whole British force, with the exception of a garrison to hold Colenso, advanced without delay. General Hildyard's command is now at Springfield. The South African Light Horse desired to bring a port or ferry-boat to the south side of the river and six men of that command therefore swam the river and brought the boat over under Lieutenant Carlyle.

After a wait of four days the British advance was resumed yesterday. Lyttelton's brigade crossed the drift in the evening and is now holding the kopjes on the British right. Warren's division made a left flank attack on the enemy. The remainder of the column is now crossing the river.

The second edition of the London *Telegraph* publishes a dispatch from Spearman, or Spearman's Farm, which says that General Lyttelton, after he crossed the Tugela, seized with little opposition a line of low ridges a mile from Potgieter's Drift. Howitzers were carried across the river during the night. Naval guns and howitzers effectively shelled the Boer position from Mount Alice, near Swartzkop.

General Warren crossed the river six miles farther west, near Wagon Drift, in the face of a hot and heavy fire from Boer cannon and rifles. He has effected a most satisfactory lodgment two miles farther toward Sproenkop.

The difficulties in crossing the swollen river are great. The wagons are quite covered.

New York, January 21.

A cable from Spearman's Camp, dated January 21, 8.35 p.m., says:—To-day there was another stubborn fight from dawn to dark, the British slowly gaining ground. There has been constant musketry firing to the northwest. The British gained the position the Boers were holding on the rocky ground beyond. There is fighting in front and on both flanks, covering a very wide range of territory.

At 10 'clock this morning the Dublin Regiment carried a strong position at the point of the bayonet. A correspondent to-day visited a field hospital on the battlefield on Coventry's farm. The buildings were full of wounded, about 200 men. None of them are seriously wounded. Colonel Hamilton, attached to Clery's Staff, Captain Vaughan, and Captain Muriel are among the slightly wounded. Warren is confident and careful. He prefers taking five days to accomplish his object than to risk defeat by attempting to make too fast an advance.

The British casualties in yesterday's fighting were 279. Captain Hensley of the Dublin Regiment was shot in the forehead and killed.

Spearman's Camp, January 21, 10 20 p.m.

After ten hours of continuous fighting and terrible fire Generals Hart and Clery yesterday advanced 1000 yards. The Boers maintained an irregular fire during the night, but the British outposts did not reply.

This morning at daybreak the Boers opened a stiff fire. The British stood to the guns where they had slept and the engagement was renewed vigorously. The field artillery poured shrapnel into the enemy's trenches.

A rumour that Ladysmith had been relieved enlivened the British, who sent up a ringing cheer. This was taken for an advance. The first kopje was carried at the point of the bayonet, and the Boers retreated to the next kopje, which, like most others, was strewn with immense boulders, surmounted by mounds on the summit.

The British advanced steadily and the Boers relaxed slightly. The latter did not show such tenacity as previously. Their Nordenfeldts were

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fired at long intervals and their cannon but seldom. Apparently the Boers were short of ammunition. All day the roar of musketry fire continued. The British took three Boer positions on the mountain and found shelter behind the boulders.

London, Jan. 22.

The *Telegraph* has the following dispatch dated Saturday from Spearman's Camp:

"General Warren's forces have fought a deliberately planned and successful battle. This important engagement occurred to the west of Spion Kop and practically resulted in our securing the rough tableland which constituted the key of the Boer position.

"After a fierce cannonade had been directed against the enemy's line for some time, the British troops assembled near an eminence known as Three Tree Hill, which forms the centre of a semi circle of crests, crowned with the enemy's works and some six miles long. Steadily and with great dash the British infantry went forward in the face of a heavy fusillade from Mauser rifles. Our troops were disposed as follows: Major General Woodgate's brigade on the right, Major-General Hart's brigade in the centre and Major-General Hildyard's brigade on the left.

"Soon after midday the battle on the hill became furious, and from 3 in the afternoon until 6 the fire from cannon and rifles was extremely heavy. Point after point of the enemy's positions were seized by the British troops and eventually the Boer right broke and was forced back toward Spion Kop.

"Our force is bivouacking upon the ground it captured so gallantly. During the action the enemy brought into play new guns, one of which was a quick-firer. In to-day's fighting our losses were trifling, but the Boers suffered heavily.

"While General Warren was fighting an effectual demonstration was proceeding at Potgieter's Drift, the enemy's positions near there being vigorously shelled by the British batteries."

London, January 22.

The Times has the following, dated Sunday evening from Spearman's Camp:

"All yesterday and to-day General Warren has been attacking the Boers. Their position is a long ridge, four miles northwest of Trichard's Drift. Ascending from the river at dawn yesterday Saturday) our guns occupied a kopje on the east of the range.

"The enemy's defences were chiefly stone sangars extending forward and right along the spur, making the position semi-circular. At 11 o'clock General Hart's brigade advanced on the left along a rocky, uneven spur, into the semi-circle, until he could fire from three directions. Taking advantage of all possible cover the troops advanced to a point within 500 yards of the enemy's right wing, but they did not advance beyond the edge of the cover. There they remained until dark and bivouacked.

"In addition to Maxim-Nordenfeldts the enemy fired shrapnel captured at Colenso. Their fire was intermittent and always temporarily silenced by our masked batteries. At night the enemy's right wing evacuated its position."

London, January 22.

The *Daily Chronicle* has received the following dated January 22d, 4.10 p.m., from Spearman's Camp:—"The Boers admit twenty-one casualties during General Lyttelton's skirmish on Saturday. General Warren continues pushing forward, though he is necessarily making very slow progress, as the Boers are numerous and strongly intrenched. Our infantry are working over parallel ridges, with Lord Dundonald's cavalry lying well out on the left flank and awaiting developments. The Boers contest every inch of the ground.

"This morning General Warren's artillery reopened fire, but the Boers did not reply and our fire became less hot. The naval guns in front have been quiet. A Boer prisoner who was brought in boasted that it would take us three months to reach Ladysmith."

The Times publishes the following from Frere Camp, dated yesterday (Monday):—"On Friday General Warren began a long, circuitous march from Trichard's Drift westward. This was abandoned owing to the fact that the long ridge which runs from Spion Kop was occupied by the enemy, who commanded the route, rendering the maintenance of communications for transports impossible. He therefore returned and camped for the night about two miles from Trichard's Drift. On Saturday a frontal attack on the ridges was ordered."

The correspondent then describes Saturday's fighting (already cabled) and adds: "The men behaved splendidly under an incessant heavy cross fire in a burning sun for seven hours. Our casualties were for the most part slight, the proportion of killed and wounded being extremely small."

Just before midnight the War Office issued the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Spearman's Camp, Jan. 22, 6 p.m.

The following casualties are reported in General Hart's brigade as the result of yesterday's fighting:

"Killed:—Captain Ryall, Yorkshire Regiment and five men.

"Wounded:—Second Lieutenant Andrews, Border Regiment; Captain MacLaughlan, Inniskillings; Lieutenant Barlow, Yorkshire Regiment and seventy-five men; missing, eight men. Other casualties will be forwarded when received."

London, January 24, 2.15 a.m.

The following dispatch from General Buller, dated Spearman's Camp, January 23, 6.20 p.m. has just been posted:

"Warren holds the position he gained two days ago. In front of him, at about 1400 yards, is the enemy's position, west of Spion Kop. It is higher ground than Warren's position, so it is impossible to see into it properly. It can be approached only over bare open slopes and the ridges held by Warren are so steep that guns cannot be placed on them. But we are shelling the enemy's position with our howitzers and field artillery, placed on lower ground behind infantry. The enemy is replying with Creusot and other artillery. In this duel the advantage rests with us, as we appear to be searching his trenches and his artillery fire is not causing us much loss.

"An attempt will be made to seize Spion Kop, which forms the left of the enemy's position facing Trichard's Drift and which divides it from the position facing Potgieter's Drift. It has considerable command over all the enemy's intrenchment."

The *Daily Chronicle* publishes the following heliographed message from Ladysmith, dated January 22d, by way of Swartz Kop, January 23d: "Yesterday we could see British shells bursting close to the Boer camp on the plateau this side of Potgieter's Drift, but the camp still remains in position there to-day. We heard very heavy firing all this morning. The bombardment here is slack, but the Boer big gun on Mount Bulwana is still firing."

The Times publishes a letter from Ladysmith, dated December 19th, the writer of which says that the besieged have been on half rations for at least two months.

As we know, the position, when gained, proved valueless, and was evacuated.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, Feb. 9.

Buller has captured a kopje called Krantzploof, which commands the shortest road to Ladysmith, and it is unlikely that the Boers will succeed in dislodging us. The enemy on Tuesday endeavoured to retake the position, but were repulsed. MacDonald is holding the highest part of the kopje and the Boers are on the lower part. Unfortunately the slope is too steep to mount artillery.

The Boers are very active about Colesberg, shelling the convoys to the British camps.

Gatacre's fighting yesterday was chiefly an affair of outport. The Boers retired on the British reinforcing the outlying camps.

Mr. Gerald Wyndham, Under Secretary of State for War, has announced that it has been decided to send seventeen more battalions of Militia and 300 more Yeomanry to South Africa, bringing the grand total to 194,000 men, exclusive of ineffectives.

The casualties at Potgieter's Drift up to noon on Tuesday, were two officers killed, 15 wounded, and about 216 men killed and wounded.

Shanghai, Feb. 10.

A Boer despatch from Ladysmith dated the 8th instant says that the British retired across the Tugela that morning, abandoning the position after the Boer bombardment.

Later.

Macdonald was engaged on the whole of Wednesday repelling a series of attacks at Koodoosberg. His casualties were 50. Methuen ordered him to retire to the Modder River. (This is obscure.)

It is understood that the British Government's plans include the addition of 37 batteries and of a third battalion to numerous regiments, as well as the erection of a barracks for artillery headquarters on Salisbury Plain.

Shanghai, Feb. 11.

Reuter's Agent telegraphs from Rensberg that it is a mistake to suppose that the British had in any wise surrounded the Boers in the Colesberg district. The enemy occupy a wide semi-circle on the north of the town, including all the avenues to the Free State. The Boers are very active, threatening our right flank and stopping our wagon traffic.

Reuter telegraphs from Springfield Camp, under date of the 9th inst., that finding the enemy in great strength on the Brakfontein Hills to the left, and the position exposed to convergent fire, Buller decided that it was impossible to advance by this route without needless sacrifice of life and ordered a retreat on Wednesday night under cover of the big guns on Zwarts Kop. The superiority of the enemy's shell fire rendered an advance impracticable.

The House of Commons have adopted the Address to the Throne by 229 votes to 39.

The supplementary Army estimates provide 14,000,000 pounds sterling and 120,000 more men, making the grand total 339,853.

Shanghai, Feb. 11.

The Times correspondent, wiring from Springfield, says that although the infantry, by a very determined assault, might have forced a way through the Boers' centre, it would have been impossible to secure the lines of communication and therefore a retreat was decided upon. After crossing the river the whole force moved beyond the range of the enemy's guns.

Shanghai, Feb. 12.

It is reported from Pretoria that the Ladysmith garrison on Wednesday night tried to force a passage in the direction of the Free State laager. No details are given.

Roberts has arrived at the Modder River, where he had an enthusiastic reception. He inspected the Highlanders in camp and congratulated the Brigade on the steadiness shown by it at Koodoosberg.

Skirmishes continue at Colesberg.

News from Kimberley, dated the 6th inst., says that the Boers continue bombarding the place. The women and children are bravely bearing the hardships of the siege.

Sir M. Moses has been named a member of the Bombay Council.

Shanghai, Feb. 13.

There are various indications that the Boers are fully prepared to meet Roberts when his plans have developed.

There is increased activity round Methuen and at Colesberg.

The advance of the Boers towards Zululand is causing some anxiety.

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Buller's casualties were mostly slight wounds.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Rensberg under date 11th inst. that two patrols, consisting mostly of Australians, were the previous day surrounded by the enemy. Some escaped, several were wounded, and 12 were captured.

Later.

In the House of Peers the Marquis of Lansdowne (Minister for War) explained the Government's Army scheme. He said that the first duty was to provide a field army of 130,000 men which would form a reservoir for further reinforcements for South Africa. The Government proposed to add to the Regular Army 15 battalions, 43 batteries, and seven Cavalry regiments. This proposal was changed in the sense of adding 30,000 regulars and 50,000 auxiliaries, making a total force of nearly 600,000.

[Note.—This telegram is somewhat obscure. The figures are unmistakeable, but the wording as to the "proposal" and the "change" effected in it is not clear.—Ed. *J. M.*]

Shanghai, Feb. 14.

Kimberley was severely bombarded on the 8th inst.

The Boers have driven in our outposts on the west flank at Rensberg. There were some casualties.

Lord Wemyss, speaking in the House of Lords, gave notice of a motion in favour of a modified form of compulsory service for home defence.

Mr. Wyndham, Under Secretary for War, speaking in the House of Commons, stated that the Government had been urged to adopt a modified form of conscription, but this was not intended. It seemed unnecessary in view of the volume of volunteer effort in every part of the Empire.

Later.

The eastern flank of the British position at Rensberg being threatened, our force at Slingersfontein has been obliged to retire to Rensberg.

Shanghai, Feb. 15.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Rensburg, dated the 13th instant, that under pressure of a strong force of Boers, who likewise mounted big guns on Bustardnek, commanding the surrounding country, the British evacuated every post westward of Rensburg, including Coleskop.

Later.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent telegraphs from Rensburg that there is severe fighting with heavy losses on both sides. It is doubtful whether it will be possible to hold Rensburg.

Buller's casualties from the 5th to the 7th were 26 killed and 324 wounded.

The Eighth Division has been ordered to get ready its clothing and equipment immediately for South Africa.

Orders have been received at Woolwich to despatch to Africa several batteries of Maxim-Nordenfeldts.

("Hongkong Volunteer Gazette" Service specially wired to the "Japan Mail.")

Shanghai, February 9.

A Boer despatch from the neighbourhood of Ladysmith, dated the 6th, says that on the 5th the British crossed the Tugela at Pont Drift and Mollen Drift under cover of a furious bombardment. The burghers repulsed the British at Pont Drift, causing them to re-cross in great confusion. The cannonade was of unprecedented fierceness on the 5th, and was resumed on the 6th with more guns.

Shanghai, Feb. 10.

The *Standard's* correspondent says that Lyttleton's Brigade were engaged in the main attack. The Durhams and the Rifle Brigade carried two Kopjes at the point of the bayonet and bivouacked there.

The Times' correspondent says that the enemy on Tuesday were successful at the northern end of the Kopje, but reinforcements arriving, the position was recarried at the point of the bayonet.

General Buller on Wednesday began to advance, making a feint frontal attack. He advanced to Brakfontein where the Boer artillery opened fire, sending several shells amongst the artillery, who retired an hour later. Meanwhile the British attacked vigorously the enemy's right. The Royal Engineers quickly constructed a pontoon bridge, and the cannon, hidden by the trees, bombarded the Boers heavily, surprising them. The high hill, the continuation of the Brakfontein range, was captured.

Shanghai, Feb. 14.

Colonel Clements, at Rensberg, reports that the Boers on the 9th inst. tried to turn the British right flank, but were repulsed, and the position was maintained. The casualties were small.

Reports from Kimberley state that the Boer force is increasing. On the 7th the enemy were constructing trenches to the eastward, having arrived from Mafeking with additional guns.

It is reported that Japan has allowed the Government to take over four 4.7 inch quickfirers ordered by her at Armstrong's. Other European States are acting in a similar manner regarding orders being executed at the Vickers-Maxim works, England thereby acquiring one hundred guns.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France in Tokyo)

Saigon, Feb. 9.

General Buller crossed the Tugela at two points on the 5th, marching on Ladysmith. The English attack has failed at one of the points, but they succeeded in getting possession of a hill called Brankfontein. The final result is unknown, but it is believed that the march of the British is arrested.

Saigon, Feb. 10.

Buller was engaged during the whole of the day on Tuesday, and the combat continued on Wednesday morning.

Saigon, Feb. 11.

From the Head Quarters at Springfield, 9th Feb:—

"The position to the north of the Tugela being exposed to cannonade by the Boers, General Buller decided that to continue the forward march would involve useless sacrifice of life. In consequence, the English retired on Wednesday to the south of the Tugela, under cover of his artillery."

Saigon, Feb. 12.

The London journals are unanimous in asserting that the retreat of Buller is due to the superiority of the Boer guns.

The Commission of the Chamber of Deputies has decided to propose the removal of Déroulède from his seat as deputy.

Saigon, Feb. 14.

In consequence of the attack of the Boers the English have had to fall back on Rensberg.

Lord Roberts has assumed the command at the Modder River.

The French Senate will reform itself into a High Court to adjudicate the affair of Marcel-Hebert.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 459.

Key move, Kt to Q 8.

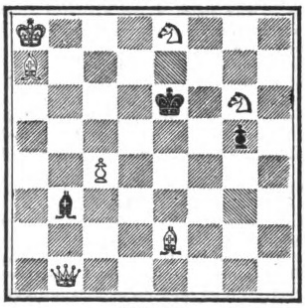
Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 461.

By F. A. L. Kuskop.

First Prize *Otago Witness* (N Z) Tourney.

Black.



White.

White mate in three moves.

Games No. 563.

Below follows the full score of an interesting game played in the recent Kolisch memorial tournament:—

SICILIAN DEFENCE.

White—Brody. Black—Maroczy.

WHITE.	BLACK	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P QB4	23 Q B2	B K2
2 Kt KB3	P K3	24 K B	Q Q3
3 P Q4	PxP	25 Q K2	Q Q4
4 KtxP	Kt KB3	26 P B4	Q K5
5 Kt QB3	B Kt5	27 P QK3	P KR4
6 B Q3	Kt B3	28 B B4	Q Kt8
7 Kt K2	P Q4	29 Q Kt2	Q Q6ch
8 Castles	PxP	30 Q K2	Q Q5
9 KtxP	KtxKt	31 Q Q2	Q K5
10 BxKt	B Q3	32 Q K2	Q B4
11 P KB4	Castles	33 Q K5	Q K8
12 B K3	P K2	34 Q Kt2	Q Q6ch
13 Kt Q4	B Q2	35 Q K2	Q Q3
14 Q R5	P KK3	36 Q Q2	Q R6
15 Q B3	B B3	37 Q K2	B B q
16 KtxKt	BxKt	38 B K2	B K2
17 BxB	PxB	39 P B5	QxRP
18 KR Q q	Q B2	40 Q K5	Q Kt2ch
19 P B3	KR Q	41 K K2	Q B7ch
20 RxR	RxR	42 K K q	Q K8ch
21 R Q q	P QB4	43 K K2	Q B7ch
22 RxRch	BxR	Drawn	

Game No. 564

(From "Blackburne's Games.")

SCOTCH OPENING.

Played in the Divan Tournament in 1876:—

White—Blackburne. Black—Macdonnell.

WHITE.	BLACK	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	17 Q B3	QxP
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	18 Q B6	B K3
3 P Q4	PxP	19 P B4	P Kt5
4 KtxP	B B4	20 P B5	B Q4(d)
5 Kt Kt3(a)	B K3	21 R B2	Q K5
6 Kt B3	Kt B3(b)	22 R QB q	P R4(d)
7 B KK5	P KR3	23 Kt Q2	Q K q
8 B R4	Q K2	24 P Kt4(f)	R Q2
9 B Q3	P K4	25 P Kt5	Kt Kt q
10 B Kt3	P Q4	26 QxKtP	Q Q q(g)
11 Castles	B Kt5	27 Q R5	R K q
12 Q Q2	Cstls.(QR)	28 P K6	QR K2
13 PxP	KtxP	29 PxP	R K8ch
14 B B5ch(c)	BxB	30 R B q	RxRch
15 KtxKt	Q K5	31 KtxR	Resigns
16 KtxBch	KPxKt		

NOTES.

(a) A suggestion of mine and played occasionally, but not so good as the usual B to K 3.

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(b) Zukertort played K K to Kt 2.
(c) This losses a Pawn. Kt takes Kt was better.
(d) The capture of the Knight was quite safe.
(e) Again, B takes Kt gives Black an advantage.
(f) White now establishes a crushing attack.
(g) Nothing better. If B to B 3; 27—P takes B, P takes Q; 28—P takes R dbl. ch, K takes P; 29—R to B 7 ch, K to Q sq; 30—Kt to B sq, P to R 5; 31—R to Q 2 ch, Kt Q 2; 32—B to B 4, followed by R takes P, etc.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern 1	Sa. Feb. 17
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 2	Tu. Feb. 20
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Km. of India	Th. Feb. 22
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Gaelic 3	Th. Feb. 22
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Sydney 4	Th. Feb. 22
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Feb. 26
America	T. K. K	Nippon Maru 5	W. Feb. 28
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa Mar. 3
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Th Mar. 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	M. Mar 12
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of China	M. Mar. 12

1 Left Nagasaki on the 26th inst
2 Left San Francisco on the 1st inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 13th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 14th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 9th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of Japan	F. Feb. 16
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Feb. 21
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. Feb. 21
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W Feb. 21
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of India	F. Feb. 23
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. Feb. 24
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. Feb. 24
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Th. Mar. 1
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Sydney	F. Mar. 2
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Tu. Mar. 6
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	F. Mar. 9
America	P. M. Co.	China	W. Mar. 14

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Thyra, Norwegian steamer, 2,419, Edwardsen, 9th Feb.,—San Francisco via San Diego, 8th Jan., Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Amagi Kan (12), Japanese gunboat, 926, Com. M. Asai, 8th Feb.,—Yokosuka, 8th Feb.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 9th Feb.,—Kobe, 7th Feb, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, Yamauchi, 9th Feb,—Kobe, 7th Feb, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 9th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 9th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 9th Feb.,—Kobe, 8th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 9th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, 3rd February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 9th February,—Otaru via ports, 4th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, W. Brady, 10th February,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 8th February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 11th Feb,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 10th February, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 11th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 10th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dart, British steamer, 2,056, J. H. Clark, 12th Feb..—Bona, Algiers via Kobe, 10th February, Phosphate.—C. Illies & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 12th February,—Otaru via ports, 7th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, Daniel Friele, 13th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 24th Jan., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 13th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 12th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 13th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, 8th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 13th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, 8th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 13th Feb.,—Kobe, 12th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Arab, British steamer, 2,674, W. D. Wills, 14th Feb.,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kongo Kan (19), Japanese Coast Service Vessel, 2,284, Capt. K. Imamura, 14th Feb.,—Yokosuka, 14th Feb.

Solace (2), U.S. Transport, 2,362, Capt. Dunlop, 14th Feb.,—Guam, 9th Feb.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 15th February,—Kobe, 13th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, W. Thomson, 15th Feb.,—London via ports, and Hongkong, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Camorta, British steamer, 1,351, Collins, 15th February,—Rangoon via Shanghai, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,734, C. L. Daniel, 15th Feb.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 14th Feb., General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Asturia, German steamer, 3,405, Th. Hilderbrandt, 15th Feb.,—New York via ports, and Shanghai, 11th Feb., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 15th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 13th Feb., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 15th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 14th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Toyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,548, K. Sakai, 9th Feb.,—Kobe, Salt Salmon.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, E. W. Haswell, 9th Feb.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Szechuen, British steamer, 1,158, C. H. Hall, 9th Feb.,—Hakodate, Ballast.—Butterfield and Swire.

Indrapura, British steamer, 3,152, A. Horsfall, 9th Feb.,—Port Arthur via Kobe and Nagasaki, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tokai Maru, Japanese steamer, 692, A. Yamashita, 9th February,—Hakodate via Awomori, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hyson, British steamer, 4,232, J. S. Hogg, 10th February,—Sydney, N.S.W., Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Oldenburg, German steamer, 3,167, H. Prager, 10th February,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Westphalia, German steamer, 2,048, C. Strunck, 10th February,—Havre, Hamburg, and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Wakasa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,886, J. B. Macmillan, 10th February,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 10th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 11th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 11th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 11th Feb.,—Saseho via Kure and Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 12th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alesia, German steamer, 3,533, K. Knuth, 12th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Chiyoda Kan (27), Japanese cruiser, 2,439, Capt. H. Narikawa, 12th Feb.,—Yokosuka.

Amagi Kan (12), Japanese gunboat, 926, Com. M. Asai, 12th Feb.,—Yokosuka.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, W. Brady, 13th Feb.,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails & General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 13th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thyra, Norwegian steamer, 2,419, Edwardsen, 13th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

R. D. Rice, American ship, 2,106, C. F. Carver, 14th Feb.,—Honolulu, P.I., Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 24th February,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 2,422, Daniel Friele, 14th February,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 14th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,483, S. Muramatsu, 14th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Arab, British steamer, 2,674, W. D. Wills, 15th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, C. Christiansen, 15th February,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. F. Mitchell, Mr. R. J. Kirby, Mr. J. Eldridge, Mr. T. Takahashi, and Mr. Fujita, in cabin; Mr. Liu Foo Hoh, in second class; 15 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. and Mrs. Hamilton and child, Miss Stormer, valet and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Shoebridge and child, Mr. A. A. Black, Mr. E. Black, Mr. W. G. Bennett, Mr. W. Y. Showler, Mr. G. Cook, Mr. H. Baisard and servant, Mr. A. V. C. Maher, Mr. G. Y. Taylor, and Mr. E. Shickan, in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Chong Jack Kuen and child, and Mr. and Mrs. Berthold Pfeifer, in second class; 5 on deck.

Per American steamer *China*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss M. Hogg, Miss C. Hogg, Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Patton and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. McCord, Miss L. M. Hodgkins, Hon. and Mrs. S. L. Gracey, Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Viking and child, Mr. E. J. Bates, Mr. J. Davis, Mrs. E. C. Danforth, Mrs. J. L. Ray, Mr. P. R. Forbes, Rev. and Mrs. T. E. Clark and son, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Follis, Mr. and Mrs. F. Boice, Miss Boice, Mr. Geo. Arms, and Mr. K. Hattori, in cabin. For Kobe:—Miss E. Strong, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. M. Rettig and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cawthra, Mrs. G. R. Guthrie, Mr. J. C. Greves, Rev. and Mrs. S. C. Peoples, Dr. Tom Foo Yuen, Mr. C. Moots, Mrs. A. Norton, Miss L. R. Anderson, Mrs. A. F. Galvin, Rev. L. P. Davidson, Mr. Geo. E. Wolf, Miss M. A. Cody, Miss J. Wisner, Mr. J. H. Threw, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Gaylord, Mrs. H. K. White, and Master Lim Kin, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sado Maru*, from London via ports:—Mr. A. Tanahashi, Mr. K. Nishimura, G. Bosch Reitz, Mr. T. Miyaoka, Mrs. Kei Miyaoka and child, Mr. S. Miura, Mr. H. Ellis, Mr. K. Midzuhara, Mrs. Wylie, Miss Daisy Wylie, Miss Byron, Miss L. Frey, Rev. W. B. Scrantow, and Mrs. M. Scrantow, in cabin; Mr. J. Comer, Miss Kuma Tsuchiya, and Miss E. Smith, in second class; five Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ceylon*, from London via ports:—Mr. A. J. Melhuish, Mr. K. Dodds, and Mr. F. W. Pettitt, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru*, for Sydney via ports:—Lieut. Robert C. Davis, U.S.A., Lieut. Winston Pilcher, U.S.A., Mr. A. G. Wileman, Miss Johnstone, and Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Mihara and infant, in cabin; Mr. J. Breen, U.S.N., Mr. H. E. West, U.S.A., Mr. D. Kuroita, Mr. M. Negishi, and Mr. T. Homma, in second class.

Per German steamer *Oldenburg*, for Bremen via ports:—Mr. Th. R. Goedkoop, Mr. G. W. Middleton, Mr. A. J. S. Lefroy, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Tuska, Consul Gen. Coates, Mr. H. Goldman, Mrs. Buford, Mr. J. Stahel, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, Mr. V. Worms, Mr. J. M. Dawod, Prof. E. Foxwell, Mr. R. A. de Mauchy, Miss Ellis, Mrs. G. D. Lys, Mr. G. C. Scott, Mr. A. L. Key, U.S.N., Mr. R. Loeschel, Mr. A. F. King, and Mr. André de Meurs, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakasa Maru*, for London via ports:—H.E. Baron A. d'Anethan, Mr. A. Sato, Governor T. Okubo, Com. F. Kuroi, I.J.N., Mr. S. Shimada, Mr. T. Kawara, Mr. Y. Ozawa, Mr. S. Hirano, Mr. H. Shigyo, Mr. K. Matano, Mr. S. Warming, Master H. Macmillan,

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Consul R. Murota, Mr. S. Akidzuki, Com. T. Iida, Paymaster T. Tomita, Com. T. Yamamoto, Lieut. Y. Funakoshi, Eng. in Chief R. Tomiyasu, Chief Surgeon I. Nishi, Lieut. H. Furukawa, Lieut. K. Nakane, Second Eng. F. Shirai, and Sub-Lieut. T. Torinosu, Chief Eng. I. Hirano, I.J.N., in cabin; Mr. T. Takahira, Mr. H. Iwama, Mr. R. Nakano, Mr. Y. Nuno, Mr. K. Nakao, Mr. G. Miyanaga, Mr. R. Kohitsu, Mr. M. Ohashi, Mr. U. Saito, Mr. K. Akiyama, Mr. H. Miyagawa, Mr. H. Fujita, Mr. M. Araki, Mr. G. Inouye, Mr. K. Watanabe, Mr. J. Inouye, Mr. K. Kawachi, Mr. T. Ito, Mr. S. Tsukayama, Mr. Y. Yokota, Mr. C. Marsh, Mr. R. Merchant, Mr. M. Higashimiya, Petty Officers T. Nakadokoro, K. Kawo, J. Kawano, Y. Hayashi, and I. Toyoshima, in second class; 271 I.J.N. crew, and 5 Japanese, in steerage.

Per American steamer *China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. E. Ralphs Mr. F. de Villahermosa, Mr. H. M. Richards, Mr. E. J. Dyer, Mr. S. Asama, Mr. C. H. Van Dorp, Lieut.-Col. Samoyloff, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. France, Miss Bainbridge, Mrs. M. Kelly and child, Miss Strong, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord, Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cawthra, Mr. G. E. Wolff, Mrs. Galvin, Mrs. Moots, Mrs. Norton, Miss Wesner, Miss Cody, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Peoples, Mrs. G. R. Guthree, Miss Anderson, Mr. Ter Foo Yuen, Mr. J. H. Threw, Rev. Davidson, and Mr. John Creves, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Captain E. S. Barstow, Mr. Jas. H. Bathgate, Mr. F. M. Hill, Mr. R. Hara, Mr. M. Kukuzawa, Miss Sada Yamaguchi, Capt. M. Yagi, Mrs. Taka Ohinouye, and Mr. Te Shun, in cabin; Mr. G. Koba, Mrs. Miyo Oki and child, Mr. Ch. Talbot, Mr. Y. Odagiri, and two Chinese, in second class; 28 in steerage.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk, shipped per steamer *Oldenburg*:—

	RAW.		WASTE.		
	Option		Austria		Suez
Sieber & Co.	281	—	—	—	—
Siber Wo'ff & Co.	51	—	—	—	—
W. Tallers	—	—	—	—	2

Total—332 bales Raw Silk; 54 bales Waste Silk.

The following were the silk shippers per N. Y. K. steamer *Kinshiu Maru*, which sailed for Seattle, Wash., on Feb. 13th:—

	Bales.
Jardine, Matheson & Co	205
Siber, Wolf & Co.	111
Vivanti Bros	94
O. Reimers & Co	88
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	169
The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	132
Total	799

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For KEELUNG via Moji (from Kobe), 3rd and 18th at Noon (every month), the "YOKOHAMA MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For KEELUNG via Moji (from Kobe), 8th and 23rd at Noon (every month), the "OMI MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For BOMBAY, viâ Kobe, Moji, Hongkong, Singapore, and Colombo, February 17th, the "MIIKE MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For PORTLAND, Oregon, February 20th, the "ABERGELDIE."—Dodwell & Co. Ltd.

For LONDON, viâ Kobe, Hongkong, Straits, Ceylon, and Suez Canal, Feb. 21st, at 6 a.m., the "CEYLON."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For HONGKONG, viâ Kobe, and Nagasaki, Feb. 21st, at Daylight, the "ROSETTA."—P. & O. S.N. Co.

For SHANGHAI, viâ Kobe, Shimonoseki and Nagasaki, Feb. 21st, at Noon, the "YAMASHIRO MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about February 21st, the "DORIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., Feb. 23rd, the "EMPRESS OF INDIA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For BREMEN and Hamburg via ports, Feb. 24th, at 9 a.m., the "BAYERN."—Norddeutscher Lloyd.

For MARSEILLES, London, & Antwerp, via Kobe, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, and Port Said, Feb. 24th, the "KANAGAWA MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, Feb. 24th, the "GAELIC."—O. & O. S.S. Co.

For TACOMA, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Feb. 24th, the "GLENOGLE"—Dodwell Co., Ltd.

For SAN FRANCISCO via Honolulu and San Diego, February 27th, the "CARMARTHENSHIRE."—Butterfield and Swire.

For SEATTLE, WASH., via Victoria, B.C., Feb. 28th, the "IBZUMI MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about March 1st, the "NIPPON MARU."—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

For MARSEILLES, via ports and Shanghai, Mar. 2nd, at 9 a.m., the "SYDNEY."—M.M. S.S. Co.

For BONIN Islands via ports, Mar. 5th, at 4 p.m., the "SUMINOYE MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, Mar. 6th, the "HONGKONG MARU."—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki, and Shanghai, about March 9th, the "CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO."—P. M. S.S. Co.

For HONGKONG, viâ Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, and Shanghai, Mar. 12th, the "EMPRESS OF CHINA."—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

For SYDNEY, and Melbourne, viâ Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki, Hongkong, Thursday Island, Townsville, and Brisbane, March 16th, at Noon, the "FUTAMI MARU."—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is very little doing in any line. Prices are still going up.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 2.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 32½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 3.85
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.00 to 2.15
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.15 to 3.20
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.70 to 4.20
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Salteens Black, 32 inches	0.91 to 0.99

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.31 to 0.48
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.31
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.65 to 0.75
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.90 to 1.15
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.12½ to 2.42½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.70 to 3.75

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	$42.00 to 44.00
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	52.00 to 55.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	78.00 to 82.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	104.00 to 106.00
Nos 2/100, Plain	125.00 to 130.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	102.00 to 104.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	116.00 to 120.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	145.00 to 155.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$25.25
Indian Broach	23.50
Chinese	24.00

METALS.

There is nothing doing. Prices are still rising, and Japanese buyers hesitate to make purchases, though there is no project of a falling market.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.20 to 6.40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6.90
Galvanized iron sheets	12.50 to 13.80
Wire Nails, assorted	7.60 to 7.90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 1¼ inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

The market is steady, last week's prices being well maintained.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.40
Brown Manila	5.50 to 6.30
Brown Daitong	4.30 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A quiet market.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,240 to 1,250
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,210 to 1,190
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	None
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,240 to 1,250
Re-reels—No. 2	1,120 to 1,220
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	None
Kakedas—No. 1	1,190 to 1,200
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,170 to 1,180
Kakedas—No 2	1,160 to 1,165
Kakedas—No 2½	1,140 to 1,150

WASTE SILK.

Nothing of importance is passing.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	190 to 210
Noshi—Filatures, Good	180 to 185
Noshi—Oshu, Best	190 to 200
Noshi—Oshu, Good	185 to 190
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	180 to 185
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145 to 150
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	140 to 145
Noshi—Bushu, Best / Noshi—Bushu, Good / Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135 to 145
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 170
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70 to 80
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55 to 65

TEA.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	32 & upwards
Choice	30 to 31
Finest	28 to 29
Fine	26 to 27
Good Medium	24 to 25
Medium	22 to 23
Good Common	20 to 21
Common	18 to 19

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 15.

Silver ½ higher from London and discount ⅛ higher, but rates of exchange have remained steady.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 15/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 15/16
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 15/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 15/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 15/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	256
— Private 4 months' sight	261
— Private 6 months' sight	262
America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207½
— Private 4 months' sight	214 to 213
Hongkong—Bank sight	3½% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4½% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	75
— Private 10 days' sight	75¾
India—Bank sight	151
— Private 30 days' sight	154 to 153½
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/16

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, February 15.

Engine and Iron Works—A few shares can be had at *yen* 210. Grand Hotels are obtainable at *yen* 237.50. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 72.50. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 130. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 70. Laundries—Offers for shares are wanted.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs and Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108. Laundries are obtainable at par.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	210 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50	250 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	237.50 S.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	70.50 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	130 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Fdrs.), $125	330 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $50	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	70 B.
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ld., *yen* 50	...Offers wanted.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.H.—S. Sellers, B.—Buyers, Sa.—Sales, St.—Steady N.—Nominal, W.—Weak E.—Enquiries.

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A. C HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, February 15.

Brett & Co. Debentures changed hands to-day at par. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 70. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9.

Punjom Mines have been sold to Hongkong at $5.75.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...210 Sales.
Grand Hotel .....237.50 Sales.
Club Hotel..... 70 Steady.
Oriental Hotel .....132.50 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co. ..... 70 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co. .....150 Steady.

MEAN PRICES OF SHARES AND STOCKS FOR DIRECT DELIVERY.

Tokyo, February 15.

Redemption Loan Bonds	94 80
War Loan Bonds	94.80
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	98.80
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	431.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.20
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	285.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	68.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	69 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	107.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	89.10
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	74.00
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 41	61.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10 50	25.10
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45 ... ... £...	126.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 ... £...	78.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 ... £...	55.20
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	48.00
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 ... £...	61.70
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40... ... £...	46 50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	97.50
Hokkaido Colliery R'w-y, and issue-paid up yen 28	83 00
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	90 80
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50 ... £...	47 60
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	32.50
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	48.50
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	17 50
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	27 10
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	28 20
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	12.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 23 ... £...	22.90
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	229.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	205.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	67 50
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25	27.50
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new paid up yen 10	14 50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	30.00
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	23 00
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	39 00
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20	32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	32.50
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	14 50
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	242.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	206.50
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	140 50
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25...	93 50
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	2.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	55.5
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	25.40
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	89 00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 22	69.00
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40	104.00
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50	39.60
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50 ...	53 70
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	55.50
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up yen 25	23.00
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	14.50
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50	43.00

† Ex dividend.

969

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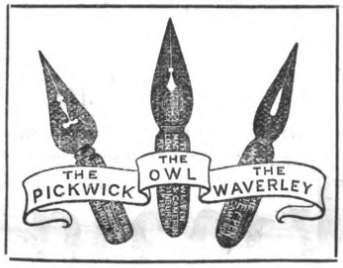

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 24TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

On the 18th instant, at 109-B Bluff, the wife of MONTAGUE BEART, of a Son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MARSHALL MACMAHON is dead.

THE Diet will be prorogued to-day.

THE Straits and Malayan South African War Relief Fund amounted to $103,383 on the 1st instant.

LATEST news from the Transvaal says that General Knox and General MacDonald have both been wounded.

THE interport football match played at Kobe last Saturday, resulted in a defeat for Yokohama by one goal to nothing.

THE Emperor of China is still alive, for on the 19th he received the Foreign Ministers in audience at the Palace in Peking.

KIPLING'S "Absent-Minded Beggar" had realised £55,000 for the War Relief Fund when the last mail left England.

THE dance recently given in the Public Hall realised some 700 *yen*, which have been handed over to the Treasurer of Christ Church.

A VERY successful series of *tableaux vivants* were given in the Public Hall on Tuesday, in aid of the South African war relief funds.

AN earthquake occurred on 2nd Jan. in the district of Achalkalak, Government of Tiflis, by which ten small villages were almost entirely destroyed.

THE number in receipt of relief in India, calculated on telegrams received up to Jan. 19, has reached the alarming figure of three and a half millions.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S birthday on Wednesday was quietly celebrated by the American community. The U.S.S. *Oregon* fired a salute at noon.

ON January 5th the War Relief Fund at the Mansion House reached £492,000. The *Daily Telegraph* had received 1,973,378 shillings for their Relief Fund.

FOUR seamen on the U. S. Hospital ship *Solace*, who over-stayed their leave on the 19th inst., were on Tuesday arrested by the Settlement Police and taken on board.

THE success of General Roberts' advance on the Modder River has led to a retreat of the Boers from Colenso and neighbourhood, and general Buller has occupied the place.

AMONGST the New Year promotions we note Commanders Slade (*Algerine*) Luscombe (*Immortalité*) and Patey (*Barfleur*) and Lieut. Jackson (*Victorious*), who each get a step.

CRONJE'S retreat into the Free State after the relief of Kimberley was hotly contested by the British Cavalry, and he had to abandon many wagons, oxen, and stores of ammunition.

ABOUT 6 p.m. on the 21st a gambling dispute at a restaurant in Shiba, Tokyo, resulted in one *jinrikisha* man being killed and another injured. The guilty parties made their escape.

THE new Russian fishery regulations relating to the waters of Saghalien have prompted the Diet to pass retaliatory measures, by which heavy import duties are placed on Russian marine products.

A DINNER was given on Monday evening at the Grand Hotel to His Honour Mr. Justice Wilkinson and the officers of the British Court by the members of the local Bar and the Inns of Court Association.

KIMBERLEY has been relieved by General French after a series of brilliant manœuvres in the neighbourhood of the Modder River, and General Cronje and 10,000 men are in full retreat on Bloemfontein.

A FIRE broke out early on the morning of the 20th inst., at Sakamotocho, Shitaya, Tokyo, in a house belonging to a confectioner named Nishimaki Ishizo. Fourteen houses were destroyed; 6 men were injured.

A WOMAN was seen to jump from the Oye bridge, Yokohama, about 9 a.m. on the 16th. When she was rescued by passers by, life was found to be extinct. She was one Tanaka Tome, aged 27, and a native of Chiba Ken.

MR. E. F. ALFORD, late of Jardine, Matheson and Co., has joined the board of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, in succession to Mr. A. P. Cameron, who has resigned his directorship in consequence of his retirement from business.

THE French gunboats *Lion* and *Surprise*, having been replaced by more modern vessels, will be detached from the Indo-China squadron and leave for France shortly. Two specially constructed gunboats are expected soon to represent France on the West River.

THE new battleship *Montague*, now in course of construction at Devonport dockyards, will be equipped with the most complete propelling machinery ever placed in a modern man-of-war. The engines will be of 18,000 horse power, or 3,000 in excess of the engines of the other ships of the *Bulwark* class, they being the largest and most powerful in the service of Great Britain.

THE German Order of the Red Eagle, fourth class, has been conferred on Consul Krüger, at Manila; Mr. Philip Arnhold, at present in London; Graf von Butler, at Shanghai; Mr. Joseph Welch, recently Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council; Mr. A. Korff (Melchers & Co.), Shanghai; Pastor Hackmann, of the German Church, Shanghai, and Consul Zimmermann, at Canton.

THE Inspector of the Kagacho Police has made a new rule for the arrest of all *jinrikisha* drawers who force sailors to take their vehicles or entice them to saloons, and other places. On arrival of the hospital ship *Solace*, the coolies were pursuing their usual practices when some fourteen, all belonging to the Hatoba, were arrested. They were sentenced to from three to five days' detention.

A SWEEPER in the employ of the Customs House, named Ito was arrested on Tuesday by the Iszakicho Police, for having stolen some 2,000 pounds of nails valued at *yen* 190, by means of breaking the nail-kegs. He sold the nails to a hardware merchant in Tobe for *yen* 48, and the latter in turn sold them to another hardware merchant for *yen* 95. The buyers of the stolen nails were also arrested.

A MAN was seen trying to dispose of a bicycle at various stores on Sunday afternoon. Suspicion being aroused, he was taken in charge by a detective of the Kotobukicho Police, and confessed to having stolen the same from a restaurant in Chojamachi Go-chome. He also confessed to having stolen two tea sets which were in cases lying outside a porcelain store on the night of the 13th inst. His name is Shiosaka Minokichi.

THE *Gyosho* ("Morning Bell"), a daily recently published in Aomori, urges the necessity of improving the steamboat service from Hakodate to Muroran, on the ground that the improvement of the latter harbour is absolutely essential for the development of the resources of Hokkaido. Statistics show that the amount of goods shipped from Aomori to the North for the year ending September, 1898, did not fall short of 27,910 bales, while by September, 1899, the figure had increased to 31,405. Among the goods thus transported, straw ropes and mats occupy the most conspicuous place. This class of cargo amounted in the former year to 2,021 tons, and in the latter to 2,245, while the figures for passengers were 3,940 and 6,908 respectively. These facts are more than sufficient to show, adds our contemporary, the vital importance of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's increasing its steamship communication with the North.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Monday, Feb. 19.

The situation in South Africa has now become interesting. It appears plain that while Cronje was attempting to carry out a brilliant manœuvre on the south of the Orange River, Roberts has stepped in and completely dislocated his plans. More than a fortnight ago, Cronje began to detach men from Maggersfontein for the purpose of operating at Colesberg and Rensburg. It will be remembered that on December 31st at 5 p.m., French, with five squadrons of cavalry, half a battalion of infantry carried in wagons, 80 mounted infantry and 10 guns, moved in the direction of Colesberg, and reaching Maider's Farm at 11 p.m., halted for four hours, after which he occupied a kopje overlooking Colesberg on the west, and shelled the enemy's position. That was the beginning of a series of skirmishes in which, though no very signal advantages were gained, the Boers were greatly harrassed, and an impression went abroad that a serious movement was contemplated by the British from De Aar and Naauwpoort against Colesberg and finally Stormberg. That impression was strengthened by the publication of intelligence that Roberts had sent the Sixth Division to Thebus, which is on the line of railway in the vicinity of Stormberg. Everything, indeed, seemed to indicate that Roberts' plan was to try to drive back the Boers from the south of the Orange River and follow them up, invading the Free State from the direction of Norval's Pont. That method of procedure would have the great advantage of clearing away the Rensburg and Colesberg Boers, who are a constant menace to Roberts' railway communications in the neighbourhood of De Aar. Cronje, therefore, keeping some ten thousand men at Maggersfontein, sent the whole of the remainder of his force southward. He appears to have received a considerable accession of strength from Mafeking, and it is probable that he was able to despatch about seven or eight thousand men to the Orange River. These, with six thousand Boers already at Colesberg, made a total of, say, thirteen thousand. But Roberts did not send the Sixth Division to Thebus, and a campaign on the south of the Orange River, for the purpose of clearing out the Colesberg and Stormberg Boers and gathering up Gatacre and French, did not enter into his programme. The position that presented itself to him was that the Boer army of the Free State was now divided into two portions, operating at a distance of nearly 150 miles, whereas he himself, from his place on the Modder River, was within 80 miles of the two sections' communications with Bloemfontein. He probably did not know the dimensions of the force that Cronje had detached for operations south of the Orange River, neither did Cronje know that the Sixth Division had not gone to Thebus. Apart from such questions, the British General resolved to strike at the Maggersfontein army's communications, since, if successful, he would not only relieve Kimberley, but also place himself between the two sections of the Boers, whatever their relative strength. He has succeeded. Immediately eastward of the point where the railway crosses the Modder River, the latter divides into two streams, the Riet on the south the Modder on the north. The Boers line of defences encircling Methuen did not extend beyond the Modder, and into the space between the two rivers, Roberts marched the Sixth and Seventh Divisions in readiness for a northward advance over the Modder. Then he sent French with a strong force of cavalry, artillery and mounted infantry, to force the passage of the Modder near or beyond the enemy's left flank, while the Highland Brigade performed a similar operation further west. The Boers seem to have been taken by surprise. Five of their laagers were captured with scarcely any loss on our side, and then the Sixth Division, moving up, occupied the heights captured by French, the Seventh Division following the same afternoon and doubtless crossing by the westward drifts. Thereafter French pushed on rapidly, and reached Kimberley apparently without encountering any serious resistance. In fact, the Boers were completely out-manœuvred. Their communications with Bloemfontein would be cut if they remained any longer at Maggersfontein, and there was nothing for it but to beat a hasty retreat, which they are now doing with the Sixth Division hanging on their heels. We should have expected to hear that French was pursuing them, but the probability is that French has been sent eastward to seize the line of railway from Bloemfontein to the Orange River. A march of 65 miles will accomplish that object, and the Boers at Rensberg, Colesberg and Stormberg will then be deprived of all supplies from the Free State. In fact, their position will be scarcely less untenable than was that of Cronje when Roberts crossed the Modder.

Meanwhile the British troops at Rensburg have had to suffer severely. We do not know their numbers. When French began his operations on the last day of December, he had two half battalions of infantry, five squadrons of cavalry, two batteries of Horse Artillery and 80 mounted infantry. He was subsequently reinforced from De Aar, but to what extent there has not been any intelligence. It is not likely, however, that Colonel Clements had more than three or four thousand men at Rensburg. He has therefore been obliged to retreat before an overwhelming force, and it is possible that if the Boers succeed in pushing him westward, they may get within striking distance of Roberts' communications. That, doubtless, was Cronje's plan. He expected Roberts to concentrate all his strength for a frontal attack at Maggersfontein; he expected to be able to repel the attack, and, in the meanwhile, the force he had detached, cöoperating with the Colesberg troops, would menace Roberts' communications. But as things now stand, Cronje's army has been cut in two, and though he himself, with ten thousand men, will probably reach Bloemfontein safely, the position of his forces south of the Orange River is very critical.

Roberts, of course, has been able to make this *coup* chiefly because he possesses a flying column of cavalry, artillery, and mounted infantry. With the troops available before the organization of such a column, he could never have crossed the Modder by surprise, or, if he succeeded in crossing it, could never have reached Kimberley without a battle.

The great question now is, what effect will this produce upon the Boers investing Ladysmith? Roberts has three full Divisions as well as his flying column—an army of fully thirty thousand combatants. Cronje is said to have only ten thousand, and the Boers south of the Orange River are cut off. It will be strange if the Free-Staters at Ladysmith remain quietly in the trenches opposite Buller.

Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Kokumin Shimbun* refer in eulogistic terms to the latest news from South-Africa. The former journal is particularly pleased by the promptitude shown by the British Government in recognizing the services of French and Kekewich. The English have shown that defeat does not daunt them, but they had demonstrated that fact before, and it is tolerably certain that they do not fight for the sake of reward. Still the wisdom shown by Her Majesty's Government in this quick recognition of merit is most wise, and furnishes an example which might be followed by other nations with advantage. Our contemporary refers also to the Queen's message to Lady White after the retreat from Glencoe. Such an expression of sympathy and unshaken confidence under such circumstances must have a most inspiriting effect. The *Kokumin* speaks chiefly and briefly of the change that the general complexion of the war has undergone in consequence of Roberts' brilliant operations. The British, who have hitherto been standing on the defensive, have now assumed the offensive, and, if Roberts succeeds in occupying Bloemfontein, the action of the Orange Free State will be paralysed. It is true that from Bloemfontein to Pretoria is still a long distance, but the country does not present any very serious obstacles to an advancing army.

TOKYO HARBOUR.

The particulars of Mr. Furuichi's plan for the construction of a Tokyo harbour are published, apparently on good authority. The entrance would be at Haneda, and the port would take the form of a large canal, extending for a distance of 5 miles, to Shiba-ura. The dredgings would be used to reclaim the fore-shore and to construct an embankment for preventing silting. The depth of the canal is 27 feet at low water, and its width is 25 metres (?), so as to allow two vessels of from 1,800 to 8,000 tons to pass each other. A dock forms part of the plan, and from the centre of the canal to the dock, warehouses stand on the banks. Since the position of the canal would be on the shore side of the route now taken by junks and small steamers plying to Tokyo, there would be no obstacle to present traffic. The site of the dock is at Kanasugi, and there is ample provision for railway traffic. Ten years is the time estimated for the work. As for cost, the canal and dock are put down for 34 million *yen* and the other outlays at 15 millions, making a total of 49 millions. The method of financing is (1) loan bonds; (2) State aid; (3) sale of the reclaimed land, the area of which is put at 1,100,000 *tsubo* and the value at 20 *yen* per *tsubo*, giving a total of some twenty millions. State aid is counted on for 10 millions, and thus there would remain some 20 millions to be raised by loan. It is expected that this project will receive the approval of the City Council.

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A CURIOUS CHARGE.

Monday, Feb. 19.

In a recent issue we traversed a criticism published by the *Mainichi Shimbun* with reference to the supposed reticence of the present Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Our contemporary's accusation was connected with Mr. Oishi Masami's questions in the House of Representatives, and a comparison was drawn between Viscount Aoki's silence and the explicitness of M. Delcassè and Mr. Chamberlain when explaining the policies of their respective countries during the present crisis. We ventured to suggest that a question propounded by a member of the Opposition at a time when the country's foreign policy is not confronted by any special embarrassment could scarcely rank with the issues of a great war such as is now being fought in Africa; and we also expressed the opinion that it would be a most mischievous practice for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to allow himself to be drawn into public expositions of policy whenever any one chose to stand up in the Diet and attack him. To this the *Mainichi* replies in a peculiar manner—a manner which has come to characterise all its writings now-a-days, and which suggests a mood of much unhappiness. We are sorry that our contemporary should find the world such a murky, miserable place as it is now reflected in his columns, and we are sorry, also, that he should resort to the very poor device of denouncing all that disagree with him as interested and dishonest persons. Even at the risk of deepening his discontent, however, we must point out that preachers of homilies upon honesty should themselves try to be honest. The *Mainichi* endeavours to persuade itself and its readers that we drew a comparison between the Far-Eastern question and the South-African war, and that we dismissed the former as too insignificant to deserve a ministerial utterance, whereas we pronounced the latter to be a worthy theme for the eloquence of European statesmen. That may be smart on the part of the *Mainichi*, but it is clumsily disingenuous. We never made the remotest comparison between South Africa and the Far-Eastern Question, not is it for one instant possible that the *Mainichi* can have received such an impression from our writing. It recommends us to expunge the word "Japan" from the title of our journal. We recommend it to lower the sign-board of candour and Christian honesty under which it carries on its present business of defamation and pessimistic preaching.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

A naughty boy had his book torn into shreds by an indignant foreigner. in the vicinity of the Yokohama railway station, a few days ago. The incident is recounted in the columns of the *Mainichi Shimbun*, the name and address of the foreigner being given. It appears that the child hastened to make tearful complaint to a policeman, and the latter, following the foreigner, inquired the reason of the outrage. A simple explanation was forthcoming. The boy, supposing, as he alleged, that the foreigner did not understand Japanese, greeted him with a shout of *baka yaro*, whereupon the foreigner seized a book that the child was carrying, and rent it in twain. The constable admonished the boy severely, and there the incident closed. Certainly it would not be worth reference in these columns did not the *Mainichi Shimbun* append the following comment to its account of the facts:—*Gwaikokujin wo baka ni suru koso mo koso naredo kodomo wo aite ni ikaru gwaikokujin mo gwaikokujin* (the urchin that made a fool of the foreigner was an urchin, but the foreigner that lost his temper with a child was a foreigner). The *Mainichi Shimbun* has of late distinguished itself by printing a great many valuable, if somewhat pessimistic, homilies upon things in general. We should like to ask it what course it advocates with regard to these courteous Japanese children who throw opprobrious epithets at the head of the passing foreigner. How are they to be restrained? The writer of this note has been addressed as *tojin baka*, or greeted with cries of *ketojin*, or *ijin papa neko papa*, by Japanese children pretty frequently—probably from three thousand to five thousand times—during his residence in Japan, but he can recall only one instance of a child's being spontaneously reproved by a Japanese adult for such a display of politeness. What is the foreigner to do? Go on quietly from year's end to year's end enduring these displays of highly civilized courtesy, and waiting until some Japanese philosopher like the editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun* comes forward to mend the evil? We do not ourselves feel offended or annoyed when a Japanese child calls us names in the presence of parents or elders who intimate their acquiescence by silence. Our sentiment is only one of pity for people so ignorant of the world and so unacquainted with the amenities of human intercourse. But we do experience a feeling of resentment when we read a comment like that quoted above from the *Mainichi Shimbun*, because the editor of an important Tokyo journal can not hope to be treated with the indifference that men of mature years extend to the doings and sayings of mud-pie gamins, unfortunate in their opportunities and still more unfortunate in the possession of parents who encourage their barbarism. The editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun* has to accept some, at any rate, of the responsibilities attaching to his position, and when his principal comment on an incident like the above is a general sneer at the unreasoning irascibility of foreigners, there is no alternative except to rank him with the road-side urchins or to conclude that even the upper classes in Japan do not appreciate the duties of civilization.

HOME MANUFACTURES v. FOREIGN.

Count Inouye's recent deliverances in connexion with trade and industry have induced some persons to attribute to him an anti-foreign bias. Such a suspicion with regard to such a man is ludicrous. He refers to it, however, in an interview with a representative of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, and with his wonted good humour observes that if to be anxious that Japan should make the most of her opportunities is to be anti-foreign, then he must even rest under the imputation. But he finds it very lamentable that the Japanese should be beaten by foreign competition in fields where nature has given them every advantage. For example, here is a country with splendid forests of its own, and yet builders find it far cheaper to import timber from America than to use that grown in Japan. Then again, the seas and rivers of Hokkaido are abundantly stocked with salmon, yet the salted salmon of Hokkaido costs 100 *sen* a catty in Tokyo whereas American salted salmon can be had for 70 or 80 *sen*. As a matter of fact, considerable quantities of American salmon are actually imported into Hokkaido and despatched thence to Tokyo as Japanese fish. The whole fault lies with want of organization and cöoperation. The same defect meets us everywhere. The War Department, the Railway Department, and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce are all engaged in the iron manufacturing industry, and it does not appear to occur to them that by joining forces they might conduct their operations on a far more economical scale. The Count also referred to the Lower House's refusal to sanction a trifling outlay for purposes of harbour construction at Wakamatsu. The result is that coal for the use of the iron foundry on which such large sums have been spent, will have to be carried, in the first place, to Moji, and thence forwarded by lighters to Wakamatsu, operations which will involve an additional outlay of something like 2 *yen* per ton. The same remark applies to the manufactured products of the Foundry. Since they can not be put on board ship at Wakamatsu, they will have to be stored there and subsequently carried to Moji for shipment, at great and needless expense. Count Inouye justly denounces such defective economy.

A SPENDTHRIFT DIET.

Even without paying minute attention to the proceedings of the Diet during the present session, every one must have been struck by the extraordinary number of Representations that were introduced. The total reached 59, of which 2 were withdrawn, 2 rejected, 37 adopted for presentation, and the remainder did not come up for discussion. The great majority of these documents advocated expenditures of money by the Treasury for the purpose of fostering some private enterprise. It has been roughly calculated that if the Government acted in accordance with the recommendations embodied in the 37 Representations adopted by the Houses, an expenditure of something like thirty million *yen* would be required. The *Kokumin Shimbun* has a scathing article on the subject. It says that a Parliament, if it abuses its position, is apt to become a mere vehicle for squandering the State's resources. Its responsibilities towards the country are hidden under its numbers. With a non-representative form of Government the area of responsibility is so greatly narrowed that the fear of public censure serves as a wholesome check upon the acts of those in power, but where there are 300 legislators all calling themselves delegates of the people and all equally responsible, no restraints are available. That, of course, is a very familiar criticism of parliamentary institutions. But the blemish disappears, or, at any rate, ceases to be formidable, in the face of a strong opposition. It is Japan's misfortune at present to be without a really efficient opposition. The Progressists are temporarily so weak that they can do nothing to check the majority's abuse of its power.

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VISCOUNT TANI AND THE SINEWS OF WAR.

Viscount Tani has just delivered a very interesting lecture to the members of the Economical Society in Tokyo. He took for his theme the expansion of the Japanese Army and Navy, and the gist of his comments was that to multiply men and ships without a supply of money to utilize them is a vain proceeding. He thinks that Japan should have a war chest of at least 30 or 35 million *yen*. Russia and Germany are understood to have large war funds stored away. England and France have not. But there is a radical difference between the conditions existing in England and France and the conditions existing in Japan. The former two countries have great quantities of hard money in circulation, whereas, from end to end of the country, Japan has paper currency only. Viscount Tani says that he has not yet had the pleasure of seeing even one of the new gold coins, and it must be confessed that a great many people are in the same position. Japan is a gold-monometallic country nominally at all events, but such a thing as a piece of gold seems to be unknown in the monetary transactions of every-day life. Bank notes and silver subsidiary coins discharge the whole duties of circulating media. If war had to be undertaken, it is not from the people that a stock of hard money could be procured, and no one will argue that the specie reserve held by the Treasury to secure the convertibility of the paper issues is available for military purposes. As for the capital funds whose interest is devoted to famine relief, education, and naval maintenance, Viscount Tani believes that the money is in the form of paper, and that, consequently, it can not serve the purpose in question. Of course he was able to draw from history many illustrations of the importance of money to a belligerent, since that is a lesson taught by universal experience. But, in truth, from Viscount Tani's point of view, there can no second opinion about the importance of a war fund. The Government, instead of being able to push the China War with vigour from the very outset, would have found itself considerably embarrassed had it not been so fortunate as to possess accumulations of surplus revenue totalling some 30 million *yen*, and the friends of the country would sleep more easily if the Treasury held a similar sum in hand now.

THE LIGHTNING BURGLAR.

Sakamoto Keijiro, nicknamed the "Lightning Burglar," has been executed in Tokyo. How many persons he killed or wounded, how many houses he robbed, it is difficult to ascertain, rumour having busied itself to exaggerate the totals. But it may be stated, at least, that the list is quite extraordinary. He met his death with the utmost composure, averring that fate could not bring him anything more than he had always anticipated. It appears, however, that in one sense he was penitent: he appreciated that his expectations of leading a life—long or short—of ease and pleasure had been founded on a false basis. No such thing as happiness had come to him. Hiding in out-of-the-way places and perpetually fleeing from the pursuit of justice, he had learned that the existence of a malefactor is about as miserable as possible. This conclusion, announced in very clear terms to the Buddhist priest who attended him in his last moments—when did Buddhist priests begin to perform this office, we wonder?—is also reflected in one of two verselets composed by Sakamoto at the foot of the gallows:—

Kuyuru tomo
Itsumi no mukui wa
Nogareneba
Ashiki wasa su na
Nochi no yo no hito.

Repentance does not
Bring escape from the reward
Of sin. Therefore ye
That follow after, see that
Your actions be not evil

Sakamoto explained his reason for having made Ibaraki Prefecture the principal scene of his exploits. It was because he had been cruelly treated by the police and prison officials of that district when first arrested. The people of Ibaraki are said to have held an *Anshinkai*, or "meeting of peace of mind," to commemorate the death of this arch-villain, and to have subscribed funds for the purpose of presenting gold and silver cups to the police who were instrumental in effecting his capture. Sakamoto confessed to a small supplementary list of seventy crimes shortly before his execution.

A STRANGE COMPACT.

A singular charge is brought by the *Chiuo Shimbun* against the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and, what is more, it seems to be a well substantiated charge, for our contemporary gives the text of the document upon which it is based. The directors of the Company have entered into a compact with a large association of Chinese merchants in Kobe and Osaka, promising, first, that preference shall always be given to the goods of Chinese shippers, no other cargo being received until that sent by the Chinese shall have been accommodated; secondly, that a freight advantage of 20 per cent. shall be allowed on all goods shipped by Chinese; and thirdly, that, after the expiration of a year, this agreement shall be subject to revision by mutual arrangement. The service to which these conditions apply is that to North-China ports: in other words, it is a service for which the Osaka shipping company is seeking to obtain a subsidy from the Government. A few days ago, an announcement appeared in a Tokyo journal to the effect that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha had determined to run its North-China line of steamers whether the subsidy was forthcoming or not—a natural resolution, if the agreement published by the *Chiuo* be a *bonâ fide* document. It may well be supposed that the *Chiuo* is very indignant, and that it invites the Diet to investigate this question carefully before taking any final action with regard to the Subsidies Bill now awaiting discussion.

Since writing the above we have received the report of the proceedings in the Lower House on Wednesday, and find that Mr. Hoshi Toru raised the question, but the Government Delegate explained that the line in question was not among those to be subsidized.

POLITICAL CONNEXIONS.

The editor of the *Niroku Shimbun* has compiled an interesting paradigm setting forth the relations that exist in Japanese political circles at present. He puts the results in a diagram which takes the form of four concentric circles, having the Throne in the centre. The innermost circle contains His Majesty's immediate *entourage*; opposite them, in the innermost annulus, are the principal *Meiji* statesmen; then, in the next annulus, come their respective followers among the junior statesmen, and, finally, the outermost annulus contains their supporters in the ranks of political parties. The whole may be tabulated thus:—

Throne Entourage.	Senior Statesmen.	Junior Statesmen.	Party Politicians.
Hirohashi Viscount Tanaka Kawaguchi	Marquis Yamagata	Viscount Yoshikawa Viscount Katsura Mr. Kamatsubara Mr. Hirata Mr Yasuhiro Mr. Oura Mr. Sone Mr. Kioura Mr. Matsudaira Mr. Funakoshi Mr. Shinagawa	Mr. Sasa Mr. Mitoda Mr Arakawa Baron Suyematsu Count Itagaki Mr. Hoshi Mr. Hayashi Mr. Matsuda Mr. Kataoka
Iwanaga Watanabe Marquis Saionji	Marquis Ito	Baron Ito Mr. Kaneko Viscount Watanabe Admiral Yamamoto Mr. Watanabe Mr. Sonoda	
Baron Sannomiya	Count Inouye	Mr. Tsuzuki Mr Saito Mr. Naniwa Mr. Masuda Mr. Shibusawa Baron Senge Mr. Matsuoka Mr. Fujita	
Baron Sannomiya	Marquis Saigo	Baron Anraku	
Baron Sannomiya	Count Kabayama	Mr. Isaki	
Marquis Tokudaiji	Viscount Takashima	Mr. Terahara Mr. Murekata Mr. Kashiwada	Mr. Arai Shogo
Marquis Tokudaiji	Count Matsukata	Mr Kawashima Baron Tajiri Mr. Nakamura Mr. Hirayama Mr Sakatani	Mr Haseba
Prince Iwakura	Count Okuma		Mr. Osaki Mr. Inukai Mr. Oishi Mr. Taketomi Mr. Daito Mr. Kono

It is easy to see that the compiler of this table is not free from political bias.

MARITIME ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN.

We learn from the *Chiuo* that Japan's fleet of iron or steel steam-ships totals only 138 vessels. The statement is made in the context of some remarks on the Government's Bill for subsidizing mail-boat lines (*Yusen-koro joseikin-ho-an*). That measure is framed on the assumptions that vessels for the Hokkaido service may be as small as 500 tons and as slow as 10 knots; that those for the Shanghai service need not exceed 2,500 tons or have a higher speed than 14 knots; and that for those on the North-China line 1,400 tons and 12 knots suffice. Our contemporary is very much opposed to such assumptions, and contends that such vessels are not fit to engage in the keen competition to which they are exposed by the concurrence of the N.-D. Lloyds, Messageries Maritimes, and P. and O. boats. The argument certainly seems just. We may add the comment that Japan is making very rapid advances in the matter of maritime enterprise. One is inclined to speculate what her position at sea would have been now had not the crippling legislation of Iyemitsu practically closed the ocean to her as a field of enterprise for 230 years.

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QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

It is indeed astonishing, as the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* justly remarks, to see a responsible politician like Mr. Oishi stand up in the House of Representatives and present Questions like those recently submitted to the Government on the subject of the Government's foreign policy. Mr. Oishi asks, among other things, whether Baron Nishi has had audience with the Empress Dowager in Peking, and whether he has remonstrated with her with reference to the nomination of the Heir Apparent. He also asks whether the Japanese Government believes the statement of the Korean Government that the latter intends to build its own railways. By what right could Baron Nishi venture to remonstrate with the Empress Dowager on such a subject? What business has Japan to interfere with the choice of an heir to the Chinese Crown, especially when the choice is made and announced in strict accord with orthodox forms and usages? And how can Mr. Oishi expect the Japanese Government to make an open declaration as to the amount of trust it reposes in the official statements of a friendly Power? Questions of that nature are evidently propounded merely for the sake of creating a sensation and baiting the Cabinet. It is a good thing that the Diet should scrutinize the acts of the Government and endeavour to stiffen its vertebræ, but to propound questions which can not be answered with any propriety is at once futile and mischievous.

EMOTIONALISM.

That Mr. Tanaka Shozo is a man of exceptionally emotional nature can not be doubted by any one who has followed his career in the House of Representatives. But we were not prepared to find him surrendering himself completely to a fit of hysteria as he seems to have now done. In order to carry on his Ashiwo-mine agitation with greater effect, he has announced his intention of resigning his membership not only of the Progressive Party but also of the House of Representatives. His reasons, assigned by himself, are that he wishes to be absolutely beyond the range of any kind of political association or suspicion of such. In short, he has determined to tie his own hands in order that he may wield his weapons with better effect. What will his constituents think of this we wonder. They sent him to the Diet in order that he might plead their cause, and now he steps out of the Diet in order to plead it more efficiently! Mr. Tanaka has certainly made a fiasco of his parliamentary career. In one thing only has he succeeded, namely, in affording to the House of Representatives an opportunity to show much good humour and forbearance.

With regard to the Ashiwo affair, most conflicting accounts are published. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* alleges that the police drew their swords against the peasants and even used rifles against them, wounding more than fifty. The police reports, forwarded to the Government from Gumma, Tochigi, and Saitama, concur in declaring that no constable or gendarme drew his sword. In Gumma, where the only serious fracas occurred, the swords of the police were tied in the scabbards so as to preclude the possibility of employment in a moment of excitement. Fifteen police and about as many peasants received injuries, but their hurts were all of the nature of contusions. There were no casualties among the gendarmes. Tochigi and Saitama report that no one was hurt. The very striking discrepancy between these stories is difficult to understand. Credit must be given to the official report of the police, yet it is not easy to imagine that press correspondents can have been so greatly misinformed.

THE GOVERNOR OF TOKYO.

The most blue-blooded family in Japan is considered to be that of Baron Senge, now Governor of Tokyo. The great Fujiwara nobles trace their descent without a break to Kamatari, who distinguished himself conspicuously in the seventh century, and Kamatari is understood to have claimed that he "came over with the conqueror" Jimmu, a trifle of thirteen hundred years earlier. But the founder of the Fujiwara did not dress his genealogical tree with convincing accuracy, and historians are not unanimously agreed that his progenitors were divine. The Senge family, however, goes right back without any dissolution to continuity to Amatsu Koyane-no-Mikoto, and from generation to generation has discharged the high-priestly functions at the shrine of Oyashiro in Izumo. Baron Senge himself was Kannushi of the Shrine before he descended into the troubled arena of politics and officialdom. The newspapers now state that, a few days ago, he tendered his resignation of the post of Governor, because his convictions forbade him to support the Government's Bill for the control of Religions, and he did not feel justified in serving under a cabinet with which he disagreed upon such a subject. The story is hard to credit, for we find Baron Senge's name on the list of those that voted for the measure when it came up for discussion in the House of Peers.

"TO NIPPON."

Mr. W. Le Couteur has published a little volume of much attractiveness under the above title. It contains an account of a trip made by him last year from Australia to Japan and back again by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamers. The book is evidently not intended to constitute any notable addition to the literature already inspired by Japan, but is merely designed as a *vade mecum* for the use of the rapidly increasing stream of passengers between Japan and Australia. Mr. Le Couteur has a light, attractive style. Although the subjects discussed by him are in many cases quite familiar, and although his very brief stay in the country did not enable him to collect any novel information, the story that he has to tell is so well told as not to pall even upon the jaded appetite of the proverbial "old resident." One rises from a perusal of the book with a longing to traverse the routes described by Mr. Le Couteur, and, above all, to traverse them in the same company and with the same accommodation that he enjoyed. We presume that it was his intention to produce that impression and he has succeeded very well. Evidently the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's fine new steamers have made the trip to Australia a veritable holiday outing.

THE NEW RUSSIAN MINISTER.

The pending change of Russian Representatives in Tokyo is beginning to inspire newspaper comment. Happily in this instance the general tone is very different from that which greeted the coming of M. Hitrovo some years ago. But it is singular to observe what an inveterate tendency rumour has to go astray. The paragraphs now appearing actually suggest that Russia is desirous of cementing with Japan more friendly relations than those that could be established under Baron Rosen's direction. That is a very entertaining version of the facts. Russia produces many diplomatists who possess the happy faculty of combining the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*, but she has not many who excel Baron Rosen in that respect. He contrives to achieve the feat of winning the warm friendship even of those from whom he has to obtain recognition of his country's rights, and if his successor can do better than that, he must be a phenomenal official.

COLLISION.

The *Akagi* came into collision with a coal-carrying steamer in the river at Shanghai on the 5th instant. The Japanese gun-boat was lying at anchor near the Ewo wharf when the steamer—the *Nanyetsu*, with a cargo of coal from Moji—crashed into her, smashing her boats and otherwise injuring her. The cost of repairs is estimated at from five thousand to six thousand *yen*, and the *Osaka Asahi*, from which we take the news, says that as the work would be three or four times as expensive if executed in Shanghai as if executed in Japan, the commander of the *Akagi* has suggested the propriety of bringing the vessel to this country for the purpose. But that is scarcely credible, if the amount in question is so small, especially in view of the fact that the *Akagi* having been at anchor in a duly selected berth, the responsibility for the collision can not rest with her. The incident is interesting chiefly in connexion with the statement that ship-carpentering is so much more costly in Shanghai than in Japan. Is that really the case, we wonder?

THE DEFEATED BILL.

There is naturally a great deal of talk about the rejection of the Religions Bill in the House of Peers. The Government evidently exerted itself to secure the passage of the measure, and the failure must therefore be regarded as a Ministerial defeat. Such incidents, however, do not entail in Japan the consequences that would attend them in countries where the principle of constitutional government is more firmly established. The impression conveyed by current rumour and by remarks appearing in the columns of vernacular papers is that the main object of the Bill—namely, the placing of all religions on the same footing *vis-à-vis* the law—was not objected to, but that the elaborate character of the measure presented points with which several of the supporters of the general purpose could not agree. Among some there appears to have been an idea that such legislation is unnecessary, since the freedom of conscience guaranteed by the Constitution can be fully enjoyed under the existing condition of the law.

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JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The persistence of the rumour about strained relations between Japan and Russia is very remarkable. *The Independent* of January 25th says:—

The reports increase as to the tension between the Governments of Japan and Russia. The Japanese papers are full of predictions of war at an early date and chronicle the rapid movement of troops. As indicative of the preparations, it is said that Japan has placed an order for 100,000 winter uniforms with a British firm, while at the same time large supplies of campaign foods have been purchased by the commissary department, and hundreds of horses are being mustered and trained for service. One paper says that a few days since a steamer left a Japanese port under sealed orders with a large force of soldiers equipped for the field. It is also stated that the British Government recently applied to the Japanese steamer company to charter some of their steamers as transports, and this application was refused on the ground that the Government thought it might need the steamers. Excellent maps of China have been distributed, it is said, among all non-commissioned officers in the Japanese army, and not long ago the heads of all private railway concerns were invited to a conference on railway accomodation for mobilization purposes at the War Office. While nothing of this is official much of it is based on excellent authority and indicates very clearly the prevalent opinion in Japan. It is also reported from Vladivostock that there are at least 50,000 troops in that neighbourhood and that every effort is being made to increase their number. Barracks are being constructed in all Manchurian centres with amazing rapidity. Meanwhile the situation in Korea, which is after all the centre of all this political activity, seems to be growing worse. The condition of the people is not improving, although trade is very brisk. Speculators have bought up the harvests and are shipping food to Japan in such quantities as really to endanger the food supply of the country itself. Smuggling all along the coast is rife and the methods adopted by the Government to prevent it are almost ludicrous in their inadequacy. The Emperor shuts himself up in his palace, guarded by quick-firing guns at the door, and never allows any one to know beforehand what room he is to occupy for the night. Government favours or concessions seem to be going to the highest bidder and bribery to be ruling absolutely.

Who can have manufactured this farrago of inventions? "The Japanese papers are full of predictions of war at an early date and chronicle the rapid movement of troops!" Where are they, these papers? We have not seen one of them. The paragraph contain thirteen flagrant falsehoods, which is a tolerable supply for such a brief composition.

Thursday, Feb. 22.

It is very regrettable that Russia and Japan should enter upon a war of retaliatory restrictions. That kind of thing has been tried by European States, but its results have never been satisfactory to either party. The trouble that has roused Japan's indignation is the affair of the Saghalien fisheries. There is no longer any room for doubt that owing to recent legislation by the Russian Authorities, not only will Japanese fishing enterprise be hereafter excluded from Saghalien waters, but the vested interests already acquired by Japanese subjects in that district will be sacrificed in a harsh and arbitrary manner. Diplomacy having failed to procure any modification of this suddenly adopted policy of exclusion on Russia's side, Japanese politicians of all parties seem to have agreed that the only resource is retaliation. They therefore introduced in the House of Representatives on the 19th inst. a Bill for imposing a duty of sixty-five per cent. *ad valorem* upon dried and smoked salmon, and fifty per cent. upon fish manure imported into this country from Russian waters. The House passed the Bill *nem. con*, and it is stated that the House of Peers will endorse the measure. Doubtless this would have the effect of closing Japan's markets to Russian maritime products, but whether the resulting disadvantage to Japanese consumers would not greatly outweigh the inconvenience suffered by Russian fishermen, is a point well worthy of consideration.

Friday, Feb. 23.

There is evidently a good deal of excitement in some quarters about the question of Japanese fishing privileges in Saghalien. The matter is of considerable importance, for the number of fishing stations worked by Japanese subjects is 222, the number of persons employed over 5,000, and the yearly take between one and two millions of *yen*. Japanese subjects have been engaged in the industry for a very long period. They were engaged in it prior to the cession of Chishima to Russia, and their operations have continued without interruption ever since. In 1895, the first sign of restrictive legislation was given by Russia. Regulations then issued by the Governor of the Amur District provided that Russian subjects should have a prior claim to all fishing privileges except in the case of vested interests, which should be respected. Under that arrangement Russians seeking to engage in fishing enterprise would have an advantage, but Japanese subjects who had already established themselves would remain undisturbed. The newly issued regulations, however, make a radical change, for they confer a prior right on Russian subjects irrespectively of the vested interests of other nationals, and the consequence is that Japanese subjects hitherto engaged in the occupation have no choice but to wind up their affairs, dispose of their belongings, and return home. It is justly pointed out that Russia is quite within her strict rights in taking this action. She is not bound by any treaty and has power to deal with her possessions according to her own fancy. But there can be no question that her procedure involves a great hardship. Japanese subjects have been engaged in the fishing industry without disturbance for nearly half a century, and they have a natural right to expect that no violent change will be made in the privileges hitherto enjoyed by them. The House of Representatives, as our readers are aware, took very prompt action with regard to a project of retaliatory legislation; namely, a bill imposing virtually prohibitive duties on salt fish, smoked fish, and fish-manure imported from Russian waters. The measure was passed through all its readings and sent up to the Peers within half an hour of the time when it came before the House. It will probably be passed by the Peers with scarcely less alacrity, though the *Yomiuri Shimbun* publishes a singular story that Russian money has been freely used to bar the progress of the measure, and that Mr. Sasa, leader of the Imperialist Party, proceeded to the Upper House on Wednesday, and interviewed the Ministers—who happened to be assembled in the waiting room—, urging the necessity of keeping strict watch over the doings of the Peers. Our contemporary appears to believe that Mr. Murata Tamotsu is lending his aid to the Russian intriguers, but as Mr. Murata has always distinguished himself by his keen and intelligent interest in everything connected with marine products, it is difficult to credit the *Yomiuri's* statement. At all events some sensation has been caused by this Saghalien incident, and we fear that its effect upon the relations between Japan and Russia will not be wholesome.

ONE-YEN NOTES.

It is not surprising that complaints are heard about the scarcity of one-*yen* notes in circulation. In nine cases out of ten silver alone has come to be used for transactions not involving an amount as large as five *yen*. The *Jiji* has an article on the subject. Of course this state of affairs has been brought about by the deliberate action of the Treasury. One-*yen* notes have been withdrawn and subsidiary silver coins substituted. Two considerations recommended that course. The first was a desire to utilize the stores of silver that the Treasury had in its possession at the time of introducing gold monometallism. The second was the expediency of putting into circulation the largest possible quantities of hard money in such a form that, on the one hand, it would be available in time of urgency, and, on the other, would be beyond the reach of the influences that tend to drive specie out of a country. The *Jiji* thinks that the latter object might be better attained by issuing gold subsidiary coins heavily alloyed, but, under any circumstances, the public ought to have one-*yen* notes if it wants them. The calculation at present is that only 40 millions of such notes remain in circulation out of a total currency of 195 millions, whereas there used to be 65 millions out of a total currency of 230 millions. If the Treasury thinks it inadvisable to issue notes of small denominations without some precaution, why not issue them only in exchange for specie? That is our contemporary's question.

FOREIGN MERCHANTS AND ADULTERATED GOODS.

In a slightly mysterious paragraph the *Hochi Shimbun* advances a statement that considerable quantities of very inferior *habutaye* have been manufactured to the order, or under the direction, of a foreign firm in Yokohama, and calls upon the police to exert themselves for the detection of the offender. Under the old system of Consular Jurisdiction it was impossible for the Japanese police to conduct any efficient investigations within the Foreign Settlements, owing to the necessity of appealing to the authority of a Consular warrant, and owing to the comparative uselessness of one such warrant where an inquiry has to be conducted among the subjects and citizens of many different nationalities. But these obstacles to the pursuit of justice have now been removed, and our contemporary hopes that Japanese detectives will contrive to locate the guilt of the recent fraud, since such practices are calculated to seriously injure the trade. The *Hochi* may rest assured that the foreign merchants of Yokohama will be disposed to assist rather than to impede the police in such a matter. It is in the interest of all parties that evil practices of the kind should be checked.

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IMPORTANT MEASURES.

It appears certain that the Bill for amending the Law of Elections and the Bill for the Nationalization of Private Railways will both fail to become law this session. With regard to the former, a conference of the two Houses is supposed to be in progress, but the Managers appointed by each branch of the Legislature did not meet on the 21st instant, although the session ends on the 24th. The plain inference is that no hope of getting the Bill finally passed is now entertained. Some say that the difficulty is on the side of the Peers, who deem it advisable to postpone conclusive action until next session. Others allege that since no basis of compromise can be found between the amendments of the two Houses, a conference is felt to be futile. As to the Railways Bill, we do not know what obstacles present themselves, but rumour has it that Mr. Hoshi Toru, on being asked when the Bill would come up for discussion, laughingly replied, "on the day of the Diet's prorogation."

The Lower House, however, has passed an important law with reference to Japanese railway enterprise in foreign countries. The effect of the law is to invest the Cabinet with competence to make grants in aid of such enterprises without seeking parliamentary consent. That is a very unusual kind of legislation, but the motive of its proposers is avowedly stated to be the provision of State encouragement for the Söul-Fusan Railway. All political parties seem to be united in the conviction that public assistance must be given to that enterprise; the Bill bore the signatures of the leaders of the Liberals, the Progressists, and the Imperialists. On the other hand, at this late period of the session there is no time to enact a law providing satisfactorily for the general manner of dealing with Japanese railway undertakings in foreign countries, and the House consequently deemed it advisable to delegate discretionary competence to the Government for the time being. That must be taken, of course, as a distinct declaration on the part of the House that it recommends the granting of State aid for the building of the Söul-Fusan Railway.

The House, on the motion of the Government, has also voted a sum of 1,013,307 *yen* for making roads and drains in, and otherwise putting into order for residential purposes, the Special Japanese Settlements in China. If this step be necessary, it ought to have been taken at an earlier date. The Government's opponents will now have it in their power to claim that, had it not been for their agitation and criticisms, nothing would have been done to make the Settlements habitable.

A CHINA-JAPAN BANK.

One of the results of the entertainment recently given by leading Chinese residents of Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, and Hakodate, at the Maple Club in Tokyo, to celebrate the opening of the country, was the definite inception of a scheme for establishing a China-Japan Bank. It was decided at the meeting that an association should be organized, calling itself the *Aiia Tsushō Kyowa-kai* (Asiatic Commercial Co operative Society), and in connexion with that scheme the idea of a China-Japan Bank seems to have been brought forward by the Chinese. Of course the project has long been on the *tapis* in an academical sense, but it appears to have now entered the region of practical economics. There is, however, a rather serious difference of opinion: The Chinese projectors expect the Japanese to put up the bulk of the capital and also desire that the Bank's principal field of operations should be Southern China; the Japanese, on the contrary, look to the Chinese to find most of the money, and wish to work mainly in Northern China, which is the great field for this country's products and manufactures.

TOKYO DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.

A concert was given, for charitable purposes as usual, by the Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Association in the *Shorei Kai* hall, Tokyo, on Friday evening, the 16th inst. The audience was good, and the programme, which we append, is sufficient evidence of the quality of the music. It was, indeed, the best concert ever given by the Association, the only subject for regret being that Professor Koeber did not play a solo.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.

1—Trio, in "C Minor".....Mendelssohn
for Piano, Violin, and Violoncello.
(*a*) "Andante expressivo."
(*b*) "Allegro energico e con fuoco."
Dr. von Koeber, Prof. Junker, and Mr. Davis.

2—Alto Solo..." Longing at Rest".....Brahms
with Viola obligato.
Mr. Payne.

3—Violoncello Solo..." Tarantelle".....Popper
Mr. Davis.

4—String Quartette
(*a*) "Angelus".....Liszt
(*b*) "Serenade".....Haydn
Junker String Quartette.

Part II.

1—Alto Solo.
(*a*) "Der treue Jonnie".....Beethoven
(*b*) "Ye who have yearned alone" Tschaikowsky
Mr. Payne.

2—Piano Solo
(*a*) "Romanze" in F sharp major ...Schumann
(*b*) "Menuett" in B minor .....Schubert
(*c*) "Scherzo" in E minor .....Mendelssohn
Dr. Crusen.

3—String Quartette
(*a*) "Andante cantabile" .....Tschaikowsky
(*b*) "Canzonetta" .....Mendelssohn
Junker String Quartette.

4—Symphony.. ..." Concertante" .....Alard
Prof. Junker, Mr. Casares, and Miss Koda

YECHIGO KEROSENE WELLS.

It may be well, perhaps, to explain that although the Houses of the Diet have passed the amendment of the Mining Law providing that mining privileges shall be extended to companies organized by foreigners in accordance with Japanese law, the measure has not yet received Imperial sanction and is therefore not actually law. There can be no reasonable doubt, however, that it will be duly sanctioned and promulgated at an early date. The time fixed for its going into force is April 1st, 1900. After that day, any association of foreigners, registered as a juridical person in Japan, will be competent to engage in mining enterprise.

With reference to this matter, we read in the *Chiuo* that arrangements are in progress on behalf of American capitalists, represented by Mr. J. R. Morse, to form a company for exploiting the kerosene oil wells in the Nagaoka district of Yechigo. Our contemporary explains that this venture is independent of the project entertained by Mr. Asano to organise a trust in conjunction with Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company.

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The regular half-yearly meeting of the Bank of Japan took place on the 17th instant, when the following accounts were presented and passed:—

	Yen.
Net *Profit for* the half year	3,116,869
Regular Dividend (at rate of 6 o/o)	900,000
Second Dividend (at rate of 6 o/o).	900,000
To Reserve	680 000
Rewards to officers, &c.....	170,000
Depreciation of Properties	30,000
Carried over to next account.....	436,869
Total	3,116,869

The following are the names of the principal shareholders:—

	Shares.
Imperial Estate.....	69 660
Yokohama Bank	1,780
Mitsui Bank	1,682
Marquis Nabeshima Naohiro	1,500
Mr. Wakao Ikuzo	1,500
Prince Shimazu Tadanari	1,050
Mr. Hara Zenzaburo	1,050
Marquis Tokugawa Fusako (Mito)...	1,001
Mr. Yasuda Zenjiro.....	1,000
Mr. Nakamura Seizo	1,000
Prince Mayeda Toshitsugu	1,000

The shares of the Bank (200 *yen* paid up) are now quoted at 444 *yen*, so that they represent an investment paying somewhatless than 5½ per cent.

THE RICE CROP.

It appears that in spite of the very unfavourable weather during the autumn of last year and the consequent predictions of a defective rice crop, the yield of the cereal was above the average. Investigations now completed by the Departments of Agriculture and Finance show that the crop measured 39,586,769 *koku*, which is 283,808 *koku* above the average, though it is 7,800,897 *koku* less than the splendid crop of 1898. The estimate published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce last October put the figure at 39,149,600 *koku*, or 437,169 *koku* less than the total now definitely ascertained. That was a remarkably close approximation.

CHINA.

From a telegram in the *Jimmin* we learn that Taotai Kung, of Amoy, against whom the Japanese preferred a complaint in connexion with the riot last fall, has been deprived of office and reduced two steps in rank. His immediate subordinate has also lost his post.

The *Nichi Nichi's* telegrams say that the Chinese Government has offered a reward of ten thousand taels for the capture of either Kang Yu-wei or Leung Kei-chiu. It was probably because he received news of this new effort to apprehend him that Kang recently took his departure from Hongkong in haste.

DISTURBANCE IN KOREA

Correspondence to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* from Korea says that disaffection has occurred in Söngchin. Two thousand rioters have taken the field, and it is feared that they may make a descent upon Yuensan.

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THE DIET.

Saturday, Feb. 17.

At the moment of its pending dissolution the Diet has suddenly become active. It has attacked the Law of Elections and the Law of Religions in a manner that seems to indicate some idea of passing them.

The Committee of the Upper House has treated the Law of Elections much as was anticipated. It has declined to endorse the amendments of the Representatives. In one respect, indeed, it shows itself less liberal than the Government, for whereas the latter was willing to lower the franchise to 5 *yen*, and to dispense with any property qualification in the case of candidates for election, the Committee of the Peers raise the voter's qualification to 10 *yen* of annual taxes paid during two consecutive years, and the qualification for candidates to 10 *yen* paid during one year. The other important differences are that the Upper House wants to have large electoral districts as proposed by the Government, that it advocates unsigned, uninominal ballots, and that it would enfranchise any urban district having upwards of 50,000 of population, giving an additional member for every additional 100,000, or fraction of 100,000 larger than 50,000, whereas the unit in the case of rural population would be 140,000, with an additional member for every additional 140,000, or fraction over 70,000. This would mean an increase of only 30 members in the House, bringing its total number to 330, but we do not yet know what would be the relative proportion of urban and rural seats.

The Bill embodying a project of Religions Law has also been examined by a Special Committee, and subjected to various amendments, one of which is said to be that exemption from military service will not be granted to religious teachers or preachers.

The Upper House has very wisely restored the Government's supplementary budget providing an appropriation for the construction of a harbour at Wakamatsu, in connexion with the new iron foundry. We quote elsewhere some interesting remarks by Count Inouye on this subject. It is very doubtful, we imagine, whether the Lower House will be persuaded to abandon its attitude of opposition in this matter.

Monday, Feb. 19.

The House of Peers presented an unusually animated scene on Saturday last, a scene contrasting remarkably with the apathetic character of its proceedings during the previous part of the session. The strangers' gallery was filled to overflowing, chiefly with Buddhist priests, whose tonsured heads and brilliant vestments gave the House an unusual appearance. Marquis Kuroda, on behalf of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Religions Bill, though himself opposed to it, but explained that the Committee had inserted numerous amendments. They had agreed, for example, that the Government should not interfere with the relations between a principal and an affiliated temple or church; that instead of interdicting all interference in politics on the part of religious teachers, the veto should apply only to becoming a member of a political party or taking a public part in a political demonstration; that the regulation providing for the punishment of persons slandering a religion should be deleted; that Japanese subjects alone should come under the denomination of "religious teachers," unless official sanction were obtained; that religious teachers should not be exempt from conscription, and so on. No sooner had Marquis Kuroda taken his seat than questions began to be propounded from all parts of the House. Never before was there such a volley of queries. Three Government Delegates were kept busy answering them, and it soon became plain that the Bill was regarded as a badly drafted and unsatisfactory measure. The principal speakers against it were Viscount Soga and Mr. Tsuzuki Keiroku. Neither of them condemned the purpose of the measure, but both concurred in denouncing it as ill-considered and defective. Professor Hozumi and Mr. Matsuoka made powerful speeches in its support, the former gentleman especially distinguishing himself by lucid arguments and learned expositions. The House, however, listened with evident impatience, and the priests in the gallery were attacked with most demonstrative fits of coughing whenever an advocate of the measure made a telling point. Finally, after a sitting of unusual length, much of which had been taken up with questions, a closed ballot was taken, when 121 voted against, and 100 for, the Second Reading. The announcement of the numbers was greeted with vehement applause from the strangers' gallery, and the sergeants considered it necessary to remove some of the reverend gentlemen, who probably had no objection to going, as the excitement was over. This, of course, is a very signal defeat for the Government. We presume that a similar measure in a simpler form will be introduced next session.

The Upper House have amended the Posts and Telegraphs Bill, in the sense of reducing the postal charge for newspapers and periodicals from 5 *rin* for a weight of 16 *momme* to 5 *rin* for 25 *momme*, and, the Lower House having refused to endorse the amendment, a conference of the Houses was held, resulting, as usual, in a compromise. The Managers agreed to a rate of 5 *rin* for 20 *momme*. That is not a very large concession, but it will probably entail a considerable addition to the outlays of the Communications Department.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The Diet's session has been extended until the 23rd instant, an interval of five days. It is understood that this extension is for the purpose of passing some supplementary budgets which are considered important. Otherwise the Diet's proceedings are not regarded very seriously. It has paltered with its duties this session in a flagrant manner, and treated the business of legislation so lightly that the nation's estimate of parliamentary institutions will not be enhanced. The *Fiji's* caricaturist sums up the situation very cleverly. He represents a wagon piled with packages, on the top of which is perched a very vacuous-looking person. The wagon is drawn by a sightless, broken-down horse. On the horizon the sun is setting, its disc already half-concealed, and towards it the dilapidated person on the packages is waving a frantic fan to stay the orb's disappearance. The *Fiji* doubtless borrows this idea from the legend of the Japanese Joshua, Taira-no-Kiyomori, who, by a wave of his fan, arrested the setting sun until the building of his new palace was completed.

Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The two Houses of the Diet now find themselves in their old positions towards each other with regard to the Law of Elections. The Lower House having changed the Government draft of an amended Law of Elections in such a manner as to deprive it of nearly all its value for the purposes of its compilation, the Upper House has restored most of the Government's proposals, and the question has now to be determined by a conference of the two branches of the Legislature. This complication has been witnessed twice previously, and on each occasion the result was failure on the part of the Houses to come to any agreement. The Government's objects may be briefly summed up. They are, first, to redress the inequality that now exists between the representation of the urban and the representation of the rural population; secondly, to secure purity of election by substituting unsigned uninominal ballots for the present system of signed ballots, and by greatly extending the limits of election districts; thirdly, to reduce the property qualification so as to enfranchise a much larger section of the nation. Speaking again briefly, the House of Representatives may be said to endorse the third only of these purposes, whereas the House of Peers endorses all three. There can be no question that the Lower House is allowing itself to be swayed by party interests. It consists almost entirely of men elected by rural constituencies, and it believes that the return of a large number of urban members would bring a corresponding increase to the ranks of the so-called "business men," who have always shown themselves disposed to support the Government and to stand aloof from party politics. The Peers, in this instance, are ranged on the side of public justice. They stand for the reality of representative institutions against the politicians of the Lower House, whose proceedings amount to a declaration that Parliaments are intended simply as instruments to promote party ambitions. Perhaps, on this third occasion, the Houses may be able to come to some compromise, but we trust that it will not be a compromise sacrificing the principles on which the Bill is based.

Friday, Feb. 23

The Bill just passed by the Lower House for granting subsidies for steamship services reduces the amount hitherto received by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha from 880,000 *yen* to 580,000 *yen* annually, a difference of 300,000 *yen*. The new grant is to continue for five years, from Oct. 1st, 1900, to Sept. 30th, 1905, and is to be on account of the following lines:—

	Annual Services.
Yokohama-Shanghai	52
Kobe Korea	26
Kobe-Northern-China direct	39
Kobe-Northern China via Korea	13
Kobe-Vladivostock	13
Kobe Otaru (eastern route)	120
Do. (western route)	52
Aomori-Muroran	365

The Company will continue to receive a subsidy of 127,331 *yen* on account of its Hokkaido services, but these are now to

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become regular services instead of occasional, as hitherto. They are :—

	Annual Services.
Hakodate-Nemuro	60
Otaru Osanai	52
Nemuro-Abashiri	23
Nemuro Etrup	21

In the case of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha the grant for the Yang-tsé-kiang service is complicated. Commencing from April 1st, 1901, and continuing for one year, the Company will receive 291,848 *yen*; then from April 1st, 1902, until March 31st, 1906, it will receive 354,942 *yen* annually, and from April 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907, the grant will be 266,206 *yen*. The services to be undertaken are :—

	Services Yearly.
Shanghai-Hankow	96
Hangkow	60

There is finally a subsidy to the Taito Kisen Kaisha for a Shanghai-Suchow-Hangkow service. The amounts are, from April 1st, 1901, to March 31st, 1903, an annual amount of 57,873 *yen*, and from April 1st, 1903 to March 31st, 1904, a grant of 14,468 *yen*. The services are to be :

	Annual Services.
Shanghai-Suchow	300
Shanghai-Hangkow	120
Suchow-Hangkow	124

With reference to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, there is some comment on the curious fact that, although the leader of the Liberals opposed the grant in the Lower House, he was outvoted. In fact the affair was a victory for the Opposition, who voted *en masse* for the subsidy. We need scarcely say that sinister inferences are drawn from this fact, but since the Osaka Company's agreement with a Chinese guild to give preference to Chinese goods applies to a line of steamers not included in those subsidized, it seems unnecessary to go far afield in search of a motive for the House's vote.

THE VERACIOUS BOERS.

It is a good sign, we take it, that the Boers find themselves compelled to fall back on lies in default of victories. A telegram received at the Legation of France in Tokyo, and published on Monday in these columns, represents them as making out an enormous list of British losses compared with their own. They must have all the proverbial stupidity of mendacious folks if they are not aware that the world has nothing to learn about the British casualties. The name and regimental number of every British soldier, killed, wounded, or dead of disease, are posted at the War Office in London without delay, and published in the columns of all the leading papers. There is not, and can not be, the smallest concealment. An interesting illustration of the difference between Boer versions and British versions is furnished by the following :—

THE OPERATIONS ROUND COLESBERG.

The following telegrams have been received at the War Office from the General commanding at Cape Town :—

Cape Town, Jan. 5.

French reports 4th January :—Left flank about three miles from Colesberg to the north attacked by 1,000 of the enemy early in the morning, squadron of 6th Dragoon Guards furnishing picket charged effectively, but large number of Boers gaining ground by opening fire with rifles and quick-firing artillery guns, two companies of the 2nd Berkshire and four companies of the 1st Suffolk, expeditiously assisted by Royal Horse Artillery (attacked them).

Meantime 10th Hussars and section of Royal Horse Artillery on the right flank by their combination caused withdrawal of many, but few hundreds held out on kopje.

Our heavy fire prepared the advance of 150 mounted infantry, who pushed on under cover of ground, and, dismounting, captured kopje and 19 prisoners. Enemy's loss 50.

Boers disclosed to-day fresh position five miles from Colesberg, to the north, with two heavy guns. Enemy's evident effort to-day was to reopen communication with Bactu.

Casualties :—10th Hussars, killed, Major Alexander. A few men hit.

6th Dragoons, only known casualty, dangerously wounded, 2nd Lieut. Gibson. Three men hit.

1st Suffolk.—Two men slightly wounded.

Boers still in force on hills to south-east of Colesberg.

Enemy's loss 1st Jan. more than 50, including two Field Cornets, many wounded, one gun damaged.

Enemy reoccupied Dordrecht.

Galacie reports Boers withdrew to Stormberg. Elsewhere no change.

Cape Town, Jan. 6.

French reports, January 6 :—Situation much the same as yesterday; but I regret to report that serious accident has happened to the 1st Suffolk Regiment.

From news just come to hand from them I gather that, with the authority and with the knowledge of French, four companies of the 1st Suffolk advanced by night against low hill, one mile from their camp. They attacked at dawn. Lieutenant-Colonel Watson, commanding, gave orders to charge. He was at once wounded. Orders for retirement were given it is said by the enemy. Three-quarters of the force retreated to camp. Remainder held their ground till, overpowered by grater numbers, they surrendered.

Seventy taken prisoners, including seven officers.

French reports that commando which attacked on January 4 lost 50 killed, besides wounded and prisoners, and dispersed.

Lorenzo Marques, Jan. 8.

Despatches from the Boer position at Colesberg, dated the 6th inst., have been received containing details of the Boer version of the fighting there.

General Schoeman had been defending the ridge of hills surrounding Colesberg for five days, which finished with heavy fighting mixed with artillery fire for 36 hours continuously. The movements of the British on Friday developed into a determined assault upon the Boer trenches, when the nasers (? Mausers), assisted by the Transvaal Maxim battery, decided the day in favour of the forces of the Federals along the whole line.

The trenches and kopjes occupied by the Boers were stormed gallantly by the Australians, but a useless sacrifice of men ensued. A terrific dash was made upon the Boer position near Colesberg by a company of Lancers. They manœuvred with the greatest boldness, but met with heavy loss, leaving nearly half of their entire squadron on the field during their wild attack. The British infantry followed up, but the Boers' sharpshooters played great havoc among them at close range. Sixty bodies were found below the position, and their colonel, mortally wounded, was also found. The Rand Mounted Police behaved admirably.

At the time the message was despatched the firing was slackening, but the Boers reported that so far they had over 100 prisoners, including eight officers. The Boer losses amounted to 30 killed and wounded.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

We were mistaken in saying that the Odawara Electric Railway runs to Yumoto. The section just finished does not go farther than Kozu.

The *Fiji Shimpo* publishes a telegram stating that a disturbance has taken place on the Chinese frontier of Burmah, resulting in the wounding of two employés of the British Consulate and two Burmese. Chinese bandits are supposed to have been responsible.

A terrible rumour is published to the effect that 130 miners of the Kame-Abukawa mine in Akita prefecture have been frozen to death. A Tokyo contemporary, in publishing the story, alleges that the managers of this mine are proverbial for the indifference they show to the welfare of their *employés*, but we trust that the grounds for the accusation may prove to have been greatly exaggerated.

The reported murder of a Japanese in Amoy by Chinese soldiers assumes, on farther inquiry, the comparatively insignificant dimensions of the wounding of two men in a brothel squabble. Things are said to be perfectly quiet in Amoy from an international point of view.

The total number of rats brought to the Tokyo police from January 15th to February 15th, when the system of purchase ceased to be operative, was 110,078, on account of which a sum of 5,500.70 *yen* was paid. The Kyobashi district headed the list with 13,877.

The little village of Yokogawa has been nearly wiped out by a conflagration. Fire broke out on the 15th instant in one of the railway stores, destroyed the store, 8 railway buildings and 35 houses. There was one death. As yet the cause of the disaster is not stated.

The reported outrage on the Burmese frontier is said to have been of a rather serious character. According to the *Asahi's* telegram, two members of a British consulate were killed by their Chinese guards. That version of the story appears very improbable. It is difficult to believe that, had such an event occurred, no statement would have been wired to the East by Reuter or some of the other agencies that supply news.

Kirishima Volcano developed exceptional activity on the 19th instant, at 12.55 p.m. Two hunters, who happened to be on the mountain at the time, were killed, and three were severely injured. Asama-yama also emitted local rumblings and great quantities of smoke and ashes on the 19th instant. In connexion, doubtless, with the latter phenomenon, news comes from Chiba prefecture that a shower of ashes fell there at 9 p.m. on the 19th instant.

The battle-ship *Shikishima* has passed safely through the Canal. She reached Suez on the 15th instant, the transit having occupied four days. The feat seems to be regarded with much satisfaction in Japan. No vessel of the *Shikishima's* size (14,850 tons) had ever previously passed the Canal, and the quick time in which the passage was accomplished is certainly a subject for congratulation.

Japan has already sent Captain Hiraoka to South Africa to accompany the British force throughout the campaign, but since the war promises to be much more protracted and on a much larger scale than was originally anticipated, she is now about to send two more officers, one to observe the commissariat arrangements and the other to perform a similar duty with regard to the medical department. There will be a very great deal to observe, we imagine.

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan has conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, 5th class, on Mr. Brindley, in recognition of the services rendered by him in the capacity of Engineering Instructor at the Kosakubun-kyoku, Akabane. Many people in Japan will learn with much pleasure that Mr. Brindley has received this well-merited recognition, for during his long

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residence in Japan he won not only respect for his abilities and conscientious assiduity, but also warm friendship and esteem for his genial and sterling disposition.

A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* from Söul says that Mr. Kawakita's application for permission to establish whaling stations in three districts of Korea has been sanctioned. We recently published particulars of this enterprise. It is not on a large scale, the capital being only a hundred thousand *yen*, but the promoters paint a very rosy picture of their prospects. The districts are Kyöngsang-do, Kangwön-do and Hamgyöng-do.

Another outrage against the persons of foreigners is reported to have occurred in China. On the 3rd of December last, Major Takenouchi and Captain Hashimoto of the Japanese Army, with 17 Chinese attendants, set out from Fuchow for Kiukiang, on a surveying expedition. They had reached Namchong when, on the 7th instant, they were attacked by a party of Chinese roughs, and Major Takenouchi was severely wounded. A physician has been despatched from Hankow to attend to his injuries. The *Hochi*, which publishes the news, represents the affair as very grave.

Congratulatory messages are reaching the Court of Japan in great numbers, from private individuals, both Japanese and foreign, and from European Courts, with reference to the betrothal of the Prince Imperial. It is stated that the members of the Corps Diplomatique in Tokyo have resolved to present a pair of silver vases inlaid with gold to the Imperial couple, and that the shapes and decorative designs are taken from vases used on the occasion of the Emperor's marriage. Baron d'Anethan, in his capacity of Doyen of the Corps, is said to have placed the order with the Gyokuho-do.

The Liberals have decided to make the nationalization of railways a party question. This decision was adopted unanimously at a general meeting of the Party, when 83 members attended. There was not by any means corresponding unanimity with reference to the method of purchase, but the main proposal passed virtually *nem. con.* Hitherto the Liberals' method with regard to this question has been to leave their members free to adopt whatever attitude each individual's judgment recommended, but it will now be necessary for every member to support the Bill or to answer to his Party for failing to do so.

The projectors of the Söul-Fusan Railway have issued a circular which contains a very clear statement of their programme. They put the capital of the undertaking at 25 million *yen*, to be raised in instalment of 5 millions each. So soon as one-tenth of the first installment is paid—in other words, when five hundred thousand *yen* have been put up—the company is to be entitled to commence work. It is further to have power to issue debentures to an amount not exceeding 10 million *yen*. The Government is asked to do two things: first, to make itself responsible for the payment of the debentures; secondly, to guarantee 6 per cent. interest on the company's paid up capital; not an actual disbursement of 6 per cent., but such a sum as shall bring the company's net profit to 6 per cent. Of course, until the line begins to be operated the whole of the 6 per cent. would have to be disbursed by the Treasury.

It turns out that there is no truth in the story of a duel between two lads of the Waseda Semmon Gakko. What really happened was that one of the students, driven wild by the taunts of his comrades that he was a bastard, ran off in a distraught condition with the apparent idea of committing suicide. Three students followed him, being solicitous for his safety, but it would seem that he misinterpreted their intention, for when they attempted to approach him, he pelted them with brickbats. They finally had recourse to violence in order to restrain him, and in the course of the struggle he received an unintended injury. That is the version now published.

A middy of 16, now serving in the *Terrible*, writes to his mother under date of December 19th from Durban:—"As you see by the heading, I am back in the *Terrible*. When I and the three other mids rejoined we found, much to our disgust, that all the mids had gone to the front. I am expecting and praying that I will go also, as I believe they want some more. If I don't go I shall call it the biggest piece of ill-luck that I have ever had . . . I hope that I shall be able to write you a joyous letter in a couple of days saying that I am off to the front." It is pleasant to find that the plucky lad had his wish. On the 20th he writes:—"I am quite well and am off to the front to-morrow." The second letter consists of one sentence.

The *Fiji Shimpo's* cartoonist draws a witty picture, a combination of art, mathematics, and politics. It takes the form of three equations, the members of which are cleverly drawn caricatures. Translated into words, the sketch runs thus:—

The Liberals+the Government=the State Purchase of Private Railways.

The State Purchase of Private Railways+the Stock Exchange=a wine-and-geisha jollification held by members of the House of Representatives and speculators in shares.

(The Liberals+the House of Representatives+the Speculators in shares)—(the State Purchase of Railways+the masks of gentlemen)=three skeletons struggling for a pot of money.

A telegram from Amoy says that a Japanese subject has been assassinated there by Chinese soldiers. The murder took place on the night of the 16th instant, but no particulars are given.

Japan will, of course, suffer much inconvenience if the United States applies its coasting-trade system to Hawaii, as seems very probable according to present appearances. Japanese steamers would then be precluded from calling at Honolulu *en route* for the Western ports of America, since by so doing they would fall under the regulation which forbids any foreign vessel to carry cargo from one American port to another. Similarly it would be impossible for Japanese steamers to carry cargo from the Philippines to America. We observe that the *Chiuwo Shimbun* writes in very strong terms about this subject, and is disposed to regard the American system as uncivilized. We do not believe in the American system, but it is necessary to remind our contemporary that there is an obstacle to the Japanese Government's adopting the course it recommends, namely, addressing an official remonstrance to the United States Government. The obstacle is that Japan herself closes her coast-wise trade to vessels owned by foreigners.

A correspondent draws attention to the following extract from Mr. Frederick Harrison's New-Year Address to the Positivist Society in London:—

Being so helplessly split up, our gallant soldiers fought several stiff battles, but while the checks they had met might be called reverses, they were certainly not routs, nor were they defeats. An army was defeated when it was driven back from its positions disorganised and demoralised. Nothing of the kind had occurred in any single engagement, unless it were in the small affair at Stormberg. *The gallant Boers had been many times driven from their positions, the British forces never once.* The heroic devotion of the British soldier and his officers had been proved on a dozen bloody fields. The total loss, sad as it was, had really been very moderate. In the general result, if the campaign had hitherto been a failure and a cruel disappoin ment, it had not been inglorious and had not been calamitous.

A Frenchman is said to have purchased a portion of Mr. Hirose's gold-dust claim in Esashi, the transaction, necessarily of an indirect nature, being concluded in the name of Mr. Akiyama, the well-known barrister. Such, at any rate, is the assertion of the *Shogyo Shimpo*. We do not vouch for its accuracy. The dimensions of the Hirose claim, as given by our contemporary, are peculiar: a width of 10 yards and a length of 6,000 yards. The Frenchman's lot is said to measure 10 yards by 1920. He purposes employing the best modern machinery, an example which, if its results prove encouraging, will be followed by Mr. Hirose in working the rest of the area. The price paid by the Frenchman is said to have been 8,000 *yen*, or a little less than a *yen* per *tsubo*. If the district really has auriferous qualities, that price is not ruinous.

INTEREST RATES.

According to investigations completed by the Finance Department and published in the *Official Gazette*, the rate of interest throughout the empire during December last was as follows:—

	On Loans.		On Deposits.	
	Max. per cent.	Min.	Max.	Min.
Hokkaido	12	10	6	6
Tokyo	9.9	8.8	6.5	5.8
Kyoto	12	8.7	6	4.5
Osaka	1.08	8.5	6.8	3
Kanagawa	1.02	8.4	7	5.5
Hiogo	11	8.7	5.5	5.5
Nagasaki	1.08	1.02	6	5.5
Niigata	11	9.9	6	5
Aichi	8.8	8.4	6	5.2
Miyagi	12.7	9.5	7	6
Aomori	13.7	12.1	6	6
Hiroshima	12.7	1.06	6	5.5
Kumamoto	13.1	1.09	7.5	6.5
Kagoshima	12	8	6	4.5

RAILWAY DISASTERS.

The *Hochi* complains of the frequency of railway disasters in Japan. It asserts that during the 65 days from the 3rd December last to the 6th February this year sixty-four persons have sustained more or less injury on the government and private railways, the rate of accidents being one per day. England is now possessed of 22,000 miles of railway, but the casualties during the first half of last year did not exceed 7 killed and 240 injured. The railways in Japan extend over only 3,600 miles, and the casualties are more than five times those of England.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ECCLESIASTICAL INCONSISTENCY.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space to refer to the communication which appears in your issue of the 13th inst. under the above heading.

I have no desire to discuss the propriety of giving a Ball in aid of the Church Funds, as it is purely a matter of opinion, and possibly your correspondent is one of those who would advocate a Café Chantant as more appropriate.

As regards the allegation made that preparations for the Ball were started on Sunday, I am authorized by the Ladies who organized the entertainment, to say, that neither at their request, nor with their knowledge or consent, was work commenced on that day.

The Public Hall Momban received orders to start work on Monday morning, which left ample time for decorations, etc.

Then as to the new Church Building, I may state that at the time the contract was made it was stipulated that no work was to be done on Sunday, but this engagement was evaded by the Japanese contractor. Attention having been called to the fact, strong representations were made some weeks ago through the Architect, Mr. Conder; and he assures me that upon further enquiry, he finds that since that date the Committee's wishes have been observed; although he cannot prevent the builder discharging material should it happen to arrive from the country on Sunday.

These explanations will, I trust, Mr. Editor, be satisfactory to A. B. C., whom I should, but for the denial, class as a pedantic fault-finder, particularly as the information that I now give might have been had for the asking.

Yours truly, W. F. MITCHELL,
Chairman, Christ Church Committee.

15th February, 1900.

[*It is obviously* quite impossible to provide against *the arrival of* material on Sunday. Timber, stones, and so on may be sent by boat or other means of conveyance, starting from the point of departure on a week day, and, if they arrive on Sunday, they must be unloaded. It seems to us that the Committee have made every endeavour to prevent anything like desecration of the Sabbath.—ED. *J. M.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Mitchell's letter in your issue of this morning I may add that the question of the expediency or propriety of a ball in aid of the funds of the Church never came before the Church Committee. As I understand the ball was voluntarily organized by a few ladies, well wishers of the Church, who acted quite independently of the Church Committee in the matter.

Yours truly, JAS. DODDS,
Member of Committee, Christ Church.

Yokohama, February 17th.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In order to remove what might otherwise convey an erroneous impression in reading Mr. Dodd's letter in your to-day's issue, I beg to refer to the following paragraph, which appears in the report given at the Annual General Meeting of Christ Church, held on Monday, the 29th of January:—

"We have the promise of a similar entertainment this year (that is a Ball) and hope, etc.:"

The report was passed; most of the members of the Committee being present, with the exception of Mr. Dodds, who was elected at that meeting.

Yours truly, F. W. MITCHELL.

Yokohama, 19th February, 1900.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL"

SIR,—As I am rightly regarded as having some responsibility, not very easy to define or to discharge, in matters affecting the English Church in Yokohama, may I ask you to let it be known that the subject of the balls has not been allowed to pass without notice.

Yours faithfully, WM. AWDRY,
Bishop.

Tokyo, February 19th, 1900.

THE "JAPAN HERALD" AND LIEUT. COL. CHURCHILL.

SIR,—Enclosed I hand you copy of a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Japan Herald*. You will see from the foot note that I asked for publication, but seeing that I sent the letter during the afternoon of the 14th instant, and no notice has been taken by the Editor, although he found space to insert a letter signed "Palmam Qui Meruit Ferat," dated 15th instant, I shall be glad if you will kindly insert the letter in your paper.

I am, sir, W. W. TILL.

Yokohama, Feb. 16th, 1900.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN DAILY HERALD."

SIR,—I have been a subscriber to your paper for a number of years and have become accustomed to reading articles on various topics, but I have never read anything so cowardly and offensive as the paragraph referring to Lt. Colonel Churchill which appeared in your issue of the 13th instant.

I am sure that in writing this I am only voicing the unanimous opinion of the Yokohama British community.

I am, Sir, W. W. TILL.

Yokohama, February 14th, 1900.

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will insert the above in an early issue of your paper.

W. W. TILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Mr. W. W. Till is not singular in his experience. On the 14th I, too, addressed to the *Japan Herald* a letter protesting strongly against the gratuitous attack of that paper on Lieut. Col. Churchill; but up to date no space has apparently been available for my communication; neither have I noticed in the columns of the *Japan Herald* any apology for, or even explanation of, the offensive paragraph against which every gentleman in Yokohama protests.

Your obedient servant, F.

[COPY.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN HERALD."

SIR,—I have read with absolute astonishment your scurrilous paragraph having reference to a contribution of Lieut. Col. Churchill to the *Japan Mail*. To me it is insufferable that an officer and a gentleman cannot write a letter to one of your contemporaries without being made the target of your vulgar abuse; and as a subscriber to your paper I hasten to let you know this.

Your obedient servant, F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In his letter to you of yesterday I think Mr. Till might have gone further and ventured to say that he voiced the opinion of every fair and right-minded man in the *community* with regard to the dastardly attack made on Colonel Churchill in the columns of the *Herald*

I have heard many American friends who have no personal acquaintance with Colonel Churchill express themselves quite as indignantly as any Britisher on the subject, the personal nature of the attack being, of course, a question quite apart from that of any public services rendered in the past by the Editor of the *Herald*. It appears to me that his apologists wander from the point at issue.

Yours truly, JAS. DODDS.

Yokohama, Feb. 17, 1900.

THE OTHER SIDE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—May I beg the indulgence of your columns to make a few remarks, called forth by the article: "American Sympathy?"

Naturally you and many of the readers of your paper look at the "Boer War" from an English stand-point, while others just as naturally see that there is another point of view.

"G" undertakes to say what "the great mass of Americans" feel about this war, which is rather a rash proceeding for any one living in Japan, who must get his information "at second hand."

The *Independent* and *Outlook, in some articles*, may look upon British rule in the Transvaal as "desirable in the interests of progress;" other periodicals equally influential think that England's attitude toward this South African Republic is both morally and politically wrong. Some of the contributors on this subject, to such magazines as the *North American Review* and *Review of Reviews* and others, are among the worthiest not only of America but of the *British Isles*.

However much Americans may love their English friends, as I do; however, much they may admire their fortitude; though they may be grateful for their sympathy last year and rejoice because of the present amicable relations of the two nations, to take it for granted that they must necessarily wish for English victory would be an arrogant assumption that we believe many of the best of both Great Britain and the United States are not ready to make.

Ought a loyal American, even while his heart bleeds for the terrible sorrow and loss to England, to forget his other brothers who are fighting for the same liberty and independence he fought for, only a little over a century ago?

Are there not many of the proudest and most excellent blood in America's great metropolis, and yet others scattered throughout the Republic, having the very same ancestry as not a few of these despised Boers, who did as much as any of the patriots of 1776 to give a stable foundation to their new country and to help bring about her present prosperity? As far as one is able to ascertain from published reports, concerning characteristics of "Oom Paul's people," the innuendoes flung at them from some quarters are very unfair. Their ancestry, French Huguenot, Hollandaise &c. is as worthy as that of their enemy; they are an honest religious, well-educated people, and if they do lack some of the conventionalities of their European and American brothers, it is because they have been driven into or fled "to the wilderness" in order to maintain their religious and civil freedom—Heaven born rights.

We do not believe that "might makes right" nor that "the best interests of the world" are ever obtained by "crushing" one Christian nation that another may add to her power and possessions.

With great sympathy for our English friends who suffer needlessly, and with a greater sympathy for the Boers who, we believe, suffer not only needlessly but unjustly,

I am, very sincerely,
MARY BROKAW JONES.

Fukui, Echizen, Feb. 14th, 1900.

[How is it proved that the Boers are fighting for their independence? How was their independence threatened? They were simply asked to grant to British subjects in the Transvaal the privileges that they themselves receive in British dominions; the privileges that British subjects receive in the Orange Free State; the privileges that British subject were entitled by convention to claim. Was the independence of the Free State threatened by granting those privileges? If ever a war was inspired by aggression it is this war, and the Boers are the aggressors.—ED. *J. M.*]

MR. FUKUZAWA AND THE NON-CHURCHED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

The readers of the *Mail* have to thank you for the very full and clear review of the writings of Mr. Fukuzawa, the last installment of which is printed in to-day's issue of your paper. In the opinion of the writer you fail to make a very important distinction when you compare Mr. Fukuzawa's teachings with the attitude of the

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great number of the unchurched in Western countries. With your permission I should like to call your attention to this distinction.

In referring to Mr. Fukuzawa's doctrine that religion is a useful falsehood, that while it is a good restraining influence and incentive for the uneducated, the educated have grown beyond it, you say, "After all is not this just the very attitude tacitly assumed by the majority of thinkers in Europe and America? Thousands, we may perhaps say millions, of men steer quite clear of religion themselves, never entering a church except for a funeral, a wedding, or a baptism, but they think it but natural that their women folk should go to church, and that even a certain class of men should find religion helpful to them. The only difference between Mr. Fukuzawa and the majority of Western thinkers is this. He states in plainest language his opinion on the subject of religion and its function in the world; they usually maintain a discreet silence. But their practice and their confidential communications made by them to friends conclusively show that in reality their attitude to religion is precisely that of Mr. Fukuzawa."

The fact that a man does not go to church does not prove that he is not a religious man. This is the distinction which you fail to make. A man may believe in religion and be religious in his life and for other reasons absent himself from church. For some years the writer has mingled socially and somewhat extensively with the non-churched men in different cities of the West, and has almost universally found them to be men who believe in religion. He has been surprised to find in many cases that they were men of devout spirit and daily religious habits, and yet they do not go to church. Why? There are many reasons. We shall call attention to but two or three of them.

One reason is that they have been taught to identify the church with the dogmas of Orthodoxy, that is, with the doctrine of verbal inspiration of the Bible, total depravity, endless misery in the next life for the sins of this, and other kindred doctrines. They know that things so contradictory to reason, so revolting to their better manhood, can not be true, and therefore they absent themselves from the church which they understand represents these ideas. They know they have a better religion in their own hearts.

Another reason is that they have identified the church with ecclesiasticism. Ecclesiasticism, especially as it is often exercised, is repellent to the liberty-loving and growing mind. There are many other influences, such as the mad rush for wealth and the craze for amusement so prevalent in the Western world, which prevent church attendance with men who thoroughly and honestly believe Christian ideas. You must not conclude, Mr. Editor, that because a man does not go to church he is not a religious man. It is a generalization which is far from correct. The fact is that a belief in rational religious ideas is vastly on the increase in the Western world. Instead of Mr. Fukuzawa having the "courage" to say what the men of the West believe tacitly but are not brave enough to advocate, his ideas would find few adherents among the more intelligent; and the higher the class in intelligence and education the less sympathy would be found for such teaching. This opinion I offer after years of careful study and observation bearing upon the subject.

Neither Mr. Fukuzawa's philosophy nor Orthodoxy is the growing thought of America, for which country the writer feels himself best qualified to speak. The thinking world is coming back to the rational religion of Christ. When Japan comes to know that liberal Christianity is the real Christianity taught by Christ, this land will be the land of faith as is the Western world of to-day.

WESTERNER.

Tokyo, Feb. 15th, 1900.

DEATH AND LIFE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your most interesting paper has always offered an arena for the free and full expression of opinion, especially upon such subjects as you bring to the attention of your readers from time to time. I have been much interested by your editorial in the *Weekly Mail* of Jan. 20th entitled "Death and life" and beg space to make note of a few thoughts suggested by the same.

For some years past I have been interested in the chemical theory of life. It is therefore with unusual pleasure I learn that:—

"Prof. Loeb of the University of California claims to have discovered the way of producing life. He has chemically fertilized the eggs of sea urchins and has hatched these eggs. The feat was achieved by subjecting the unfertilized eggs to a solution of sodium and magnesium. Prof. Loeb says, 'We have drawn a great step nearer the chemical theory of life and already see ahead of us the day when a scientist experimenting with chemicals in a test tube may see them unite and form a substance which shall live and move and reproduce itself. It will be the first protoplasmic cell, the origin of all life which was produced in the test tube of nature ages ago by the union in the course of the world's evolution of the same chemical substances with which he will have worked.'"

The latter part of the Professor's prophecy seems a little involved, for how can the substance which the chemist of the future *will see* forming in his tube, be 'the first protoplasmic cell, the origin of all life which was produced in the test tube of nature *ages ago?*" But this of course is a mere matter of figure of speech which can be easily corrected when theory shall become fact. The great thought to which the scientist would draw our attention is, apparently, this. Having now discovered the hidden powers of a solution of sodium and magnesium the next great step is to manufacture by chemical process the eggs upon which to operate with the solution. Only this would now seem to stand between the chemical theory of life and assured fact. For it is so *infra dig.* for a scientist every time he wishes to obtain specimens of eggs for fertilization to have to be dependent upon sea urchins, or the birds of the air, it might be, or, horror of horrors! an ordinary barnyard fowl. For this of course exposes him to the doubts of the sceptical who will be prone to think only of the fact that he has had to apply to previous life for aid in his operations and absolutely ignore the wonders of a solution of sodium and magnesium. Hence this trumpet call to a new industry, the manufacture of eggs, which from now on may become the chief pursuit of the scientific world. And the Japanese who advertises these usefularticles of consumption as "abstract of fowl" will change his sign to read "evolution of test tube for sale here!" Having discovered the process of manufacturing eggs the chemist will only have to mix a few chemicals in a test tube, submit it to a solution of sodium and magnesium, and from it will come forth a sea urchin, a hen, or a man, as the will of the manipulator may determine.

By the time this has been discovered, the soul or spiritual nature of man will no longer present any difficulties. I notice that in your comments you called attention to these difficulties and suggested that in the chemical theory of life the soul is lost sight of. These fears are ungrounded, I assure you, for it will probably have been discovered that the psychical part of man is also resolvable to a chemical formula, the intellect consisting of (for instance) two parts hydrogen to seven parts bichloric acid, the sensibilities being made up largely of bismuth and antimony, and the will of equal parts of raw lobster, salad oil, shrimps, and fried oysters!

At last the chemical theory of life is a fact, and how men will hail it! How many difficulties it will solve! How many perplexing problems it will clear up! There is that old metaphysical problem of the Middle Ages; was the egg first, or the hen? The scholars of former days, not knowing the possibilities of a test tube and the virtues of a solution of sodium and magnesium, never settled the question, but the golden key is in our hands and we now unhesitatingly pronounce in favour of the egg—a sea urchin's egg.

Then it solves some of the vexing problems of myth and folk lore. There is that old story of Minerva springing full armed from the head of Jove. In these days when scholarship is marked by such ghastly ways of unbelief there has been a disposition to relegate this to the limbo of the incredible. But in this we are wrong, for scientists who hold to the chemical theory of life will unhesitatingly assure us that this story is a priceless treasure, for in it is hidden one of the earliest references in human traditions to the test tube sodium-magnesium process. Old Jove was only that "test tube of nature ages ago" and Minerva was simply "the union in the course of the world's development of chemical substances." There can be no doubt of this, for the references to Jove's head clearly points to the top of a tube.

Social problems likewise give way before the all-engrossing sway of the chemical theory of life. The inequalities which exist among men, the diversities of mental and physical constitution, these are all referable to the test tube sodium-magnesium process. This is clearly shown in those traditions of the infancy of the human race called Hindu. To explain social problems they invented the story of Brahma, which is only a test tube sodium-magnesium tragedy expressed in poetry. You remember that in the story of Brahma creating the race the Brahmins came from his head, the soldiers from his thighs, and the lower orders from his feet, or a scheme to that effect. What is Brahma but this old "test tube of nature ages ago;" and it was working smoothly and excellently producing group after group of Brahmins, the finished product of a proper union of chemical substances, when alas! one day the tube burst and there fell out on the earth the imperfectly united chemicals contained in the tube, some as soldiers, others as merchants, farmers, and artisans as the process was more or less complete.

But what have we to hope for from the test tube sodium magnesium process? Has it any utilitarian aspects? Certainly. How could it be otherwise? Just apply it to the problem of colonization. Instead of sending *people* to settle in territory where disease and climatic conditions are a menace to life and health the Government will only send a number of test tubes and a sufficient quantity of sodium and magnesium. They will then wait for the fortuitous union in these tubes of quantities of the soil in each locality, which being innoculated with malaria, fever and small pox, there will immediately come forth a race of sturdy colonists equipped physically, mentally, and morally for the battle of life.

May we not hope, further, that this test tube sodium-magnesium process will result in a complete revolution of our methods of treating criminals? How barbaric is our present way of treating the incorrigibly bad, sometimes imprisoning them for life, or even killing them and putting them under the sod. Instead of this they will then be sentenced to the great government test tube. Here they will be "reduced" to their chemical elements, the quantities will be readjusted, some of the bismuth and potassium removed, so to speak, and the will, as it were, reinforced with salad oil and shrimps, and he who went into the tube an incorrigible criminal will come out triplets morally and physically perfect.

Truly, great will be science, so called.

Yours cordially,

GEO. HEBER JONES.

Chemulpo, Korea, Feb. 1st, 1900.

A small fire occurred at forty-five minutes past twelve on Sunday night, at Uchidacho Gochome. It originated at a dying establishment, and was confined to the premises where it broke out.

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SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF JAPAN.

(AT THE SHAREHOLDERS' GENERAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1900.)

GENTLEMEN,—Before submitting to you the general business report of the Bank for the 32nd year of Meiji (1899), I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to offer for your consideration a few remarks on the general condition of the economic world of Japan and the more important of the Bank's affairs during the year under review.

Looking back over the general monetary situation during the past year, it will be remembered that in the early part of the year the market was characterized by a general tone of depression, attended by the immobility of articles of commerce, and business continued to be dull —a state of affairs which was but a natural sequel of the industrial inactivity and business stagnancy observed towards the close of the preceding year. The situation was rendered worse by the steady fall in the price of rice, resulting in a diminution of purchasing power on the part of the rural population. At the same time, as a result of the inducements offered by all banking institutions during the past few years for deposits of all kinds, the money that had been dispersed in the country began to find its way to the coffers of the banks, thereby contributing to accelerate the general tendency to sluggishness in the money market. Under the circumstances the money accumulated in the banks in a remarkable manner. At this Bank, for instance, the return of money amounted to several million *yen* every month during the period from January to May inclusive. The inevitable result was a gradual rise in the quotations of public bonds and stocks and a constant fall in the market rate of interest. Such being the case, notwithstanding the fact that this Bank had twice revised its rate of interest in the last quarter of the preceding year, reducing it to two *cents* per 100 *yen* per diem, it was thought advisable, in consideration of the steady depreciation of the market rate, to lower our rate on four occasions between the months of February and July last year.

Subsequently, however, the silk season fortunately happened to coincide with the reviving activity of business in European and American markets, and the price of this staple article of our exports rose in consequence and silk continued to find ready sale. By about August or September, the export trade of the country had made so much progress that its stimulating effect began to be felt in the general business of the country. Then, again, with the approach of the harvest season it became possible, on the strength of reports pouring in from all parts of the country, to estimate with tolerable accuracy the probable shortage of the year's rice crop, about which some apprehensions had generally been entertained in consequence of the unfavourable weather and other untoward natural calamities, so that in the month of October the price of rice began to go up, which as usual led to a keen competition for laying in stocks of the cereal. The demand for money thus created was still more augmented by the increasing briskness of business on account of the returning prosperity in provincial centres and the steady appreciation of prices. It thus becoming apparent that a signal change was overtaking the money market of the country, it was considered necessary for this Bank to be prepared against future contingencies. Consequently the rate of interest was raised by one *rin* (1/10 *sen*) in the course of November, and the process had to be subsequently repeated twice over before the end of the year. These repeated elevations of rate were, however, unable to check the general demand for money, which continued increasing, and the volume of loans advanced at such a pace that by the end of the year it became necessary for the Bank, in order to meet the requirements of the market, to have recourse to an excess-issue of over twenty million *yen*.

The year under review, as you will have remarked, witnessed most extraordinary fluctuations in the condition of the money market. By way of illustration let me quote some statistics. The volume of loans of the Bank was at its lowest ebb in May, when it went down as low as 46,460,000 *yen*, and its highest limit was reached at the close of the year, when it went up as high as 121,090,000 *yen*, thus showing a difference of 74,630,000 *yen* between the two extremes. As to the volume of notes in circulation, the lowest limit was similarly recorded in May with 165,620,000 *yen*, while at the end of the year it footed up to 250,560,000 *yen*, showing an increase of as much as 84,940,000 *yen*. So large an expansion of the volume of loans or of note circulation in the short space of a few months has indeed been seldom witnessed. This remarkable phenomenon was, I believe, principally due to a sudden change in the condition of the money market in consequence of the increased prosperity of the export trade and the upward movement in the price of rice.

As to the general economic situation I am gratified to notice of late a tendency towards gradual improvement. Of the signs of improvement observable during the year under review the most remarkable were the increase of deposits at the banks and the circulation of commercial bills. Statistics for the whole country are not yet forthcoming, but referring to the returns of the Associated Banks of Tokyo and Osaka the aggregate amount of deposits at the end of the year stood at 148,040,000 *yen*, showing an increase of upwards of forty million *yen* over the figure for the corresponding period of the preceding year. This was in one sense the result of the general tendency of the money market, but it should at the same time be regarded as an indication of the general improvement of the monetary organs and the consequent development of facilities for the accumulation of money. With regard to the circulation of bills, the statistics for Tokyo and Osaka during the past year show that the value of bills cleared in those two cities amounted to 1,438,790,000 *yen*, which meant an increase of over 420 million *yen* as compared with the preceding year—a circumstance clearly indicating the degree of development attained by the system of credit transactions. These are facts on which the monetary world of Japan may be heartily congratulated. Turning now to the record of the foreign trade during the past year, we observe that the exports and imports amounted altogether to 435,100,000. Compared with the figures for the preceding year the above sum shows a decrease of 8,140,000 *yen*, but looking more closely at it we notice that there was an increase of 48,990,000 *yen* in exports against a decrease of 57,140,000 *yen* in imports, resulting in an excess of imports over exports to the moderate amount of something like 5,610,000 *yen*. It will thus be observed that the balance between the exports and imports, which had persistently been so greatly in favour of the latter since the late war, has nearly recovered its normal condition. Among the various causes which conspired to bring about such a result, mention may be made, on the one hand, of the lively demand at high prices for silk and silk fabrics in consequence of a favourable turn in the Western markets, and of the prosperous trade in some other articles like cotton goods and copper, and, on the other hand, of the decrease of the importation of rice as the result of the previous year's plentiful harvest and of the cessation of the speculative importation so extensively resorted to in the previous year in anticipation of the coming in force of the revised tariff. It is, however, a matter for regret that so unusually prosperous a trade in exports as that witnessed last year was not sufficient to prevent an ultimate excess of imports over exports.

I next wish to say a word about some changes introduced in the note issuing system. I allude to the amendment of the Convertible Notes Regulations and the enactment of a law for taxing the Bank of Japan. The result of these legislative measures has been, on the one hand, the expansion of the limit of issue on security, which means a corresponding increase in the responsibility of the Bank as the supplier of funds for purposes of domestic and foreign trade. On the other hand a tax has newly been imposed upon the Bank on the issue of notes, thus adding to its obligations.

With regard to the more important affairs of the Bank during the year under consideration, I may be allowed to call your attention to the establishment of a branch at Fukushima, and the closing of that at Tai-Hoku (Tai-peh). The north-eastern districts of the main island produce a number of valuable commodities like silk, rice and other cereals, and so forth, yet complaints have been heard of frequent stringency of the money market there. In order to remedy this state of things the need of a branch somewhere in that part of the country had for some time been recognized, and, taking advantage of the opening in May last year of the Yonezawa-Fukushima section of the O-u railway, the town of Fukushima was selected as the seat of the proposed branch, which was opened for business from the 17th of July. The branch at Taihoku having been established for the sole purpose of managing Government funds in Formosa, the necessity for its continued maintenance ceased to exist with the organization in September last of the Formosan Bank, which was charged with the business in question. The business was accordingly handed over to that Bank, and our Branch was closed on the 30th of the same month.

When the Imperial Government raised the loan of 10 million pounds in London, the affairs connected with that operation were conducted by this Bank in obedience to the instructions of the Minister of Finance. Besides, the Bank undertook to subscribe two million pounds to that loan, and the reason was twofold. In the first place it was aimed thereby to obtain the facilities for securing satisfactory results in the arrangement of conditions for the floating of the loan. In the next place, our step in question was the result of the recognition on the Bank's part of the necessity, for the protection of our monetary system, of possessing a supply of securities that may at moment be converted into specie in foreign markets.

A word about the redemption of the National Bank notes. The operation was first entrusted to this Bank in the 16th year of Meiji (1883) in virtue of the Minister of Finance's Instructions on "the Combined Redemption of the National Bank notes." The business connected with the operation was since then conducted at the Bank until February last year, when it was brought to a conclusion simultaneously with the final disappearance of the National Banks, which had by that time been either dissolved altogether or recognized as private concerns.

In conclusion I trust you will join with me in congratulating ourselves upon the fact that, notwithstanding extraordinary fluctuations in the monetary situations to which I have already alluded, the year under review was, from the general economic point of view, on the whole tranquil and free from any particular disturbance. As to the prospects during the present year, there are certain aspects demanding careful attention on our part. At home, for instance, some anxiety is caused by the possible effects of the rise of prices and the poor crop of rice upon the balance of foreign trade, while abroad hostilities in South-Africa still remain unterminated.

I beg to assure you that my efforts, to the utmost extent of my humble capacity, shall be devoted to securing the satisfactory discharge of the Bank's functions as the central organ of the country's credit system.

It appears, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the five dollar and one dollar notes ordered last year from Japan by Viceroy Chang Chih-tung for the Hupeh Provincial Bank, for circulation in Wuchang and all parts of Hupeh province, have become so popular amongst the people there that H.E. has ordered a million more one dollar notes from the same source. The new notes are to be stamped as usual with the great seal of the Provincial Treasurer and of the Board of Reorganization of Hupeh.

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FAREWELL DINNER TO MR. JUSTICE WILKINSON.

A dinner was given by the members of both the British Bar and the Inns of Court Association, in honour of Mr. Justice Wilkinson and officers of the British Court for Japan, at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, on Monday, 19th February, at 7.30 p.m., when the following gentlemen were present, Viscount Nagaoka presiding:—Judge Wilkinson, Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, Mr. H. G. Parlett, Mr. C. D. Moss, Judge Watanabe, Mr. Holmes, Mr. H. C. Litchfield, Mr. J. F. Lowder, Mr. E. Terry, Mr. A. B. Walford, Mr. Masujima, Mr. G. H. Scidmore, and Mr. Akiyama.

After Mr. H. C. LITCHFIELD, late Crown Prosecutor for our Lady the Queen in Japan, had given the toast of "The Rulers of our respective countries,"

Viscount NAGAOKA said:—I rise to propose the toast of our friend Judge Wilkinson and Her Majesty's Court for Japan, and I feel proud in having to do so. The high integrity of the Bench is the glory of the administration of the law in England, and in the dispensation of justice in this country the Queen's Court at Yokohama has always maintained a very high character indeed for enlightenment and for perfect equity. When Foreign Powers entered into early Treaties with my country which preserved for them what are known as extraterritorial rights, it followed that foreign subjects had for criminal offences to be tried by their own officials applying their laws, and that when they were defendants in civil proceedings a similar mode of procedure had to be followed. Then all the Foreign Powers with the exception of Great Britain left the administration of justice to their Consuls, but England thought such a course insufficient, and in 1865, if I recollect rightly, a Court was established at Yokohama which was a branch of Her Majesty's Supreme Court for China and Japan, and which was presided over by a trained lawyer. This arrangement was, however, still found insufficient and unsatisfactory, at least so I presume, for in 1878 the Court here was given fuller powers, was separated from the Supreme Court, was to be called in future Her Majesty's Court for Japan, and had Sir Richard Rennie appointed as its first Judge. Sir Richard Rennie was succeeded by Sir Nicholas Hannen, who was in turn succeeded by Mr. Mowat, and then by the present occupant, our guest of to-night, Mr. Wilkinson. Gentlemen, the distinguished services of these Judges are very well known to you, and are also familiar to my country men. Both Sir Richard Rennie and Sir Nicholas Hannen passed to the Chief Justiceship in Shanghai, and Mr. Mowat had to retire from ill-health. Now, owing to the revised Treaties having come into force, the services of Judge Wilkinson are no longer necessary in Japan, and he is soon to leave us, but of this we feel sure, that his distinguished career in the public service is not yet to end, and I think it is the hope of us all that he in his turn will preside over the highest Court of the Queen in the neighbouring Empire. Should this be so, I can only say that his fellow countrymen will be very fortunate, for we can assure them that he will ever dispense justice with gracious urbanity and with that perfect impartiality and learning which have made him so loved and respected in Japan. Brother barristers, I ask you to join me in drinking the health of Mr. Justice Wilkinson and officers of the British Court, to thank them for services rendered by them in the administration of justice, in H.B.M.'s Court for Japan.

Mr. JUSTICE WILKINSON in reply said—Viscount Nagaoka and Gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for your kindness in inviting me here this evening, and giving me the opportunity of meeting you all once more before my departure. I thank you, Viscount Nagaoka, for the terms of friendly appreciation in which you have referred to Her Britannic Majesty's Court for Japan, and the Judges who have presided over it, and you, gentlemen, for your hearty response. I hope before long to meet all my three predecessors on the bench, and it will give me very great pleasure to inform them of the kindly sentiments you have expressed with regard to them. While I feel that you have referred to myself in too flattering terms, I welcome and highly appreciate your kind words, as showing that you believe that I, like my predecessors, have striven to do my duty, and that I have not been altogether unsuccessful. It is a great source of gratification, now when our work is about to end, to feel that it has been one of usefulness, and that its usefulness has been appreciated. It is particularly pleasing to receive that assurance from fellow barristers who of all others are best able to form a just opinion. Viscount Nagaoka and gentlemen, I regret that this should be farewell. Again, in my own name, in the name of my predecessors, and in the name of all connected with the Court, I most heartily thank you. Fellow guests, I wish you to drink with me the health of our hosts. We are indebted to them for a very pleasant reunion, tinged though it may be with sadness. Our hosts, the members of the Bar, and the members of the Inns of Court Association, are now the representatives in Japan of British jurisprudence, and I hope they will make their influence felt. It can only be exercised for good. We wish them success in their individual capacity and success in spreading the high principles which as English barristers they have been taught should animate those concerned in the administration of Justice. Gentlemen. "Our hosts!"

Mr. MASUJIMA responded to the toast, on behalf of the British Bar and the Inns of Court Association, as follows.—It has been a very great pleasure to us to have been able to arrange for this function to-night, but at the same time we regret that we are entertaining our guests on such an occasion as the present when H.B.M.'s Court will soon be no more. It is one thing to rejoice with the Japanese Government in its taking foreigners in Japan under its judicial protection; it is quite a different thing to reflect that the Japanese have to say farewell to the British Court. The Law Court of England is a perfect and enlightened model of judicial administration, and H.B.M.'s Court for Japan has shown itself to be worthy of the tribute paid to it in such fitting terms by the much beloved president of the Inns of Court Association. Nothing is like a living example. In men or institutions a living monument only can effectively bestow its beneficient influence. Nothing is so far-reaching as real advantages conferred by illustrations laid before you. It is in this respect that we have to mourn over the honourable death of the British Court. When it is no longer among us, where can we find in this country such a noble and perfect model of judical administration? The existence of the British Court has also exerted a restraining influence over lawyers and advocates in this country. The traditions of the British Bar have controlled the conduct of many among us. I am sure that none of us who have been educated at the British Bar would or can ever forget its teachings, but where shall we look for their beneficent guidance when the Bar is gone with the Court of which it forms such an integral part, for men are often tempted without some actual moral pressure. In losing its co-operator, the British Bar, the Inns of Court Association will have hereafter to discharge an additional responsibility as an auxiliary educational machine for the advancement of legal science and judicial administration in thiscountry. Japan has much to learn from British example in improving her jurisprudence and her courts of law. Did not Mr. Miyoshi, late President of our Supreme Court, say that it was the English lawyers who have mainly contributed to the real improvement of the Japanese Law Courts? May the members of the British Bar individually and the Inns of Court Association long remain to render that very real and valuable assistance which they have done in the past, and to influence largely in the future the reforms and improvements that are still needed in the administration of jnstice and in the working of the Codes in Japan.

TABLEAUX VIVANTS.

The entertainment organized by the British Women's Patriotic Association, given in the Public Hall on Tuesday evening, fully deserved the hearty support accorded it. The proceedings opened with a pretty overture by the Misses Page, and then the curtain rose on the first tableau "United Services," a band of sturdy young Britons in the red tunics of the Line and the blue jackets of the Na y, who proudly stood at guard while "God save the Queen" was sung, and then saluted when the White Ensign and the Union Jack were unfurled. They were the Masters Guiness, Dinsdale (2), Hutchison (2), Parsons, Cahusac, and Talbot. Next Miss Beatrice Ross gave some admirable recitations, the first dealing with a bush-ranger's adventure in Australia. The two tableaux from Tennyson's "Princess" were very pretty, the antique Greek dresses and the admirable posing-making pictures which the audience were loth to part with. The young ladies taking part were, in the Tent Scene, Miss Moss (yellow), Miss Bishop, Miss A. Page, Miss Thomas (mauve) Miss M. Thomas (white and gold), Miss W. Mitchell, Miss Helena Page, Miss Dolly Page, Miss A. Strome (mauve), and Miss Nina Smith (yellow). In "The Kiss," the *Princess* was Miss M. Thomas, the *Prince* Miss H. Lloyd Thomas, and the *Statue* Miss Page. Mrs. Melhuish's glorious voice was heard to advantage in the next selection, and again later in the evening, and she was naturally recalled. Mrs. P. S. Bent's selection was most appropriate, "Jessie's Dream," which describes so effectively Havelock's relief of Lucknow—a story that surely will never die. The clear, pure notes of the singer and the stirring accompaniment of the Highland Airs, woke sympathetic chords in the hearts of the audience which found expression in rounds of applause. Another charming tableau, "Orientale," was then disclosed. It comprised Miss Nina Smith, Miss Mabel Sharp, and Miss Helena Page. After this Miss Helena Page, still in her pretty costume, gave a violin solo, and the first part concluded with the tableau "Sisters of Succour"—a hospital ward, with the sick in their cots, the nursing sisters in attendance, and the surgeon-in-charge going the rounds—a most effective, if rather gruesome, piece of realism. The nurses were Mrs. Healing, Mrs. Dinsdale, Mrs. Showler, and Mrs. Dunlop.

On resuming, after the interval, an amusing tableau was disclosed. In the words of the programme—"Perambulation. 'In the Park,' by the Girls they left behind them." Tommy Atkins' *penchant*, according to the British comic papers, is a neat nursemaid in charge of a perambulator—well, there were plenty of neat nursemaids and plenty of children on the stage—(though some of the caps, we must own, looked rather too much like "widders' weeds," and some of the "babies" were very wooden, but these are details). The young ladies sang "Oh, Tommy, Tommy Atkins," in the chorus of which they were assisted by the house. The nursemaids were the Misses Page (5), Miss Squire, Miss A. Strome, Miss Bishop, and Miss Ross; Miss Winifred Sharp, Miss Tresize and Master Hutchison played the natural parts of children. The skirt dancing of Miss Nita Strome was very graceful and thoroughly earned the applause which a delighted audience freely accorded. Master Ewen Steele, in the costume of Paddy of Killaloe, was recalled for his Irish jig, into the spirit of which he fully entered. After an exquisite violin trio by the Misses Page, the last tableau was disclosed, "Britannia," surrounded by her fair daughters, the Colonial possessions of the British Empire. Miss Lloyd Thomas was Britannia, a striking figure; and her attendants were Miss Moss (Canada), Miss Bishop (Cape Colony), Miss M. Thomas (India), Miss Mabel Sharp (Australia), Miss D. Page (New Zealand), and Miss A. Strome (Straits Settlements). "Rule Britannia" was sung during this piece; and then "God Save the Queen," brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

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LETTER FROM AMERICA.

The controversies as to when the century begins have about closed, and the practical and satisfactory solution has been reached by most people, namely, that while all the astronomers have agreed that the 19th century is not finished until the last second of the last minute of the last hour and day of the year 1900, yet that the popular traditions and ideas, to say nothing of the opinions of the German emperor, have their rights, and so most people think they are within the 20th century. I remember years ago George Bancroft the historian remarked that he was born in the 18th century but had lived most of his life in the 19th century, for he saw the light during the year 1800, and he left himself on record as to his belief that the 20th century would not dawn until Jan. 1, 1901.

It has been a solemn thought to many, however, that we have passed by and are beyond a whole century from the death of Washington. To mature people in the present century it was quite common to have met and talked with those who saw or knew the father of his country. How we are sobered to think we are so far on our national way. The meetings called this year *in memoriam* of his decease, and the issues of the press and magazines, show that neither time nor scrutiny of facts and publicity of details regarding Washington have done other than set him in clearer light, beside giving him definiteness of position in the popular imagination. Mr. Paul Leicester Ford's book "The True George Washington," so far from creating contemptuous merriment or causing detraction, seems to have acted as a great stimulant to research and further study. Most striking this year have been the many tributes to the character of Washington at banquets, in the press, and offered in formal addresses, in England the mother country and among English-speaking peoples.

After more than a century's absence from us in the flesh, Washington appears more than ever as a saviour, an interpreter, and a prophet. He not only saved his country when he stood for rights as dear to an Englishman as to an American, and resisted revolution from without in the form of the aggressions of King George and his corrupt Parliament, but when the colonies, having become states, notwithstanding their independence, were, through sectional jealousies, degenerating into chaos, Washington again became the saviour and unifier. It was through his personality and poise that these jealousies were soothed and the people of the United States were through their constitution able to form a more perfect union and a strong government—a government that has changed in its essential features less than that of any country in Europe, that has a flag older than any other, and which is in temper one of the most conservative in the world.

For the third time Washington saved his country when the sentiment of gratitude towards France threatened to lead the nation into a hopeless vortex or to land it upon a rock. He not only, in the face of tempests of abuse, made the new treaty of 1794 with Great Britain, but he refused to see in the French revolution what some Americans saw in it. He knew the French people too well to suppose that the interests of any Latin people that should cling to Latin ideals were identical with those of English-speaking people. Washington doubtless felt that the Revolution was rather in the nature of a civil war, and that in the developments of history those who inherited the same ideas of safeguarded freedom, the same law, the same literature, and the same outlook upon the world, must be one, and that in the world's broader field British and Americans must work together. While the American gratefully remembers how the First Consul of the infant Republic of France draped the French standards in crape for ten days, he sees in the lowering at half-mast of the British flag of the fleet at Torbay, a more significant manifestation; for, only seventeen years before, the British Government had known Washington only as a rebel. To honour him in death was a sure sign that the past was forgotten, except as its memory could work for good. From this and from other precedents in British history, Americans draw hopeful auguries for South Africa.

In the events of the last two years Americans feel that Washington was not only the saviour of his country but that he was a true interpreter of his race, and, being an interpreter of such deep insight, he must needs be in a measure a prophet. His Farewell Address showed clearly that he was this. Americans are to-day as little inclined as ever to enter into "entangling alliances," or to have any connection whatever with what is known as "the balance of power." If the recent diplomatic victory of Secretary John Hay be confirmed, and I doubt not that in the main it is substantially true, that the United States has secured in China an "open door" of unrestricted trade, we can see here the carrying out of the traditions embodied by Washington in his Address, which calls for a reasonable maintenance of rights, both natural and those guaranteed by the written laws of nations, without joining in military schemes of conquest and spoliation.

Such a time as this, when Boer and Briton are at war with each other, tests strongly the real temper of the American people. Our nation is certainly not English in blood. Personally, I do not believe that even a majority of the American people are descended from English ancestors, though it is quite possible that a large majority is descended from the Four Nations in the British Islands, English, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish. To-day, probably, the overwhelming majority of our people believe that the war in South Africa is unjust, unnecessary, and the work of the worse elements in British society and government. They have an intense sympathy with the little republic in South Africa whose ancestors were Dutch, German, and Huguenots, who, being intense Protestants, were united by a common religion. They have taken up a fair portion of the earth, utterly unlike the founders of the American republic, have tried to shut out the rest of the world, have not encouraged education or the spread of liberal ideas, and, with all their virtues, are manifestly different in spirit and temper from the ancestors of the people of the United States. While few Americans wish to see Great Britain win too easily, and while they sympathize with the Boers or Africanders both in their position and claims, I am inclined to believe that should the question be put to each person individually, "What kind of a world would you wish to live in, such a world as the Boers apparently wish to make, or such a one as the British have made and are making," that, in overwhelming majority, the answer would be in favour of the British.

W.E.G.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Amount received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China on account of the Lord Mayor's funds for the widows and orphans of the officers and men of Her Majesty's forces who may lose their lives from the war in South Africa :—

	£	Yen
Sums previously acknowledged.....	60.10.0	
" " " "		11,683 75
J. A. Wilson		100 00
G. A. Scott		100.00
"One half of a bet"		50 00
H. B.		20.00
M. S.		15 00
J. R. G.		10 00
Mrs. H. Ivison		10 00
R. S.		5 00
C.R. I.B.		3.00
		11,996.75
	£60 10 0	

Yokohama, 17 February.

THE BOER WAR AS VIEWED BY CAPTAIN MAHAN.

We have been asked to publish the following :—

EDITOR OF THE "NEW YORK TIMES."

Sir,—Mr. Shearman's excellent letter in your issue of the 17th inst. upon the merits of the controversy between the Transvaal and Great Britain, which has issued in the present war, does not mention one point of considerable importance in itself, but still more as illustrative of the Boers' ideas of justice.

When the population now known as the Uitlanders were encouraged by the Boer Government to enter the Transvaal and to develop the gold fields, the period for naturalization, fixed by the law of 1882, was five years; but before the time came that the new-comers could avail themselves of this right the law was, in 1890, changed, the period being extended to fourteen years, with further restrictions of method which made the franchise still more illusory. Whether this was strictly *ex post facto* legislation I am not lawyer enough to know, but it is clearly a violation of fair dealing and is wholly characteristic.

May I suggest to our citizens generally, and to the Boer sympathizers especially, the inadvisability of public meetings on this question. There are very many among us, myself certainly one, who feel as strongly in favour of Great Britain as others do of her opponents. Let us all be careful not to provoke one another by immoderate expression of opinion, to which public meetings tend. Those on one side provoke retaliation on the other. Nay, they may make it necessary; for in the problems of the near future good understanding with Great Britain is too important for us to permit the impression that we are all against her here, and we may find ourselves in the unseemly state of party divisions for and against foreign States, as in the beginning of this century between the French and British parties. I avail myself of this opportunity to say that, in my judgment, not only is the cause of Great Britain just, but to have failed to uphold it would have been to fail in national honour.

A. T. MAHAN.

New York, Jan. 20th, 1900.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, Feb. 17th :—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	17,518,991
Amount of convertible notes issued...	216,946,639
Government deposits	58,872,738
General deposits	3,655,997
Exchange liability	12,567
Total	327,006,934

CR.	
Discount notes	61,405,242
Foreign discount notes	13,575,486
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	66,092,177
Exchange liability	720,328
Government bonds	55,782,251
Property...	2,032,750
Bullion and Specie	105,461,695
Total	327,006,934

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	218,911,384
Bullion and Specie :—	
Gold	99,516,839
Silver	4,000,000
Total	103,516,859
Securities :—	
Government bonds	18,526,121
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	12,055,281
Commercial notes	62,912,123
Total	115,400,525

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	591,881
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	72,644
Government deposits	—	189,397
General deposits	—	1,333,724

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CHINA NOTES.

The Hongkong Government has voted fifty thousand dollars to the Soldiers' Fund.

Prince Waldemar seems to have had a very pleasant time in Shanghai, with luncheons, dinners, receptions, and balls.

The U. S. Naval Department has sent a telegram to Admiral Watson, U S.N., asking him to express the Department's high appreciation of the generosity shown by Hongkong residents to the sufferers by the accident on the U.S.S *Wheeling*.

The following telegram appears in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* :—

Tsingtao, February 11.

A detachment of 180 men, with two field guns and two maxim-guns under command of Major Dürr, have left Tsingtao to-day for Kiaochou in order to protect the lives and property of Germans in the *hinterland*.

The mandarins at Shanghai have received orders from the acting Viceroy at Nanking to give every assistance to the military and inland naval authorities of Sungkiang and Soochow prefectures for the proposed capture of the leaders of two rival bands of salt smugglers and rowdies who have lately been making Choup'u and Nanhui (*coll.* Nay-way)—places not many miles from Shanghai—their battlefields against each other. Two battalions of infantry and twenty-two gunboats from Sungkiang and fifteen twelve-oared fast gun-boats from Soochow have been ordered to rendezvous near Choup'u to cut off the retreat of the smugglers and rowdies, while the land troops advance into the disturbed districts to give battle to them. It is reliably stated, remarks a contemporary, that the gangs of rowdies who have been recently infesting and robbing Pootung villages are merely foraging bands of the rival smuggler chiefs.

AMERICAN NOTES.

A statement made by Mr. S. C. Todd, attorney for the Standard Oil Company, in reply to the request made by the Industrial Commission, shows that the dividends of that giganiic concern varied from 5½ per cent. per annum in 1882, to 33 per cent in 1897.

It is generally understood that the new Philippine Commission will consist of five members, and that Colonel Denby and Dean Worcester will be the only members of the old Commission to be reappointed. Several prominent men are named in connection with the other places, among the number being Professor J. B. Angell, of Michigan University.

The Governor of Massachusetts and his council have agreed upon a proposition for the sale of the State's stock in the Fitchburg Railroad at par, ($5,000,000), taking in exchange 3 per cent. bonds of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Under this agreement, if ratified by the legislature, the Fitchburg will become part of the Boston & Maine system.

The House committee of eight members which has been investigating the case of Brigham H. Roberts, Congressman-elect from Utah, reached a decision on the 17th January, six of the members (four Republicans and two Democrats) voting to prohibit Roberts from taking the oath. Two members of the committee, Littlefield (Rep. Me.) and De Armond (Dem. Mo.), favour the seating of Roberts and his subsequent exclusion.

Imports of wheat and flour by principal importing countries of the world for the five months ended December 30 were 153,500,000 bushels, against 174,500,000 bushels last year. In these imports the British were 9,000,000 bushels less than the preceding year, Holland 8,000,000 less, while the balance of the decrease was scattered.

There are fourteen Harvard graduates in the fifty-sixth Congress, now in session, of whom four are senators and ten representatives. They are as follows: Senators, E. O. Wolcott, Law, '75, of Colorado; George F. Hoar, '46, and H. C. Lodge, '71, of Massachusetts, and Boies Penrose, '81, of Pennsylvania. Representatives, H. S Boutell, '76; G. E. Foss, '85, and Vespasian Warner, Law, '68, of Illinois; W. H. Moody, '76 ; H. F. Naphen, Law, '78, and Charles F. Sprague, '79, of Massachusetts; William A. Chanler, '85, and L. N. Littauer, '78, of New York; S. A. Davenport, Law, '55, Pennsylvania, and Melville Bull, 77, of Rhode Island.

Considerable uneasiness is felt by officials of the War Department, at Washington, over the fate of First Lieutenant Joseph H. Herron of the Eighth Cavalry; Dr. Carter, physician; nine packers and thirteen animals, composing a party which started out last April to explore Sushitina river, Alaska. Nothing has been heard from the party since last summer, and it is feared they may have perished. They accompanied the expedition led by Captain E. F. Glenn of the Twenty-fifth Infantry several hundred miles up the Sushitina, and at that point Lieutenant Herron and his party started up Tanana river for the Yukon river, expecting to come out by the Yukon route. Since then, however, nothing has been heard from them.

The past year has not been a good one for the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Reformed Churches in New York. All of them, according to their own records, have lost in the membership of both church and Sunday-school. On the other hand the Protestant Episcopal Church, though it has lost Dr. De Costa, has made larger gains that any other religious organization. Its total advance in the borough of Manhattan, according to the New York *Evening Post* (January 6), was 5 870. The Lutheran Church also gained in all the boroughs of the city. This would apparently indicate what has often been claimed—that the liturgic churches are more adapted to meet the needs or the tastes of urban congregations than are the non-liturgic bodies.

A negative decision sometimes helps to define or illustrate a principle as well as one of a positive character, remarks *Bradstreets*, and this seems to be the case with the decision rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of The States of Louisiana vs. The State of Texas. This case involved the right of the latter State to institute such a rigorous quarantine as was put in force during the prevalence of yellow fever in New Orleans. It was alleged by the former State that the Texas quarantine was so strict as to place an embargo on all interstate commerce between the city of New Orleans and the State of Texas and to benefit the commerce of Galveston and other Texas cities at the expense of New Orleans, and was in violation of the Constitution of the United States. The State of Texas demurred on the ground that the Supreme Court of the United States had no jurisdiction in the case. The view was sustained by the Supreme Court, which held that it was not within the judicial function to inquire into the motives of a State legislature in passing a law or of a chief magistrate in enforcing it in the exercise of his discretion and judgment, and that the case could not be regarded as presenting a controversy between the States. The decision is one of a number going to illustrate the reluctance of the court of last resort to interfere with the exercise of the police power of the States.

"The Great Lakes have become a great artery of our richest commercial blood," says *Ainslee's Magasine*. "One-third of the population of the United States is dependent on these lakes for their export trade. This waterway taps the richest and most prosperous agricultural territory on this continent of ours, together with our most productive mines, and it is worth while noting that within a radius of 400 miles of Cleveland lies one-half the population of the United States. It is a well-established fact that deep-water transportation is, and necessarily must be, far below the cost of transportation by rail; indeed, it is computed that the cost or water transportation by steam, when the voyage is of any considerable length, is about one-quarter of the average cost of transportation by rail, while by sail-boat it is only one-eighth of the latter. As this question of transportation determines to a great extent the existence or non-existence of a possible industry, and enhances or diminishes the value of every article of export in proportion to its efficiency and economy, the battle cry of the west for 'twenty feet of water between Duluth and the sea' is no great problem to account for. In the year 1898 there passed through the Sault Ste. Marie canals no less than 21,234,664 tons of Canadian freight, alone having a value of $200,000,000, while American ships moved some 168,000,000 tons through the same waters for the same length of time."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Manila contribution to the South African War Relief Fund now amounts to $7,977.

A 28-pounder gun has just been constructed at Kimberley, firing 8,000 yards accurately.

Miss Bloxham, late of Yokohama, is settling in Shanghai as a teacher of music, tonic sol fa, etc., for a while.

We have received from the Rev. W. T. Austen a cheque for *yen* 10 in aid of the work of the Army and Navy Mission Club at Yokosuka.

On the 6th inst. fire broke out at the village of Shinoncho, Tainan prefecture, Formosa, and over a hundred houses were destroyed.

On the 19th instant at 7 p.m. ashes fell at Okegawa, Kasukabe, and Yoshikawa, Saitama prefecture. The fall lasted about 30 minutes.

An official despatch from Formosa says that on the 18th inst. there was one new case of plague and one death at Taipeh, and one new case at Giran. This makes 82 cases and 69 deaths from the new year.

A fire broke out in Sevastopol naval dockyard a few weeks ago, and, notwithstanding all the efforts of the naval and military authorities, it was not got under before damage had been caused to the extent of 1,000,000 roubles.

On the 18th inst., two armed robbers entered a store in Tsutsugi-gun, Futamatagawa, Kanagawa Prefecture. They stole 6 *yen* in cash and 20 pieces of clothing. The men were arrested on Wednesday by the Tobe Police, but one of them, Sato Futaizo, managed to escape, during the absence of the Inspector in charge. The other, named Yoshida Kikujiro, was sent to the Saibansho on Thursday morning.

The U.S. gunboat *Isla de Luson* was placed in commission on January 31, with the following complement of officers:—Commander J. V. R. Bleecker, Lieutenant P. J. Werlick, Lieutenant J. A. Dougherty, Lieutenant U. T. Holmes, Asst. Paymaster G. C. Schafer, Asst. Surgeon B. L. Wright, Ensign D. F. Boyd, Naval Cadet J. A. Schofield, Naval Cadet F. O. Branch.

An unpleasant incident occurred at the recent opening of the Portuguese Cortes. When the Viscondessa da Varzea approached the throne to make her obeisance to their Majesties, her foot caught in something, and she fell back, and is said to have broken her leg. She was carried out to her carriage in great pain.

The Russian Imperial Ministry of Marine has issued its Budget for 1900. According to the *Kotlin*, the Naval Estimates for the present year amount to 87,564,700 roubles as compared with the Naval Budget for 1899. The chief item of expenditure is the sum of 38,023,351 roubles for shipbuilding and artillery; the next important item is that of 14,357,769 roubles to meet the cost of voyages undertaken by the

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men-of-war; 3,200,000 roubles are assigned for the works at the new naval station at Libau, in the Baltic; while Vladivostock and Port Arthur will each receive 3,000,000 roubles to be expended in improving and fortifying their harbours.

The case brought by the Public Procurator against Umeseko Toyomatsu for assaulting Mr. Kent, came on for hearing in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Wednesday, but owing to the absence of the Procurator was adjourned *sine die*.

At Union Church on Sunday morning the Rev. E. S. Booth was formally installed as the new Pastor. The service opened with the invocation and the singing of a hymn. The lesson, taken from II. Timothy was read by Mr. F. Staniland, and the Rev. H. Loomis put the usual questions to the candidate, and con gregation. The prayer of installation was offered by the Rev. J. H. Ballagh, and an anthem was then sung. The charge to the pastor was delivered by the Rev. G. M. Meacham, D.D., and the charge to the people by the Rev. A. A. Bennett. Prayer followed, and the offertory was taken, the service closing with the Benediction, pronounced by the Rev. E. S. Booth.

At no period of history has the valour of British officers and men reached a higher point than during the present campaign. Captain Marchant, Royal Marine Light Infantry, who was left in command of the Naval Brigade with Lord Methuen's force after the action at Graspan, reported as follows:—"It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Midshipman Huddart, who behaved magnificently, and still advanced after he had been twice wounded, until he was finally struck down, mortally wounded." A brother naval officer also writes:—"At the bottom of the hill Huddart was hit in the arm, and half-way up he was shot in the leg, but still he pressed on. On reaching the top of the kopje he was shot through the stomach, and fell."

On December 28th the last rails were laid on the Trans-Baikal section of the Siberian Railway, thus completing for the present the great enterprise begun in 1891, and establishing uninterrupted steam communication between Western Europe, St. Petersburg, and the extreme eastern limits of the Russian Empire on the Pacific Coast. The length of this last section just finished is 693 miles, from the eastern shores of Lake Baikal, going through Chita to Stretensk on the river Shilka, a tributary of the Amur. The trains are transported across the Baikal Lake on the ice-breaking ferry-boat built by Sir William Armstrong and Co., and from Stretensk the river route must be used to arrive at Khabarovsk, whence the Usuri section of the railway runs on to Vladivostock.

Recently a fatal accident happened on board the U. S. S. *Wheeling* in Hongkong harbour, while firing a salute in honour of the Emperor of Germany, whereby Gunner's Mate Campbell was killed and Lieut.-Commander Beatty, Gunners Conray, Nelson and Bite were injured. H. E. Sir Henry A Blake, G.C.M.G., the Governor, and a few friends have given practical expression to the fellow-feeling entertained for Americans in the British Colony by reason of this said disaster, in transmitting a cheque for $1000 for the use of the relatives of the deceased and the sufferers from the accident. Captain Burwel received the money, and he at once communicated with Admiral Watson, and both the Admiral and the Captain and officers of the *Wheeling* immediately wrote letters of thanks. Admiral Watson, Captain Burwel and officers afterwards paid an official call at Government House and expressed their sincere thanks for the kindness displayed by His Excellency and friends.

After the passing of the representation urging the speedy completion of the Soul-Fusan Railway, the promoters of the scheme held a meeting on the 12th instant. The authorities, says a vernacular paper, who are now attacked by the "disease of regarding Russia with undue apprehension," have found cause for anxiety in regard to the personal character of the two gentlemen, Messrs. Oye and Omiwa, who are shortly to proceed to Korea to open negotiations as to the surveys to be undertaken. The promoters therefore were implicitly cautioned on this point, and took steps during their conference to select other suitable persons for carrying out the scheme under contemplation. It was ultimately decided that one more gentleman should be added to the number of commissioners already appointed. Mr. Takenouchi was nominated for the purpose, and the party, now consisting of three gentlemen, is to start for Korea at the end of this month.

The contract for the extension of the Royal Naval Dockyard in Hongkong had been placed with the firm of Messrs. Punchard McTaggart, Lowther and Co., 151 Cannon Street, London, E.C. The firm is practically unknown in Hongkong. It is one of the few firms of contractors that did not send a representative to Hongkong to collect information on the spot regarding the local conditions, and the amount of their tender, says the *China Mail*, was considerably below that of the other competing firms. The work will probably be commenced at an early date, as the engineers of the firm will leave England with all despatch, bringing European foremen and plant to be used in the work. It may be mentioned that in addition to a dry dock capable of docking vessels of the *Powerful* and *Victorious* classes—indeed any ship in the British or any other navy—there will be a tidal basin of 9½ acres in extent, with 30 feet of water at the lowest state of the tide, in which four or five vessels can be sheltered while undergoing repairs; and a boat basin will be constructed for the accommodation of the military boats and launches. The cost of the reclamation of the dockyard foreshore, and the construction of sea walls, the Admiralty dock, tidal basin and workshops, will be over £1,000,000 sterling.

LOCAL LAW CASES.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Friday, before Judge Fujise and two Associate Judges, Mr. Akiyama, representing M. Z. Martin, of Calcutta, applied for execution of the judgment delivered in the Bengal Supreme Court, on November 21st, 1898, ordering A. M. Apcar, No. 49, Settlement, Yokohama, to pay the sum of 9,215 rupees 6 annas in settlement of his account with M. Z. Martin, of Calcutta.

Mr. Sawada, for the defence, stated that it was necessary for him to ask the Court to order the plaintiff to give security for costs, as the defendant had no property in his possession, having also no fixed domicile in Japan. Moreover, the defendant was not an Englishman as mentioned by the plaintiff's representative, but a Persian—a subject of a non-treaty power.

Mr. Akiyama opposed these contentions.

The Court adjourned *sine die*.

On Monday in the Yokohama-ku Saibansho, before Judge Shimamura, the case of Mr. A. L. Manley against Hatano Hidekichi, a laundryman, for *yen* 20.50 medical expenses for the treatment of wounds received by plaintiff's dog at the hands of the defendant, was heard. The defendant stated that some time in January a dog belonging to the plaintiff came into his yard, and got hold of a chicken. Seeing this defendant threw a knife at the dog. Defendant produced a lame chicken in support of his statement.

Mr. Inouye, for the plaintiff, said a lame chicken could be produced at any time and therefore this evidence was valueless. It was impossible for the dog to have got hold of the chicken as the dog was muzzled. A wound 9 inches long could not have been inflicted with a knife thrown at the dog. The dog must have been deliberately cut with a sharp weapon.

The case was adjourned to March 9th.

The case of an Otaru merchant against Mr. W. S. Stone, claiming a sum of money alleged to be due and the return of a promissor note for *yen* 4,000, guarantee money deposited with the defendant, came up again in the Chiho Saibansho, before Judge Fujise, on Tuesday morning. The Judge read a protest by the defendant, and the case was adjourned sine die.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, on Tuesday, before Judge Fujise and Assistant Judges Odamura and Fujii, the case of Lam-Pak-Tsen, proprietor of a Chinese magazine, who was burnt out at a fire at No. 136, against Messrs. Bavier & Co., representing the Norwich Fire Insurance Company, came up again for hearing.

Judgment was given in favour of the defendants, the plaintiff to pay all costs of the Court.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, on Tuesday the case of Mochida Tanajiro, a brick-mason, claiming 148.46 *yen* for enlarging an oven in Mr. M. Dentici's bakery, came before Judge Fujise. Mr. Tamada represented Mr. Dentici. The agreed price for making the oven was 1,100 *yen* and this had been paid to the plaintiff. He, however, claimed *yen* 148.46 for extra work done to the oven, beyond the terms of the agreement.

The case was adjourned to the 23rd instant at 10 a.m.

THE LITTLE BRITISH ARMY.

ITS PRESENT DISTRIBUTION.

Some people, at home as well as abroad, seem to be under the impression that nearly the whole of the British Army is in South Africa or on the way, and that the war has practically exhausted our regular military resources. It may be well therefore, to show what is the strength of our army and how it was disposed on January 5th:—

(1) SOUTH AFRICA.

Troops marked (*) are on the way out or ordered to embark:—

CAVALRY (13 REGIMENTS).

5th Dragoon Guards.	10th Hussars.
6th Carabiniers.	12th Lancers.
1st Royal Dragoons.	13th Hussars.
2nd Dragoons (The Greys).	*14th Hussars.
5th Lancers.	18th Hussars.
6th Inniskilling Dragoons.	19th Hussars.

And the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment*, made up of one squadron from each of the three Household Regiments.

ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY (7 BATTERIES).

G, O, P, *Q, R, *T, and *U Batteries.

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY (33 FIELD BATTERIES).

Batteries.	Brigade Divisions.
7,14,66.....1st	Divisional Artillery.
63,64,73.....2nd	
74,77,79.....3rd	
4,38,78.....	Corps Artillery.
37,61,65.....	
13,67,69.....	Natal Field Force, under Sir George White.
21,42,53.....	
19,20,28.....5th	Divisional Artillery.
18,62,75.....	With Lord Methuen.
*19,20,28.....6th	Divisional Artillery.
*83,84,85.....7th	

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

Six Companies from the three Divisions (Eastern, Southern, and Western). One of these, converted into a Field Battery, is in Kimberley.

MOUNTAIN BATTERIES (2).

10th. Part captured at Nicholson's Nek.
4th. With Sir Redvers Buller's Force.

INFANTRY.

Guards.

3rd Grenadiers.	2nd Coldstreams.
1st Coldstreams.	1st Scots Guards.

Line Battalions.

2nd Royal West Surrey.	2nd West Yorkshire.
2nd Devonshire.	2nd East Surrey.
2nd Royal Highlanders.	2nd Seaforth Highlanders.
1st Highland L. I.	1st Argyll and Sutherland.
2nd Cameronians.	1st Durham L.I.
3rd King's Royal Rifles.	1st Rifle Brigade.
1st Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.	1st Connaught Rangers.
2nd Royal Irish Rifles.	1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

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2nd Royal Fusiliers.	1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers.	2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers.
1st Royal Scots.	
1st King's Liverpool.	2nd Rifle Brigade.
2nd King's Royal Rifles.	1st Border Regiment.
1st Leicester Regiment.	1st Royal Irish Fusiliers.
1st King's Royal Rifles.	2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
1st Devonshire.	1st Manchester.
1st Gloucestershire.	2nd Gordon Highlanders.
2nd Northumberland Fusiliers.	2nd Northamptonshire.
2nd Somerset L.I.	2nd Shropshire L.I.
2nd Duke of Cornwall's L.I.	1st Gordon Highlanders
1st Welsh Regiment.	
1st Northumberland Fusiliers.	2nd Yorkshire L.I.
1st Loyal North Lancashire.	1st Royal Munster Fusiliers.
2nd Royal Berkshire.	
1st Suffolk Regiment.	1st Essex,
1st Sherwood Foresters.	
Royal Warwick.	Dorsetshire,
Yorkshire.	Lancashire Fusiliers.
*King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment.	*Middlesex.
*York and Lancaster.	*South Lancashire.
*2nd Norfolk Regiment.	*1st K. O. Borderers.
*2nd Lincolnshire.	*2nd Hampshire.
*2nd Cheshire Regiment	*2nd South Wales Borderers.
*1st East Lancashire.	*2nd North Staffordshire

(2) In India.

CAVALRY.

4th Dragoon Guards, Punjab.	4th Hussars in Madras.
16th Lancers, Punjab.	20th Hussars in Bombay.
3rd Hussars, 15th Hussars } Bengal.	

ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY.

4 Batteries in Punjab.	2 Batteries in Madras.
3 do. Bengal.	2 do. Bombay.

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.

8 Batteries in Punjab.	7 Batteries in Madras.
14 do. Bengal.	10 do. Bombay.

MOUNTED BATTERIES.

5 Batteries in Punjab.	1 Battery in Madras.
1 do. Bengal.	1 do. Bombay.

GARRISON ARTILLERY (HEAVY).

2 Batteries in Punjab.	8 Companies in Bengal.
1 Battery in Bengal.	3 Companies in Madras.
1 Battery in Madras.	9 Companies in Bombay.
3 Companies in Punjab.	

INFANTRY.

(12 Battalions in the Punjab.)

1st R. W. Surrey.	2nd. R. Sussex Regiment.
1st Somerset L. I.	1st Hampshire.
1st Border Regiment.	1st Dorset.
2nd Yorkshire Regiment.	2nd Oxford L. I.
1st R. Scots Fusiliers.	1st North Staffordshire.
2nd R. Inniskilling Fusiliers.	3rd Rifle Brigade.

(15 Battalions in Bengal.)

1st South Wales Borderers.	2nd South Lancashire Regt.
2nd Royal K. O. Scottish Borderers.	1st Royal Highlanders.
1st Scottish Rifles (Cameronians)	1st Northampton Regt.
2nd East Lancashire Regt.	2nd York and Lancaster.
2nd Border Regiment.	1st Royal Irish Rifles.
1st East Surrey Regiment.	2nd Connaught Rangers.
1st Duke of Cornwall's L.I.	2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers.
	2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

(9 Battalions in Madras.)

1st Royal Warwickshire Regt.	2nd South Staffordshire.
1st Lincoln Regt.	2nd Essex.
1st East Yorkshire.	1st Middlesex.
1st Cheshire.	2nd Durham L I.
2nd West Riding.	

(11 Battalions in Bombay.)

2nd Royal Scots.	2nd Royal Irish Regt.
1st East Kent.	2nd Welsh Regiment.
1st Royal Fusiliers.	1st Royal West Kent (at Aden)
1st Norfolk.	1st Shropshire L.I.
2nd Suffolk.	1st Wiltshire Regt.
1st West Yorkshire.	

(3) In Egypt.

11th Hussars.
Royal Field Artillery (one Battery).
Royal Garrison Artillery (one Company).
2nd Royal West Kent Regt.
1st Seaforth Highlanders.
1st Cameron Highlanders.

(4) Fortresses and Coaling Stations.

(The Fortresses are Malta, Gibraltar, Bermuda, and Halifax.)

St. Helena.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—One Company.
Barbadoes.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—One Company.
2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment.
Bermuda.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Two Companies.
Halifax (N.S.)
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Three Companies.
Ceylon.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Two Companies.
2nd Royal Highland L I.
Hongkong.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Three Companies.
2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
Gibraltar.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Seven Companies.
2nd Royal Fusiliers.
2nd Cameron Highlanders.
Malta.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Nine Companies
2nd Royal Warwick Regiment.
1st Lancashire Fusiliers (in Crete).
3rd Lancashire Fusiliers.
1st Royal Sussex Regiment.
2nd Derbyshire Regiment.
2nd North Lancaster Regiment.
Jamaica.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—One Company.
Mauritius.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Two Companies.
Straits Settlement.
Royal Garrison Artillery.—Two Companies.
1st Battalion Royal Lancaster Regiment.

(5) At Home.

CAVALRY.

1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards } Less one Squadron each with the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment for South Africa.

1st King's Dragoon Guards	8 th Hussars
2nd Dragoon Gds. (The Bays)	17th Lancers
3rd Dragoon Guards	20th Hussars
7th Dragoon Guards	21st Lancers

Also 7th Hussars.

Note.—Of these, a Brigade of three Regiments will in all probability be mobilised for service, if required.

ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY.

M, N, and S Batteries and one Depot Battery.

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.

25 Field Batteries and one Depot Battery.

ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.

32 Companies and 6 Depots.

MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY.

Depot at Newport. (All the ten batteries are abroad).

INFANTRY (13 BATTALIONS).

Guards.

1st Grenadiers.	2nd Scots Guards.
2nd Grenadiers.	3rd Scots Guards.
3 d Coldstreams.	

Line Battalions.

2nd King's Liverpool Regt.	1st Royal Berkshire Regt.
2nd East Yorkshire.	1st King's Own Yorkshire L.I.
2nd Leicestershire.	3rd King's Royal Rifles.
1st Worcestershire.	4th Rifle Brigade.

In addition to the above Guards and Line Battalions at home, the following Militia Battalions have been embodied for permanent service:—

On mobilisation of the Army Corps (35 Battalions).

3rd Royal Scots.	4th Sherwood Foresters.
3rd Queen's Royal West Surrey.	3rd Loyal North Lancashire.
3rd Northumberland Fusiliers.	3rd Northamptonshire.
5th Royal Fusiliers.	3rd Royal West Kent.
3rd Devonshire.	4 th Shropshire L.I.
4th Somerset L I	9th King's Royal Rifles.
4th West Yorkshire.	3rd Durham L.I.
3rd Royal Scots Fusiliers.	3rd Highland L.I.
3rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers.	3rd Seaforth Highlanders.
4th Scottish Rifles (Cameronians).	3rd Gordon Highlanders.
3rd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.	3 d Cameron Highlanders.
	6th Royal Irish Rifles.
	4th Royal Irish Fusiliers.
4th East Surrey.	5th Connaught Rangers.
3rd Duke of Cornwall's L.I.	4th Argyll and Sutherland.
3rd Border.	3rd Royal Munster Fusiliers.
3rd Royal Sussex.	5th Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
3rd Welsh.	6th Rifle Brigade.
3rd Black Watch (Royal Hrs.)	

On mobilisation of reinforcements (3 Battalions).

3rd Suffolk.	3rd Essex.
4th South Staffordshire.	

On mobilisation of the 5th Division (8 Battalions).

4th Royal Lancaster.	3rd Dorsetshire.
6th Royal Warwick.	3rd South Lancashire.
3rd Yorkshire.	4th Middlesex.
6th Lancashire Fusiliers	3rd York and Lancashire.

On mobilisation of the 6th Division (8 Battalions).

3rd The Buffs (East Kent).	3rd Oxfordshire L. I.
4th Bedfordshire.	3rd Wiltshire.
3rd Royal Irish.	3rd Leinster (Royal Canadians).
4th Gloucestershire.	
3rd Duke of Wellington's (West Riding).	

And probably eight more battalions in consequence of the mobilisation of the 7th Division being carried out.

There are therefore now embodied no fewer than fifty-four militia battalions to take the place—according to our military system—of line battalions on service abroad, and seventy-four more battalions are available for embodiment if required.

TABULAR SUMMARY.

	Cavalry	R.H.A. Bat.	R.F.A. Bat.
(1) In or going to South Africa..	Reg. 13	7	33
(2) India	6	11	39
(3) Egypt	1	—	1
(4) Fortresses, &c.	—	—	—
(5) At Home.....	12	3 and Depôt	25 and Depôt
	12*	21	98§

	R.G.A Com.	Mounted Bat.	Guards & Line.	Militia Infantry Bat'ons embodied.
(1) In or going to South Africa..	6	2‡	76	—
(2) India	27	8	47	—
(3) Egypt	1	—	3	—
(4) Fortresses, &c.	33	—	18	—
(5) At Home.....	32 & 6 Depôts	only Depôt	13	54
	99	10	157	54†

* Including the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment.

† There are 74 more battalions of Militia Infantry available for embodiment if required.

‡ The bulk of one Mountain Battery (the 10th) was captured at Nicholson's Nek, October 30th.

§ Including three new Field Batteries just formed.

The foregoing statement does not include the Reserves. Of the Army Reserves, which this year should amount to 85,000, we have called in only a portion. The Militia Reserve, numbering about 32,000, is yet untouched.

THE GENERALS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Recently there was some comment on Lord Roberts' great age for the colossal undertaking which has been placed in his hands; and we (*Times of Ceylon*) have compiled a list, mainly in the right order of seniority, which may prove of interest:—

	Age.
Field-Marshal Lord Roberts	67
General Sir Redvers Buller	60½
Lieut.-General Sir George White	64½
Lieut.-Gen. Sir F. W. E. Forestier-Walker	55½
Lieut. Gen. Sir Charles Warren	60
Lieut.-General Lord Methuen	54
Major-General Sir W. F. Butler (re-called)	61
Lieut.-General C. Tucker	61
Lieut.-General Sir Frederick Carrington	55½
Lieut.-General C. F. Clery	62
Lieut.-General Sir W. F. Gatacre	56
Lieut.-General G. U. Prior (deceased)	56
Lieut.-General G. Barton	56
Lieut.-General Lord Kitchener	49½
Lieut.-General Sir Archibald Hunter	43
Lieut.-General T. Kelly Kenny	60
Lieut.-General Sir H. M. L. Rundle	44
Lieut.-General J. D. P. French	47
Major General Sir H. E. Colvile	47½

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Major General the Hon. N. G. Lyttelton	54
Major-General A. G. Wauchope (sec.)	53½
Major-General A. FitzRoy Hart	55½
Major-General H. J. T. Hildyard (formely H. J. I.)	53½
Major-General Sir W. Penn Symons	56½
Major-General the Earl of Dundonald	47
Major-General R. S. R. Fetherstonhaugh (invalided home)	51
Major-General J. P. Brabazon	57
Major-General R. Pole-Carew	50½
Major-General J. T. Coke	58½
Major-General J. M. Babington	45½
Major General E. R. P. Woodgate	54
Major-General F. Howard	52
Major-General G. H. Marshall, R.A.	57
Major-General Hector MacDonald	47½
Asst. Adjutant-General Ian Hamilton	47
Asst. Adjutant General the Hon. G. H. Gough	47½
Colonel W. A. Yule (invalided home)	53½
Major-General J. F Brocklehurst	47½
Major-General B. B. D. Campbell	55
Major-General J. E. Boyes (formerly G. H.)	56

To the foregoing it is only right to add the following :—

Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell	43
Lieut. Colonel H C. O Plumer	43
Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Kekewich	45½

As an interesting comparison we give the ages of the few leaders on the other side noticed in our reference books :—

President Paul Kruger	74
General Petrus Jacobus Joubert	68½
President M. T. Steyn	42

INTERPORT FOOTBALL MATCH.

The Interport Football Match was played at Kobe on Saturday and resulted in a win for Kobe by one goal to nothing; this goal being scored by Wilkinson in the second half. The teams were :—

Yokohama.		Kobe.
F. Pollard	Goal.	S. V. dos Remedios
H. Irwine	Backs.	W. Braess
M. F. Stephens		J. R. Gillingham
J. H. Forrest	Half backs.	A. W. Allen
E. G. Fradgeley		C. H. Lightfoot
W. J. White		J. Thompson
K. van R. Smith	Forwards.	F. E. Wilkinson
J. F. Drummond		M. Gottlinger
J. E Moss		H. R. B. Hancock
E. W. Kilby		H. E. Green
H. W. Kilby		W. N. Page

Mr. J. W. Franklin of Kobe was Referee and the lines-men were Mr. E. T. Bethell and Mr. Van Doorp.

In some interesting notes on the game the *Kobe Herald* says :—

The game was a surprise from the start. There had been a general—almost universal—impression that Yokohama was a dead certainty for an easy win; that Kobe was nowhere, or that, at least, only a fluke could give the southern port any chance of the game. But right from the start it was evident that the alleged extreme disparity did not exist. As a matter of fact the opening passages clearly demonstrated the ultimate fact—that the game was to be an evenly contested fight where odds on neither of the teams could be given with assurance.

The appearance of the elevens showed no great disparity. Eight of the Yokohama eleven, we have it, are under 21, and probably eight of the Kobe eleven are over 21. But there appeared to be an average equality all round in the matter of weight,—no such difference at least as might have been assumed probable on the age basis.

Taking the game as a whole Yokohama probably did most of the pressing, and on candid judgment they probably deserved to win. But the margin between the play of the two elevens, although in favour of Yokohama, was not worth a goal, and the result ought really to have been a draw. In the first half the play was about evenly divided; in the second Kobe territory was the scene of the greater part of the play. The game was won for Kobe by a sortie—to use war phraseology—during one of the sieges of the Kobe goal. There was some doubt as to the validity of the point, and Yokohama supporters contested it with some vehemence. Only those in the immediate vicinity of the goal could determine on the point at issue—whether the ball passed inside or outside of the goal post. The goal was allowed by Mr. Franklin and this year's honours thus come to Kobe—to the upsetting of many calculations and expectations no doubt.

The play on the whole was bright but not exciting. It lacked brilliance, but it was seldom wholly dull or uninteresting and in the circumstances the exhibition was a credit to the players. There were few pretty combinations—few attempts at them. If anything the defending lines played the best football. The lack of ability to co-operate and combine militated against pretty or effective play by the forward lines. Both Braess and Gillingham, the Kobe backs, did good work, watching the trend of the play with keen eyes and tackling energetically at judicious moments. Allcock and Stephens, the Yokohama full backs, were also seen to advantage. In the Kobe half back line Lightfoot was often conspicuous; and White in the same line on the Yokohama side put in some good work. Among the Kobe forwards Hancock as centre had the most prominent place and was oftenest in evidence; and he was well supported by the others. The Yokohama forwards were swifter than their opponents—probably the fruit of greater opportunities of practice. The goal men on each side were never very greatly pressed, having few calls made on them to do brilliant work. What they had to do was done well. Each of them—Remedios and Irwine—made creditable saves twice or thrice but they were never under a consistent or persistent bombardment.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, Feb. 16.

Roberts telegraphs from Dekelsdrift under date 14th instant that French, with three brigades of cavalry, artillery, and mounted infantry, forced the passage of the Modder River at Klipsdrift, and occupied the hills on the northward, capturing three laagers.

Meanwhile the Gordons Brigade seized two drifts on the westward. French met with slight opposition and his casualties are small.

The Sixth Division is on the North bank of the Riet River and is moving to the support of the Cavalry.

The Seventh Division is here and moves on this afternoon.

A message from Mafeking dated the 4th inst. says that all was then well and that the garrison was again on full rations.

Colonel Plumer is actively operating in a southward direction, but his progress is hampered by the rains.

The English newspapers are gratified by the report of Roberts's successful eastward advance. They consider that it cuts the direct communication between Maggersfontein and Bloemfontein.

Shanghai, Feb. 17.

Mr. Chamberlain says that the Boer raids in Zululand are causing serious alarm and unrest among the natives. The Government of Natal has declined further responsibility for keeping peace amongst the Zulus.

The British Government has decided that if native territories are deliberately invaded they will encourage and assist the natives in every way to defend themselves.

Mr. Balfour, replying to a question with regard to the non-employment of Indian troops in South Africa, said that if the Boers adopt a course inconsistent with the tacit agreement to confine the war to the two European races the Government holds itself free to reconsider its decision.

An official statement is published that French reached Kimberley on Thursday evening.

Colonel Clements was forced to abandon Rensburg. He has arrived at Arundel, the Boers following rapidly and re-occupying their old positions in the Jarbosch Hills.

Sir Edward Monson has returned to Paris.

The House of Commons has voted the increase of the Army.

Reuter's correspondent has escaped from Ladysmith guided by a Kaffir, and has reached Chieveley. He reports that the health of the garrison is fair and that they are very resolute. A factory is making excellent horse sausages and nourishing soup.

Lord Rosebery condemns the Government's military measures as inadequate. He says that if Great Britain lost South Africa her empire would break away. Lord Lansdowne replies that the only alternative to the Government's proposals is some form of conscription. More troops are ready if required.

Shanghai, Feb. 18.

The Supplementary Army Estimates granting an additional sum of 13 millions sterling for the purposes of the War have been voted.

The British occupied Jacobsdal on the 15th instant.

French was enthusiastically welcomed at Kimberley.

Cronje, with 10,000 men, is in full retreat towards Bloemfontein.

Kelly-Kenny is fighting his rear guard, keeping it in action and harassing his retreat.

The Boers have occupied Rensberg.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, telegraphing from Naauwpoort, says that in the fighting at Rensberg a patrol of the Inniskillings was surrounded by the enemy, but it cut its way through and escaped.

A company of the New South Wales Mounted Infantry was annihilated. Only one out of five officers returned to camp.

Two companies of the Wiltshires lost their way and were missing when our forces withdrew from Kloof Camp.

A telegram from Roberts at Jacobsdal dated the 17th inst., says that Kelly-Kenny yesterday captured 78 wagons with stores—two were laden with Mausers—and a quantity of shells and explosives, all belonging to Cronje's laager. Cronje was compelled to form a laager with his uncaptured wagons owing to the fatigued condition of his oxen, and this the British Artillery were shelling when Kitchener despatched the messenger.

Shanghai, Feb. 19.

Kelly-Kenny, reinforced by the Highland Brigade, continues the pursuit.

The British have captured over 100 wagons.

French has left Kimberley to cooperate in the pursuit.

The Guards have encamped on the Boers' former position at Maggersfontein.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Jacobsdal that French's march was the finest ever made. The whole movement was conceived by Roberts. It consisted of different combinations, all dovetailing exactly. French led the way, followed by Tucker's division accompanied by Kitchener. This was followed by Kelly-Kenny's division close behind. Despite unforeseen difficulties, particularly connected with transport, the movement was a complete success. The Boers were outflanked and their only alternatives were retreat or starvation.

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Brabant's Colonials, after 3 day's operations and sharp fighting, have expelled the rebels from the country between Penhoek and Dordrecht, capturing their wagons and stores. The enemy's last position on the north of Dordrecht was carried at the point of the bayonet.

A telegram from Chieveley, dated the 17th inst. says that the British have occupied and entrenched Hussar Hill, which is situated five miles to the north-east. They shelled the Boers on Hlangwane Hill and prevented the enemy from reinforcing it.

Shanghai, Feb. 20.

A large convoy of Boers from Colesberg was captured on the 17th instant at Riet River after tremendous shelling. Our loss was slight.

[Note.—This telegram is somewhat obscure. As received it takes this form: "Boers from Colesberg captured large convoy 17th Riet River after tremendous shelling. Our losses slight."—ED. *J.M.*]

Roberts has issued a conciliatory proclamation to the Free State Boers, telling them that Great Britain bears no ill-will to the burghers and is anxious to preserve them from evils due to the wrongful action of their Government. He warns the burghers to desist from further hostilities.

A portion of the Wiltshires have arrived at Arundel. It is believed that they lost 80 prisoners.

A despatch from Buller, dated the 19th inst., reports that he has driven the enemy across the Tugela from a strong position and taken several camps, with several wagons, ammunition, and stores, and a few prisoners.

Shanghai, Feb. 21.

The Transvaalers are sending large forces under prominent commanders into the Orange Free State.

The *Daily News* states on good authority that Cronje is hopelessly surrounded.

An Army Order invites ex-soldiers to re-enlist for one year for home service on a bounty of £12.

General Hart has occupied Colenso, and is now crossing the Tugela. The enemy are seen in full retreat. They apparently hold only one position across the railway, with a weak rearguard.

The railway is re-opened to Kimberley, where Methuen is proceeding with reinforcements.

A reconnaissance from Arundel shows the enemy to be weak. It is believed they have withdrawn to assist Cronje's retreat.

Shanghai, Feb. 22.

Newspaper despatches say that Cronje, on leaving Maggersfontein, took 5,000 men, with the heavy guns transport, and ordered the rest to escape independently.

Cronje's rear guard successfully covered the retreat all through Friday, while the bulk of his troops safely crossed the Modder River. The British troops sent to intercept him arrived too late.

The flank and rear of the rear guard were perpetually harassed and there was desperate fighting, but they afterwards joined the main body. The pursuit was continued at day-break.

The Rhodesians attacked a force at Crocodile Pools on the 12th instant, but were repulsed.

The casualties at Paardeberg were 9 officers killed, 39 wounded, and one missing.

The Fifth Division crossed the Tugela by a pontoon bridge and drove back the enemy's rear guard. The Naval guns silenced all the enemy's guns.

Lord Roberts telegraphs that Generals Knox and MacDonald are wounded.

(SPECIAL TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Shanghai, February 17.

French's performance in reaching Kimberley is brilliant considering the excessive heat and blinding dust. Four officers and 53 men were prostrated by the heat.

Buller, wiring from Chieveley, reports that on the 13th outposts were engaged in a skirmish at Springfield. The Boers opened a heavy fire, and a squadron of the First Dragoons retired. The Hon. Hamilton Russell and five men were wounded, and Lieut. Pilkington and six men made prisoners.

Dundonald, with 700 cavalry, a battery of artillery, and some Welsh Fusiliers, reconnoitred the high ground which the enemy are in the habit of visiting. The Boers evacuated their positions, losing two men. The British eventually retired, the enemy opening a heavy fire, which wounded six men.

Hannay's Brigade of Mounted Infantry on the 11th marched to the Orange River near Ramah (?), and fought a slight engagement *en route*. Four men were killed and 22 wounded, while 13 are missing.

Shanghai, Feb. 19.

A Boer despatch from Colesberg, describing the driving in of British outposts, states that the British lost two Maxim guns and about 200 men. The Boer loss was thirty men.

It is officially announced that the Army increase will consist of six batteries of horse artillery and fifteen of field artillery, together with the addition of a third battalion to various infantry regiments.

The Earl of Kimberley, in the House of Lords, said he shared Lord Rosebery's views as to the dangerous situation, and referred to the pressing question of the Indian frontier, to the consequences of the eventual death of the Ameer of Afghanistan, and to the activity of the Russians.

Lord Salisbury declined to discuss Russian motives, and preferred to follow the example of our forefathers and not to be downcast. He believed the Government's proposals for the defence of the nation were adequate, and any unforeseen emergency must be met with a stout heart.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, Feb. 17.

Letters and journals arriving from the Transvaal give enormous figures for the losses suffered by the British troops in the various battles, compared with the losses of the Boers.

London wires that General French, setting out from the Modder River on the 11th, with 3,000 cavalry, penetrated to Kimberley on the 15th. The details of this operation are wanting.

Saigon, Feb. 18.

General Cronje with 10,000 men is retreating upon Bloemfontein, pursued by General Kelly-Kenny.

Saigon, Feb. 19.

A telegram from Jacobsdal says that General French has quitted Kimberley to co-operate in the pursuit of the Boers.

Despatches from Naauwpoort indicate that the Boers coming from Rensberg were trying to cut the communications of General Roberts.

Saigon, Feb. 20.

Severe fighting has been in progress on the banks of the Tugela during the past three days.

General Cronje's rear guard is delivering successful combats in the retreat from the Modder River.

Marcel-Habert has appeared before the High Court of the Senate. The *seance* presents little animation.

Saigon, Feb. 21.

Buller has gained possession of several potitions of the Boers on the banks of the Tugela.

The High Court has decided that the senators elected or re-elected on the 28th January shall not take part in the discussion of the Marcel-Habert affair.

Saigon, Feb. 22.

Marshal MacMahon is dead.

In the Chamber of Deputies, during the discussion of the War Budget, General de Galliffet, Minister of War, announced that thanks to a slight modification invented by General Deloye, France will soon be in possession of a rifle superior to all those now existing.

General Buller telegraphs that on the 20th he gained possession of Colenso, evacuated by the Boers, who seem to be in full retreat. There is no news of the movements of Roberts' army.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN.")

Peking, Feb. 19.

The Foreign Representatives were received in audience this morning by the Emperor of China. His Majesty looked very frail and ill.

(FROM THE "SINGAPORE FREE PRESS.")

Labuan, Jan. 25.

Mr. Harrington, of the British North Borneo Constabulary, telegraphs to the effect that, with the advantage of a heavy fog, his force advanced on the 20th (Saturday) and occupied a hill commanding the three stockaded forts occupied by Mat Salleh and his rebel following.

The seven-pounder was at once brought into action, and the first shell pitched into one of the forts, bursting, and setting it on fire.

Another, directed at the fort occupied by Mat Salleh in person, caused the rebel leader to unroof it, dreading that it also might be set on fire.

A shortage in the ammunition supply is delaying the operations of the punitive expedition.

H. E. Mr. Hugh Clifford, with a further supply of ammunition, and a military police escort, has left for the front.

It is feared that Mat Salleh may succeed in making good his escape.

SHALL I COMPLAIN?

Shall I complain because the feast is o'er,
And all the banquet lights have ceased to shine?
For joy that was, and is no longer mine;
For love that came and went, and comes no more;
For hopes and dreams that left my open door;
Shall I, who hold the past in fee, repine? . .
Nay! there are those who never quaffed life's wine—
That were the unblest fate one might deplore.
To sit alone and dream, at set of sun,
When all the world is vague with coming night—
To hear old voices whisper, sweet and low,
And see dear faces steal back, one by one,
And thrill anew to each long-past delight—
Shall I complain, who still this bliss may know?

—*Sonnets by Louise Chander Moulton, in "At the Wind's Will."*

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CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No 460.

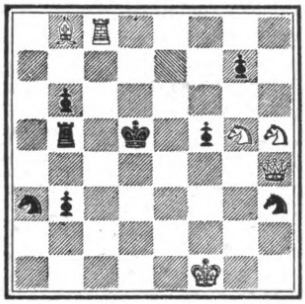
Kt to Q4	QxKt ch		R to K5 mate
1. ———	2. ———	3	———
R (B4) moves	KxQ, must		
.....	Kt to K7 ch		KtxR, mate
1. ———	2. ———	3	———
RxQ	K to Q, must		
.....	QxP ch		Kt to K6, mate
1. ———	2. ———	3	———
R any other	KxQ, must		

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 462.

By E. E. WESTBURY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White mates in two moves.

GAMES No. 565.

("A bright little game between two Veterans." "East Anglia.")

EVANS' GAMBIT.

White—H. E. Bird. Black—M. Tchigorin.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	15 R Kt sq	B Kt5
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	16 B K2	K Ksq
3 B B4	B B4	17 B QKt5(d)	BxKt
4 P QKt4(a)	BxP	18 BxR	Kt R5(e)
5 P B3	B R4	19 PxB(f)	Q B3
6 P Q4	PxP	20 B Q7(g)	Q Kt3ch(h)
7 Castles	P Q3	21 B Kt4	KtxPch
8 PxP	B Kt3	22 K R sq	QxB
9 Kt B3	Kt R4	23 Q K2	R K sq
10 B Q3	KKt K2(b)	24 RxP	RxP
11 Kt Q5(c)	Castles	25 KxQP	P R4
12 KtxB	RPxKt	26 R Q3ch	K R2
13 P Q5	Kt Kt3	27 Q B2	P B4
14 Q B2	P QB4	Resigns (i)	

ANALYSIS.

(a) A praiseworthy courage on the part of the veteran to venture upon the Evans' Gambit against the master of the Evans' Gambit.

(b) In the true spirit of *noblesse oblige*. Tchigorin not only accepted the Gambit but selected the "Normal" defence, which should turn out in favour of White in a number of variations.

(c) Not so good as the orthodox 11—P to Q 5, followed by Kt to K 2.

(d) This move would be good enough if Black were to save his Rook; but Tchigorin is the last man to miss an opportunity for a sacrifice, and certainly not such a promising one as 17.....B takes Kt. The B at K 2 should not have been displaced.

(e) An exceedingly strong move. We do not think White has a valid reply to it.

(f) If 19—P to Kt 3, then 19.....Q takes B; 20—P takes Kt, Q to Q 2, and White has no means of preventing Q to R 6.

(g) Again the only move to avert immediate mate.

(h) Better than 20—Q takes, P, because of 21—B to R 3, Q takes B; 22—P to B 4, &c.

(i) For 28.....Q to R 6 is threatened. A smart little game on the part of Tchigorin.

GAME No. 566.

The following is a game played in the London International Tournament, taken with notes from *The Field*:—

RUY LOPEZ.

White—W. Cohn. Black—E. Lasker.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	26 R R6	B B3
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	27 K Kt2	R K4
3 B Kt5	Kt B3	28 R K2	B Kt2
4 P Q3	P Q3	29 R R5	K B3
5 Kt B3	B Q2	30 P B3	P B4
6 Castles	P KKt3(a)	31 Kt Kt5	PxPch
7 QB Kt5	P KR3	32 KxP	K Kt3
8 QBxKt	QxB	33 R R3	P Q4
9 P Q4	B Kt2	34 K K4(h)	PxP
10 RxP	KtxP	35 Kt Q6	R KB sq
11 KtxKt	QxKt	36 R(R3) K3	R B5ch
12 BxBch	KxB	37 K Kt3	B B sq
13 Q Kt4ch(c)	Q K3	38 Kt B4	R Q4
14 QxQch	PxQ(d)	39 Kt Kt6	K B4(i)
15 Kt K2	KR KB sq	40 KtxR	PxKt
16 P QB3	P QR4	41 K Kt2	P Q5
17 QR Qsq(e)	P KKt4	42 R R3	P Q6
18 R Q3	P R5	43 R KB2	P B5
19 P QR3	R R4	44 K B sq	P K6
20 KR Q sq	P R4	45 R(B2) B3(j)	K K5
21 R at Q Q2	R QB4	46 RxRch	PxR
22 R B3	R KKt sq	47 R R8	B K2(k)
23 Kt Q4	K K2	48 R K8	K B6
24 P KKt4(f)	B K4(g)	49 R KR8	P Q7
25 R R3	PxP	White resigns.	

NOTES.

(a) The 'King's Fianchetto is generally abandoned now in favour of 6—B to K 2.

(b) 9—Kt to Q 5 would have driven back the Queen.

(c) The exchange of Queens which White contemplates leaves Black with an improved position, whilst with the Queen on the board his King would be unfavourably placed. The alternative, therefore, would be 13—Q to Q 3, and to bring the Rooks into play.

(d) The improvement in Black's position is now apparent.

(e) 17—P to K B 4 might be considered here. If 17—P to K 4, then 18—P to K Kt 3, so as to keep two Pawns united. The Knight, at present being well placed, need not be moved. 17—P to Q R 4 would have weakened the Queen's side Pawns, although the move would have been useful in other respects.

(f) A compromising advance. We do not think that had Cohn been content to play quietly for a draw, he need have been apprehensive of losing the game.

(g) A fine move, the chief object being, if 25—P takes P, to play 25—R to K R sq; 26R to R 3, B to B 5; 27—R to K 2, P to Kt 5; 28—R to R 4. Q R takes P, &c.

(h) If 34—P takes P, then 35—R to B ch, &c.

(i) The Knight and the improved centre are well worth the Rook.

(j) If 45...R takes P, then R takes R, ch followed by B to B 4.

(k) 47—P to B 6; 48—R takes B, P to Q 7 wins as well.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 1	Tu. Feb. 27
America	T. K. K	Nippon Maru 2	W. Feb. 28
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa Mar. 3
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Stuttgart	Sa. Mar. 3
Hongkong	M. M Co.	———	Tu. Mar. 6
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 3	Th Mar. 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	M. Mar 12
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Su. Mar 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Doric	M. Mar. 19
Hongkong	C. P. R Co	Em. of Japan	Th. Mar. 22

1 Left Hongkong on the 19th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 9th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 17th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. Feb. 24
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. Feb. 24
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. Feb. 28
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Th. Mar. 1
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Sydney	F. Mar. 2
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Tu. Mar. 6
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Mar. 7
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	F. Mar. 9
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China	W. Mar. 14
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Mar. 19
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Mar. 23

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 16th Feb.,—Seattle, Washington, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 16th Feb.,—Vancouver, B.C., 2nd Feb., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 16th February,—Otaru via ports, 11th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 16th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, 10th February, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, E. Prehn, 17th Feb.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 16th February, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 17th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 16th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, M. Takahashi, 17th Feb.,—Kobe, 16th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, F. G. Hansford, 18th Feb.,—San Francisco, 22nd Jan., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 19th Feb.,—Portland, Oregon, 30th Jan., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Saint Regulus, British steamer, 1,999, McMullen, 19th Feb.,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 17th Feb., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 20th Feb.,—Kobe 18th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 20th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 1st Feb., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Teenkai, British steamer, 3,016, D. Davies, 20th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 19th Feb., General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Sarpedon, British steamer, 3,022, J. Grier, 20th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 19th Feb., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. Burch, 20th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 19th Feb., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,064, Peterson, 20th Feb.,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 20th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nestor, British steamer, 2,417, W. Asquith, 21st Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 19th Feb., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oregon (16), U.S. Battleship, 10,288, Capt. G. F. F. Wilde, 21st Feb.,—Manila.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese, 1,202, M. Takahashi, 21st Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 20th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abergeldie, British steamer, 2,438, J. Murray, 21st Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, and Kobe 20th Feb., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 22nd Feb.,—Kobe, 20th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hangchow, British steamer, 999, J. Pearce, 22nd Feb.,—Hongkong, Sugar and Rice.—Butterfield and Swire.

Peru, German ship, 2,096, Ohling, 22nd Feb.,—Cardiff, 6th Oct., Coal.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 22nd Feb.,—Otaru via ports, 17th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Wm. Frakes, 22nd Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st February, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 22nd Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st February, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 22nd Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st Feb., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Laos, French steamer, 2,331, Flaudin, 16th Feb.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De Le Lande, 16th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 16th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 16th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Camorta, British steamer, 1,351, Collins, 16th Feb.,—Rangoon via Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamura, 17th Feb.,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, Y. Yamanouchi, 17th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 17th Feb.,—Victoria, B C., and Tacoma Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kongo Kan (19), Japanese Coast Service Vessel, 2,284, Capt. K. Imamura, 18th Feb.,—Yokosuka.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, M. Takahashi, 18th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 18th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 18th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, W. J. Ekstrand, 18th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asturia, German steamer, 3,405, Th. Hilderbrandt, 18th Feb.,—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 19th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dart, British steamer, 2,056, J. H. Clark, 20th Feb.,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 20th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, T. H. Hansford, 20th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 20th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, 15th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Solace (2), U S. Transport, 2,362, Capt. Dunlop, 20th Feb.,—San Francisco.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 21st Feb..,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 21st Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936 Harry Smith, 21st Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General,—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 21st Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Teenkai, British steamer, 3,016, D. Davies, 22nd Feb.,—London via ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,734, C. L. Daniel, 22nd Feb.,—London via ports, Maila and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 22nd February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, M. Takahashi, 22nd Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. W. L. Garrison, Mr. S. Ishikawa, Mr. and Mrs. S. Jin, Mr. Albert Mohr, Mrs. Mead and daughter, Mr. E. V. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Sutterlee, Mr. F. W. Sutterlee, Jr., Mr. Spitzel, Mr. R. H. Parker, Mr. R. Singleton, and Mrs. T. E. Ye, in cabin; 17 in second class; 86, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Tuckett, Mrs. Tuckett, Mr. Toh Chuck Kun, Mr. J. Howard, Mr. R. Sharples, Consul General Coates, and Mr. C. R. Morse, in cabin; Mr. Wong Che Yeng, Mr. Wong Yoh Chun, Mr. F. E. Dow, Mr. Chang Chow, and Mr. H. Kohira, in second class; 35 in steerage.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, from Bremen via ports:—Mr. Chas. Lund, Mr. Hans Kritzler, Major F. Lenné, Mr. F. W. Jones, Dr. Durchlaucht, Prinz Reuss, Lieut.-Com. Golt, Mr. and Mrs. R. Seel, Mr. Dun, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Evans, Lieut. and Mrs. Lewitzki, Dr. H. Dihm, Mr. Tomi, Mr. Mielke, Capt. and Mrs. Veil, Mr. H. Grantoff, Mr. Raspe, Mr. Chas Bent, Mr. Ellwanger, Mrs. Roger's amah, and Mr. Tomi Ils, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. O. N. Anderson, Rev. W. E. Lampe, Mrs. W. E Lampe, Mr. Geo. W. Tremble, Mr. Hardy Locksmith, Mr. W. H. Mason, Mrs. W. H. Mason, Mr. Geo. B. Sperry, Mrs. Geo. B. Sperry and son, Mrs. Hugh Rodman, Mr. H. W. Wickham, Mr. F. H. Wiley, Mrs. E. G. Wiley, and Mr. Geo. E. Trisbie, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. E. P. Allen, Mrs. E. P. Allen and child, Mr. C. W. Hykes, and Miss Martha Wiley, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Ward Ames, Mrs. Ward Ames, Mrs. T. O. Ashburn, Mrs. P. M. Ashburn, Miss M. Clydesdale, Miss M. W. Crozier, Mrs. A. Dade and two children, Mr. James Sawyer, Mrs. Adeline Emerson, Mr. D E. Fee, Mrs. Roy Fethengill, Miss K. Foster, Mrs. C. H. Hilton and child, Mr. A. Jacobs, Mr. Archibald MacKillop, Mr. J. P. McCoy, Mr. C. F. Moore, Mr. Joseph Satterlee, Mr. J. R. M. Smith, Mr. W. E. Wheate, Mrs. W. E. Wheate and three children, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Dr. A. G. Smith, Mrs. E H. Smith, Mrs. G. L Otis and maid, Miss H. K. Otis, Miss Scudder, Mr. Noi Cheong, Mrs. B Hyde Pearson and son, Mr. and Mrs. P. J Bass and child, Mr. H. M. Arnould, Dr. P. M. McCallum, Mrs. A. A. Rogers, Mr. J. R. Morse, Mr. Lefroy, Mr. and Mrs. Hill and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. W. King, Miss Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Tuska, Mr. P. Stephens, Mr. J H. Bathgate, Mr. P. Grosser, and Mr. E G. Fradgley, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mons. M. Guibert, Mons. Le Bret, Mons. Fleurry, Capt. T. F. McKibben, Mr. and Mrs. H. Carstens, and Mr. Paul Crompton, in cabin; 15 intermediate, and 185 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. B. H. Buller, U.S.M.C., Mr. W H. Hamilton, Miss L. D. Greene, and Mr. K. Hanai, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Col. Chas. Bird, U S.A., Mr. W. J. Treat, and Mr. Thomas Chapman, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. E. W. Ogden, Mrs. A. C. Ogden, Mrs. M. Stephenson, Rev. T. Richard, Mr. F. J. Mayers, Mrs. C. Myburgh, Mrs. Vail and 3 children, Mr. G. Kawada, Miss E J. Newton, Capt. John McGowan, U.S.N., Mr. F. Cornehl, Mr. H. S. Goodfellow, Mr. A. H. Massey, Mr. F. E. Meigs and 2 children and Mr. E. S. Stevens.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Laos*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Sibiodon and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bright, Mrs. Roux, H.I.H. Prince Kanein, Prince Iwakura, Colonel Oshima, Mr. Matsui, Mr. Hirata, Mr. Doki, Lt. Boissière, Mr. D. Ichikawa, Mr. Nagaoka, Mr. K. Kato, Mr. J C. Balet, Mr. and Mrs. de Micheaux, Mr. Nicholas, Mr. Uchitora, Mr. Ch. W. Ure, Mr. Hing cheong, Mr. Pung cheong, Mr. So Hing, Mr. Th. S. Forrest, Mr. H. Wing, Mr. So Chet Sang, Mr. Yu Pong, Mr. D. Usciati, Mr. Schleret, Mr. J. Sines, Mr. A. S. Abdulally, Mr. C. H. Wilson, Mr. Camming, Mr. E. A. Swan, Mr. C. H. Poincili, Mr. C. Degny, Mr. A. Gysin, Mr. Chausson, Mr. Foin, Mr. Muraour and boy, Mr. Fusakichi, and Mr. A. Dubourg, in cabin; 5 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. T. J. Eldridge, Mr. E. V. Morgan, Mr. Wm. T. Payne, Mr. W. G. Bennett, Mrs. Danford, Mrs. Ray, Mr. A. M. Fisher, Mr. E. B. Townsend, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Sutterle, Mr. L. Spitzel, Master Suterlee, Mrs. Mead, Miss O. Mead, and Mr. Townsend, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Shoebridge and child, Mr. Buckingham, Capt. Scales, Mr. R. M. Docking, Mr. Yue Cheong and child, Mrs. Yue Cheong and infant, Mr. Tai Tuck Tong, Mr. Ko Wing Sai, Mr. Lum Chue and infant, Mr. Young Heu, ane Mr. R. Seel, in cabin; 8 Chinese, 2 children, and 4 infants, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Ceylon*, for London via ports:—Mrs. Lockyer and child, and Major C. K. Sarkies, in cabins.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The rise of prices in most lines still operates to check transactions. Only small and tentative purchases are made.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$3.00 to 3.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 4.00
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.05 to 2.85
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.80 to 3.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.31 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloth—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.85
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.90 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2 8 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3 8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.80

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42 Doubles	$170.00 to 190 00
Nos. 2 60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2 80, Plain	335.00 to 345.00
Nos 2 100, Plain	400.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	330.00 to 410 00
Nos. 2 80. Gassed	400 00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$28 00
Indian Broach	27.50
Chinese	27.00

METALS.

The market is still quiet.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward	6.20 to 6 40
Iron Plates, assorted	6.10 to 6.50
Sheet Iron	6.50 to 6 90
Galvanized iron sheets	12 50 to 13 80
Wire Nails assorted	7 60 to 7 90
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 1⅛ inch)	7.15 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market quiet.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.05 to 3 08
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5 45
Brown Manila	5.10 to 6.15
Brown Taikong	4 35 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Little had been doing for Europe until the last day or two, when buyers commenced to make purchases at prices showing a marked reduction on those prevailing a month ago. Stocks suitable for the New York market are much reduced, but there is still a fair assortment of silk suitable for Europe.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,260 to 1,270
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,240 to 1,250
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,220 to 1,230
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,190 to 1,200
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re reels—No 1	None
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,170 to 1,180
Re-reels—No. 2	1,150
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	1,150
Kakedas—No. 1	1,135
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,100
Kakedas—No 2	1,080
Kakedas—No 2½	No stock

WASTE SILK.

A steady business has been done in Kibiso at quotations, but the stock of desirable fibre is not great. In other sorts quotations are nominal in the absence of supplies. No reduction can be obtained on good quality parcels.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180
Noshi—Filatures, Good	175
Noshi—Oshu, Best	180
Noshi—Oshu, Good	175
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	170
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	135
Noshi—Bushu, Best / Noshi—Bushu, Good / Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$135
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	175
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	155
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, February 22.

Silver from London ⅛ lower, but no change in China sterling quotations, and locally all rates remain steady for the outgoing mails per *Empress of India* and *Gaelic*.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand	2/0⅜
— — 4 months' sight	2 0⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 13/16
— — 6 months' sight	2 0 15/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	256
— Private 4 months' sight	261
— Private 6 months' sight	262
America—Bank Bills on demand	49⅛
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207⅛
— Private 4 months' sight	213 to ⅛
Hongkong—Bank sight	3½% dis
— Private 10 days' sight	4½% dis
Shanghai—Bank sight	75
— Private 10 days' sight	75⅛
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, February 22.

Engine and Iron Works were sold to-day at *yen* 210. Grand Hotels—Offers for shares are wanted. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 80. Oriental Hotels can be placed at *yen* 135. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 60. Laundries—Offers for shares are wanted.

Asahi Breweries were sold to-day at *yen* 86.50, Marusan Breweries at *yen* 45.50.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs and Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., $50	210 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. *yen* 50	150 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., $100	237.50 S.
Club Hotel, Ltd., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd., $100	135 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. (Pfds.), $125	400 B.
Nagasaki Hotel Ltd., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., $10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., $100	60 B
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., *yen* 50	Offers wanted
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7% Deb., $100	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7% Deb. $100	N

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

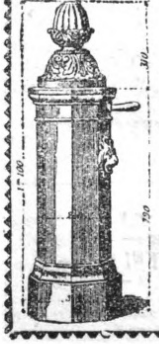
Yokohama, February 22.

Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 133. Founders are wanted at *yen* 400.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works	210 Sales.
Grand Hotel	237 50 Sales.
Club Hotel	80 Steady.
Oriental Hotel	133 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co.	70 Sales.
Japan Brewery Co.	150 Sales.

969



WATERING APPARATUS

Non-freezing & Ordinary Hydrants and Street Washers.
Garden Watering Boxes and Apparatus.
Gun-Metal, Copper, and Cast-Iron Cocks and Valves.

E. GUESNIER, E.C.P.,
Engineer and Cock Mnfr.,
(Successor of ACHILLE CADET)
27, *Rue des Taillandiers*
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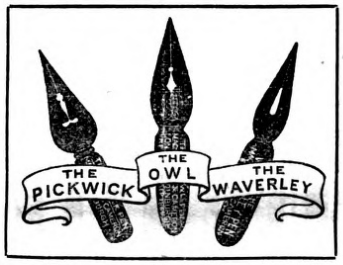

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD, 1900.

DEATHS.

RUDOLF VON MANN, late brewer of the Tokyo Brewery in Hodogaya, a native of Reichenhall in Bavaria, died, in his 34th year, at his residence in Honmoku.

At 1.368. Nakamura, on February 28th, JOHN C. WERNER, aged 60 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA is dead.

DR. KITASATO is reported to have discovered a second Pest microbe.

THE British Navy estimates for the year show an increase of a million sterling.

DR. L. S. L TTLE has left Shanghai for Durban, it is said, to offer his services to the military authorities there.

A BLUEJACKET named Johnson, of the U.S.S. *Oregon*, ran over a coolie, while riding a bicycle in front of the Chinese Consulate on Thursday. The matter was settled by the sailor paying two *yen* as compensation.

THE surrender of Cronje and his army occurred on the anniversary of Majuba Hill.

IT is said that Russia has decided not to put the new fishery regulations for Saghalien into force for a year.

THE widow of Jose Rizal is to open a school for English at Cebu, where her present husband runs a bar.

SEVERE fighting continues near Ladysmith, General Buller having to fight for every yard of ground he wins.

CRONJE'S retreat has ended in his unconditional surrender to Lord Roberts, together with four thousand men.

WALES has won the first international Rugby match of the season, defeating England at Gloucester by 13 points to 3.

INFLUENZA, which has been very rife among the foreign community of Yokohama, is happily less severe this week.

THE Queen has telegraphed her congratulations to Lord Roberts for his bringing about the surrender of Cronje.

THERE have been several cases of incendiarism in Yokohama during the week, all in the Japanese quarters of the town.

MR. OTANI KAHEI, the well-known millionaire tea merchant of Yokohama, returned from his Occidental trip on Wednesday.

A FIRE broke out at the Nagoya Electric Light Company's works on the 27th ult. at 2 a.m The office, godowns, etc., were destroyed.

SEVERAL Chinese tailors and some Japanese *sendo* have been arrested in Yokohama during the week and charged with gambling.

THE new Austro-Hungarian Consul has arrived in Yokohama. Dr. de Flesch, who held the position for many years, left on Saturday.

IT is said that President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, has telegraphed to President Kruger, urging that immediate overtures be made for peace.

PROFESSOR CLAY MCCAULEY, who is about to leave Japan after 10 years' residence, was entertained at the Tokyo Club at a farewell dinner on Monday.

BISHOP AWDRY will conduct a service of Intercession in connexion with the war in South Africa in St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, on Sunday next.

A CONSIDERABLE sum has been collected in Tokyo and Yokohama by the Batavian Committee, for the aid of the Boers' widows, children, and wounded

PRINCE WALDEMAR of Denmark, who arrived at Yokohama last Saturday, pays an official visit to the capital next week where he will be the guest of the Emperor and Empress at the Shiba Palace.

A SPECIAL telegram to the *Singapore Free Press*, dated Labuan, February 3, reads:—Captain Harrington, Commandant of the British North Borneo Police, wires that Mat Salleh is killed and his followers are dispersed.

THE Russian Government has just signed a contract with a German house for the conversion into modern weapons of nearly a quarter of a million comparatively obsolete rifles. The rifles to be converted date from 1878, 1882, and 1889, and are of various pattern.

THE French Minister has communicated to the Press an official letter from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in which the position of perpetual leases held by foreigners is placed beyond question.

BRITISH Consols were quoted as low as £98 at the end of 1899, but they have steadily advanced since, and after being at £101 1/16 on the 21st, £101 5/16 on the 23rd, and £101 9/16 on the 25th, they stood on Tuesday in London at £101 5/8.

THE *Cuco*, a new steamer of 60 tons, belonging to Messrs. Guitterez Bros., of Manila, which was built in Hongkong for the coast trade of the Philippines, was wrecked on her maiden trip, on 4th February, near San Fernando de la Union.

STATISTICS of the amount of food and drink which a nation consumes are always sufficiently alarming, but the Board of Trade *Journal* prints a statement which gives an unprecedented suggestion of immensity. It is nothing more than the record of the harvest of the sea. This amounted to no less than 8,594,000cwt. of fish merely from the English and Welsh fishing grounds, which is more than half a million hundredweight in excess of last year's yield.

MR. G D. SCOTT, Reuter's agent at Shanghai, informs the *N.-C. Daily News* that he has received the following telegram, dated Peking, the 16th instant:—"News has been received at the Legation that two members of the Burma Commission named Kiddle and Sutherland, were murdered in the bazaar at Mengka, 200 miles from Tengyue (Momein), on the Burmo Chinese frontier, on the 10th instant. Mr. G. J. L. Litton, of the British Consular Service in China, was slightly wounded on the same occasion. Details of the occurrence are still wanting."

THE champion wrestler of the world has been defeated by a Russian, and the scene at the theatre where the champion was thrown is thus graphically described by the special correspondent of the *Telegraph*:—"Flowers, handkerchiefs, hats, and even fur tippets were cast upon the stage at the feet of Pytlasinski, who stood blowing kisses and murmuring inarticulate thanks in reply to the deafening applause, which was continued until the spectators at last subsided from pure exhaustion. Meanwhile, a pathetic sight was poor Kara Ahmed, who, in bitter rage and grief at his overthrow, had refused to take his successful opponent's proffered hand, and had slunk into a corner, where he stood, bated to tears and shaking with sobs, like a huge baby."

THE death of Sir H. Meux suggests the remarkable continuity of the great London brewers. The chief of them to-day are flourishing much more than a century ago. In 1807 Meux's vat in Liquorpond-street—well named—was one of the wonders of the town. It contained 20,000 barrels of porter, valued at 30s. per barrel, and cost £10,000. Only one of the great brewing houses has failed since then, viz. Calvert's, reputed to have had more "tied" houses than any, and immortalised by Goldsmith in the words "and Calvert's black champagne." Meux's output rose from 88,000 barrels in 1793 to 132,000 barrels in 1798. Lord Tweedmouth's and other great fortunes have come from this firm, and it enabled the present Lord Aylesbury to retain the hereditary estates of the family intact.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Monday, Feb. 26.

It has been very plain for some days past that although Cronje managed to escape from his compromised position at Maggersfontein, he did not contrive to elude the British pursuit. So far as we can judge, the programme adopted by the Boer leader was this:—Loading his heavy artillery and ammunition with all possible speed on ox-wagons, and taking with him a portion of his stores and provisions, he selected eight or nine thousand of the best men under his command, and organizing them as an escort for his train, ordered the remainder of his toops to disperse, effect their escape individually, and rejoin him at a point 50 or 60 miles nearer Bloemfontein, his plan being to reorganise his army there, augmenting it with the main part of the troops engaged on the south of the Orange River and with re-inforcements from Ladysmith and the Transvaal, so as to cover Bloemfontein. It is not a lengthy operation to dismount guns weighing less than two tons and to load them on wagons, if proper appliances are at hand. Still Cronje must have made excellent use of his time. His natural route would have been to travel due south by the road from Kimberley to Jacobsdal, and strike the Bloemfontein road at the latter place. But that route would have certainly brought him into collision with Roberts. He therefore headed due east, hoping to cross the Modder River at a point some 26 miles from Kimberley. In the beginning he was tolerably successful. Indeed, it was inevitable that he should be. The passage of the Modder River at Klipsdrift by the mounted brigades under French took place on the 13th instant, and within two hours, or three at the latest, Cronje had news of the event. He saw at once that his communications with Bloemfontein were severed, and without a moment's delay orders were issued in the sense indicated above. His only difficulty was to evade French, whose intention to outflank him and reach Kimberley he must have immediately divined. The evasion was cleverly accomplished, and it was, we venture to think, the only clever part of Cronje's manœuvering. His really wise plan would have been to abandon his heavy guns altogether, and to strike rapidly eastward, taking only his field artillery and a modicum of ammunition. Had he done so, there can be little doubt that he would have escaped, for his whole force is mounted, and the British infantry could never have come up with him. Indeed, the unwisdom of attempting to transport guns of position under such circumstances should have been so evident that their absolute necessity for the defence of Bloemfontein is the only conjecture suggested by his obstinacy in clinging to them. Setting out on Wednesday, the 14th, he reached the Modder River unmolested on the morning of the 16th, and having detached a strong rearguard, commenced the passage of the river, accomplishing it without serious difficulty. Meanwhile the Seventh Division of the British troops had occupied Jacobsdal on the preceding day (15th), and on the 14th, the Highland Brigade and the Sixth Division had moved northward, following French. Kelly-Kenny, who commanded the Sixth Division, soon found evidences that Cronje had crossed his front travelling eastward, and he at once turned in pursuit, moving so rapidly that by the evening of the 16th he had captured over 100 of the Boers' wagons and got into touch with Cronje's rear-guard. There was still time for Cronje to abandon his train and ride direct for Bloemfontein, but he clung to his remaining wagons, the golden opportunity was lost, and on Saturday, the 17th, he was forced to form laager at a point on the Modder River. Three-and-a-half miles distant, on the Bloemfontein side of the River, is an eminence named Paardeberg. The telegrams do not say whether Cronje occupied it originally and was driven from it. But the probability is that he remained on the river, access to water being essential. From Maggersfontein to Bloemfontein is 110 miles. Cronje had traversed only 26 miles of the distance when he was overtaken and forced into laager. On Sunday, the 18th, an attempt was made to storm the laager. We know the result—146 men killed, probably from 500 to 600 wounded, and an experience similar to that of the Highland Brigade at Maggersfontein, namely, that the men were obliged to remain lying down for many hours until darkness enabled them to retire. Cronje, as we have said, doubtless had his best troops with him, and an attempt to rush a laager defended by such marksmen was doubtless inspired by a sense of the desirability of capturing it before succour could arrive from the south or from the Transvaal. On Monday, Roberts arrived, and with him, in all probability, came the Seventh Division, which was then sent out to support French's covering operations. Roberts decided to resort to artillery. Throughout Monday, he bombarded the laager with 50 guns, and on Tuesday morning Cronje asked for an armistice. That very singular request is difficult to understand. An armistice for the purpose of burying the dead and collecting the wounded is a usual incident, but such a proposal should have come from the British side under the circumstances. The telegram makes it clear that Cronje had some proposition to make, but what it can have been we are at a loss to conjecture. Perhaps he asked to be allowed to march away, leaving his arms and ammunition, but even that it scarcely credible. Looking at the affair from this distance, one is disposed to conclude that his sole object was to gain time, since every hour improved his chances of succour. He did succeed in obtaining a respite of half a day, but in the afternoon the bombardment was renewed. The range, according to the telegram, was only 1,000 yards, but we doubt the accuracy of that statement, for nothing could live in the face of a bombardment of only 1,000 yards with 50 guns, and at that range the artillery would be needlessly exposed, the Boers' rifles being effective up to 1,500 yards at least. It is the most terrible drama of the war, and we can not choose but admire the grand courage shown by Cronje and his tough, psalm-singing Boers. It is a miserable thing that such men should have to be slaughtered, but they have done their own work of killing ruthlessly.

More than one account indicates that attempts have been made to succour Cronje. It is probable that they were the work of Boers from beyond the Orange River, as well as of the men who had been ordered to escape from Maggersfontein independently, and re-assemble at a point 50 or 60 miles further east. With the aid of the railway the former could reach the neighbourhood of Paardeberg in 3 or 4 days, and the latter's presence is easily understood. Reinforcements from the Transvaal, or even from Ladysmith, may possibly have reached the scene, but it would have been quick work. At all events Roberts had every reason to push his attack vigorously.

It is worth remembering that to continue the bombardment with 50 guns would require from 50 to 60 tons of ammunition daily, supposing that the guns used are field artillery, and that to keep up such a supply without any railway for purposes of transport at a position like that now occupied by Robert must be exceedingly difficult.

General Buller evidently has his work cut out for him still. He appears to be fighting now—or to have been fighting at the date of our latest advices—in the space between the Klip and the Tugela. The Klip enters Ladysmith from the direction of the Brakenburg; winds southward, along the east side of the railway, through a distance of some 5 miles; then trends eastward, and ultimately joins its waters with those of the Tugela at a point six miles from the railway. Thus the railway, the Tugela, and the Klip form, roughly speaking, an acute-angled triangle, having for its base a six-mile section of the railway and for its apex the junction of the two rivers. Nelthorpe, where the Boers are now in position, is 7½ miles north of Colenso, and 6½ miles from Ladysmith. But it is only 4½ miles from Cæsar's Camp, the most southerly portion of Sir George White's entrenchments. There runs through it a little tributary of the Klip, called Davals Spruit, and it is probably along the northern banks of the stream that the Boers have taken up a position. But we can only conjecture. Two miles south of Nelthorpe is Pieters station, near which also there are some eminences; but since Pieter's station is not mentioned in the telegram, it may be presumed that the ridges in question are beyond Nethorpe on the north. If that be so, Buller has forced his way to a point very close to Ladysmith, and one more success ought to effect the relief of the garrison. On this occasion, too, he need not be in any hurry, nor should a failure entail retreat to the south of the Tugela. He can probably keep the ground he has gained. The Boers are taking a great risk, it would seem, in allowing themselves to be pushed back so near to Ladysmith. Defeat in their present position may mean disaster. But it is nof improboble that they have detached a considerable force to succour Cronje in the Free State, and that the circle of the Ladysmith defences *vis-à vis* Buller has been correspondingly narrowed. Even if ten or twelve thousand have thus been withdrawn, Buller has still a strong body to displace, and it seems that the remainder are fighting desperately to cover the retreat.

Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The telegrams have been very perplexing during the past few days. On the 25th our news was that Buller found himself opposed by the Boers occupying high ridges near Nelthorpe; on the 26th,

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we learned that the British troops had fought their way to within a few hundred yards of the Boers' first entrenchments on Grobler's Kloof; and on the 27th the telegram says that they are within 2 miles of being in touch with Ladysmith. These accounts cannot be reconciled, unless we suppose that Buller's right wing has pushed on some miles in advance of his left, and that the former has reached the vicinity of Nelthorpe, while the latter has not surmounted Grobler's Kloof. Our readers remember that the occupation of Fort Wylie was announced a few days ago. Looking at the map it will be seen that, at a point about 1½ miles east of the railway bridge opposite Colenso, the Tugela, whose general course is from west to east, heads sharply to the north, and after running for a distance of some 3 miles approximately parallel to the railway, it turns again to the east. Fort Wylie is within the elbow of the river opposite to Colenso and on the east of the railway. But Fort Wylie was not the *point d'appui* of the Boers' left wing. They had pushed their left wing across the Tugela, so as to occupy a hill called Hlangwane, which lies on the east of the northern stretch of the Tugela at a distance of a little more than 2 miles from Fort Wylie. In fact, Fort Wylie being within the salient angle formed by the river's head, Hlangwane hill lies outside that angle. After the capture of Hlangwane Hill, Buller had free access to the Tugela throughout it northerly stretch as well as along its eastlerly course. We know that he crossed at Colenso, but it is possible that he effected another crossing at a more northerly point along the river's eastern stream, in which case his right wing may have been pushing on towards Pieters and Nelthorpe, while his centre and left advanced direct from Colenso. We see no other way of accounting for the telegraphic statements. After crossing at Colenso and capturing Fort Wylie, Buller had to negotiate a line of steep kopjes which rise abruptly from the north of the river (on the west of Fort Wylie), their length being about 1½ miles and their depth the same. These kopjes rise in steps which culminate in a range of hills forming the two salient positions of Grobler's Kloof and Red Hill. We take it that Grobler's Kloof and Red Hill are the keys of the Boers' position opposite Colenso and that their capture would be almost decisive. Grobler's Kloof is 9 miles from Cæsar's Camp, but there are still some difficult places to be traversed between the two. If, however, Buller's right wing had really reached the neighbourhood of Nelthorpe on the 23rd, he had not only out-flanked the Boers on Grobler's Kloof but also placed himself in their rear. Everything seems to favour the supposition that Buller is fighting against a portion only of Joubert's troops —nine or ten thousand out of twenty-eight thousand—, whose object will be to stay his advance as long as possible without losing their own chance of recovering touch with the main body.

Thursday, March 1.

Cronje held out just nine days. He formed his laager on the night of Saturday, the 17th of February, and he surrendered on Tuesday, the 26th. Doubtless comparisons will be drawn between his brief resistance and the protracted siege that Ladysmith has endured. But there is no room for comparison. Reuter used a correct expression when he said that Cronje was in a "death trap." A hole, 50 feet deep, 150 feet wide, and 10,560 feet long was the refuge into which he was driven. Such a place, occupied by some 4,000 to 5,000 men and as many animals in the heat of a South African summer, must have been a perfect hell. It is true that there was probably considerable protection from artillery. There does not appear to have been in the vicinity any high ground from which a plunging fire could be delivered, and to pitch shells from field-guns into a slit in the plain only 50 yards wide would be a difficult task, while fair protection against enfilade fire could have been obtained by building a few strong traverses. But if Roberts brought up two or three howitzers and used lyddite shells, the place would have become unendurable in a few hours. We shall not be surprised to learn that something of that kind happened. At any rate it is obvious that food must have quickly become a crucial question. Cronje had a river running through his camp, and he had probably about a thousand oxen, to say nothing of horses. Beef and water were therefore plentiful. But how to feed the oxen that were to feed his men? It is not likely that there was pasturage in such a place, and it is certain that Cronje did not carry fodder with him. We can not imagine how things have fared at Ladysmith in that respect. Shut up in the Ladysmith camp are the 5th Dragoon Guards, the 5th Lancers, the 18th Hussars, the 19th Hussars, the 13th, 21st, 42nd, 53rd, 67th, and 69th Batteries of Field Artillery—four regiments of cavalry and six batteries of Artillery—, and on what all the horses of these corps have subsisted since the end of October, four long months, we can form no idea. Sir George White had laid in an immense stock of forage. That we know. But forage for about 2,000 horses during four months would make a respectable mountain. Cronje, however, had no forage at all, and some of his beasts must have perished of starvation before he surrendered. It may be assumed that his fault was clinging tenaciously to his heavy artillery. Yet certainly the service hitherto rendered by the Boers' guns has not been of such a nature as to warrant Cronje in sacrificing lives rather than lose these weapons. Well served artillery should have dug up Ladysmith in a month and destroyed Kimberley in a still shorter time. Had either place been armed with siege guns, the case would have been different. But Kimberley had no weapons of the kind, and Ladysmith has virtually been obliged to depend on field pieces only, for we may be quite sure that the few rounds of ammunition available for the two naval 4.7 inch guns were exhausted at a very early date. The Boers, therefore, had a virtually unresisting target for their siege-guns both at Ladysmith and at Kimberley, and they nevertheless effected so little that we could imagine them discarding their "Long Toms" in disgust rather than clinging to them at the risk of their lives. Cronje, of course, could not use his artillery at all: guns can not be fired with effect out of a hole 50 feet deep. Everything was against him. The marvel is that he ever went into such a place. Presumably the moral effect of this disaster to the Boers' arms will be great, especially if it is followed by news of the relief of Ladysmith. There is nothing now to prevent Roberts from moving on Ladysmith. He may deem it wise, however, to first account for the Boers operating on the south of the Orange River. They are in a highly dangerous plight, for, unless they have already retired, they can scarcely hope to reach Bloemfontein, or to effect an union with the Transvaal forces in the north, unless, indeed, they take warning by Cronje's fate, and, abandoning all *impedimenta*, escape as light horsemen. In the early stages of the war, our forces were at a great disadvantage, since they had to be broken into fragments, and led to the attack of an enemy having all the advantages of position and entrenchments. But, as we have often stated, that advantage could easily be converted into disadvantage unless the Boers chose their time wisely for retiring and concentrating their scattered divisions. They seem to have missed the "psychological moment." If they succeed in re-uniting now, it will be at some serious loss.

Friday, March 2.

The occupation of Jamestown by Brabant and capture of the Boers' horses are movements that we must connect with a renewed attempt against Stormberg on the part of Gatacre. Jamestown is about 25 miles east of Stormberg and as many south of Aliwal North. It is not on the railway, nor does its position suggest any reason why there should be a number of Boers' horses there, unless they are remounts. But one thing is pretty certain, namely, that if these horses are not remounts, the Boers to which they belong are in a bad way, for the Boer separated from his horse is at an immense disadvantage.

It appears to us that there is a tendency to over-rate the success won by Roberts. In fact we are surprised that the Field-Marshal should have telegraphed a despatch in the terms said to have been used by him. Whether Cronje had 3,000 men, as the French telegram says, or 4,000, as Reuter reports, makes very little difference. He was hopelessly outnumbered, and we are disposed rather to admire his courage in holding out for 9 days than to be elated at his capture. The incident means very little from a military point of view. We may assume that Cronje had fully a thousand men killed and wounded, and if to these we add 500 prisoners captured in the operations to the east of Paardeberg, the final result is that the Boers have been weakened to the extent of from 5,000 to 6,000 men. But there is nothing signal about that, especially in view of the fact that Cronje's capture cost us about a thousand casualties. It is plain that the first report was correct, namely, that the Boer general took 5,000 men with him in his retreat and ordered the rest to disband, and escape as best they could. They have escaped, probably six or seven thousands of them, and the fact that our men caught Cronje, surrounded him, and compelled him to surrender is not nearly so striking as a signal victory gained over his whole force would have been. The mystery is why he allowed himself to be caught. We imagined that it was because of his heavy guns. But he had no heavy guns with him—only 9 pounders and Maxims, which are as mobile as cavalry. Undoubtedly, had he ridden straight away with his field artillery and his men, he could have escaped with ease. A day's start would

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have made pursuit hopeless. It is inexplicable. And then comes the question, what did he do with his siege-guns? He certainly had some at Kimberley. One is almost disposed to think that he buried them in the ground, incredible as such a hypothesis seems. At all events his capture can not be regarded as an event of of capital importance, and we can not doubt that when the Authorities in London thought it worth their while to telegraph the news to the Far East, they imagined that the Boer prisoners would number fully eight or nine thousand. As it is, if the six or seven thousand that escaped from Kimberley effect a junction with the Natal Army, and if the Boers operating to the south of the Orange River can make good their retreat, the forces of the two Republics will still number fully fifty thousand. The main advantage of Cronje's capture is that the organization of the Free State for resistance is more or less dislocated for the moment, although the dimensions of that advantage also have been diminished by the length of time that was required before the "Lion of the Transvaal" capitulated.

VIEWS OF JAPANESE STATESMEN.

Speaking at a meeting organized to celebrate the largely extended representation secured to urban populations by the amended Law of Election, Marquis Ito and Viscount Aoki concurred in stating that Japan's future must be commercial and industrial, and that she must cease to devote her attention mainly to agriculture. That is a point upon which we have been insisting for the past twenty years. There is no occasion to insist on it now, for Japan has begun to shape her course in the right direction. Viscount Aoki, however, made some further remarks which call for comment. He traversed the idea that the privilege of land ownership would be of much value in bringing foreign capital to Japan. We must note that there is some uncertainty about the Viscount's precise words. None of the vernacular newspapers gives an exact reproduction of his speech. The most accurate appears to be that of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, and from it we gather Viscount Aoki's opinion to be that foreigners do not like to fix their capital as they would have to do if they invested it in land in Japan. In Europe and America the banks make no difficulty about lending money on the security of land, but Japanese banks will not advance on such security, and a land-owner's money is consequently locked up unless he sells. The Occidental capitalist does not care for that kind of investment. He prefers some "going" enterprise, commercial or industrial.

Such are the views attributed to Viscount Aoki, and we think it a pity that they should have been expressed for they will have the effect of checking the tendency that now begins to prevail in favour of allowing foreigners to own land. As to the question of foreign investments, it may be partially true that there would not be any strong disposition to put money into land. But nothing can be certainly predicted on that subject. Rural land in Japan does not, perhaps, invite investments, but the land in some of the cities is assuredly far below the value that it will have one of these days, and we are by no means sure that it would not find foreign purchasers were the present restrictions withdrawn. Besides, the objection that Japanese banks do not lend money on the security of land does not appear to have much weight. If foreigners were legally entitled to own land in Japan, the operation of any machinery that exists in Europe or America for making advances against real property would be speedily extended to this country. However, it is not for the purposes of investments in land that foreign capital would be attracted if the privilege of ownership were conceded. It is for the purpose of conducting industries which require the tenure of land. Superficies is a very excellent device, but say what we may, it is not ownership. A superficiary is not the master of the property he holds; there is always somebody to whom he must look; somebody whose title is superior to his. Grant that this is partly a matter of sentiment, it is nevertheless a sentiment which weighs strongly with many people. "You can't start an industry in Japan for they don't allow you to own the land on which your factories and warehouses stand." That bald statement, whatever marginal notes be appended about superficiaries, or juridical persons, is quite sufficent to deter ninety-nine European or American capitalists out of every hundred.

PUBLIC SPIRIT.

It is satisfactory to see that the spirit of public benevolence is beginning to be effective among the wealthy men of Japan. For a long time it seemed as though the example set by Mr. Fukuzawa and Count Okuma would remain without followers. Mr. Fukuzawa, indeed, might object to be classed among "wealthy men," and might justly claim that his excellent and flourishing school and college at Takanawa have grown to their present dimensions independently of special pecuniary aid, and mainly by their innate capacity for development. But it is beyond question that Mr. Fukuzawa made large efforts and sacrifices for the sake of the school in its early days, and that he deserves to rank, in that respect, among the national benefactors of the *Meiji* era. Count Okuma's Technical School at Waseda, also, though now self-supporting, must have been at one time a heavy drain upon his resources. We have heard it stated that his outlays on account of the institution aggregate as much as a quarter of a million *yen*. Many people have been wont to regard the Waseda Semmon Gakko as, in some respects, a nursery of politicians, and the example set by its founder may thus have lost much of its value. At all events, as we have said, neither Count Okuma not Mr. Fukuzawa found imitators until Mr. Okura Kihachiro entered the field and signified his intention of devoting the sum of half a million *yen* to build and endow a commercial school, which is now approaching completion and will probably be open at the end of the year. Mr. Hiranuma Senzo, also, has erected and endowed a school for the education of poor children, appropriating a large sum for the purpose, and we now learn that the Sumitomo family of Osaka has undertaken to build a public library at a cost of 150,000 *yen*, and to place in it 50,000 *yen* worth of books. These evidences of benevolent endeavour are most welcome. There is no denying that the Japanese moneyed classes have hitherto been wanting in the discharge of this particular duty.

JOINT ENTERPISE.

We have often expressed the belief that one of the first results of the operation of the Revised Treaties would be the organization of cöoperative enterprises between Japanese and foreigners. Time will be needed to overcome the great obstacles, namely, distrust on the foreign side and apprehension of the Occidental's masterful methods on the side of the Japanese. But time may be relied on in that matter. Already, as the *Kokumin* points out, there are indications of a strong disposition among Japanese and Chinese to combine, and on a more restricted scale a similar disposition begins to be apparent among Americans, Englishmen and Japanese. China-Japan banks and China-Japan trading associations are evidently on the verge of practical inception, while prominent British and American firms, like Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Company and the American Trading Company, are seemingly inclined to undertake cöoperative schemes. Our contemporary predicts that China and Korea will be the great fields of exploitation during the twentieth century, and congratulates Japan on being favourably situated for taking advantage of the movement.

There is talk of a new bank; or, to speak more accurately, the talk so long heard about a bank of China and Japan seems likely to lead to the organization of an institution called the *Ashia Tsusho Ginko* (Asiatic Tradal Bank), which will have a mixed establishment of Chinese and Japanese. A capital of at least 10 million *yen* is spoken of. The promoters are said to be experiencing much opposition from the Russo-Chinese Bank.

It is stated that a joint stock company is about to be formed for the purpose of bringing Chili and Japan into commercial contact. The promoters are said to be the Representative of Chili in Japan; Mr. J. R. Morse, Mr. Ed. Dun, Mr. Toyama, President of the Naniwa Ginko, and Mr. Fujishima, ex-Vice-President of the Industrial Bank. The capital is put at 500,000 *yen*, one-fourth of which is subscribed by the Chilian Minister. The chief import from Chili will be nitrates, and it is expected that the company will be able to transport Japanese exports to places on the Western Pacific coast.

THE SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS IN CHINA.

In conformity with legislative action taken in the Diet, the Japanese Government announces in the *Official Gazette* that a sum of a million *yen* will be devoted to preparing for residential purposes the sites obtained from China as special settlements. These sites have hitherto remained unutilized, and one of the reasons assigned is that private individuals can not be expected to incur the heavy expense of road-making and drainage. The Government, therefore, has been induced to undertake the work.

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THE LAND QUESTION.

It really does seem that the persons who have undertaken to journalistically represent the foreign land-holders are determined to be dissatisfied, whatever may be done to satisfy them. Hitherto, their main, indeed we may say their only, ground of complaint has been that in the registration of their titles the term "superficies" is used—not "superficies," pure and simple, but "superficies" with the words "perpetual lease" in brackets, these words being added for the purpose of distinguishing the titles as treaty rights to which the provisions of the Civil Code do not apply. Nevertheless, the foreign land-holders objected to the term "superficies" being employed in connexion with their leases. They claimed that the form of tenure known as superficies is subjected by the laws of Japan to certain limitations which do not apply to the "perpetual leases" contemplated by the treaties. That, we say, was the whole objection. It is clearly set forth in the first resolution passed by the public meeting of January 19th, which says that "the laws of Japan appear to contemplate the compulsory conversion of the perpetual leases into a new and different kind of right which is called superficies." Clear proof has been furnished that the above resolution was framed under a misapprehension, since the land titles held by foreigners under the treaties are explicitly exempted from the provisions of the Civil Code, and since those titles are not to be changed in any way, the addition of the term "superficies" being merely for convenience of registration. To make assurance doubly sure, the French Representative obtained from the Japanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs an official declaration that the limitations which the Civil Code attaches to "superficies" do not apply to the perpetual leases held by foreigners, and further, that the same is true of "all provisions of the Code implying conditions other than the conditions inscribed on the title deed of the perpetual leases." What is the reply made by the newspaper claiming to represent the land-holders? It is this:—

> Certainly it was never understood by anyone, that regulations applicable to superficies only, could have any reference or bearing whatsoever on foreigners' perpetual leases. Since the treaties recognise and confirm the right of foreigners to possess them, whatever are the laws relating to superficies, they are altogether separate and apart from these perpetual leases, and the Minister's declaration regarding the limitation of the rights of the holders of superficies, appears to be wholly unnecessary and uncalled for, since no confusion exists.

If it was "never understood by any one that regulations applicable to superficies only could have any reference or bearing whatever on foreigners' perpetual leases," what was meant by the resolution passed at the meeting on January 19th that "the laws of Japan appear to contemplate the compulsory conversion of the perpetual leases into a new and different kind of right which is called 'superficies'"?

A correspondent of the newspaper from which we have quoted writes:—

> Sir,—Referring to the paragraph in the *Japan Mail* of this morning, with extracts of a communication from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to the French Minister, would it not be more dignified on the part of the Japanese Government to issue a notification to the effect that *Perpetual Leases* are recognised in accordance with Treaty rights, instead of a personal opinion of a Government Minister to a Foreign Representative, which I think will be recognised as carrying no authority on behalf of the Japanese Government.
>
> Yours, PERPETUAL LEASE.

This letter seems to illustrate the strange perplexity that prevails on the subject of leases. The writer asks whether it would not be "more dignified on the part of the Japanese Government to issue a notification to the effect that *Perpetual Leases* are recognised in accordance with Treaty rights." Surely that is a curious conception of "dignity!" Why should the Japanese Government notify the world that it intends to respect its treaty obligation? Such an intention goes without saying. If a merchant makes a contract, does he advertise in the newspapers, "Know all men, that I intend to implement my contract?" Were the faithful observance of a promise a great novelty, such an announcement would be in order, but in that case "dignity" would scarcely come into the question. The Japanese Government assumes that its faithful observance of its treaty engagements is taken as a matter of course. It finds that the method of registration provided by it is regarded by foreigners as tending to a possible violation of those engagements. It then explains, through its Minister of Foreign Affairs and at the request of the French Representative, that no grounds whatever exist for such an apprehension, and the explanation, though officially made, is at once declared by a foreign lease-holder to be merely "a personal opinion of a Government Minister to a Foreign Representative," which carries "no authority on behalf of the Japanese Government." Our readers will agree with us that this discussion has assumed a farcical character.

PRINCE WALDEMAR.

The Danish warship *Valkyrien*, with Prince Waldemar of Denmark on board, arrived at Yokohama on Saturday morning about eleven, and anchored inside the breakwater. She fired a salute of 21 guns, which was answered by the *Fuji*, and then saluted the Admiral's flag with 13 guns. Rear-Admiral Mori, the Harbour Master, accompanied by the Marquis Nembrini de Gonzaga, went on board; and afterwards a visit was paid by Rear-Admiral Matsunaga, Captain Serata, and staff from the *Fuji*, and the Captain of the *Hiyei Kan*. Chevalier de Testa, the Netherlands representative, in charge of Danish diplomatic interests, Secretary Van der Polder, and the Danish Consul and Vice-Consul afterwards went on board, and the Minister presented to the Prince Captain Sakamoto, I.J.M., and Mr. Inaba, of the Board of Ceremonies. The Prince did not land. Mr. Ikariyama, Chief of the Settlement Police, and Mr. Iwasa, of the Harbour Police, have been appointed as the Prince's escort while in this Prefecture. Prince Waldemar is 42 years of age, and is the sixth son of the King of Denmark.

Prince Waldemar proceeds to Tokyo by the 10.50 a.m. train on Monday next (5th instant). He lunches on that day in the Shiba Detached Palace, and at half-past five in the evening repairs to the Emperor's Palace, where he will be received in audience by His Majesty and will afterwards dine with the Emperor, the Imperial Princes, and several of the Ministers of State.

THE TIMES.

Mr. Miyake Setsurei writes a long but interesting article in the *Nippon*. His design is to show that a reaction may shortly be expected in the sense of establishing a higher standard of integrity than that now existing in Japan. He divides the modern history of his country into three periods, the period of *Sonno* (loyalty) the period of *Kokka* (patriotism) and the period of *Sekai* (society). During the days that saw the fall of feudalism and the establishment of a bureaucratic form of government, that is to say, the time from 1862 to 1881, everything was done in the name of loyalty to the Throne. Undoubtedly the country profited greatly, but behind the scenes what took place was that a small coterie of clever men secured for themselves riches and honour. Then ensued the time when "the State" was in everybody's mouth—the time of political parties. The political agitator stood forth, proclaiming himself the champion of genuinely patriotic views, and he and his followers endeavoured, with a certain measure of success, to persuade the public that they were actuated by the loftiest motives. But the difference between this era and the preceding was simply one of extent. The circle of self-interest had been widened, and a much larger number of persons were included within its area. We are now in the era of "society;" that is to say, the era when a still larger view is taken of national affairs, and applicants for State aid and promoters of all sorts of enterprises, appeal to the dictates of a larger and correspondingly vaguer responsibility. But again the difference is quantitative only. The leaven of unprincipled selfishness has permeated the lump more thoroughly: that is all. Corruption is everywhere. From the bureaucrats it spread to the politicians and then to society at large, from the Diet downwards. The next stage will be that of reaction. "Miyake Setsurei" thinks that Occidental nations have passed through exactly the same phases, and that in Western countries where we find great value attached to commercial and individual probity, it is because the failure of competition where all are corrupt showed the advantages attending integrity. There is, therefore, no reason to despair of Japan's present condition. The evil has reached a stage when it may be expected to begin to work its own cure.

DR. KITASATO AND THE PEST.

It is stated that Dr. Kitasato's researches have resulted in the discovery that there is a second bacillus of Pest; that is to say, a bacillus different from that found by Yersin. This discovery may have much importance, for the partial character of the success achieved by using Yersin's serum would thus be explained, and there would be a reasonable hope that by means of another serum the dread disease may be effectually combated.

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THE LAW OF ELECTIONS.

Great satisfaction is evidently felt in connexion with the passing of the amended Law of Elections. Up to the eleventh hour it had seemed that the Bill was destined to meet the fate of its predecessors, namely to fail in consequence of the two Houses' being unable to compromise their differences of opinion. There was, indeed, special reason for despondency on this occasion, since the Peers had introduced into the measure changes so sweeping that the Representatives could scarcely be expected to pay favourable attention to the suggested alterations. Apart from the property qualification for electors, which all parties agree in desiring to lower, there are some large defects in the present system. Most prominent is the inadequate representation of the urban population. In the Lower House as now constituted, only 17 out of 300 members are returned by the urban population; that is to say, 6 per cent. Marquis Ito's calculation is that 24 per cent. would be the just ratio, and the Bill submitted by the Yamagata Cabinet this session adopted the ratio of 21 per cent. But the Lower House, which consists chiefly of members from rural constituencies, has always refused to make any sufficient modification of existing arrangements. On the present occasion, it altered the Government's proposals in the sense of reducing the urban representation to 16 per cent., and this fresh exhibition of an obstinate determination not to recognise the claims of the urban population seemed to indicate that the Bill would again fail to become law. The Upper House, too, pursued its usual tactics: it struck out the Lower House's changes and reverted, in effect, to the Cabinet's ratio of 21 per cent. There were other vital points of disagreement, but the case will be more easy to comprehend if we treat each separately. It seemed, then, tolerably certain that no basis of compromise could be found. But at this stage Marquis Ito appeared upon the scene, and exerted his great influence with the prominent members of the two branches of the Legislature. The Cabinet Ministers also spared no pains to soften the mood of the obdurates. Mr. Hoshi Toru took up the matter vigorously, and succeeded in having it made a party question, so that any Liberal voting against a compromise would be expelled from the *Kensei-to*, and Baron Suyematsu rose from his sick bed to aid the movement. The upshot was that the Lower House finally came into a conciliatory mood; its managers at the conference showed themselves pliant, accepted the figures of the Peers and embodied them in a report which the Lower House endorsed by a vote of 151 to 126. It will be interesting to set forth the result in a comparative table:—

	Total M.'s	U.	Rural.	Ratio %
Composition of present House	300	17	283	6
Composition of House proposed by Cabinet.	426	91	335	21
Composition of House as proposed by House of Representatives ...	478	77	401	16
Composition of House as agreed by the Diet.	369	61	308	20

The urban population is not yet quite adequately represented, but its grounds of complaint have been almost removed. It will further be observed that the total membership is greatly reduced, a point of some importance financially speaking. The emoluments of the House, as proposed by the Cabinet, would have been 852,000 *yen* annually, and the emoluments as proposed by the Representatives, 956,000 *yen*; whereas the emoluments, according to the newly determined establishment will be 738,000 *yen*. As to the question of representation, the programme is that an urban population of 30,000 will be enfranchised, the corresponding figure for the rural population being 130,000. Each will return a second member for every increment of 130,000, or for every fraction of that increment not less than 50,000.

The second important point relates to the manner of voting. The Government insisted upon uninominal ballots, unsigned. The Lower House was strongly disposed to have multinominal ballots, signed, but finally amended the Government's Bill in the sense of accepting the uninominal system, but requiring signatures. The Peers reverted to the Government's proposal, pure and simple, and the Lower House accepted the change.

The third point was the size of an electorate. The present electoral divisions are small, the division being generally made on the basis of one member for each district. Plainly such a method greatly facilitates corruption. It was therefore proposed by the Government that the limits of an electoral district should be extended so as to embrace the whole prefecture, and to that the two Houses have agreed.

Finally, the property qualification for voters is reduced from 15 *yen* per annum of direct taxes to 10 *yen*. The Government was willing to reduce it to 5 *yen*, and the Lower House endorsed that figure; but the Peers, more conservative, stopped at the mid-way point, namely 10 *yen*, and the Representatives did not object. In the case of candidates for election, the property qualification is abolished altogether. To have attained the full age of 30 is sufficient.

It is certainly a matter for congratulation that this important question has been settled. We must also compliment Japan upon the continuity of her record. Her constitutional reforms are still effected without any unpleasant features of popular disturbance and without any recourse to agitations or demonstrations. The property qualification is still high, but that, if an error, is an error on the right side.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

The usual fête in honour of the conclusion of the Diet's labours was given by the Minister President of State in the Imperial Hotel on the 24th instant. About two hundred members of the Lower House and a hundred and thirty of the Upper were present. Marquis Ito also attended, and congratulated the Houses and the Cabinet on the passing of the Bill for amending the Law of Election. There was a stand-up dinner, and the arrangements are said to have been so complete that the confusion generally witnessed on these occasions was happily avoided.

Now that the Diet has risen, rumours of Cabinet changes begin to be circulated. Two Tokyo journals lend their columns to the ventilation of a story the gist of which is that the Liberals and Progressists, or, at any rate, considerable sections of each, are likely to re-unite, with the intention of thrusting aside Counts Okuma and Itagaki, organizing an administration from the ranks of the younger statesmen, and completing the downfall of that ancient bogey, clan government. The leaders in the movement are said to be Messrs. Inukai and Oishi, and they propose to form a new association under the name of *Min-to*, or the "people's party." We strongly suspect that this rumour has not a more solid foundation than the wishes of those circulating it.

Mr. Ozaki Yukio, who now seems to be the acknowledged leader of the Progressists, delivered a stirring speech at the Party's last *dai-konshin-kai* (great friendly meeting). He frankly admitted that defeat had sat upon their banners for a long while; that they had fought again and again during the course of the Diet's present session, and they had always been on the losing side. But he claimed, with justice, that disaster had not daunted them; that they still presented an unbroken front, and that unlike any other political party in Japan, they could claim to have stood united and never to have lost any of their number through the storm and stress of unsuccessful campaigns. He predicted that their steadfastness would have its reward, and we agree with him. The unflinching uniformity with which the Progressists have managed to muster their 120 followers for every contest suggests a force of cohesion and homogeniety that could not be derived from mere organization. There is a backbone of moral conviction in the Progressist Party, and it will have its effect sooner or later.

KANG YU-WEI.

The implacable vengeance of the Empress Dowager pursues Kang Yu-wei and his accomplices. Kang, who had fled to Singapore, deemed it wise to make his way once more to Europe when he learned that a reward of ten thousand taels had been set upon his apprehension. He doubted whether the Chinese in Singapore could resist such a temptation. And well he might doubt, for not only is ten thousand taels a fortune to the average Chinaman, but also there must be among the residents of Singapore not a few persons who, sympathising with the powers that be, would deem it a praiseworthy act to bring Kang within reach of justice, or rather of what goes by the name of justice in China. Meanwhile it is reported that Kang's family sepulchre has been broken open by order of Li Hung-chang, and that the bones of his ancestors have been scattered to the four winds of heaven. That is a terrible disgrace in the eyes of a Chinaman, and the first impulse of foreigners will be to conclude that no small part of the disgrace falls upon the Viceroy Li for issuing such an order. But the tomb of the Mahdi in the Soudan was similarly treated by a British General in very recent times. We are living in glass houses. Meanwhile, one of Kang's accomplices has been apprehended in Macao. The telegraph has mutilated his name so as to be unidentifiable, but we fear that the mutilation of his name is a trifle to the things in store for him.

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THE SAGHALIEN QUESTION.

The House of Peers passed the Bill sent up from the Representatives for imposing an almost prohibitive import duty upon certain marine products coming from Russian territorial waters. Viscount Tani was chairman of the Special Committee entrusted with the duty of reporting on the measure, and those who have watched Viscount Tani's career could not be under any delusion as to the course he would recommend. Another important fact is that, during the course of the questioning process which usually accompanies the first reading of a Bill, the Government Delegate in the Upper House is reported to have said that the Government approved of the Bill. It will therefore become law, and will have the honour of marking Japan's entry into the field of tariff war-fare and retaliatory legislation. We can not for a moment think that the course adopted by the Russian Authorities is justifiable. No Government is entitled to suddenly disturb the vested rights of foreigners who, for nearly half a century, have been allowed to reside and carry on a legitimate industry within its territories. The Governor of the Amur appears to have ignored that elementary principle of international justice, and Japan could scarcely have been expected to submit tamely. In the interests of peace and good-fellowship such incidents are regrettable. One of the Tokyo newspapers alleges that Mr. Saito Katsusabùro, who is engaged in the fishing industry in conjunction with some Russian subjects, worked very hard to procure the rejection of the Bill in the Upper House, but was unable to obtain a favourable hearing from any of the members. The same journal alleged, two days ago, that several of the members had accepted bribes and were pledged to vote against the Bill. The two stories are difficult to reconcile.

When the Bill for imposing heavy duties on fish imported from Russian waters was before the House of Peers, the Government Delegate, in reply to a question, said that while not disapproving of the measure, the Government might not see the expediency of putting it into immediate operation. That means, we presume, that efforts will first be made to induce Russia to modify her very illiberal policy. If the facts of the Saghalien affair have been truly stated by Japanese newspapers—and we see no reason to doubt it—the Governor of the Amur District has ignored an elementary principle of international intercourse, and has discriminated in an unreasonable and unjust manner against Japanese subjects. It is not as though there was question of the opening of new territory or the starting of a new enterprise. For some 40 years the Japanese had been allowed to take an undisturbed share in the fishing industry in Saghalien waters, and had gradually invested a large sum of money on establishments which owed their inception entirely to a warrantable belief that the Russian Government would extend due protection to vested interests acquired under its own ægis. If a Government has to weigh the claims of its own subjects against those of foreigners, other things being equal, one can not complain of a display of partiality. England's experience has proved that equal rights for all, irrespective of race or creed, is the wisest plan in the end, and in practice she obeys the teachings of experience. But it does not follow that what suits England should suit every one else, and therefore we say that were the Saghalien fisheries now about to be exploited for the first time, Russia's discrimination in favour of her own subjects would find many supporters. But the commonest dictates of justice and international good faith require that, if she desires to shut out the Japanese who have been engaged in the fishing industry for such a long time with her tacit consent, she ought to give them a reasonable term of years to wind up their affairs, and to retire without disastrous loss. After all, the friendship of a nation counts for something, even if good faith be relegated to a secondary place, and it is surely oversanguine to expect that incidents like those of the Saghalien fisheries will produce no injurious effect on Japan's feelings towards Russia. We do not believe in retaliatory tariffs. They have never been successful. Neither do we believe that Russia will be persuaded to change her Saghalien policy in deference to a law like that just passed by the Japanese Diet. But it remains to be seen whether the Home Government had cognisance of the regulations issued by the Governor of the Amur, or whether, even if it had cognisance of them, it will refuse to give renewed attention to the just protests of the Japanese.

It is stated that the Russian Government has consented to postpone for one year the operation of the new regulations depriving Japanese subjects of fishing privileges in the waters of Saghalien. That will greatly lessen the hardship, but it will not by any means remove it altogether.

It is pointed out by Tokyo journals that although the Russian Government has partially recognised the justice of Japan's protests with reference to the closing of the Saghalien fisheries, the recognition is of a very unsatisfactory nature. Japanese subjects who have been engaged in the fishing industry for nearly half a century and who have sunk large sums of capital in it, are required to wind up their affairs, close 269 stations, and clear out within a space of a twelvemonth. It is a hard case. The present Russian Representative in Tokyo is said to have done everything in his power to mitigate the hardship. That might have been expected from Baron Rosen. But though his representations have achieved something, their success has been very partial.

A VEHEMENT ATTACK.

It is related, on what nature of authority we do not undertake to assert, that on the occasion of a recent meeting between Messrs. Hoshi Toru and Shimada Saburo in the lobby of the House of Representatives, the former observed to the latter that the *Mainichi Shimbun*, of which Mr. Shimada is editor, had lately become very abusive of him (Mr. Hoshi). "Yes," replied Mr. Shimada, "I am the writer of the articles." Thereupon a bystander observed:—"Why, Hoshi, you must be losing your spirit if you are beginning to trouble yourself about the contents of newspapers." "Bah!" answered the Liberal leader, "that's not the question. The fact is that I am going to institute proceedings against the *Mainichi* and I wanted to obtain evidence as to the authorship of the libellous articles. I have it now." If such a conversation passed, it certainly has not deterred Mr. Shimada. His last article is the worst of all. In it he declares that the politicians headed by Mr. Hoshi are forming a Japanese Tammany Hall, and he compares Mr. Hoshi to some corrupt Irish agitator whose name we can not identify. The basis of the last charge is an incredible allegation that a scheme is on foot to induce the Tokyo Municipality to sell its riverside lands for a sum of six million *yen* to a company in whose interests Mr. Hoshi is working. The lands in question measure 170,266 *tsubo*, and the *Mainichi* alleges that they are worth at least ten million *yen*, so that a company obtaining them for 6 millions would reap an immense profit, out of which Mr. Hoshi is promised a sum of 400,000 *yen*, or 10 per cent. In the face of these figures, the *Mainichi* calls upon the public to expel Mr. Hoshi from respectable society. As outsiders we do not pretend to have any knowledge of the back-stairs history of these matters. We believe Mr. Shimada Saburo to be a sincere and earnest reformer, but we have no reason to doubt Mr. Hoshi Toru's rectitude as a politician. The arithmetic of the matter, however, is open to comment even by outsiders. The *Mainichi* estimates these river-side lands to be worth about 60 *yen* a *tsubo* all round, and denounces as political robbers any one and every one advocating their sale *en bloc* at an average of 40 *yen*. Are the river lots worth 60 *yen* a *tsubo*? We greatly doubt it. But even supposing them to have that market value if sold piecemeal, it surely is not a reasonable supposition that any capitalist would give such a sum for them *en bloc*. Why should he, in the name of all common sense? Where would be his margin of possible profit? If he has to recover his money by selling the lots *tsubo* by *tsubo*, he may be obliged to remain out of pocket for an indefinite time. If, on the other hand, he buys with the object of letting the land, then he must always reckon on having considerable areas of it unlet and therefore unproductive. Is he to take that risk without any compensatory advantage? We should say that a large area of land saleable piecemeal at 60 *yen* a *tsubo* would be well disposed of wholesale at an average price of 40 *yen*. At any rate the Tokyo Municipality may be presumed to have its eyes open. It knows exactly what income it now derives from the lands, taking one year with another, and it can tell to a *sen* what the capitalized value of that income is. Why should there be such fear of the Municipal Authorities being victimized? Are we to assume that the Tokyo Municipality is in the plot? If so, Mr. Hoshi Toru is not the chief sinner; and if not, there do not appear to be any grounds for apprehension. It is a pity, we think, that respectable Japanese journals should lend their columns to the ventilation of wholesale charges of corruption which will not bear intelligent examination. The impression produced upon foreign opinion is exceedingly injurious to Japan's reputation.

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MR. HOUSE ON THE ROMAJI.

It is related of two astronomers who flourished about a hundred years ago, that in the sequel of an argument about the parallax of a fixed star, they fell to saying very unkind things of each other. We do not wish to take part in a comedy of that kind, and will therefore leave the stage to Mr. House. But one or two matters of fact merit a word.

Mr. House still writes very indignantly about having been represented as "calling" stenography a syllabary. We grant frankly that from the point of view of strict verbal accuracy, he did not "call" stenography a syllabary. He only said that "the same definition might stand for both in comparing them with ordinary long hand." If a friend asserts that the same definition may stands for us and for a fool in comparing us with a wise man, he does not literally "call" us a fool but —well, we need not pursue the subject.

Mr. House twists our assertion of a "natural supposition" into "you keep on averring that I must have meant to speak of spelling." He occupies himself very industriously with both interpretations of our words. As to the "natural supposition," he juggles with it in quite an artistic manner; inflates it into a large balloon of impertinent audacity, and then pricks it mercilessly so that it shrivels up into something quite mean and contemptible. As to the pretence that we "keep on averring that he must have meant to speak of spelling," he is less demonstrative but apparently not less indignant. Mr. House is a stickler for accuracy. His standards are so high in that respect that he is considerate enough not to insist upon their universaal application. But it appears to us, who are hopelessly his inferior, that there is a radical difference between advancing a "supposition" and "keeping on averring." To "keep on averring" that a man must have meant something which he denies that he meant, is to accuse him of falsehood. We have not done anything of the kind. We have merely explained that we "supposed" Mr. House's meaning to be so and so. He must take his choice between the two versions. Both can not possibly be true. A man can not be ridiculed for "supposing" a thing and at the same time, denounced for "averring" it.

Mr. House is vehement in his insistence that he referred to the sounds of the separate letters of the alphabet only. We appear to have committed an unpardonable sin in transgressing that limitation. Mr. House originally attacked our thesis, not we his. We fail, therefore, to see what right he possesses to impose such a limitation. But let that pass. Considering that he spoke of the English "pronouncing the letters of the alphabet in all conceivable and many inconceivable ways, giving to most of the vowels at least half a dozen different sounds, making some of the consonants responsible for double or treble service and relieving others from vocal duty altogether," it was not within the power of our narrow intelligence to conceive that he intended to refer to the pronunciation of the separate letters only of the Roman alphabet, and that he did not intend to speak of their uses for word-forming purposes. It entirely passes our comprehension to understand how an Englishman, in pronouncing the separate letters of the Roman alphabet, can do so "in all conceivable and many inconceivable ways," can "give to most of the vowels at least half a dozen different sounds, making some of them consonants responsible for double or treble service and relieving others from vocal duty altogether." Such manœuvring with the separate letters of the alphabet must be an interesting feat. But we now assure Mr. House that had we understood his intention, we should have left the matter entirely undiscussed; for what concerns us is the ability of the Roman letters, when duly combined, to represent Japanese sounds, not the comparatively trivial and unpractical question of their sounds as separate members of an alphabet.

Mr. House makes us say that "the Japanese find no difficulty in pronouncing 'r.'" He is very ruthless in his treatment of that assertion; talks about the knowledge furnished by experience; about the confusion that Japanese students of English make between "l" and "r"; about "a thoroughly accurate ear" and about "the faculty of close observation." He becomes almost compassionate towards our combined ignorance and physical defects. It is very prettity done, but a discussion of the average number of quills on a porcupine's back, or the normal length of a kite's tail would have been quite as relevant. We never said anything about the ability or inability of the Japanese to pronounce the letter "r." We never approached that subject however remotely. We never had the slightest notion of approaching it. It did not occur to us that the use of the Roman alphabet to represent Japanese sounds involved any change in the pronounciation of the Japanese language, or was in any way dependent upon the Japanese acquiring ability to produce English sounds. What we said was:—"A Japanese can not have any difficulty in giving to *ro* the sound that he associates with the symbol ロ." Is that the same as saying that when a Japanese, for the purposes of his own language, uses *ro* instead of ロ, he must necessarily give to the former precisely the sound that an Englishman gives it for the purposes of the English language? Is there the remotest resemblance between the two statements? We have a wholesome respect for Mr. House's standard of accuracy, yet we venture to analyse his manner of arriving at the statement he attributes to us. What we said was:—"A Japanese can not have any difficulty in giving to *ro* the sound that he associates with the symbol ロ." What Mr. House makes us say is:—"The Japanese find no difficulty in pronouncing 'r.'" His method is to take three of the words used by us—the words "the," "Japanese" and "difficulty,"—and to add to them five words of his own, the result being the sentence "the Japanese find no difficulty in pronouncing "r," which assertion he calmly attributes to us. He even adds marks of quotation to the three words "find no difficulty," though only the last of the three is ours, and though, even if they were all ours, they do not constitute the remotest justification for the statement he tacks on to them. He might just as well have made us say "that the Japanese find no difficulty in climbling to the moon." Either assertion would have been equally accurate. And while doing these things, he takes care to assure us that he is "extremely anxious to avoid misinterpreting our meaning"!

We are glad to be able to agree with Mr. House in one point, namely, that this discussion is fruitless. It is impossible to foresee the propositions to which his method of controversial manufacture might not commit us, and we prefer to retire from the field. There is a happy consensus after all!

MINING IN KOREA.

Glowing accounts of the progress of mining enterprise in Korea are published by vernacular newspapers. They refer specially to the works carried on by American concessionaires. At the Unsan mine, near Pyöng-yang, 20 crushers are in operation, but it is intended to double the number at once. Mr. Leigh Hunt, the concessionaire, is said to be giving direct attention to the mine. He employs an American physician, 20 foreigners, 11 Japanese, and some 400 Koreans. The quantity of ore obtained each week is stated to be represented by a cube 3 inches thick, its sides 8 inches and 4 inches, its weight 20 *kwamme* (about 167 lbs), and its fineness $\frac{7}{10}$. The Korean Government is entitled to one-fourth of the net profits, and receives, under that agreement, 6,000 *yen* monthly, a figure difficult to reconcile with the alleged output, even when full allowance is made for expenses. Another mine in the same district, at a place called Tai-ön, is also worked by an American. The force of men employed there is still larger, namely, 23 foreigners, 8 Japanese, and from 500 to 600 Koreans; and the ore is stated to be $\frac{8}{10}$ fine, but nothing is reported about the output.

With reference to this subject, we find in the *Chiuo Shimbun* a paragraph to the effect that there is still in Korea a most promising mine which has hitherto entirely escaped the attention of Europeans or Americans. Japanese subjects are said to have put in an application for the concession.

TREATMENT OF SOLDIERS.

The treatment that Japanese soldiers receive from their superiors is beginning to be much discussed. The *Jiji Shimpo* has an article on the subject, from which we gather that the men are very harshly used. A suicide which recently occurred in the third company of the Fourteenth Division (Himeji), has accentuated public feeling. The victim left a soberly written letter, calm in tone and explicit in its statements. He explained that scarcely a day passed without his suffering some physical violence at the hands of a sergeant whom he named; that unless one has some money to buy delicacies for the first-class soldiers or non-commissioned officers, life in barracks is unendurable; that he, being without anything but his pay, could not possibly procure favour for himself in that way; that he had no objection whatever to being a soldier, but that the cruelty and injustice practised towards the men did not seem to be an essential part of soldiering, and that he had resolved to lay down his life since that appeared to be the best method of calling attention to these abuses. In the same journal a story is related of a soldier who was recently run over by an officer's *jinrikisha*, and who obtained for redress a volley of abuse for being in the way. It may be presumed that there is much truth in these rumours or the *Jiji Shimpo* would not take them up.

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THE DIET.

The Diet's thirteenth session came to an end on the 23rd ultimo, so far as concerns the transaction of business. It assembled on the 19th of November, and had therefore been in session for three calendar months and four days. During that time the Lower House sat 33 times, and the Upper House, 32. Of course the various committees were at work in the interval, but, on the whole, it is quite a record of leisurely legislation. There was not so much as one really stirring debate, and the important measures passed were almost limited to those introduced by the Government.

The records of the various sessions of the Diet indicate that the Houses have distinguished themselves on the present occasion by an unprecedently small number of sittings :—

NUMBER OF DAYS ON WHICH THE HOUSES SAT IN VARIOUS SESSIONS.

	House of Peers.	House of Rep'tives.
I.—	49	62
II.—(Dissolved)	20	23
III.—(Extraordinary session)..	26	27
IV.—	41	46
V.—(Dissolved)	10	20
VI.—(Dissolved)	16	16
VII.—(Extraordinary session).	2	3
VIII.—	41	52
IX.—	45	48
X.—(Prorogued on account of death of Empress Dowager	26	32
XI. —(Dissolved)	2	2
XII.—(Dissolved)	17	16
XIII.—	44	45
XIV.—	31	33
Average of Ordinary Sessions (omitting dissolutions, &c.)	39 5	45 4

The business done by the 14th Diet has not, however, been insignificant on the whole, as the following table shows :—

	Submitted	Passed	Rejected	Not Debated	Withdrawn
Government Bills	47	43	2	2	—
Private Bills	76	39	15	13	9
Petitions to the Throne	2	1	1	—	—
Representations to the Government	78	52	8	16	2

Hence, out of 241 measures introduced, 178 were passed and 27 rejected, which shows that the Bills debated and passed or rejected by the House of Representatives, averaged nearly 6 per diem. That would mean very precipitate legislation, if we did not remember that these measures received investigation at the hands of committees when the House was not sitting. The various special and standing committees probably sat for fully 70 days out of the 95 comprising the session.

This record of few and brief sittings, coming in the sequel of the charges of bribery and corruption recently preferred against members of the House of Representatives, provokes some severe criticism of parliamentary institutions. The very expressive word *fuhai* is freely applied to the Lower House, and some writers seem to think that constitutional government has been tried in Japan and found wanting. But the *Jiji Shimpo* refuses to take that pessimistic view. It apparently thinks that a certain measure of corruption is inevitable, and that the members of the Diet are not below the general moral standard of their nationals. In support of that view, it points to the *Meiji* statesmen. One and all of them began their careers as poor men, but they are now in possession of ample fortunes, which certainly can not represent merely savings made from their official salaries. Nevertheless there can not be any doubt that they have served their country splendidly, or that she has progressed and prospered under their administration. But whatever element of self-interest was included in their motives, the public saw little of it, whereas the doings of the Diet are under constant examination with a magnifying glass. That indeed is one of the main differences between a bureaucratic and a constitutional form of government. The proceedings of bureaucrats can be enveloped in secrecy which is not possible in the case of parliamentary statesmen or party politicians. But it does not follow that corruption has really increased because we hear more of it now-a-days. The *Jiji* thinks that the so-called "corruption" of the Diet is greatly exaggerated. The House of Representatives, by its attitude towards the Railway Nationalization Bill, has just shown that in important matters its methods are pure. There has certainly been some bribery, but it was probably on a very small scale, and it left the great body of the members quite untouched. Our contemporary's conclusion is all in favour of the future of parliamentary institutions in Japan. It is reassuring to read such words in the columns of a journal which never hesitates to denounce an abuse if it sees one. Nor can there be any doubt that rumour largely exaggerates in this matter. Some journals attribute everything that happens to corrupt motives, and do not hesitate to frame charges which tend only to prove their own unscrupulousness. Were their writings credible, Japanese society and Japanese officialdom must be rotten from the sole of the foot to the crown of the head.

SIGNATURES AND SEALS.

Imperial sanction has been given to the law providing that in cases where signatures have hitherto been necessary, seals (*natsuin*) will in future be sufficient; and further, that the duty of affixing a seal may be entrusted to any one. The latter provision follows, indeed, as a matter of course, for so soon as the identity of the seal itself becomes the only point of importance, the person using it becomes a secondary consideration. We can not think that this is at all a desirable measure. It certainly saves time: one can stamp a mark upon a document in a small fraction of the time required for writing a signature. But there is a very palpable loss of security. Any skilled mechanic can manufacture a seal if its impression be placed before him, whereas to imitate a signature successfully is an operation of the greatest difficulty. Moreover, it is quite impossible to distinguish between the impressions produced with an original seal and a duplicate: no means of discrimination exist. It appears, then, that at a time when the building up of credit is one of the most imperative needs of the day, the Diet has deliberately abolished an important protection against fraud. The Japanese are very careful about their seals. They treat them much as an Occidental treats a precious article of jewelry, for the seal is manufactured out of jade, crystal, or agate, enclosed in a tiny gold case and suspended from the watch chain, or from a chain of its own. Yet there is in reality no serious occasion to treasure the seal so diligently, for an impression alone is needed by any one desiring to commit a fraud. From a single impression a facsimile seal can be made. We can not set forth the reasons that weigh with the advocates of the change from signatures to seals, for we have never been able to discover any intelligible reasons, except the saving of time, and, on the other side, there is an immense increase of risk.

VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA.

We learn with regret that Viscount Shinagawa breathed his last on the morning of the 28th instant. The Viscount, though undoubtedly a prominent Japanese statesman, had not acquired much fame outside his own country. Born in 1843, he was one of the "young bloods" of Choshiu in 1863, when that clan distinguished itself by its vehement opposition to the Tokugawa Shogun and its violent attempt to enforce an anti-foreign policy. He did not, however, engage in the military struggles of the time, but devoted himself chiefly to literature. His first official work of any importance was in connexion with the Franco-German war, which he was sent to observe, subsequently remaining for some years in Germany. He served as Japanese Minister in Berlin in 1885, and on his return to Japan the public heard little of him until 1893, when he suddenly attracted wide attention by organizing the National Unionist Party. It can not be said, however, that as a politician he was a great success. The spirit of the time did not inspire him, nor did parliamentary institutions commend themselves strongly to his ideas of government. Yet he certainly played a nationally useful part as one of the checks on the too-rapidly revolving wheel of Japanese progress. The Emperor conferred on him the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun shortly before his death.

THE COTTON SPINNERS.

The cotton spinners of Japan seem to have completed arrangements for a "Trust" on a large scale. They include in their organization the spinners of Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Okayama and Kiushiu. The head office is to be in Osaka, and there will be a branch in each of the five places just mentioned. It is explained by the promoters that their information as to the state of foreign markets, whether for the purpose of buying the raw material or for that of selling the manufactured, is now obtained at second hand, and that they experience much inconvenience in consequence. Moreover, the business has become so large and so important that combination and cöoperation are advisable in the general interests. The Trust will levy 25 *sen* per bale to cover expenses. It will obtain daily telegrams from New York and London as to prices, and the manufacturers in Japan will be required to furnish returns of actual and estimated stocks. A general profit of 7 *yen* per bale will be included in the selling price fixed by the Trust, such price being determined with regard to the prime cost of the raw material and the expense of manufacture, but a bounty of 2 *yen* per bale will be granted on yarns for export, money for that purpose being obtained by a corresponding deduction from the profits on yarns for domestic consumption.

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DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Kato Takaaki retires from the post of Japanese Representative in London, and is to be succeeded by Baron Hayashi, hitherto Minister in St. Petersburg. Both of these officials were signally successful in the positions which they now vacate. Japan has probably no better men among her so-called "junior statesmen." Mr. Kato is not gazetted to any new position as yet: he remains *en disponibilité*. Mr. Komura, now representing Japan in Washington, is to replace Baron Hayashi at St. Petersburg. That also is an excellent appointment in one sense, but it seems regettable that Mr. Komura could not have been left for a longer time in Washington, as he has just finished special investigations which would certainly have added to his usefulness.

It appears that Mr. Takahira, now Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is to succeed Mr. Komura as Japanese Representative in Washington, and that Mr. Kurino, now Minister in Paris, will probably become Vice-Minister of the Department *vice* Mr. Takahira. But as Mr. Kurino's duties in connexion with the Paris Exhibition require his presence in France for some months longer, it is probable that Mr. Uchida, now chief of the Political Bureau in the Foreign Office, will temporarily act as Vice-Minister.

Baron Nishi, Japanese Representative in Peking, is said to be suffering from inflammation of the lungs. His health has been very indifferent since he went to China; first, an attack of malaria, which laid him up for a long while, and now, just as he had become apparently convalescent and had resumed his duties, a fresh illness in the form of lung trouble. During his tenure of the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, also, the Baron was confined to his room for quite a long time.

GERMANY IN SHANTUNG.

It is not all surprising that Germany thinks of sending troops into Shantung to maintain good order. The "Red Fist Society" seem to be masters of the situation in that province, and although Mr. Yuan Shikai, of Korean fame, has reported that everything is quiet, there are the best possible reasons for knowing that his view is altogether too rosy. It would seem that the *mot d'ordre* under the Emperor Dowager's *regime* is to simulate a condition of tranquillity. Her Majesty is anxious to conceal all semblance of popular unrest, especially since the last *coup* in connexion with an heir apparent. But Shantung's affairs can not be hid under a bushel, seeing that Germany's railway operations bring her into direct touch with the interior. If Russia employs troops to secure the undisturbed prosecution of her railway schemes in Manchuria, there can be no valid argument against similar action on Germany's part in Shantung. Thus gradually China's fate is drawing closer. The links in the chain of destiny are very simple—railway concessions, troops to protect the works, military occupation, and finally complete alienation of the territory. In Germany's case the last link will be forged very quickly, if rumour speaks truly, for it is said that numbers of the people of Shantung are organizing a force to resist the German soldiers—the "red fists" against the "mailed fists." The Shantung folks will have a short shrift if they attempt anything of that kind, but the results of their resistance will rust very long.

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

A clever article in the *Nippon* discusses the question of Russia's loan to Korea. The amount is said to be 12 million dollars (gold), or 24 million *yen*, and five million dollars have already been paid to Korea. Considering that Korea's income is only 3½ million *yen*, and her expenditure 4½ millions, our contemporary regards her as an unsafe debtor, and concludes that the Russian loan is dictated by considerations other than financial. In fact, Russia is compared to the "following wolf" (*okuri okami*) of the Japanese fable, which waits to attack the traveller until some trouble interrupts the even progress of his journey. Just now, the great Northern Power is all smiles, like the benevolent deity Jizo, but when Korea fails to pay back the debt, she will find herself confronted by a frowning Minos. In borrowing from St. Petersburg, she may truly be said to have sought the loan of coins to pay for her own passage across the Styx. The *Nippon* very frankly admits that Japan would gladly pursue a similar policy towards Korea, and did indeed pursue it in the past. But when it comes to a competition of purses, Japan is not in the running with Russia.

BIG FIRE IN YOKOHAMA.

A fire broke out on Friday afternoon at 2.15 in Nigiwaicho Ni-chome, a spot quite near the place where the great conflagration of August last year originated. A fresh northerly wind was blowing at the time, and the flames spread rapidly, leaping from street to street, and levelling everything in their course. The outbreak was discovered about 2.15 and an hour or so later a broad track of charred embers stretched from the point where the fire originated to the creek side near the Yoshiwara where it burned itself out. The excitement was immense, almost as great in some parts as on the occasion of the last big fire, multitudes of people hurrying about with their household belongings, *tatami*, *futon*, *shoji*, etc. The district ravaged by the flames included Hisakatacho, Ashibikicho Nichome, Kumoicho Nichome, and Nagashimacho Nichome. There was great excitement in the Isezakicho theatres, some of which were quite close to the place where the fire originated; and at one theatre nearest the scene the audience made a rush for the doors in which several people suffered more or less severe injuries. The fire originated in a bath house. The police have traced the destruction of some 346 houses.

There is some uncertainty about the number of houses destroyed by the recent fire in Yokohama. All agree, however, that the great majority of the buildings were of the cheapest and flimsiest kind. Nevertheless, the experience of the big fire last year had induced many people to have recourse to the insurance offices, and policies to the amount of about seventy thousand *yen* were in existence. The companies chiefly affected are the Yokohama Insurance (15,000 *yen*); the Japan Brewery Insurance (10,000 *yen*); the Tokyo Fire (6,500 *yen*); the Tokyo House-fittings and Chattels (5,600 *yen*); the Property Insurance (6,000 *yen*), &c. Taking the number of houses destroyed as 400, it appears that the average insurance was 175 *yen*. No feature of the new civilization can have contributed so much to the happiness of the Japanese people as the introduction of the system of insurance. Formerly a fire involved the loss of everything except a few goods and chattels, and thousands of householders were reduced annually from comparative opulence to a state of penury.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A project is on foot to erect a large oil tank at Haneda, near Kawasaki, and build a line of railway thence to Yokohama. The oil on account of which these steps are to be taken is that obtained from Japanese wells.

Count Otani, whose illness was recently reported to be hopeless, has greatly improved, and is now said to be out of immediate danger. Drs. Baelz and Ikeda, who had been attending him assiduously, have returned to Tokyo.

A destructive conflagration took place in Chiba on the 26th instant. The fire broke out at 8 a.m. and was not extinguished until 11 a.m., by which time about 250 houses had been destroyed. It is an extraordinary record, nearly a house and a half per minute.

Mr. Kawakita has obtained his three-years' whale-fishing concession in Korean waters. He is to pay a license fee of 800 *yen* per boat. The Russian whale fishers pay 20 *yen* per fish, and as each boat is supposed to take 50 whales in the season, the rate of tax is pronounced to be in favour of the Japanese lessee. We do not think so. For our own part, we should prefer the Russian rate.

Japanese newspapers state that the adulterated *habutaye* which is now so much talked of has been traced to the Japanese *banto* of Messrs. Dubuffet & Company, No. 24, Yokohama. Charged with the offence, the *banto* is said to have pleaded that he merely obeyed the orders of his employers. This of course is only an excuse, for the foreign firm could not possibly have sanctioned the proceeding.

Asama-yama has again given evidence of much disturbance. At 8 a.m. on the 22nd, it emitted a sound like the discharge of a monster piece of artillery, and then belched forth a dense cloud of smoke and ashes, the former spreading a pall over the sky and the latter falling even in Nagano. It will be remembered that the mountain behaved similarly, though on a smaller scale, four days previously. Some very large smelting operations are evidently going on in its huge alembic.

The great cold prevailing in the north has not chilled political ardour. At a by-election just held in Iwate Prefecture, Viscount Seki, a friend of the Progressist candidate, encountered a party of the Liberal candidate's supporters, received a severe beating at their hands, and was half buried in the snow. The police did not arrive in time to arrest the offenders, and it goes without saying that they are the objects of fierce journalistic attack. Some pressmen seem to suppose that a constable should be omnipotent and omnipresent.

Another outrage is reported from Amoy. The news comes *viâ* Taipeh. On the 16th instant, a number of men, apparently

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Chinese soldiers, are said to have waylaid some Japanese subjects who were peacefully traversing the streets, and wounded two of them severely and one slightly. Other Japanese attempted to assist the sufferers, but being attacked by a second body of soldiers, they had to fly. Finally, 30 marines and an officer were landed from a Japanese gunboat, and order was with difficulty restored. There has been much talk in Japan lately of effecting an arrangement for transferring to Japanese hands the duty of policing Amoy. The repeated outrages can not fail to strengthen the contention.

It is of course an exaggeration to allege that the facts of the Hawaiian coasting-trade problem are of a nature to warrant formal protest by the Japanese Government. America's policy with regard to her coastwise trade is her own, and no one can question her right to enforce it within her own territories. But a case may be based on the promise given by the United States Government to respect and continue the privileges of which Japan was already in enjoyment at the time of the annexation of Hawaii; and also on the fact that by excluding Japanese ships from the trade, American citizens themselves will suffer considerable inconvenience. Japan is certainly not in a position to assail the general policy of the United States in this respect, seeing that her own policy is similar.

We read in the *Chuo Shimbun* that the chief opponent of the Religions Bill, Mr. Ishikawa Shuntai, Vicar of the Eastern Hongwan-ji, finds himself in a difficult position. The various persons, especially members of the Diet, who assisted to procure the defeat of the measure are now clamouring for "recognition" of their services, and as they estimate their aid at a high figure, Mr. Ishikawa is required to furnish a sum of six hundred thousand *yen*. Deprived of the aid of the Kitahama Bank, which has now refused to grant any further accommodation to the temple, the Vicar can not possibly procure such a sum, or even one-tenth of it. On the other hand, if he fails to satisfy these importunate persons, he may reckon on their hostility in the future, and, after all, the Religions Bill is only deferred, not finally defeated. Such is the *Chuo's* story. We can not tell what may be the dimensions of its grain of truth.

KOREA AND THE POSTAL UNION.

We learn from the *Keisai Zasshi* that Korea has joined the International Postal Union, the system coming into operation on 1st January last. Postal rates between Japan and the Peninsula have been fixed as follows:—

	Rate in
Correspondence—For every 4 *momme* (15 *sen.* grams)	3
Ordinary postcard	1
Return post card	2
Business letters—Up to 70 *momme* (250 grams).	10
And for every 14 *momme* (50 grams) above that limit	2
Newspapers and periodicals, from publishers.	½
From individuals—14 *momme* (50 grams)...	2
(The International Postal Regulations are to be observed in regard to these last mentioned mail matters).	
Printed matter—For every 14 *momme* (50 grams)	2
Commercial samples (including seeds)—For every 14 *momme* (50 grams)	2
Registration fees—For each letter or note	6
Fees for delivery notes	4

THE BOOK-SHELF.

The Enchanter, by U. L. Silberrad, London: Messrs. Macmillan & Co.; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

East Anglians should find this novel interesting, if only for the sake of the description it affords of the life that flows so tranquilly in the coast villages and small market towns of the north-east part of Norfolk—that corner of England which seems to have drifted, ages ago, into a back-water of its own, quite outside the influence of the broader and more strenuous streams of the national existence, and still is quite content to remain there. It is a delightful land, all the same, with its lonely sea-marshes, broad meres, and occasional cliffs—cliffs which the relentless ocean is undermining and gradually levelling, carrying in their fall villages, towns, towers, and lonely farmhouses, and all by piece-meal, so that the maps of one century are useless for the purposes of the next, save for the local historian or antiquarian. In some of these slowly disappearing hamlets are to be found descendants of families who have been "on the land," or have lived "by the land" for centuries, families who are as proud of their genealogical trees, despite their crushing poverty, as any descendants of "those who came over with the Conqueror" can be.

But to the story. In Grimshoe, some time in this century, was born a son to the house of Pycroft whom his parents preferred to call after his father, Nicholas: but whom the villagers at once dubbed Young Nick in contradistinction to Old Nick. Now Young Nick was descended on his mother's side from the famous Belshazzar Screed, who followed the dangerous calling of an alchemist and enchanter in the days before Bluff King Hal broke up the monastic brotherhoods of England. With such blood in his veins it is not to be expected that Young Nick would be an ordinary lad. And he wasn't. In after life, according to this chronicle, he became one of the world's most famous scientists; but of these achievements we find little in the book. As the hero of "The Enchanter," Young Nick has other work to do—to be, in fact, the Good Influence always at hand to turn aside the evil machinations of another descendant of Belshazzar, one Maledict Screed, on whom has fallen a very large portion of the old alchemist's mental cloak, which thereby develops in him a larger share of evil propensities than most men would care to have possessed, much less owned to. Maledict Screed is cursed with a malignant and mysterious disease, the cure for which is almost too dreadful to describe—(and we leave this to the reader of the book to discover) —and is also firmly convinced that the secret of the Elixir of Life is actually to be achieved if only certain M.S.S. known to old Belshazzar could be found. Now Young Nick has some books once belonging to Belshazzar which he can decipher in parts; the key to the rest lies in an ancient muniment chest belonging to the Lady of the Manor of Grimshoe, one Miss Ira Chauncey, a most beautiful and of course most wilful young lady. Maledict Screed first tries to rob Nicholas Pycroft of his M.S.S.—and in the end succeeds—and then endeavours to get the key from Ira. In this latter enterprise he was not so successful, the girl outwitting him. But she lets him know that she has found in Belshazzar's book a reference which hints that the precious secret is to be found in a dilapidated but once fortified city of Hunza, that mysterious hill country which lies around the unknown sources of the Indus. By this time we are half way through the book, and the scene consequently changes, the three principal characters being transported to Hunza. Here adventures of the most appalling description—some the work of Maledict Screed—befall Ira, but the Good Influence turns up in time and rescues the beauteous maiden. This rescue, by the way, is one of the best things in the book, with its description of the lonely mountain land.

The long desired M.S.S. is found, only to be lost again, and the scene shifts once more. Once again all three are back in England and the climax is gradually worked up. The Good Influence triumphs, Maledict Screed goes to his death in an awful manner—the sea carrying away the solitary tower in which he lived; and Ira and Young Nick, discovering that they were predestined for each other, plight their troth, their story closing with the grand old blessing pronounced by one of the minor, but well-drawn, characters in the book—"The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace, now, henceforward, and for evermore."

"The Enchanter," despite its rather wearisome opening, is a book that will repay reading, for its capital descriptions of village life and character and also for the sake of the love-story which it tells. Some of the descriptive passages towards the end almost attain to eloquence, though nowhere can one say that the writer has indulged in "purple patches." The pathos of the country parson's hopeless struggles against inexorable fate, and his sad end; the quiet humour displayed in the drawing of the more quaint and homely characters, all so true to life; the description of a Nor'easter on the Norfolk coast—each and all tend to make the book a notable contribution to the novels of the year.

Donna Teresa, by Frances Mary Peard; London: MacMillan & Co. Yokohama: Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

This is a book for an idle half hour. It deals with an English woman, the widow of an Italian Marchese; her sister, her grand-mother, and a young barrister. The Marchesa accuses a Sicilian of robbing her of her purse, and the young barrister, in his anxiety to render her assistance, interviews the police and has the man arrested. The Sicilian thereupon determines upon revenging himself on Wilbraham Wilbraham meanwhile becomes engaged to the Marchesa's pretty but shallow-minded sister and then the whole party proceed to Sicily, where, just as Wilbraham breaks off his engagement in despair of the infantile character of the girl, the Sicilian turns up and attempts to shoot him, only to kill quite another person. This is the story, and, as we said above, it should serve the purpose of an idle half-hour.

PRESENTATION.

A few members of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club met at the Pavilion on Friday morning to bid farewell to Mr. F. E. White, who is leaving for England and will afterwards proceed to Korea. Mr. E. Flint Kilby presided, and in a short speech remarked that Mr White had done more for cricket probably than any other person at present in the community. He had learned cricket at a public school which had turned out many excellent cricketers, good athletes, and good soldiers. In Yokohama he had sometimes made large scores, and also sometimes small scores, but whether successful or unsuccessful he had always played well, in good spirit and good temper, and he had always given the greatest encouragement to young players. Mr. White, as they knew, was the holder of the Kirin Cup, and he had also once won the cup presented by Mr. Clark. If he had won it again during the coming season he would have been able to take it away with him, but as it was he would have to leave it behind him. The members had thought it fitting to present Mr. White with some tangible token of their esteem, which would serve to remind him of his cricketing days at Yokohama. He would ask Mr. White's acceptance of a watch and chain which had been purchased by the willing subscriptions of members of that Club.

Mr. Kilby then handed Mr. White a very handsome gold watch and chain.

Mr. White expressed his thanks in an appropriate speech, and the gathering broke up amid cheers for the recipient.

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LAND QUESTION IN YOKOHAMA.

HIS EXCELLENCY the French Representative has received from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs the following communication, and kindly places it at our disposal for immediate publication in view of its great interest to the foreign community :—

The provisions of the Japanese Civil Code that might conflict with those of the Treaties evidently do not apply to the right of perpetual lease.

The provisions of Article 268 of the Civil Code, limiting the rights of holders of superficies, and, as a general rule, all provisions implying conditions other than the conditions inscribed on the title deeds of the perpetual leases, do not apply, as a matter of course, to those leases.

These very explicit declarations ought to remove all uneasiness from the minds of the foreign lease holders, if, indeed, any uneasiness still exists. The matter has been fully explained in these columns, and it really appears to us that only persons who are determined not to trust the good faith of the Japanese Government can continue to have any doubt. It is now placed on record, in an official communication of an international character, that the restrictions imposed by the Civil Code on the right of superficies have no application to the right of perpetual lease enjoyed by foreigners under the Treaties. We desire to thank M. HARMAND in the name of the foreign community for obtaining this explicit official declaration, and for bringing it without delay to public notice.

MIXED RESIDENCE.

A REPRESENTATIVE of an American firm is said to have arrived in Tokyo with the intention of establishing business in thedirect sale of electrical machinery and railway plant to the Japanese. There would be nothing worth recording in that fact, however. The interesting feature of the affair is that this gentleman is said to have rented a Japanese house in Tokyo and to have made arrangements for living in Japanese fashion, since he considers it expedient to become intimately acquainted with the manners and customs of the people before he attempts to do business with them. One of our Tokyo contemporaries calls attention to the fact as the first really tangible evidence that mixed residence has become a reality. We do no know whether the case is accurately stated, but the thought suggesting itself to us is that if the gentleman is as much in earnest as his procedure suggests, and if he really intends to familiarize himself with Japanese manners and customs, and to make practical acquaintance with the Japanese style of living before he commences his business operations, he will have a long time to wait, for the first and most essential point is to master the Japanese language. To eat with chopsticks, sit on mats, and wear big-sleeved coats do not bring a man any nearer to genuinely intimate intercourse with the Japanese people. The language also is needed. Yet, even when the language in added, something still remains to be achieved, and what that something is we have never been able to discover, though we have been considering the subject for 33 years. No foreigner has ever yet succeeded in being admitted to the inner circle of Japanese intercourse. That, we think, is a conceded fact. The converse is not true, namely, that no Japanese has ever been admitted to the inner circle of foreign intercourse. There have been instances of such admission, though they are few and far between. But the foreigner remains invariably outside. Why is it? The question stares us in the face, but which of us will undertake to answer it satisfactorily. Some may deny the fact ; may contend that foreigners have been able to establish perfectly intimate relations with Japanese. We grant that there have been cases of the kind, in appearance. But what class of foreigners were they, and how long did the intimacy last? Just long enough for the Japanese to discover that the foreigner was not qualified for intimacy with any respectable people.

TANKO COAL MINING & RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. Inouye, Manager of the Tanko Coal Mining and Railway Company, is said to have delivered a long speech at the general meeting recently held in Tokyo. The gist of his address may be given as follows:—The net profits of the Company for the latter half of last year, being only 708,000 *yen*, show a decrease of 46,000 *yen* as compared with the first term of 1899, and of 91 000 *yen* in compariron with the corresponding term of the year before last. Classified under coal mining and railway sections, the figures stand thus :—

	Railway section. Yen.	Coal Mining section. Yen.
Latter half of 1898..	279,164	629,588
First half of 1899...	384.060	452.636
Latter half of 1899 .	429,852	393,601

Thus, in spite of a considerable increment in the profits of the railway section, an equally serious decrease is noticeable in those of the coal mining section. The former phenomenon is attributable to the progress in the reclamation works undertaken by the Government in Hokkaido, and there can be little doubt about the possibility of realizing the forecast that the receipts of the Company would be doubled in three years, as was suggested at the ordinary meeting in August last. Traffic receipts for the first half of last year amounted to 20 *yen* per mile per day, those for the latter half being 22.25 *yen*; whereas the corresponding figures for the 29th year of *Meiji* were only 10.30 and 13.45 *yen* respectively. Although there have been more or less fluctuations in revenue in consequence of the outbreak of fire or serious inundations during past years, the rate of increase has been steady and progressive. Moreover, considerable improvements having been made in the management of the railway, a reduction in working expenses has been effected to a large extent. This might be seen from the following figures:—

year.	1st half per cent.	2nd half per cent.
1897.....	65 8	62.7
1898.....	68 7	63 6
1899.....	54.7	51.5

Notwithstanding that the utmost energies have been devoted to the improvement of the traffic, the constant increase of goods and passengers has virtually made it impossible to satisfy requirements. The aggregate tonnage of ordinary goods for the 1st half of 1899 (coal excepted) reached 209,000 tons, which amount, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, shows an increase of 64,000 tons, or 45 per cent., while the figure for the latter half aggregated 238,000 tons, indicating an increase of 80.000 tons or 50 per cent. Agricultural products occupy a most conspicuous position in the latter half of the terms referred to, the figures being as follows :—1895. 17,000 tons ; 1896, 23,000 tons ; 1897, 27,000 tons ; 1898, 20.000 tons ; 1899. 52,000 tons. Not a single railway throughout the Empire can furnish such a striking instance of the growth of traffic in so short a period.

The diminution in the profits of the Coal Mining Section is chiefly attributable to reduction in the amount of sales. In the latter half of 1897 the figure stood at 357 000 tons, but in the corresponding period of 1898 it had decreased to 236,000, and by 1899 the amount had fallen to 221,000. The average net profit per ton (ship accounts being excepted) in the 2nd half of 1898 aggregated 2 53 *yen* ; in the 1st half of 1899. 2 24 *yen*, and in the 2nd half 1.65 *yen*. The working expenses of the Coal Mining Section reached the highest amount in the 1st half of 1898, since which time a reduction has been gradually effected. As to the ratio the net profits realized in the 2nd half of 1899 bear to the aggregate capital of the company, it may be noticed that the Railway Section has earned 11 per cent. and the Coal Mining Section 19 2 per cent.. so that a dividend of 12.5 per cent. on the total capital may be declared.

With regard to the prospect of the extension of the company's railways, Mr. Inouye remarked that the connection of the branches of the Yubari line with the Government railways on the boundaries of Tokatsu would considerably increase the facilities for the transport of coal from Kushiro and Nemuro to Sapporo, Otaru, and Muroran, the proposed new line from Kaneyama to Otaru via Asahigawa being 124 miles instead of 159 by the existing railway, and to Muroran only 115 miles, instead of 198 as hitherto. Since the districts along the proposed extension abound in coal, petroleum, and gold dust, the opening of traffic in these regions can hardly fail of success. The gross outlays for the work under contemplation are estimated at 2,700 000 *yen*, the rate per mile being 67,500 *yen*. These sums are to be disbursed in the following installments :—1900, 50,000 *yen* ; 1901, 800,000 ; 1902, 850,000 ; 1903. 500,000 ; 1904. 500,000. No profit can be anticipated from the new lines from the commencement of traffic, but they will be of advantage to the existing lines. In the 1st year of traffic, additional profits may be realized to the extent of 3.85 per cent. ; in the 2nd year to the extent of 4.18 per cent. ; in the 3rd to 6.63 per cent., and in the 4th to 7.94 per cent. This forecast warrants the raising of debentures. As to the mining districts in Omugawa now owned by the company it may be noticed that preliminary expenses amounting to 600,000 *yen* are necessary for working the mine, in addition to a floating capital of 200,000 *yen*. The amount of coal to be transported to the domestic market is estimated at 40,000 tons for 1903, at 60,000 tons for 1904, at 80,000 for 1905, and at 100,000 for 1906.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom).

THE CENTURY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Your paper has given us several laborious proofs that the present year is the last of the nineteenth, not the first of the twentieth century, and most of us have thought we knew it before just as well. In fact, to some of us, and the writer is of them, some of these laborious arguments were rather bewildering than elucidating. To us an argument like that on the enclosed clipping appeals far more convincingly, and perhaps it may help some into the light who followed rather timidly the learned arguments of some of your correspondents. A little common sense may be of more help than a good deal of learned argument.

Yours respectfully, C. N. TURY.

End of the Century.—Teacher—First class in foolscap, stand up! If a man had, at the commencement of the Christian era, started to lay up one dollar per year, when would he have secured his first dollar?

Class—At the close of the year 1.

Teacher—Correct. When would he have laid up the last cent of his second dollar?

Class—At the end of the year 2.

Teacher—Correct. Now when would he have corralled the last cent of his 1900th dollar?

Class—At the end of the 1900th year.

Teacher—Correct. Now go to your seats and take off those caps. You know more than the folks who are smart.

(P.S.—There are as many cents in a dollar as there are years in a century.)—*Detroit Journal.*

THE RECENT BALL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The net proceeds of the Ball and Children's Fancy Dress Dance given in aid of the funds of Christ Church on the 13th and 14th inst amounted to *yen* 760.69; a cheque for this amount has been handed to me, which I beg, on behalf of the committee, to acknowledge with many thanks.

I am, yours truly,

KENNETH WILSON.
Hony. Treasurer.

Yokohama, 23rd February, 1900.

THE RELIGIONS BILL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail"

Sir,—You kindly promised some time ago to find room in your columns for a short Commentary on the "Bill on Religions," then before Parliament. I made the request in the name of a Committee appointed by the Conference of Missionaries held in Tokyo in January: and those who appointed us may wish to know why nothing has reached the public from this Committee. May I ask you to let it be known that the Committee met and worked, and the Commentary is prepared, and ready for press; but as it became less and less likely that the bill would be pressed forward there was less and less need of publishing; and now that the bill is dead and buried the Commentary lies in store in case it should be useful when the successor to this bill makes its appearance in some future Session of Parliament.

I am, Yours faithfully, WM. AWDRY,
Bishop.

Tokyo, February 28th, 1900.

THE TRAGEDY OF WAR.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I notice one of your evening contemporaries publishes a letter from Johannesberg received by a resident in Yokohama. It is reproduced as "not destitute of interest." I would call your attention to one sensational paragraph:—

In normal times I keep two ledgers R. and S.—about 250 accounts. Now I have C. D. R. S. and T-Z, five big ledgers. It's all right for posting—only about 30 40 vouchers, but it is quite another thing to have to balance 5 ledgers before leaving on Saturday. Other days we get off not later than 1, and spend the afternoons playing tennis. We may not go beyond the 3 miles limit of the Town with a pass, so cannot cycle far. I bought a bicycle not long ago for £20 net, and had it just three weeks when it was stolen.

There is no picturesque word-painting, no gush, no turgid piling up of heart-rending adjectives. But does the pathos of the situation lose anything on that account? "In normal times I keep two ledgers R and S. Now I have C. D. R. S. and T. Z., five big ledgers." Oh, Chamberlain, this then is the fell work of your new diplomacy! Oh, Kruger, Cronje, Joubert, and Steyn, can you hear of the misery of this bank clerk without a guilty tremor? We could forgive the slaughter of the Tugela, Nicholson's Nek, Maggersfontein, and Modder River, we could even forget Majuba Hill, but that this poor fellow should have to do the Ledgers C. D. and T. Z., as well as R. and S.! Not till now did I realise the full tragedy of war.

Yours faithfully, POOH BAH.

Yokohama Feb. 24th.

JAPAN'S COASTAL TRADE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—On the 22nd ult. you seem to rebuke what the *Chiuwo Shimbun* wrote on the subject of the coasting trade system of the United States, by saying that, "The obstacle is that Japan herself closes her coast-wise trade to vessels owned by foreigners."

It seems to us what you make is a sweeping statement, for Japan, in fact, does not close her coast-wise trade to foreign vessels, as you claim, and the fact that Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, and Hakodate are open to all foreign vessels must be well known to you. As you are aware, a major portion of our coasting trade as well as foreign shipping is done in these ports, and so it must be clear to you that our coasting trade is not practically closed to foreign vessels, while the United States forbids all foreign vessels from carrying passengers and freight between any American ports under severe penalty.

Thus there exists a wide gulf between the coasting trade system of the United States and that of Japan, and we are sure you are well aware of this fact. If such a statement is made by a Journalist of no repute we care not a straw and make no remonstrance, but since your paper is widely read and has a great deal of weight with the public, we cannot allow it to pass without reminding you of the misrepresentation you make.

We are not seeking a quarrel with you, but what we wish is that the public might not be misguided by you and our coasting trade might not be misconstrued by foreign people.

Truly yours, HONESTY.

Tokyo, Feb. 24th, 1900.

[What our correspondent says is quite correct, of course. An important part of Japan's coast-wise trade is open to foreign-owned vessels. But it is nevertheless true that Japan's general policy is to exclude such vessels.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE BOERS AND THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—It seems to me the answer to your request for proof that the Boers are fighting for their independence is to be found in the same note which you append to Mrs. Jones' letter. You say:—"They are simply asked to grant British subjects in the Transvaal the privileges they themselves receive in British dominions." That is, the Transvaal having refused to grant certain privileges, the British nation is trying to compel it to do so at the point of the bayonet. Now the right to decide to what extent and to whom it will grant political privileges is essential to the sovereignty of any state. Without this power no State can be said to be independent. In fighting to preserve this right the Boers are fighting therefore for their independence.

For the British Government to step in and demand any special privileges would seem to have been quite gratuitous, but I observe that you say they only demanded "privileges that British subjects were entitled by convention to claim." If the British had "right" to "demand" political privileges then the Transvaal was not an independent State at all and they are now exercising a right always left to a people who feel themselves wronged, the right of revolution. In that case they are "fighting for their independence."

Again, you say the privileges demanded were the same as "the privileges that British subjects receive in the Orange Free State." In that case what in the world are the burghers of the Free State fighting for? They are sacrificing their lives, fortunes, and risking the independence of their own country in order to assist the Transvaal burghers in resisting a demand which they themselves thought right and fraught with no danger to their own independence. It is manifestly absurd. Such an explanation cannot satisfy any impartial reason. However our British friends may blind themselves to the facts, nothing can be plainer than that the Afrikander in the Transvaal and the Orange Free state believes with all his heart that he is fighting for the independence of his country. In order that he should feel this way it is only necessary for them to remember their own history for the past hundred years or to keep in mind the schemes of Rhodes, the raid of Jameson, and the "smart" diplomacy of Chamberlain.

The writer of these lines has always been friendly to the British. He didn't need the experience of the Spanish war to make him so. He was friendly when there was nothing but the English attitude toward us during our own civil war to justify him. In other words, his sympathy is not based on sentiment but on reason. The British are wrong. It is a pretty hard position for Americans (with apologies to "G." who assumed to know our feelings better that we do), for it is a war between two peoples both our blood kin. But if we cannot rejoice in the defeats of our English cousins still less can we rejoice in the defeat of our Dutch kin. But the writer at any rate feels that the latter are right and that the burgher is fighting with just provocation for his rights, and that the future historians of England will themselves do him justice and pillory Chamberlain—the immediate cause of this fratricidal war—as he deserves.

I hope you will grant space in your columns to these lines written in behalf of the gallant and brilliant little Dutch Republics who, though they may not win another victory in this war against the mightiest Empire in the world, have already done enough to make them immortal in history.

Yours truly, JUSTICE.

February 21st, 1900.

[Our correspondent evidently doubts that the Orange Free State grants to British subjects the privileges which the Transvaal prefers to fight rather than grant. Yet that is an absolute fact, and it shows quite clearly that the two Republics are fighting, not for their independence, which was never threatened, but to drive England out of Africa. Besides, has "Justice" asked himself why the Boers hastened to declare the annexation of every region of British territory invaded by them. Is that merely fighting for their independence? As to their bravery, all honour to it. We English applaud it heartily.—Ed. *J.M.*]

CHURCH SERVICES IN YOKOHAMA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—May I ask you to let it be known that the American Episcopal Services at 221, Bluff, on Ash Wednesday and at 3 p.m., on the Fridays in Lent, were arranged after consultation with the English Chaplain, who made no objection, and did not then see his way to a suitable weekday service of his own. No one can be more glad than I am

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that this difficulty has been overcome; but it is important to make it clear that there is no opposition between the two.

It should be known, also, that the American Services are arranged for this year only, lest the prospect of uniting in the new Church hereafter should be prejudiced.

I am, yours faithfully, WM. AWDRY,
Bishop.

P.S.—May I ask the attention of readers to the advertisement of a Service of Intercession in connexion with the war in South Africa?

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Having read the communication on "The Other Side" by Miss Mary Brokaw Jones in your issue of February 20th, and having heard from and of others for whom I have great respect and whose friendship and opinions I value, who are of like mind in regard to the war, I am led to beg space in your columns if you can grant it. I would ask those who think the present war but a scheme for the "'crushing' of one Christian nation that another may add to her power and possessions" not to be in haste to conclude that while the English "suffer needlessly" the Boers "suffer not only needlessly but unjustly." In view of the striking parallel between the present struggle and the U.S. Civil war forty years ago I would ask U.S. Citizens who appreciate "Liberty, Justice, and Equality," to pause awhile before they take sides with the Boers.

In the U.S. Civil War there were many personal and side issues which misled many able, honest men in England, so that at the outset English people were led to favour the South and throw their influence on that side. Even Mr. Gladstone warmly supported the Confederates and discounted the claims and arguments of the Abolitionists.

It was argued that the plea of abolition of slavery was a sham and a guise, and the early disasters which met the Federal forces were taken as indicating that God and Right were on the side of the South. At the present time, the gold and diamonds and Chartered Companies and Cecil Rhodes are but straws swept along by a strong, mighty current: but, being on the surface, it is easy to be misled by these things and conclude that they are the causes of the present war. They may be the occasion of the war. When the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher went to England, and, in words of eloquence such as few men have ever had the power to utter, pleaded with the English public not to be guided by sentiment, false issues, and selfish motives but to hear the facts of the case, then the better element of English public opinion asserted itself, and prominent men, including John Bright, Quaker though he was, and the middle classes, were led to stand for and support Lincoln and those who were giving their lives that all men might "be free and equal." The present struggle is much more like the U.S. War of the Rebellion than it is to the war for independence to which your correspondent compares it.

Let me quote briefly from a letter written after the war began by a son of the late Rev. H. H. Dugmore, a well-known Minister in South Africa. The writer is Manager of the Indwe Railway and Collieries Company, and is a man whose character is such that his words are worthy of attention and confidence. He writes from Indwe, which is 25 miles South-east of Stormberg:—"Can you wonder that even loyal Methodists, (the writer is himself a Methodist) born and reared in this colony, living and dealing with the Dutch, and thoroughly acquainted with their character and aims, should have viewed with consternation the action of the Nonconformists at home on the occasion of the last Boer war in 1881, and should dread that the hands of the Government in England should again be weakened by their taking up a similar attitude. We are now paying the penalty of the huge blunder of 1881. We earnestly hope that this time the eyes of our friends in England have been opened. . . . "I have lived all my life in this colony, and have many friends amongst the Colonial Dutch, many of whom have during the last few weeks come to me to ask for advice as to what they should do if commandeered by the Free State Commandos. I have been closely watching the course of events for years and I fully endorse the opinion expressed by Theo. Schreiner, that this war was *inevitable* and that the aims of Kruger, Reitz, Steyn, and others were to oust the British flag and establish an Afrikander nation which should absorb the other states and Colonies in South Africa." I have italicised one word in the extract to show that some who are suffering in the war do not regard the war as "needless."

One point to be explained by outsiders who sympathize with the Boers is the uprising of the British Colonies to help Britain in the struggle. To say that "blood is thicker than water" in no sense explains it. What blood relationship binds the semi-independent princes of India to offer to send out and maintain forces on behalf of the Empire of Great Britain? Three contingents have gone from Canada, and a friend of mine in Canada writes me in a recent letter that he believes that 20,000 volunteers would promptly respond to a general call for more men. Let no one think that this can be explained on the mere ground of blood relationship. Canadians of Irish ancestry exceed those of English ancestry in the proportion of 9 to 8, and those of French ancestry are fifty-one per cent. more numerous than those of English parentage. In my humble opinion the stirring and impressive appeal of Mrs. Lewis, sister of Olive Schreiner, reveals the power that moved the colonies and has stirred England so wondrously. This appeal was published in *The Methodist Times*, London, Eng., Jan. 4th, and is entitled, "A Message to the Christian People of Great Britain," I would like to see the entire article published in the columns of the *Japan Mail*, but, fearing that it might be too long I quote, omitting nothing that condemns the British. She says:—"If ever there was a war for truth and right, for the putting down of oppression and wrong, for the deliverance of a people powerless to deliver themselves, whose wrongs have cried up to heaven until the Lord has come down to deliver them, *this is that war*. It is not the grievances of the Uitlanders, though they have been very real; it is not what British subjects have had to suffer of indignities and wrongs, though these have been numerous under recent Transvaal Administration; it is not the insults to England's power and prestige shown by refusal to concede her moderate demands for justice to be done to her subjects; it is not these things, however they may stir the national heart, which call upon us as Christians to bring the united force of God's people, by the power of believing prayer, to bear upon this war question. These, indeed, are the apparent causes which have led the British nation to unite in this war; but behind that nation, and behind these causes, is the moving power of the Omnipotent.

"These more recent wrongs done to a small number of British subjects, the foolhardy blindness which prevented the Transvaal authorities from seeing that the safety, as well as the very existence of the Republics, depended on their granting the just concessions demanded of them—all these things, which have brought about the war, are the wrongs which the God of nations has overruled to bring to pass that uniting of all sections of the British nation in such a way that its vast resources—both the wealth of the nation and the flower of its army—are willingly yielded up to become in the hand of the Lord of Hosts. His great and strong sword, by which he will smite oppression and bring deliverance to those powerless to deliver themselves, thereby saving from tyranny and destruction whole nations of peoples now existing and yet to exist in the future history of this continent."

"Let no one think that the immediate events which have led up to this war are the chief cause why the blood of the British Empire is being poured out to-day. No! British soldiers are dying to-day to put an end to a condition of atrocious wrong—a wrong continued throughout generations, and which apparently nothing but this sacrifice of life could right.

"For 200 years the progenitors of the Transvaal Republic and their descendants have crushed, maltreated, and, as far as in their power, robbed of all rights belonging to them the coloured peoples of this land. Nor are the Cape Colonists, who will suffer almost equally with the Republicans before this war is over, free from blood guiltiness in this matter; though under the British flag their legislative wrongs of native oppression have perforce been far less heinous than those perpetrated in the Republics, who now, in their blindness and Pharaohlike hardness of heart, have thrown down the gauntlet of war before Great Britain. . .

". . . The crimes which have cried unredressed to heaven from the length and breadth of this land, but more particularly from that part known as the Transvaal, defy description. To justice-loving souls who have known of these wrongs it has been like some horrible nightmare that in the nineteenth century on every side individual brutalities were being committed on defenceless victims, and that not by Arab slave driver or Moslem oppressor but by a professedly Christian and highly religious people, who were practising barbarities in peace as well as war which put to shame the records of what the savages of this land have inflicted, even in war time, upon white races. Oh, it has been horrible beyond words—horrible! . .

"The Lord of Hosts has sent forth as His avenging instruments the British Army to right the wrongs that have cried up to him for over 200 years, to fight on behalf of the myriad lives of the nations with which the interior of Africa is teeming, and which only by the success of British arms can gain through all the future years opportunities to develop as God would have them develop and grow into free, enlightened peoples to His glory.

"Now, as in the case of Pharaoh of old, the oppressing power would accept no warning and has rushed on to this destruction. . . The whole future history of South Africa and of its countless tribes depends on the issues of this war.

"We willingly yield up our dear ones who may fall on either side (the writer's own family being divided); we willingly accept the sufferings and losses that are falling upon our homes in many bitter ways, because we know that the spread of Christ's Kingdom, the future moral and national emancipation of whole races of human beings, is at stake."

".....to know that there are Christians in England who doubt the righteousness of this war, to know that there are many who are not pleading as we dare not but plead in spite of our pain, for blessing on the arms of Great Britain, oh! that is the hardest to bear." I have abridged some of the sentences in the above for the sake of brevity, not changing the meaning, however.

The more we hear from both sides and all sources the more deeply do we feel that, while we pity the deluded, misguided Boers and sympathize with their families who are the victims of the folly of an oligarchical clique, we more than sympathize with our Empire, of whom just now we have no cause to be ashamed.

I am, Sir, yours very sincerely,

CANADIAN.

Tokyo, Feb. 26th, 1900.

ROMA-JI.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—For reasons of which I submit a few examples in this final letter, I beg to withdraw from the discussion of the Roma-ji question.

At the beginning of your article published February 15th, you assert that Mr. House, in a second letter, "explains what he did intend to say" in his first. When a writer explains what he intended to say, he admits that he has said something which he did not intend, and which he is under the necessity of correcting. I have

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done nothing of that sort. On the contrary, I repeated and emphasized precisely what I had said, with sufficient plainness, in an earlier communication. You had declared, unequivocally, that I "called stenography a syllabary." That was the direct unqualified statement, without ambiguity or limitation. It was not in accordance with the fact, and it placed me in a ridiculously false position. Now you seek to justify your assertion by various rhetorical modifications which serve only to show that the original bare accusation could not be sustained. I am reminded of the arguments of two leaders of the Massachusetts bar, in a suit the tradition of which may be apocryphal, but certainly is *ben trovato*. Mr. Choate exhausted the resources of his ingenious eloquence in an attempt to prove that a wheel constructed by his opponents was identical with one invented by his clients. Mr. Webster's reply was brief. He caused the two wheels to be brought into court, and said,—"Gentlemen of the jury, there they are; look at them." That was all, and it was enough. As to the distinction between re-iterating a statement, (which I did), and explaining what I intended to say, and thereby virtually acknowledging an error (which I did not), you may declare that you think it does not amount to much. I cannot accept that view. To me it appears that such deviations from exactitude are wholly inconsistent with fair and upright discussion. This is not the only occasion on which I have encountered the same device in the editorial column of the *Mail*. Even in the article I am now criticising, it does not stand alone. Its usual object, apparently, is to convey the impression that the person aimed at does not know his own mind, or that he has been compelled by the irresistible logic of his adversary to abandon the position first occupied, and take up a new one. I do not employ such expedients, myself. I should not consider them legitimate. I do not say that everyone is bound to share my opinion. A great deal depends upon what a writer conscientiously believes he may do for purposes of controversy. But it is evident that a contest in which one party makes use of methods which the other does not recognise as permissible can have no profitable result. For a while I assumed that these irregularities must be accidental, and attributable merely to careless haste,—as when you failed to quote your own words with literal exactness. I now perceive that they may be repeated indefinitely, and it is laying a heavy burden on chance to account for all of them in that way. Whatever the cause, they make it impossible to give undivided attention to the main subject of consideration. More time would be wasted in clearing away the débris of misrepresentation than would be required for the matters properly under examination.

Not less objectionable is your persistent contention that I introduced the detail of irregular and contradictory spelling of English words. That, also, is an absolutely groundless assertion. I did not touch, or give a moment's thought to, the spelling "which uses different combinations of letters to convey identical sounds," until it became necessary to deny your allegation on this point. I had previously confined myself to the pronunciation of "the separate letters" of the Roman Alphabet, and to combinations invented by the Saxons, "the separate letters of which bore no relation to the sounds they were forced to indicate." Pronunciation,—not spelling,—was the theme of my first communication, throughout;—the pronunciation of letters and symbols. Even the word "spelling" can be found in it only once, and then in a wholly different connection. Yet you keep on averring that I must have meant to speak of spelling, because you "naturally supposed" I did. Why should you "naturally suppose" so? Why suppose that I meant what I did not say, instead of what I did say? When a man writes about the pronunciation of individual letters, the only natural supposition is that he means just that; and when he makes no allusion whatever to contradictory spelling, it cannot be naturally supposed that contradictory spelling is his text. Silence has remarkable properties, no doubt, but you invest it with a power which, I venture to say, was never before ascribed to it. The potentialities of Lord Burleigh's nod sink into insignificance in comparison. By your reasoning it would appear that a writer has only to be totally silent on a particular point, to make himself liable to the charge that he has talked about it to an extent that misleads an intelligent reader. You affirm that Mr. House "erects an unmistakeable finger-post, and then declares that to follow the route indicated by it is wholly irrelevant." The finger-post which I created pointed to the pronunciation of letters, and in no other direction;—least of all to the spelling of words. It bore no inscription suggestive of spelling. That idea was the product of your own imagination, and if in pursuing it you were plunged into a quagmire, I am not to blame. You jumped to an erroneous and unwarranted conclusion, and you seek to fasten the responsibility for the blunder upon me. More than this, you try to make it appear, that I acknowledge the unsoundness of my original position, and that I endeavour to rectify it. After a series of asseverations that I meant one thing when I distinctly spoke of another, you add that I "now"—in my second letter—"take the plain ground that the Roman alphabet is inherently unable to represent all the sounds of modern tongues,"—as if I had not taken that "plain ground" from the beginning, and consistently held to it. Almost at the outset of my first letter, I stated that the alphabet" does not represent the sounds of any modern tongue." The implication that I have been led to change or modify the proposition with which I started is without a fragment of foundation. Again I say that a discussion one participant in which thus distorts his opponent's attitude cannot wisely be prolonged.

The letter which you published on February 15th contained a reference to the statement, in a certain Dictionary, (under the heading of Transliteration) that "R is commonly pronounced as in English." The author of the Dictionary is the editor of the *Mail*, and if the statement had caught my eye before this correspondence was opened, I should not have addressed you at all upon the subject,—feeling that to discuss niceties of sound with a person capable of such a mistake would be of as little avail as to argue about the hues of the rainbow with one who is colour-blind. But I did not see it until after my first letter was sent. To produce the Japanese consonant in question, the tongue must be placed in a position quite different from that required for "r." The assertion that it is like "r" betrays a defective ear, or an imperfect power of observation. So, likewise, does the editorial assertion that the Japanese "find no difficulty" in pronouncing "r." I am exceedingly anxious to avoid misinterpreting your meaning, and I do not think there can here be any misconception. In the Dictionary the sentence is plain enough; and, while the editorial phraseology is a little obscure, there can scarcely be a doubt as to what it is intended to convey. The Japanese do, in fact, find great difficulty in pronouncing "r," as all who have watched their studies of foreign languages can testify. Even after years of practice in speaking English and reading English books, the majority of them are uncertain about its utterance. The uncertainty declares itself in their writing, as well as in their speech. They rarely—I might perhaps say never—get over the habit of occasionally writing "l" when "r" is needed, and *vice versa*. This is because neither "r" nor "l" has a precise equivalent in their own speech, and they have no familiar sound to guide them unerringly. It does not seem to me that any one can claim competence of authority on Japanese pronunciation who is ignorant of this and kindred facts. Of course I make no allusion to the language in its fuller and broader character,—as a vehicle for the transmission of thought. There the editor of the *Mail* is a recognized authority, and his judgment has weight; whereas I am not qualified to hazard the smallest opinion. But I have been dealing with sounds exclusively, and the ability to measure the sounds of a language does not demand profound study. It belongs to all who have a thoroughly accurate ear and the faculty of close observation. Between those who know what the Japanese consonant spoken of really is, and those who maintain that it is the same as "r" in English, no agreement would ever be possible.

On the grounds above detailed, and on others so similar that it would be unnecessarily tedious to specify them, I decide to retire from the field, realizing at last that your elastic theory of "natural supposition" is capable of indefinite expansion, and may be utilized not only to the perversion of a correspondent's clear meaning, but to the length of crediting him with propositions no trace of which can be found in his letters, and which a moment's serious reflection would show to be utterly foreign to his purpose. If you are satisfied to believe that the constructor of the *kana*, in preparing a phonetic syllabary for his own language went to another language (Sanscrit) for sounds only "as nearly as might be;"—that the *kana*, although used uninterruptedly for centuries, does not and never did properly represent Japanese sounds; that the defects of the Roman alphabet are "insignificant;" that the alphabet represents (not "produces," if you will pardon me for again objecting to your selection of the wrong word) Japanese sounds more successfully than the *kana*; finally, if you believe that the impression of carelessness and superficiality, which I originally deplored in the treatment of a subject of immeasurable national importance, has in any degree been diminished by your successive articles; I shall leave you in undisturbed enjoyment of those tenets of faith,—even at the risk of being told that my silence is "naturally supposed" to mean the avowal of any number of incredible things. And unless this form of misrepresentation runs to absolutely intolerable excess, I shall not deem it desirable to offer further corrections.

E. H. HOUSE.

February, 16, 1900.

* Brinkley's Dictionary thus describes the origin of the *kana*:—"As the phonetic representations of words and syllables became more important and necessary, the Chinese characters were found to be too cumbersome and inconvenient. To meet his difficulty, the *katakana* were invented." The editor of the *Mail* says that "the *kana* cannot truly be called 'a set of symbols expressly created by Japanese to stand as signs for the sounds of their speech,'" etc. The Dictionary defines *kana* as "a general name for the Japanese characters representing the forty-seven syllabic sounds." The editor of the *Mail* says that the *kana* is not an "accurate representation of Japanese sounds."

[These quotations from the Dictionary in question do not conflict in the smallest degree with our assertions about her *kana*.—ED *J.M.*]

DEATH OF MR. WERNER.

Mr. J. C. Werner died on Wednesday at his house at No. 1368, Jizozaka. Mr. Werner, who was born in Sweden in 1840, fought in the American Civil War on the side of the North and out of his reminiscences of that memorable struggle constructed many interesting stories and articles which appeared from time to time in this journal. Before leaving the States he became a naturalized citizen and arrived in Yokohama in the early seventies on the schooner *Myrtle*. He was engaged in seal-hunting in the Kuriles for several years, and many of the tales he used to tell of his experiences in that wild region would have been, in the hands of a master of the art of story-telling, worthy of a larger publicity than the *Japan Mail* could give. Mr. Werner, however, though a man of slight education, possessed considerable natural ability, and his productions were seldom without interest. We understand that at one time he rose to the position of chief mate in the Mitsu Bishi Steamship Company.

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BOER AMENITIES.

The following letter from *The Times'* correspondent at Mafeking, dated January 3rd, is grim reading. We have been frank admirers of the Boers' courage. We must be equally frank denouncers of their savage, their almost incredible, barbarity, if the things told in this letter be true, and they are told in a calm, matter-of-fact fashion that commands credence :—

The enemy have received a New Year's gift from Pretoria in the shape of a new gun and three wagon loads of ammunition. The bombardment consequently has continued more vigorously since. The new gun fires shells charged with a chemical liquid, which ignites upon contact with the air. This weapon has effected no damage hitherto, with the exception of a few minor fires in the gardens of Mafeking.

The resistance of the garrison is goading the Boers to commit various atrocities. Despite innumerable warnings they have concentrated their fire during the last two days upon the women's laager and hospital. Children have been killed and women mutilated by the bursting of shells. These occurrences are fanning a spirit of revenge in the breasts of the townspeople. It is no longer possible to guarantee the safety of the women and children of Mafeking, despite every precaution. Colonel Baden Powell has stated that it is impossible to rely upon Boer honour. The scenes of terror and consternation among the women folk are pitiable in the extreme.

Colonel Baden-Powell and Major Goold Adams have deposed Wessels, chief of the tribe of the Baralongs, who had quarters at Mafeking. Wessels has lately been intractable. He spread false reports among the tribes that the military authorities were endeavouring to make the natives slaves. The government of the tribe has been given over to two chief councillors, and a better feeling is already being established.

Adverting to my telegram describing the Game Tree fight, there is no longer any doubt that the Boers used explosive bullets. The strictest and most impartial inquiry has been held among troopers and officers, the results of which have been embodied in a report.

I have interviewed Sergeon-Major Anderson, an Imperial Service officer sent out by the Director of Hospitals to Colonel Baden-Powell's force, who authorizes me to say that the wounds inflicted were altogether different to previous experience in Egypt and in India, and that it was impossible they could have been produced by Martini or Mauser bullets, though perhaps they might have been caused by Snider ones, but from a scrutiny of the wounds made while dressing them in hospital here he has no doubt in his own mind that bullets of an explosive character were used by the Boers.

PROGRAMME OF THE SOUL-FUSAN RAILWAY.

The promoters of this railway have addressed to the Government a number of petitions with regard to the organization of a company. A representation for the speedy completion of this particular railway was accordingly introduced in the Diet, and it is said that in case the Government should permit the organization of a corporation, the following conditions would be approved :—(1) The corporation to be called the Soul-Fusan Railway Company, with a capital of 25 million *yen*, of which 5 millions are to be secured first, and the remainder to be raised at different periods when occasion requires. (2) The company to obtain legal recognition when one-tenth of its capital for the first period is paid up. (3) The company to be empowered to issue debentures up to ten times the amount of its paid-up capital, provided that the amount of issue shall not exceed 20 million *yen*. (4) Government aid to be granted to the extent of 6 per cent. interest on the whole capital of 25 million *yen*, for a period of fifteen years from the month immediately following the raising of capital. (5) Such subsidy, however, not to exceed the deficiency in profits. (6) A similar bounty to be extended to the debentures issued by the company. (7) The government to guarantee annual interest at 6 per cent. and the redemption of the principal.

REGULATIONS FOR FOODS AND BEVERAGES.

The following is a translation from the *Official Gazette* of the Law for the Control of Foods and Beverages, as passed by the Diet and sanctioned by the Emperor :—

Art. I.—In case any food or beverage offered for sale, or any utensils used for holding or cooking the same, or any other articles exposed to sale or employed in connection with the trade, are considered prejudicial to public health, measures may be taken by the administrative authorities to prohibit the manufacture, sale, transfer, or use thereof, or to suppress or suspend the trade in the same.

In the foregoing cases the administrative authorities may cause the offensive articles to be thrown away by the owners or may take steps directly to that end, or enforce any other necessary measures. In case, however, the owners of such articles can show that they can dispose of the same by means not injurious to public health, such permission may be granted to them.

Art. II —The administrative authorities may despatch officials to inspect the aforesaid articles and authorise them to take such quantities of the same without compensation as are absolutely necessary for examination. The officials so despatched are empowered to enter, during ordinary business hours, the places where the above articles are collected, manufactured, stored, or transported.

Art. III.—Any person failing to comply with the order of the Government or public functionaries within the period specified for the enforcement of these regulations will be liable to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*. Those opposing them shall be liable to a major imprisonment for a term of not more than one month and a fine not exceeding 10 *yen*.

Art. IV.—Any Government or public functionaries who, in discharging their duties under instructions from the administration, are found guilty of improper or dishonest conduct in connection with the enforcement of these regulations, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, together with a fine not exceeding 40 *yen*. In case they accept, or consent to accept, bribes they shall be dealt with according to Article 284 of the Criminal Code.

The above regulations will come into operation from the 1st of April in the 33rd year of *Meiji* (1900).

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

There was a very good attendance at the fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society, held in Van Schaick Hall on Friday evening. The proceedings were opened very appropriately with some of the quaint but pleasing dances from *Henry VIII.*, by the Misses Page. Then the Rt. Rev. Bishop Awdry gave an address entitled "Did Shakespeare write with a moral purpose, or was it 'Art for Art's Sake,'" the two plays principally drawn upon for illustration and comment being *King Lear* and *The Tempest*. The essay proved a most interesting study of the great Elizabethan dramatist, the reasoning was clear and the argument conclusive. The rest of the evening was devoted to music, vocal and instrumental. The full programme was as follows :—

PART I.

Overture, Violin Trio...Dances from "Henry VIII."...Edward German
The Misses Page.

Paper..." Did Shakespeare write with a moral purpose, or was it 'Art for Art's sake?"
Rt. Rev. Bishop Awdry, D.D.

PART II.

Piano Solo..." Impromptu in A major"...Schubert
Miss A. Watt.

Song.. ....." Many a Mile away".....Pinsuti
Miss J. Watt.

Baritone Solo..."Love, the Pilgrim"...Blumenthal
Mr. F. W. Maitland.

Song....." Lovely Spring".....Cowen
Mrs. Champneys Irwine.

FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

According to the *Keizai Zasshi* the foreign trade of Japan for January amounted to 37,281,881 *yen*, indicating a decrease of over 6 million *yen* compared with the previous month. These figures, compared with the corresponding period of last year, show a diminution of about 2 millions in exports and an increase of 8 millions in imports, the latter exceeding the former by 7¼ millions approximately. The items may be tabulated as follows :—

	January, 1900. yen	January, 1899. yen.
Exports	15,038,983	17,420,182
Imports	22,242,898	13,810,919
Excess of imports	7,203,915	—
Excess of exports		3,609,264
Total of export and imports.	37,281,881	31,231,101

As to the value realized by the staples of imports and exports, the following table may be of some interest to the commercial community at large :—

Exports.	1900. yen.	1899. yen.
Raw silk	4,239,236	6,839,252
Coarse silk thread and waste silk	311,090	176,335
Habutaye	1,440,433	1,237,127
Kai silk	207,781	82,754
Silk handkerchiefs	127,862	125,953
Cotton yarns	1,683,742	1,282,005
Cotton fabrics	223,532	197,849
Coarse rugs	46,474	47,779
Matches	334,684	203,701
Matting	399,686	394,889
Porcelain and earthenwares	153,838	116,598
Lacquer wares	64,232	47,299
Straw braids	407,084	39,227
Umbrellas	49,840	39,227
Manufactured Tea	42,388	117,748
Rice	467,085	2,237,026
Edible seaweed	77,236	55,096
Fish oil	17,649	53,270
Shiitake	70,480	60,370
Camphor	231,531	57,588
Crude and wrought copper	781,001	781,466
Coal	1,811,197	1,350,366
Vegetable wax	49,526	50,268
Others	1,696,920	1,433,968
Total	14,571,898	15,183,056
Imports.		
Raw cotton	5,469,465	4,787,931
Cotton fabrics	690,110	179,944
Shirtings and chintzes	579,694	135,825
Cotton satin and cotton velvet	244,057	52,220
Wool	222,453	157,498
Mousseline de laine	464,970	99,391
Italian cloths	130,067	56,483
Flannel	17,726	13,298
Cloth	85,647	130,545
Watches	32,521	8,040
Machines	872,462	560,472
Railway locomotives and carriages	141,993	562,005
Iron, bar and rod	534,242	96,665
Rails	105,273	55,057
Iron nails	294,179	172,597
Iron and steel	789,453	185,201
Indigo	229,409	93,950
Paper	261,479	123,687
Sole leather	106,834	31,826
Sugar	2,676,661	1,014,079
Rice	929,327	189,641
Peas and beans	354,245	134,107
Kerosene oil	1,496,106	622,401
Oil cake	37,466	21,225
Miscellaneous	5,481,059	4,326,831
Total	22,242,898	13,810,919

JAPANESE TRADE.

The *Nichi Nichi* gives the following figures with reference to foreign trade for the 1st half of February this year, together with totals from the beginning of January :—

	1st half of Feb. yen.	Total from Jan. yen.
Exports	6,989,275	22,106,252
Imports	11,485,616	33,775,405
Total	18,474,891	55,881,657
Excess of imports	4,496,341	11,669,153
Export of specie.	1,654,075	5,664,690
Imports	56,262	229,394
Excess of exports.	1,597,813	5,435,295

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SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Will Pattillo.

The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for 1897 98 has been received, and contains a vast deal of valuable and interesting information, not only of schools in the United States, but in many other countries. Volume one of the report contains 1,272 pages and 24 chapters. To give an idea of the subjects that are discussed I will quote a few chapter headings:—History of the German School System, Education in Great Britain and Ireland, means for spreading hygienic knowledge among the people, Education in India, Physical Training, the Public School and the Public Library, Experimental Study of Children, etc.

The statistics for the United States are interesting and teach some important lessons. They ought to be especially interesting to those who are studying the Japanese school problems. There were enrolled in the schools and colleges, both public and private, during the year 1897-98, 16,687,643 pupils. In private schools of all grades there were 1,554,725 pupils, and in public institutions 15,132,918 pupils. There was an increase over the previous year of 2 8 per cent. for private schools and 2 7 per cent. for public schools. The Commissioner makes the interesting statement that in times of business prosperity the percentage of attendance in private schools increases more than in public schools. It shows that a great many people prefer private schools if they can afford he extra expense. A little over 9 per cent. of pupils are in private schools. Besides the above 16 mill on pupils in regular schools there were a number of special institutions such as evening schools, benevolent institutions, and miscellaneous schools containing 485,292 pupils, making a grand total of 17,172,935 pupils in all schools.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

The Commissioner says:—"The expression "common schools" is used in this office to include public schools of elementary grade—the first eight years of the course of study—and secondary grade — ninth to twelfth years of the course of study—but no other institutions of higher grade." I will quote a few interesting items from the table of statistics of these common schools as above defined.

Number of pupils	15 038,636
Per cent of population	20.68
Per cent of persons 5 to 10 years old	70 c8
Number of male teachers	131.750
Number of female teachers	277,443
Average monthly wages:—	
Male teachers	$45 16
Female teachers	$38 74
Number of school houses	242,300
Value of school property	$492 703,781
Total receipts	$199.317,597
Total expenditures	$194,020,470
Expenditure per capita of population	$2 67
Expenditure per pupil	$18.86

It will be interesting also to know the sources of receipts for the nearly 200 million dollars:—

From permanent funds	$9.213 323
From State taxes	35.600 643
From Local taxes	134,104.053
From other sources	20,399.578

It should be borne in mind that there are no national laws or taxes for schools, each State managing its own school affairs. Thirty two States have adopted compulsory laws, the majority making these laws apply during the period between 8 and 14 years, although the legal school age is from 6 to 21 in twenty-two States, and 5 to 21 in elevery States. It will be interesting to the Japanese especially to note that of the 409,000 teachers, over two-thirds of them are women. The percentage of male teachers is larger in the South than in any other section of the country. In Massachusetts they constitute only 8.9 per cent., in Georgia 47.5 per cent., in Iowa 20 4 per cent., and in California 18.9 per cent.

OSAKA RUG INDUSTRY.

The *Osaka Asahi* feels uneasy about the decline of trade in cotton rugs, commonly known as *Sakai dantsu*. While the record was extremely satisfactory up to the 28th year of *Meiji*, when the total export amounted to 1,800,000 *yen* in value, the figures have gradually fallen to such an extent as to involve the manufacturers in serious embarrassment. A representation on this subject was at last forwarded to the House of Representatives, where subsidies amounting to 56,060 *yen* were voted, a portion of the sum, 39,700 *yen*, to be appropriated for the establishment of inspection offices and the remainder for instituting a dyeing factory. Below are the comparative figures for the past five years:—

Year.	Amount of manufacture. Cho.	Value realized. Yen.
1895	1,170,477	1,887,276
1896	700.719.9	1,121,147
1897	712,507	1,140,014
1898	626,103	943,578
1899	665,756	1,006.294

Hempen rugs manufactured during 1899 are said to have aggregated 445,465 *cho*, valued at 534.558 *yen*, and cotton rugs 191,327 *cho*, valued at 344.389 *yen*, while woollen and other manufactures reached 29.964 *cho* in amount and 127.347 *yen* in value (1 *cho* is equal to the size of a floor mat).

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The body of a still-born infant, wrapped in an old rag, was found under Benten-bashi on Wednesday morning, by a policeman making his rounds.

About 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon three Chinese were arrested by the Police, for gambling at the Chinese tailor's shop, 136, kept by Ning Kow. The gamblers are all tailors.

As Mr. Hagen, of the German Consulate, was riding along Honmura Road on Thursday he ran into a *jinrikisha*. The vehicle was somewhat damaged, but the bicyclist escaped unhurt.

Four sendoes employed on a lighter belonging to Messrs. Helm Bros., moored near the Hatoba, were arrested along with a woman on Wednesday night by the Water Police, and charged with gambling.

The case brought by Mochida Tanejiro, a contractor, against Mr. Dentici for enlarging an oven, was settled in Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Thursday by Judge Fujise. Judgment was given for the defendant, the costs of the case to be borne by plaintiff.

The Earl of Ava, eldest son of the Marquess of Dufferin, who died from wounds received at Ladysmith, was not in the service, though serving in an unattached military capacity. He had, however, seen service previously, and first donned uniform in Methuen's Horse during the Warren expedition. Lord Ava was one of the most popular young men of the time, full of energy and of the cheeriest temperament. No victim whom the war has claimed will be more missed than he.

The amazing things which are believed about us in Paris are surpassed by what appears to be credited in Vienna. If we may trust the *Neue Freie Presse*, the inhabitants of the English metropolis are chiefly occupied in walking up and down Piccadilly gazing at the newspapers with an air of bewilderment, and beating their foreheads with their heads. Those who are not engaged in this exhilarating and eminently English performance are, it appears, riding about in hansoms and discussing the situation with the cabbies through the openings in the tops of the cabs.

The gunnery expert to the *Engineer* gives an idea of what can be practically done at sea, in some results of target practice which are given. The conditions of firing are that each gun's crew has three minutes to score what they can at chosen ranges, beginning at 2,200 yards, diminishing to 1,600, and finally increasing to 2,200 yards again. In H.M.S. *Blake* the best gun's crew fired 18 rounds, hitting the target 15 times, while the total number of the rounds fired by the 10 guns was 148, the target being hit 110 times. H.M.S. *Royal Arthur* did nearly as well, the best guns having fired 18 rounds, striking the target 14 times.

Early on Friday morning Mr. Rudolf von Mann, aged 34, a German subject, shot himself at his residence at Honmoku. The body was found by the maid servant about 8 a.m. There was a bullet wound in the head, and a revolver lay by deceased's side. The matter was reported to the Bluff Police, and Mr. Okada, Chief Inspector, the German Vice-Consul, Mr. Hagen, and Dr. Koch, of the German Hospital, visited the house and examined the body. They at once arrived at the conclusion that the case was one of suicide. Mr. Mann was up to October, 1898, Assistant Brewer of the Japan Brewery Co. and afterwards Chief Brewer of the Hodogaya Brewery Co. He had been unemployed for some months. Deceased had been six years in Japan.

Two bicycle thieves named Kitajima and Seki Otsuchiji were arrested in Tokyo on the night of the 25th inst. by a detective of the Bluff Police Station. It was found that they were the persons who stole a bicycle belonging to Mrs. W. N. Wright on the 9th inst. On the 14th, they stole a bicycle belonging to Mr. Melhuish, which was left in front of Messrs. Dodwell & Co's.; also a bicycle belonging to Mr. Ginn, which he left in front of the American Hospital on the 20th inst., and a bicycle belonging to a guide known as Matsuda on the 24th inst., which he left in front of the Guides' Association. When arrested one of the men was riding the bicycle belonging to the guide. The thieves sold the bicycles in Kakigaracho, Tokyo. All have been returned to their owners.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha steamer *Nippon Maru* arrived in Yokohama harbour at 10.20 a.m. on Wednesday. Mr. Otani Kahei, Chairman of the Yokohama Japanese Chamber of Commerce, was among her passengers, and he received a splendid welcome at the hands of some 1,000 persons of Yokohama and Tokyo, who went on board to meet him. Fire-works were discharged in the harbour in his honour when the vessel was first sighted. Mr. Otani came ashore in the C.P.R. tug *Spindrift*, and proceeded to the Town Hall, where he delivered a short speech describing briefly his visit to the States, Canada, and England. He regretted that his trip had been but a short one, for he was afraid that the knowledge he had gained by his visit abroad was but meagre and he would not be able to afford very great service to the citizens of Yokohama on whose behalf he took the trip. He thanked all present for the splendid ovation given him.

A fire occurred on Thursday morning at 1 10 o'clock in Hagoromo-cho Ichome, near the Theatre Street, Yokohama. The premises were situate on the site of last year's conflagration, and some eight houses nearing completion were partially burned. It is said to be work of an incendiary. At 20 minutes past twelve on the 1st inst., kerosene oil was poured over the roof of a bath-house in Okina-cho Ichome, Yokohama, and then the place was set on fire. Fortunately the neighbours seeing flames, put them out before any damage was done. About 9 p.m. on Wednesday night a fire broke in a bath house called the Matsunoyu, Motomachi, Sanchome, but it was put out before any damage was done. A small blaze occurred on Wednesday night in a coal merchant's store in Miyoshi-cho, Gochome. The flames originated in a waste box outside the houses, and it is thought to be the work of an incendiary.

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TRANSVAAL RELIEF FUND.

List of Subscriptions received for the support of the widows and orphans of the fallen Boers and for the assistance of the wounded and disabled in the War in South Africa.

R. A. Mees.....Y	5	J. J.	10
Joh. de Rijke	40	E. J. Bl.	10
Klingen & Seux...	100	C. H. H. W.	10
H. A. Scheuten ...	25	Th. K.....	3
L. Stornebrink ...	25	Miss D. Ueda ...	10
X.	50	Mrs. J.....	5
P.	25	Mrs. T.	5
L. Ph. von Heimert	25	Rev. L.	10
J. H. de Reus.....	25	Rev. A. E. B.....	10
Ph. R. Goedkoop.	25	Rev. W. Y. J. Fukui	10
J. Carst	5	Rev. Wh.	10
A. R. de Monchy.	10	Rev. V.	3
Ed. L. van Nierop	25	Rev. J. H. B.	10
W. M. Carst	5	Rev. E. L.	2
C. H. van Dorp...	5	Rev. P. Sch.	2
½ Pari	50	Rev. E. B.	2
Mrs. de R.	36	Mrs. Sur.....	5
Family Geerts ...	50	Freundlicher Skat.	8.30
J. H. Donker Curtius	20	Deutscher Skat Ishi-	
J. Kern	10	gaya	6
W. Daniels.....	10	D. Miss P. & Prob.	3
Dr. Lõholm	25	Mrs. H.	10
N. N.	5	A. de G.	10
F. Gebhardt	25	Mah.	10
Prof. Francois.....	5	E. Tr.	5
A. Culty	5	P. V.	5
Chev. de Waepem-		R. Rob.....	20
naert	15	Mrs. S.	5
P. Lagrange	5	E. W. G.; E. N.;	
E. Andreis	10	W. C.;	3
Dr. Flandin	5	E. S.; A. W.; G. H.	3
E. Knaff	10	E. I. S.S. K.	3
E. Levedag.....	5	A. Friend	1
R. Dubuffet.....	10	A. T.	4
E. S.....	10	M. L.	1
G. C. C.	5	Rev. R. L.	2
A. G.	15	Rev. H. W.	2
U. D.	5	Rev. P. & M.	2
L. Salabelle	5	J. H. B.....	25
K. L.	1	V. F. D.	10
A. Gysin	5	H. Rose.....	50
C. Manuel	25	Cash	10
E. Baron	5	Quadruple	4
Un Francais	1	Stuck	5
E. V. Thorn	10	F. Schroeder.....	5
F. Grösser	20	A. W.	5
Prof. Biehler	2	F. S.	5
Th. M.....	5	Cash	5
N. N.	50	M. E.	20
D. L.	25	A friend	3
N. N.	10	H.	10
L. L.	20	Sympatico.....	5
W. M.....	10	F. B	10
M. B.	5	H. W. L.	10
C. Weinberger ...	10	Poker B.	6
R. R.	10	Skat H.	4
R. Pfisher	10	H. Luther	5
E. Troeltsch	25	R. Fachtmann	10
E. H.	5	Sympathic.....	25
M. Pors	10	Sympathy	10
F. S. Mayer	10	J. A.	5
C. M.	1 20	A. Kuyon	5
A. Coye	10	B. Kuyon	10
X.....	10	E. B. Jones	5
Pro Poer	25	B.	5
C. W.	25		
G.	10		1,534

KILLED, WOUNDED, AND MISSING.

The following table of British casualties has been taken from the *Daily Graphic*, revised to Jan. 5th. This list of missing includes many wounded officers and men not otherwise indicated, but no account is taken of deaths from natural causes, which have been very considerable. The effect of several revised lists of casualties received by the War Office has been to reduce our total losses below 7,000.

	Officers.			Men.		
	K.	W.	M.	K.	W.	M
Staff	5	9	1	—	—	—
Royal Navy.....	3	1	0	3	22	4
Royal Marines ...	2	1	—	9	75	—
18th Hussars	—	1	4	8	27	89
19th Hussars	—	2	—	4	11	—
4th Hussars.....	—	—	—	—	1	—
10th Hussars	—	—	—	—	3	1
13th Hussars	—	—	—	—	6	—
5th Lancers	—	6	—	2	9	—
9th Lancers	—	—	—	4	31	—
12th Lancers	—	2	1	7	37	4
5th Dragoons	—	—	—	5	6	—
6th Dragoons	—	1	—	—	1	—
6th Dragoon Guards	—	—	—	5	6	—
Royal Regt. of Artillery	5	24	15	30	127	135
Royal Engineers..	—	3	—	3	9	—
Royal Irish Fusiliers	2	5	17	28	96	508
1st Gloucesters ...	1	4	19	50	116	332
Royal Dublin Fusiliers	4	5	6	47	203	150
1st K.R.R.	8	10	1	16	121	48
2nd K.R.R.....	—	—	—	8	36	16
2nd Gordons	4	9	—	22	87	3
1st Gordons.....	3	3	—	6	33	—
1st Manchesters ...	—	5	—	12	45	1
1st Devons	—	9	3	2	35	1
2nd Devons	—	—	—	11	72	33
1st Leicesters	2	1	—	2	22	13
Loyal North Lancashires.....	1	4	—	8	46	—
2nd Cameronians..	—	1	—	4	—	4
R.A.M.C.....	1	2	1	2	3	—
3rd Grenadiers ...	2	10	—	42	135	1
1st Coldstreams ...	—	6	—	21	82	—
2nd Coldstreams...	3	3	1	11	85	—
1st Scots	—	5	—	30	66	—
2nd Northampton.	—	3	—	2	28	1
1st Worcestershire	—	—	—	—	2	—
2nd Yorkshire Light Infantry...	1	6	—	18	100	5
2nd East Surrey ...	—	—	—	3	43	—
2nd West Yorkshire	—	2	1	10	46	8
1st Border Regiment	—	3	—	16	41	1
1st Argyll and Suth. High.....	1	8	1	45	144	5
Mounted Infantry.	3	5	—	2	14	—
Ammunition Column.....	—	—	—	—	3	—
Northumberland Fusiliers	4	11	6	21	71	307
2nd Black Watch..	7	11	—	70	203	68
Liverpool Regiment	—	—	—	9	21	—
1st Highland L.I...	2	7	—	12	69	6
Royal Irish Rifles..	—	11	3	10	52	299
2nd Seaforths	4	7	1	44	137	22
2nd Rifle Brigade.	1	5	—	18	40	5
1st Suffolk	—	—	—	—	1	—
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	2	8	—	20	75	7
Connaught Rangers	—	2	2	25	101	23
Essex Regiment ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Royal Scots Fusiliers	—	—	6	12	21	39
2nd W. Surreys ...	—	2	—	8	83	—
1st R. Welsh Fusiliers	—	—	—	—	3	—
Durham L. I.	—	—	—	—	2	—
Army Service C....	—	1	—	—	—	—
1st Rl. Fusiliers ...	—	—	—	—	3	—
Imperial Light H.	1	9	—	17	46	1
Kimberley Light H.	2	6	—	20	38	—
Border Mtd. Rifles	—	—	1	2	15	—
Dundee Tn. Guard	—	—	—	30	—	—
Cape Mtd. Police..	1	1	—	9	24	—
Natal Carabiniers.	1	2	—	7	20	—
Natal Mtd. Rifles.	1	—	—	—	7	—
Natal Police	—	—	—	2	3	—
Diamond Fields Artillery	—	—	—	1	10	—
B.S.A. Police and Protectorate Regiment.....	2	6	—	27	41	2
Armoured Trains..	—	—	1	1	—	16
Crocodile Poort Force.....	—	—	1	—	3	4
Rhodesian Regiment	2	—	3	4	7	18
Chartered Company Police	—	—	—	—	2	4
Durban Light Infantry	—	1	—	4	14	23
Rimington's Guides	—	—	—	—	7	5
Thorneycroft's M.I.	1	3	—	4	32	—
Diamond Fields Horse	—	2	—	3	12	—
South African Reserve.....	—	—	—	1	6	—
Cape Volunteers...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Colonel Plumer's Force.....	—	—	—	2	—	1
Kimberley Light Artillery	—	2	—	—	3	—
South African Light Horse	—	2	2	4	19	10
Totals	82	258	98	886	3266	2223

Grand total..... 6,813

The above totals represent only the regimental casualties so far as they have been identified. No official list of casualties sustained by General Gatacre's force at Stormberg has yet been published.

LANGFELDT & CO., LIMITED.

Report of Directors, and Statement of Accounts, to be submitted at the 18th semi-annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at No. 73, Main Street, Yokohama, on Monday, the 5th day of March, 1900.

The statement of assets and liabilities, and the profit and loss account for the half year ended the 31st December, 1899, accompany this report.

The net profit for the half year, after providing for general expenses, directors' and auditor's fees, YEN.

and depreciations amounts to :.....7717.51

less balance at the debit of last account ...3564 61

leaving :.....4152.60

to be carried to the credit of uew account.

It will be noted that the gross profit for the half year under report amounts to *yen* 21.010.63, as against *yen* 9742.55, for the previous six months, and it is confidently expected that the present year will show a still further improvement.

As stated in the last report, a branch office in Manila was opened during last year, the prospects of which looked favourable at the beginning. But later on the business there did not develop as expected and in order to have a clear insight into the whole affair, the Manager was sent to Manila. According to his report, the Directors, finding that in order to successfully carry on the Manila Branch it would be necessary to maintain a stock largely beyond the resources of the company, and realizing also the impossibility of effectually controlling the business from Yokohama, decided to close the Agency, in respect of which there is an anticipated loss of about *yen* 12,000. An arrangement has been made with a responsible Manila firm for the disposal of the remaining unsold stock, which, however, is reduced to very small proportions.

The Registration of the Company has been effected since the date of the report.

Messrs. Read and Bull having retired, Messrs. Bernard and Grosser joined the Board of Directors.

Messrs. Weinberger and Bernard retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. Guinness has resumed his duties as Auditor, and the Directors have much pleasure in recommending his appointment to that office for the current year.

Yokohama, Febuary 21st, 1900.

J. F. LOWDER, C. WEINBERGER, C. B. BERNARD, F. GROSSER } Directors.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 1ST DECEMBER, 1899.

ASSETS.	Yen.
Merchandise in Stock	106,689.70
Plant, Fixtures and Furniture	3 239 07
Sundry Debtors.....	18,511.04
Fire Insurance Policies.....	622.27
Cash	1,081.14
Steam Launch "Dart"	6.500.00
Suspense account	48.50
Manila Branch	24,310.00
	161,001.72

LIABILITIES.	Yen.
Capital, 1,500 Shares at $100.....	150,000.00
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	1,634 61
Sundry Creditors	5,214.21
Balance, Profit	4.152 90
	161.001.72

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT ON 31ST DEC, 1899.

DR.

July 1st.	Yen.
To Balance forward from 30th June, 1891	83,564 61
December 31st.	
" Expenses and Wages account	10,669 72
" Rent	1,795 00
" Fire Insurance.....	363 37
" Directors' fees	625 00
" Auditor's Fee	150.00
" Balance	4.152.90
	21,320 60

CR.

December 31st.	Yen.
By Gross Profit on Trade	21,010.63
By Share Transfer Fees	19 00
By Interest.....	290 97
	21,320.60
January 1st, 1900. By Balance	4,152.90

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E & O. E.

J. F. LOWDER, C. WEINBERGER } Directors.

I have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the Books and vouchers of Company, and certify them to be correct.

C. GUINNESS, Auditor.

Yokohama, February 21st, 1900.

TELEGRAMS.

(SPECIAL TO THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, Feb. 23.

The casualties at Paardeberg were as follows :—

KILLED.

CORNWALLS.

Colonel Aldworth, Captains Wardland and Newbury.

SEAFORTHS.

Lieut. McClure.

ARGYLLS.

Lieut. Courtney.

WEST RIDINGS.

Lieut. Scorded (?).

YORKSHIRES.

Lieut. Neave.

OXFORDS.

Lieuts. Bright and Ball-Acton.

Fierce fighting was expected at Colenso, but the Boers' flank was completely turned. Our troops captured the hills and can see into Ladysmith.

Later.

General Kelly-Kenny attacked Cronje in a laager at Koodoosrand Drift, on the Modder river, at daylight on Sunday. The fighting continued throughout the day. Our losses were heavy. Fifty guns shelled the laager vigorously throughout Sunday and Monday. On Tuesday Cronje asked for an armistice. He admits that he lost over 800 men on Monday.

Shanghai, Feb. 24.

Kitchener refused the armistice applied for by Cronje, and said that the Boers must fight to the finish or surrender. The battle was then resumed.

Cronje's army is estimated at 8,000 men. They are enclosed in a death-trap near the bed of the Modder River. Nevertheless they are fighting with desperate courage. The Canadians attempted unsuccessfully to storm the laager. The Boer wagons took fire, and the bombardment was continued far into the night by the glare of the flames.

Shanghai, Feb. 24.

The British have occupied Fort Wylie, opposite Ladysmith. Buller's casualties on the 20th and 21st were in officers, Capt. S. L. V. Crealock, Lieut.-Col. Keith-Falconer and Lieut. Parr, of the Somersets, and Captain Holt of the Medical Corps, killed, and 5 wounded; and in men, 20 killed and 91 wounded.

The casualties at Paardeberg on Sunday were 146 men killed, when attempting to assault the Boer laager over level ground. The terrific fire compelled the troops to lie down, and they were powerless to move during the whole day. Roberts arrived on Monday, when the bombardment commenced. The cannonade was stopped for half a day on Tuesday during the parleying, which ended in Cronje's refusing to surrender. Then the whole force of artillery concentrated its fire at a thousand yards' range over a space of a mile. French, meanwhile, was engaged eastwards.

Shanghai, Feb. 25.

The Boers occupy some high ridges near Nelthorpe, and are opposing Buller with big guns and rifles. Our advance is slow.

The Navy estimates show an increase of about a million sterling.

Later.

Buller reports that three officers were killed and 14 wounded, including General Wynne, on the 22nd inst. He adds that as the fighting is continuous he is unable to send a statement of the casualties among the men.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Paardeberg that the shelling was continued throughout the night of the 21st and was intermittent on the 22nd. He adds that it is reported that 2,000 Boers are operating to the north of the British.

French has captured 105 more prisoners.

Shanghai, Feb. 26.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Colenso that after two days' severe fighting the troops at nightfall on the 23rd arrived within a few hundred yards of the Boers' first line of trenches on Groblers Kloof.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Paardeberg on the 24th that the British are gradually drawing closer to Cronje's laager. The balloon disclosed new trenches, which were thereupon shelled. Altogether 540 prisoners have been taken.

Shanghai, Feb. 27.

The Times' correspondent telegraphs from Colenso, under date of the 24th inst., that Buller is within two miles of being in touch with Ladysmith, but that this is the hardest part, and he expects very severe fighting.

It is stated in Pretoria that President Steyn has wired to President Kruger that the Free-staters refuse to continue fighting. Steyn urges that immediate overtures be made for peace.

Later.

The casualties among the officers of Buller's force, from the 20th to the 24th, have been :—

KILLED.

INNISKILLINGS.—Major T. M. G. Thackeray, Major F. A. Sanders, and Capt. C. H. Stuart.

DUBLINS.—Lieut. Sitwell.

GORDONS.—Lieut. S. C. Maitland.

WELSH FUSILIERS.—Lieuts. Thorold (?) and Stebbing.

Thirty-four wounded ; one missing.

[NOTE.—We cannot identify the name queried above. The telegram says "Throld."—ED. *J.M.*]

Shanghai, Feb. 28.

It is officially stated that Cronje has surrendered with his whole force unconditionally.

Later.

A despatch from Roberts says that at three o'clock on the morning of the 27th a most dashing advance was made by the Canadians and the Engineers, supported by the Gordons and the Shropshires. It brought them within 60 yards of the enemy's trenches. This gallant deed apparently clinched matters, for daylight brought a letter of surrender.

Cronje arrived in the camp at seven o'clock. In the course of conversation he asked for kind treatment, and also that his wife, his grandson, his secretary, his aide de camp, and his servant should accompany him wherever he was sent. Roberts promised compliance.

Cronje starts forthwith for Capetown in charge of General Pretyman.

The prisoners number 4,000; 1,150 of them are Free Staters, the rest Transvaalers. There are 47 officers, including the leading Germans De Witz and Albrecht. A number of notable Boers also have been captured.

The Artillery captured consists of four 7.5 centimetre Krupp guns, 9 (?) pounders, and two Maxims.

Shanghai, March 1.

Lord Roberts' official despatch expresses a hope that the Government will consider his victory over Cronje as satisfactory, occurring as it did on the anniversary of Majuba Hill.

Her Majesty the Queen received the news with great joy and telegraphed her congratulations to Lord Roberts.

Messages received in London from all parts of the country testify to the general rejoicings.

The prisoners were all sent to the Modder river camp ; from thence they are sent off in batches to Capetown.

The casualties at Paardeberg on the 18th were 740 wounded.

Later.

Buller telegraphs under date of the 28th that Barton's Brigade assaulted and carried the top of Pieter's Hill, thus to a certain extent turning the enemy's left flank. The 4th and 11th Brigades, under the supreme command of Warren, assailed the enemy's main position, which was magnificently carried by the South Lancashires at sunset. Sixty prisoners were taken and the enemy was scattered in all directions. It seems that there is still a considerable number of the enemy left on Bulwana Mountain.

[NOTE.—It is evident from this telegram that the recently received intelligence indicating that Buller had reached Nelthorpe was erroneous. Pieter's Hill is six miles south of Cæsar's Camp. Bulwana Mountain lies due east of Cæsar's Camp at a distance of five miles, the railway running between them. Apparently it would not be necessary to dislodge the Boers on Bulwana Mountain in order to establish touch with White.—ED. *J.M.*]

Shanghai, March 1.

Severe fighting is continuing in Natal. The Inniskillings lost heavily in a night attack on Saturday, and there was an armistice on Sunday to bury the dead.

Brabant has occupied Jamestown and has captured the Boers' horses.

[Jamestown is due S. of Aliwal North, and east of Stormberg.—ED. *J.M.*]

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, Feb. 23.

Buller telegraphs that the Fifth Division crossed the Tugela by a bridge of boats.

Roberts telegraphs from Paardeberg, 50 kilomètres to the east of the Modder River, that Generals Knox and Macdonald were wounded, and that he had nine officers killed and 39 wounded in the fights of the 17th and 18th instant. He does not give any details.

Saigon, Feb. 24.

A telegram from Paardeberg, dated the 21st February, says that Roberts on Monday and Tuesday bombarded the camp of Cronje. The English say that Cronje is surrounded. All the troops sent to succour him have been beaten.

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Saigon, Feb. 25.

The War Office denies the rumour that Cronje has surrendered.

One hundred and fifty British soldiers were killed at Paardeberg on Saturday.

Marcel-Habert has been condemned to five years' banishment. He has set out for Belgium.

The French Chamber has adopted the project of a maximum tariff for productions of foreign colonies.

Saigon, Feb. 26.

The French Government has been questioned in the Chamber with reference to the despatch of reinforcements to Diego-Suarez, in Madagascar. The Minister, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, replied that an imperative and urgent necessity obliged the Government to take from the territorial army a first battery, which set out on the 10th, and another which will follow on March 6th. But the remainder of the reinforcements, 4,000 men, will be obtained from troops outside France. The Chamber passed a vote of confidence.

Buller advances slowly and with difficulty, suffering heavy losses.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Paardeberg, at noon on the 24th, that the Boers from Natal attacked his outposts, suffering heavy losses.

Saigon, Feb. 27.

The Senate has adopted the maximum tariff for productions of foreign colonies. A decree provides that the minimum tariff will remain provisionally applicable up to the 31st of next August.

Fighting continues at Paardeberg and on the Tugela.

Saigon, Feb. 28.

Roberts telegraphs under date of the 27th February that Cronje capitulated in the morning with all his troops without conditions. Cronje is now a prisoner in Roberts' camp. The number of prisoners will be indicated later. There is intense joy in London, but people do not consider that the war is terminated.

Saigon, March 1.

Cronje had only 3,000 men and 6 guns. He was completely surrounded. The prisoners will be sent to Capetown. Sanguinary fights continue between Buller and the Boers.

(By special arrangement with the "Jiji Shimpo.")

KANG-YU-WEI AND THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

Peking, March 1.

It is said that Kang Yu-wei sent from Singapore a warning to the Empress-Dowager of China that he had eight million taels of a war fund and millions of sympathisers in China, and that if any attempt was made to dethrone the Emperor the authors of the crime would be severely punished. This warning is believed to have been the real cause of the Empress Dowager's suddenly renewed activity against the Reform Party.

AN EDICT OF SILENCE.

Chinese officials in Peking have been forbidden to hold any intercourse with foreigners except on business.

GERMANY AND THE SHANTUNG RIOTERS.

The German troops having made definite preparations for advancing into the interior of Shantung, the Governor, Yuan Shikai, has requested them to desist, promising faithfully that he will discharge the duty of quelling the rioters against whom the Germans were about to move.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, Feb. 24th :—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,542,274
Amount of convertible notes issued...	213,022,079
Government deposits	51,594,496
General deposits	4,420,431
Exchange liability	14 977
Total	320,594,259

Cr.	
Discount notes	58 351,012
Foreign discount notes	12,952,028
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	63,821,862
Exchange liability	1,202,107
Government bonds	55 737,251
Property...	2,034,358
Bullion and Specie	104,455,637
Total	320,594,259

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	213,782,247

Bullion and Specie :—

Gold	99,219,114
Silver	4,000,000
Total	103,219,114

Securities :—

Government bonds	18,017,318
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,945,882
Commercial notes	58,609,914
Total	110,573,134

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	307,745
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	2,207,315
Government deposits	—	1,278,241
General deposits	—	764,434

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 461,

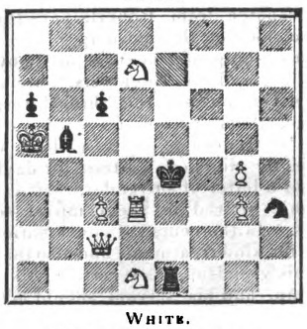
WHITE	BLACK.
1—Q to K R 4	1—K to K B 4
2—Q to K 4 ch	2—K takes Q
3—Kt to Q 6 mate	
	1—K to B 2
2—Q to R 7 ch	2—K takes Kt or moves to K 3
3—Q or B mates acc.	
	1—K to Q 2
2—Q to Q B 6 ch	2—K takes Q
3—Kt to K 5 mate	if 2—K to K 4
3—B to Kt 6 mate	
	1—B takes P
2—Q to Q B 6 ch	2—K to B 2 or B 4
3—B or Kt mates accordingly.	

Correct solution received from "East Anglia." A very fine piece of work.—E.A.

PROBLEM No. 463.

By Max Karstedt.

Black.



White.

White mates in two moves.

Game No. 567.

As an instance of Morphy's marvellous Chess, the New Orleans *Times Democrat* gives the extraordinary exhibition of simultaneous play in the St. James Chess Club, London, April 26, 1859, against five master-players, nearly every one of the first rank—Arnous de Riviere, Barnes, Bird, Boden, and Löwenthal. Morphy won two games (de Riviere and Bird); two draws (Boden and Löwenthal); and lost one game (Barnes). "Imagine Lasker, for example, playing simultaneously Berger, Showalter, Bird, Schlechter, and Steinitz! We say without hesitation that we have always considered that memorable joust as perhaps the most unique contest in Morphy's career, if not, indeed, in the history of Chess master-play."

The following is the game with de Riviere :—

TWO KNIGHTS' DEFENSE.

White—De Riviere.		Black—Morphy.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	29 Q QB 4	Kt K4
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	30 BxKtP(g)	Kt Q6ch
3 B B4	Kt KB3(a)	31 K B q	Q KKt2
4 Kt Kt5	P Q4	32 Q Q2	KtxKtP
5 PxP	Kt QR4	33 Q B2	B R3
6 P Q3(b)	P KR3	34 B B4	KtxP
7 Kt KB3	P K5	35 Q R4	Kt Q7ch(h)
8 Q K2	KtxB(c)	36 K Kt2(i)	KtxR
9 PxKt	B QB4	37 QxB	R Kt3
10 P KR3	Castles	38 Q R4	KR Ktsq
11 Kt R2	Kt R2	39 Kt KB4	B K4
12 Kt QB3	P KB4	40 Kt K3(j)	P KB5
13 B K3	B QKt5	41 KtxP	BxKt
14 Q Q2(d)	B Q2	42 Kt B5	Q KB2
15 P KKt3	Q K2	43 BxB	QxKt
16 P R3	B Q3	44 BxR	RxB
17 Kt K2	P QKt4	45 QxRP	R KB q
18 PxP	BxP	46 QxBP	Q B6ch
19 Kt Q4	B QB5	47 K Ktsq	Kt B6
20 Kt K6	KR Ksq	48 R R4	Kt K7ch
21 Q Q4	B QR3(e)	49 K R2	QxBPch
22 P QB4	P B4(f)	50 QxQ	RxQch
23 Q B3	B QB5q	51 K R3	Kt Kt8ch
24 Kt B4	R QKtsq	52 K Kt4	P K6
25 R QKtsq	P Kt4	53 K R5	P K7
26 Kt K2	Kt B5q	54 R K4	R B8
27 P KR4	Kt Kt3	55 Resigns	
28 PxP	PxP		

NOTES.

(a) As Mr. Morphy much preferred attacking to defending, he choose this mode of play in order to obtain the Cozio Counter attack.

(b) This move has the recommendation of being much less hazardous than checking with K B, and subsequently moving Q—K B 4, as recommended in the books.

(c) Analysis has convinced us that this move, at the present juncture, only strengthens White's game.

(d) Had White moved 14-B Q B 4, Black could have played 14... P—Q B 4, and then 15., R—K sq, gaining time, and threatening to double the Pawns on White's Queen's side disadvantageously.

(e) Had Black captured Q P with B, White would have taken K Kt P with Kt, maintaining his Pawn and having a better game.

(f) Playing this Pawn one square appears to have some advantages; but the consequences of White's immediately advancing his P to Q B 5 were so various and complex that we do not wonder at Black's preferring a less perplexed line of play.

(g) Very well played, threatening, if Black capture Q and then Kt, to take Q and B in return, remaining with an attack on Black's Q R.

(h) All these moves are singularly beautiful and interesting.

(i) Much better than taking the Kt with B, for in that case Black would have taken R with R ch, and then moved B to Q Kt 4.

(j) These moves with the Kt are remarkably clever, and are replied to with equal tact by Mr. Morphy.

Game No. 568.

A Blackburne Brilliant.

One of eight games played simultaneously *sans voir*.

EVANS GAMBIT.

White—Blackburne		Black—V. C. Peyer	
WHITE.	BLACK	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	11 B K 5	KtxQBP
2 KKt B3	QKt B3	12 KtxKt	BxKt
3 B B4	B B4	13 KtxP	BxKt
4 P QKt4	BxKtP	14 QxB	B K3
5 P B3	B R4	15 QR B q	Q Q2
6 Castles	Kt B3	16 Q QR4	K Q q
7 P Q4	PxP	17 RxKt	K B q
8 B R3!	P Q3	18 KR QB q	K Ktsq
9 P K5	Kt K5	19 B R6	Q B q
10 R Ksq	P Q4	20 Q Kt5!	B Q2

White announces mate in four moves.

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MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 1	Sa. Mar. 3
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Stuttgart 2	M. Mar. 5
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Tonkin 3	Tu. Mar. 6
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 4	Th. Mar. 8
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	M. Mar. 12
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of China	M. Mar. 12
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Mar. 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 5	Su. Mar. 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Doric	M. Mar. 19
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Km. of Japan	Th. Mar. 22
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. Mar. 26

1 Left Nagasaki on the 28th ult.
2 Left Shanghai on the 28th ult.
3 Left Shanghai on the 1st inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 27th ult.
5 Left San Francisco on the 27th ult.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Tu. Mar. 6
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. Mar. 7
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Mar. 7
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	F. Mar. 9
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Stuttgart	Sa. Mar. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of China	M. Mar. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China	W. Mar. 14
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Tonkin	F. Mar. 16
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Mar. 19
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W. Mar. 21
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Km. of Japan	F. Mar. 23
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Tu. Mar. 27

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 22nd Feb.,—Moji, 20th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Goodwin, British steamer, 2,832, Jackson, 23rd Feb.,—Tacoma, Wash., 31st Jan., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,081, Auberts, 23rd Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 22nd Feb., Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Savoia, German steamer, 1,622, Jaeger, 23rd Feb.,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 16th Feb., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Fuji Kan (38), Japanese battleship, 12,687, Capt. T. Serata, 23rd Feb.,—Yokosuka, 23rd Feb.

Heiyen Kan (16), Japanese Gun Vessel, 2,185, Commander T. Arikawa, 23rd Feb.,—Yokosuka, 23rd Feb.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 23rd February,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 23rd Febuary,—Shanghai via ports, 17th Feb., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 23rd Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 22nd Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Brasmar, British steamer, 2,316, Wm. Watt, 24th Feb.,—Glasgow via ports, and Kobe, 24th Feb., General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Olimpo, Austrian steamer, 2,199, A. G. Tvancich, 24th Feb.,—Galveston via Kobe, 21st Feb., General.—Jardine, Matheson & Cc.

Valkyrien (10), Danish cruiser, 2,900, Prince Waldemar, 24th Feb.,—Shanghai.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 24th February,—Kobe, 22nd Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 24th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, 19th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 24th Feb.,—Moji, Coal—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Erzherzog Frans Ferdinand, Austrian steamer, 3,160, G. Morovich, 25th Feb.,—Trieste via ports, and Hongkong, 17th Feb., Mails and General.—Browne & Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, F. Davies, 25th Feb.,—Kobe, 23rd Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 25th Feb.,—Kobe, 24th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato, 25th February,—Kobe, 23rd Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvenue, British steamer, 1,468, Potter, 25th Feb.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 24th Feb., General.—Cornes & Co.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer. 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 26th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 24th Feb., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Calchas, British steamer, 4,278, Thos. M. Gregory, 26th Feb.,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 25th Feb., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 27th Feb.,—Kobe, 25th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. de B. Lockyer, 27th Feb.,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 26th Feb., Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 27th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 26th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese, 1,202, M. Takahashi, 28th Feb.,—Kobe, 26th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 28th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 9th February, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 28th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, 27th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Yoshizawa, 1st March,—Bombay via ports, and Kobe, 27th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 1st March,—Yokkaichi, 28th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 22nd February,—Muroran, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. Burch, 23rd Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu and San Diego, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 23rd February,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Sarpedon, British steamer, 3,022, J. Grier, 23rd Feb.,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Warfield, British steamer, 2,090, J. Pattie, 23rd Feb.,—Nanaimo, B.C., Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 24th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, E. Prehn, 24th Feb.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahlers & Co., Nachf.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Wm. Frakes, 14th February,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails & General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 24th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Abergeldie, British steamer, 2,438, J. Murray, 24th February,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,813, J. McKenzie, 24th Feb.,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, W. Thompsen, 24th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Mrau, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 24th Feb.,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 25th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Goodwin, British steamer, 2,832, Jackson, 25th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Nestor, British steamer, 2,417, W. Asquith, 26th February,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Langbank, British steamer, 2,966, W. J. Rout, 26th Feb.,—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Saint Regulus, British steamer, 1,999, McMullen, 26th Feb.,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co. Ltd.

Hangchow, British steamer, 909, J. Pearce, 26th Feb.,—Hakodate, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, M. Yagi, 26th Feb.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 26th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tairen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,791, K. Kato, 26th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 27th February,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 26th Feb.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Brasmar, British steamer, 2,316, Wm. Watt, 27th Feb.,—Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 28th February,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 28th February,—Seattle, Washington, via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 28th February,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Savoia, German steamer, 1,622, Jaeger, 28th Feb., Havre, Hamburg, and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Olimpo, Austrian steamer, 2,199, A. G. Tvancich, 28th Feb.,—Port Arthur, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Fuji Kan (38), Japanese battleship, 12,687, Capt. T. Serata, 28th Feb.—Yokosuka.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 1st March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 1st March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,202, M. Takahashi, 1st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 1st March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Lynam, Mr. and Mrs. Papassion, Mr. Voroniqui, Mr. Heline, Mr. Calvaire, Mr. Rosalie, Mr. Joseph, Mr. Rinjo de Dois, Nr. Lo Yo Chung, Mr. Loo, Mr. Dotem, Mrs. Frautemberg, Mrs. Fremgasten, Mr. Diakonow, Mr. Fioravanti, Mrs. Vasilief, Mr. H. Toiss, Mr. Deguy, Mr. Muraour, Mr. Brandenbourg, and Mr. Gysin, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. R. Swain, Mr. M. T. Takata, Mr. T. Sato, Mr. R. Yamazaki, Mr. K. Hata, and Mr. M. Sunaga, in cabin; Mrs. K. Kanzaki, Miss S. Kanzaki, Mr. R. Sugita, Mr. T. Yoshimatsu, Mr. A. Yacoubev, Mr. K. Hirakawa, and Mr. Ah Shung, in second class; 16 Japanese, and 7 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Austrian steamer *Erz Frans Ferdinand*, from Trieste via ports:—H.E. Bella von Ambio, Mrs. Bella von Ambio, 3 children, 2 teachers, and 2 servants, and Consul and Mrs. Schlitschka, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. Gordon Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Bullard, 2 children and infant, Master Bullard, Mr. Stephens, Mr. C. O. S. Boyd, Mr. E. J. Dyer, Mr. Araina, Mr. C. Duce, and Master Ah Law, Mr. K. Kaito, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. K. Otani, Mr. Mizutani, Mr. K. Wani, Mr. M. Shiraishi, Mrs. M. Shiraishi, Mr. Julius Hanau, and Mr. Jacob Vis, in cabin; Mr. G. H. Stork, and Mr. T. Oka, in European steerage; 30 in steerage. For Hongkong:—Mr. F. H. Russey, Mr. Geo. Williams, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mrs. Geo. Williams and infant, and Mr. Frank Moarn, in cabin; Mr. R. E. McFie, and Mr. A. J. Pastene, in European steerage; 41 in Asiatic steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, from Bombay via ports:—Mr. John Klatte, and Mrs. Hana Yoshizawa, in cabin; 9 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. K. Akabane, Mr. S. Arakawa, Mr. R. Boyes, Mr. H. Carstens, Mrs. H. Carstens, Mr. Paul Crompton, Miss T. Drysdale, Mr. W. Dunlop, Mrs. A. M. Farrar, Mrs. Paul G. Fiedler, Mons. Fleurry, Mons. M. Guibert, Capt. E. C. Hamilton and valet, Mrs. C. E. Hamilton and maid, Miss Hamilton, Capt. T. F. Jewell, Mons. Le Bret, Rev. W. K. McKibben, Mr. Y. Murai, Miss Stormes, Mr. R. Thornton, Mr. P. C. Thornton, Mr. G. T. Tuckett, Mrs. G. T. Tuckett, Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, and Mr. M. Yamada, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, for Bremen via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, Mr. W. A. Pullan, Mr. M. Raspe, Mr. H. Stock, Mr. G. Guggenheim, Capt. and Mrs. Levitsky, Mr. John Ernst, Mr. L. Goetschell, Mr. A. H. Massey, Mr. A. A. Black, Mr. F. E. White, Mr. E. C. Ogden,

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Capt. E. Wray, Mr. A. F. Gardiner, Lieut. L M. McCormick, U.S.N., Boatswain D. Glynn, U.S.N., Dr. A. von Flesch, Mrs. Bonar, Mr. E. Binder, Capt. L. Maschke, Mrs. W. Ross and child, Wachtmeister Dittert, Mr. John Jameson, 2 children and amah, Mr. E. Gartner, Mr. A. Kampe, Mr. Y. S. Gubbay, and Mr. von Nierop, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mr. H. Arita, Col. Chas. Bird, U.S.A., Mr. Grafflin Cooke, Mr. Thos. Chapman, Mr. F. Cornehl, Mr. Wm. Friedlander, Capt. Jno, McGowan, U.S.N., Hon. Alexander Grant, Mr. H. S. Goodfellow, Mr. Wm. H. Hamilton, Mr. J. Harwood, Mr. Chas. Horny, Mr. Horace Inman, Mr. H. Ikeda, Mr. Roland Jurnitschek, Mr. G. Kawata, Mr. A. Kose, Mrs. Mrs. F. E. Meigs, Miss Ruth Meigs, Master Frank E. Meigs, Mrs. Myburgh, Mr. F. J. Mayers, Mr. R. Mayor, Miss E. J. Newton, Mr. E. W. Ogden, Mrs. A. C. Ogden, General T. Ota, I.J.A., Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Perrine and son, Rev. T. Richard, Rev. E. L. Stevens, Mrs. M. Stephenson, Mrs. R. Sharples, Mr. W. J. Treat, Mrs. M. S. Vail, Miss Kate Vail, Master Henry Vail, Master Albert Vail, and Mr. Royal H. Fisher, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kanagawa Maru*, for London via ports :—Colonel S. Fukuhara, I.J.A., Mrs. Fukuhara, Mr. Masujima, Mr. T. Ihara, Mr. C. Asai, Mr. T. Yamaguchi, Mr. S. Iidzuka, Mr. K. Kuwahara, Mr. W. Watanabe, Mr. T. Abbey, Mrs. J. Roberts, Miss A. D. Roberts, and Capt. N. Kawano, in cabin ; Mr. K. Sano, Mr. K. Gohda, Mr. U. Kunogi, Mr. J. Comer, Mr. A. Carneichiel, Mr. Alex. Clark, and Mr. Ching Luong Sum, in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, for Shanghai via ports :—Mr. W. C. Pyler, Mr. H. Watanabe, Mr. Wm. Crea, Consul and Mrs. T. Yamada, and Mr. K. Imakura, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Mitchell, Mrs. Russey, Mr. Geo. E. Fresbie, Mr. Geo. W. Trimble, Lieut. W. Schutle. Dr. F. McCallum U.S.A., Mr. F. L. Benton, U.S.N., Mr. C. S. Hill, U.S.M.C., Mr. and Mrs. Williams and infant, Mr. N. Viloudaki, Mrs. L. W. Beckel and 2 children, Mrs. Abbott, Mr. Frank Moran, Mr. A. Mason, Mr. M. Weiss, and Mr. Medhurst, in cabin.

EXPECTED.

Per German steamer *Stuttgart*, from Bremen via ports :—Mr. E. Schloettig, Rev. D. M. Lang, Mr. M. Suda, Mr. F. P. Loup, Mr. Hans Meyer, and Mr. and Mrs. Th. Kalep, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Koenig Albert*, from Bremen via ports :—Mr. Peter Held, Mrs. M. Langschwadt, Mr. W. Neuhauser, Mr. W. F. Balden, Mrs. Brent, Mr. V. A. Busbridge, Mr. H. Greswolde-Williams, Mr. W. H. Hacking, Mr. A. Hacking, Mr. and Mrs. James Wright, Misses Wright, Mr. Barclay Wright and children, Mr. R. Becker, Mr. W. Hartmann, Mr. Adolf Imhoff, Mr. John McDonald, Mr. J. C. van Son, Miss Doulton, Dr. Lothar von Wiedenfeld, Misses J. H. and T. H. Graham, His Ex. Count Iswolski, Russian Minister to Japan, Mr. Chr. B. Mohn, Mr. G. E. Naess and servant, and Mr. Haase, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Vancouver, B.C. :—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK & EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL, PACKAGES.
Hongkong ...	1,820	—	2	540	—	2,362
Foochow.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai ...	154	—	—	...	—	154
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama ...	477	—	995	—	—	1,472
Total	2,451	—	997	540	—	3,988

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	HARTFORD.	TOTAL BALES.
Hongkong and Canton	90	—	90
Shanghai	R. 331 W. 71	—	402
Yokohama	846	29	875
Total	1,338	29	1,367

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk, shipped per steamer *Bayern* :—

	RAW. Option	Italy	WASTE. France	England
Siber Wo'ff & Co....	11	20	38	—
Sieber & Co.	—	—	—	66
Dell'Oro & Co.	127	—	—	—

Total—158 bales Raw Silk ; 104 bales Waste Silk.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Business in cotton yarns is at a standstill, owing to the high prices. Grey shirtings are stagnant ; some sales in white. The market for fancy cottons and woollens continues quiet but values rule firm.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$3.00 to 3.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 4.00
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches.....	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.38½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches.....	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.68 to 0.78

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ..	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.80

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42 Doubles	$170.00 to 190 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain.....	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain.....	315.00 to 345.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350 00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed.....	400 00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$28.50
Indian Broach	28.00
Chinese	27.00

METALS.

The market is quiet. Few transactions are passing, and prices show a tendency to further advance.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward ...	6.50 to 7 00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanized iron sheets	13 00 to 14.50
Wire Nails, assorted	8 50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3.....	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 1¼ inch).....	7.50 to 7.90

KEROSENE.

Prices are well maintained, though the demand is slackening somewhat.

American	$3.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.05 to 3 08
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market steady for browns, and higher prices are asked. In refined only a small business has been done.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao.....	$5.10 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.11 to 6.25
Brown Taitong.....	4 40 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang.....	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A small business with a marked fall in prices.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine.....	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse.....	1,930 to 1,950
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,800
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,200 to 1,210
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine.....	1,180 to 1,190
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse.....	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	1,160 to 1,170
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,160 to 1,170
Re-reels—No. 1½.....	
Re-reels—No. 2	None
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	None
Kakedas—No. 1.....	1,100
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No 2.....	1,060
Kakedas—No 2½	

WASTE SILK.

There is a little doing, and but a small stock to work upon.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	180
Noshi—Filatures, Good	175
Noshi—Oshu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshu, Good	
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	145
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	135
Noshi—Bushu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Good	
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshu, Good	$125
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	115
Kibiso—Filatures, Best.....	175
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	160
Kibiso—Joshu, Good.....	60
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	50

TEA.

A few transactions in teas of very low grade for Singapore. Otherwise the market is closed.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	
Finest	
Fine	
Good Medium.....	
Medium	
Good Common.....	
Common	

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, March 1.

Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 210. Grand Hotels have sellers at *yen* 235. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 140. Langfeldts—Offers of shares are wanted. Oriental Hotel Founders changed hands to-day at *yen* 430.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs and Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50 ...	210 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50	150 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100.....	235 S.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100.....	140 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Debs.), $125	400 B.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100	225 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $50.....	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100.....	65 B
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., *yen* 50 ...Offers wanted.	
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100.....	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100.....	108 Sa
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100.....	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 1.

Oriental Hotels, Kobe, have buyers at *yen* 140. Founders are wanted at *yen* 430. Laundries have sellers at *yen* 60. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 70. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...210 Sales.	
Grand Hotel .....237.50 Sales.	
Club Hotel..... 90 Sellers.	
Oriental Hotel .....140 Buyers.	
Langfeldt & Co. ..... 70 Buyers.	
Japan Brewery Co. .....150 Sales.	

TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, February 28.

BANKS.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.....	$310 % prem. B.
National Bank of China, Ltd.	$26 Buyers

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited.....	$57 Sales
North China Insurance Company, Limited	Tls. 180 Sales

FIRE INSURANCES.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	$337½ Sales
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited.....	$89 Sales

SHIPPING.

Hongkong, Canton, & Macao Steamboat Company, Ltd...	$29½ Sellers
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	$49 Sellers

MINING.

Punjom Mining Company, Limited	$6¼ Sales
Raub A'lian Gold Mining Company, Limited	$62½ Sales

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DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.

Hongkong & W'poa Dock Company, Limited ... ... $550 % prem. S.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company, Ld.... $86 Buyers

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Ld.. $122 Sales
H'phrey's Estate & Finance Company, Limited ..... $9½ Sales

MISCELLANEOUS.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited ..... $119½ Sales
Green Island Cement Co. Ld. $28½ Sales

A. C. HUTTON POTTS,
Stock and Share Broker,
75, Main Street.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 1.

No alteration in Silver from London and all rates quoted as before.

London—Bank T.T.....	2/0¼
— — Bills on demand.....	2/0⅜
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
— Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0 13/16
— — 6 months' sight ...	2/0 15/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight.....	256
— Private 4 months' sight ...	261
— Private 6 months' sight ...	262
America—Bank Bills on demand.....	49⅛
— Private 4 months' sight ...	51
Germany—Bank sight.....	208
— Private 4 months' sight...	213 to ⅛
Hongkong—Bank sight .....3⅛% dis.	
— Private 10 days' sight ...4⅛% dis.	
Shanghai—Bank sight.....	75
— Private 10 days' sight ...	75⅛
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Bar Silver (London).....	27⅛

Tokyo, March 1.

Redemption Loan Bonds.....	94 60
War Loan Bonds	94 65
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	98.70
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	430.50
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50.....	68.30
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	284.50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50.....	67.50
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	68 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100.....	107.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25.....	29.10
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	74.70
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	64.50
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10 50	25.20
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	126 00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25.....	78.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	56.00
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	48.00
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	62.00
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40.....	46.50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	95.50
Hokkaido Colliery R'w y, 2nd issue-paid up yen 28	81 00
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50.....	90.10
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	47 50
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50.....	33.50
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	48.50
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50.....	27.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	30 80
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen38	25 30
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25.....	22.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13.....	22 20
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50.....	228 70
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50.....	203 10
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50.....	68 80

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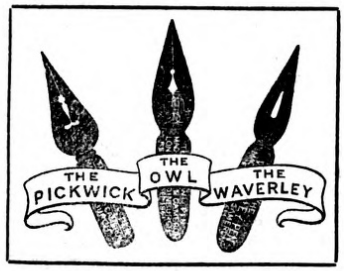

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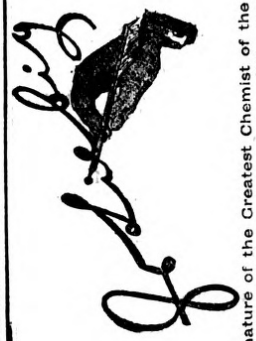

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1900.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Queen will visit Ireland in April instead of going to Italy or the Riviera.

THE British Budget, with its great increases of taxation, has passed the House of Commons.

THERE is a rumour, at present unconfirmed, that the Empress Dowager of China is dead.

A CHINESE woman was burnt to death in a fire at Hongkong on the 22nd ult. Her husband escaped.

ON Feb. 26th, Hongkong's private contributions to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Fund stood at $97,579 09.

MR HENRY DALLAS, with a new theatrical company, is on his way to the farther East. He played in Singapore during February

THE P. and O. Steamship Company have placed orders with Clyde shipbuilders for four large steamers. Messrs. Caird and Co., Greenock, are to build two, and Messrs. Barclay, Curle, and Messrs. Stephen and Co., Glasgow, one each.

CAPTAIN SIMONDS, R.A., has been selected as the candidate from Hongkong for the appointment of Garrison Adjutant at Cape Town.

AN armed robber entered a Yokohama eating house kept by Tomitsuke Kin early on the morning of the 4th inst. and after threatening the proprietress, decamped with 9 *yen*.

AMONG the many rumours current in Manila regarding Aguinaldo's whereabouts, there is one to the effect that the Philippine leader has succeeded in reaching the island of Formosa.

SHIBUYA KYOZO, aged 60, a farmer living in Hatanomura Azawa, Tonaga, Kanagawa prefecture, committed suicide by throwing himself into a waterfall called the Amano Take on the 3rd inst.

THE School of Oriental Languages in the University of Berlin has had an unprecedented success this winter. There were twenty-seven students attending the Chinese classes and eight he Japanese.

SUCCESSFUL experiments, it is reported, have been made with wireless telegraphy between Calcutta and Rangoon, a distance of about 1,000 miles. The rate of speed reached was 100 words a minute.

THE *Straits Times* has received for the War Relief Fund the sum of $1 000 "from the Agent of the Messageries Maritimes, as a recognition of aid rendered to *La Seyne* by H B M.S. *Hermione*."

THE *Hongkong Maru*, which left Yokohama at noon on Tuesday, had on board 63 emigrants for Hawaii, and 246 for San Francisco. They were sent by the Kumamoto and Morioka Emigration Companies.

LORD BRASSEY was expected at Singapore in the *Sunbeam*, homeward-bound from Australia, on the 12th Feb. From Singapore the *Sunbeam* will be navigated by the Marquis of Graham, who is a professional seaman.

FIGHTING continues in South Africa. Ladysmith has been relieved by General Buller, the Boers retreating from Natal. In the Orange Free State a battle has taken place near Osfontein, in which the Boers were defeated.

A TELEGRAM to the representatives in Bombay of one of the German steamship lines states that the indemnity obtained from Great Britain for the seizure of the *Bundesrath* amounts to five million marks or £250 000 sterling

THE *Eclair* affirms, in spite of semi-official denials, that disagreements have arisen between M. Decrais, Minister for the Colonies, and M. Doumer, Governor-General of Indo-China. M. Doumer will, says the *Eclair*, be recalled after the Senatorial elections.

IN *The North American Review* the former U.S. Minister to Siam, Mr. John Barrett, dates the birth of the renaissance of American influence in China from the moment when Admiral Dewey made Hongkong the *rendezvous* of his squadron in March, 1898.

TRADE with Formosa grows year by year, remarks the *Osaka Asahi*. The recent revision of the Customs Tariff has contributed largely to increase the volume of trade with the island. During last year the staple imports and exports of Japan, Tamsui, and Keelung (Anping alone excepted) amounted to 5,279 631 *yen* and 2,079,547 *yen* respectively. Although these figures still cannot be regarded as considerable they indicate a marked improvement.

THE Canadian Government has offered to place 10,000 additional volunteer troops, fully equipped, at the disposal of the Imperial Government, in order to complete the conquest of the Boer Republics and assist in garrisoning the principal towns.

AT the annual meeting of the Kobe Cricket Club, held on the 5th inst., Mr. G. C. Murray was elected Captain with the following members on the Committee.—Messrs. Edwards, Wilkinson, Gillingham, Lightfoot and Abbott. Mr. Groom was re-elected President.

MR. SUZUKI, Assistant Inspector at the Settlement Police Station, who was sent up to Tokyo for a term of six months to attend the lectures of the three German police and prison officials, lately arrived in Japan, has graduated, and on Sunday returned to resume his duties.

THE *Daily Telegraph* of 25th January acknowledges receipt, through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of Yokohama's subscription of £300 to the Widows and Orphans shilling fund. Up to that date the fund had reached a total of 2,185,776 shillings.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Times* wrote on the 16th ult. that M. Delcassé informed his colleagues at that day's Cabinet Council that the Chinese Government had just handed to him in Paris the 200 000f. asked for as an indemnity for the murder of the two officers of the *Descartes* at Kwan-chau-wan.

MR. W. A. HART, superintendent of the London district of the Great Western Railway, announced recently that he had the authority of the German Emperor to say that His Imperial Majesty had never travelled so comfortably and smoothly on a railway as he did on the Great Western system on the occasion of his recent visit to England.

AS touching the matter of the work done at the Shanghai Docks, a contemporary learns that 25 vessels, of 60 073 tons, were taken into the Cosmopolitan Dock between the 29th of June last and the 29th ult.; 30 vessels, of 31,583 tons, into the Old Dock between the 1st of May last and 24th ult.; and 12 vessels, of 18,888 tons, into the Tungadoo Dock between the 16th of June last and the 24th ult.; making a total for Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co.'s three docks of 67 vessels, of 110,554 tons.

IT is reported from Nanking, says the *N-C. Daily News*, that Viceroy Liu proposes to go up to Peking after all, and that he is preparing to start for North *vid* Shanghai on the 15th instant. *Apropos* of the above, it is freely stated in mandarin circles that should Viceroy Liu actually go up to Peking the chances will be greatly in favour of his returning to Nanking, there being no longer any necessity for keeping him out of office since the failure of the *coup* to impose a new Emperor on the country. It is further reliably stated that H E has recently received numerous letters from supporters of the Emperor Kuang Hsü, urging H.E. to undertake the journey to the capital and secure his old post to himself, as it generally believed that so long as Viceroy Liu holds office there will be no fear of another attempt to depose Kuang Hsü from his Throne.

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THE EMPEROR'S TELEGRAM TO THE QUEEN.

The despatch of a congratulatory telegram by the Emperor of Japan to the Queen of England, in connexion with the recent victories won by the British forces in South Africa, has evidently caused much satisfaction in Japan. The *Fiji Shimpo* and the *Jimmin* comment on the act in terms of high approval. Both journals allude to the great solicitude evidently felt by Her Majesty and to the measures she has adopted from time to time to show that her heart is with her soldiers, and both are of opinion that the successes now achieved are due in no small degree to Her Majesty's virtues. The *Fiji* says:—"We do not for a moment regard England as a foreign country. She has our true and full sympathy. Our Sovereign does not speak in the name of himself and the Empress only: he speaks in the name of the whole nation, and we do not doubt that the British people, appreciating our sentiments, will derive from this incident an access of friendship towards Japan." It need scarcely be added that the two journals express grateful approval of the wise tact shown by His Majesty, and of the attention uniformly directed by him to everything that concerns the interests of the State.

It is a noteworthy fact that the Emperor of Germany and the King of Italy have also telegraphed their congratulations to the Queen. A large section of the German people seem to be bitterly hostile to England, but the Emperor has shown himself uniformly friendly.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Monday, March 5.

The last stages of the fight at Ladysmith have not furnished the object lesson for which military men must have been looking with some anxiety and much curiosity. The question remains unanswered, could the Boers have held their ground had final defeat been the only alternative of retiring? Suppose that, instead of fighting in British territority with the constant resource of falling back to guard the mountain passes that give access to their own country, the Boers had been engaged in the task of holding the approaches to Pretoria against an invading army, could their positions have been rushed by the British brigades? We can not answer. The experiences gained between Colenso and Ladysmith tell us nothing definite, for we now see clearly that, before Buller delivered his last attacks on the 27th of February, the Boers had resolved to abandon the siege of Ladysmith and were even then putting their resolve into practical execution. Only a part of their force was engaged holding the entrenchments. They probably considered it a sufficiently large part, and did not expect that Buller would sweep it so rapidly out of his path. Otherwise they would not have left two guns, and a quantity of ammunition and cattle. Still the general result seems to suggest that their resistance lasted just as long as they wanted it to last, and that their own choice had nearly as much to do with their retreat as Buller's pertinacity and the fine courage of his troops. To these last two factors it is only fair, in all sobriety, to pay a high compliment. The disasters that attended Buller's three first attempts might well have deterred a General with less "grit" and would certainly have broken the heart of troops with less spirit. But Buller never flinched from his purpose, and his soldiers remained as ready to storm a position at the end of February as they had been at the beginning of December, before the commencement of the long series of deadly failures that fate had then in store for them. Whatever deductions the campaign warrants, it certainly justifies the confidence that England has always placed in the tenacity and fortitude of her soldiers. But it does not supply any sure measure of the Boers' powers of resistance. We have, indeed, one solid fact, namely that with, perhaps, one exception, the British troops succeeded in carrying every position against which they were launched. In this statement, the first failure at Colenso is not included. On that occasion the men on the left wing failed to cross the Tugela because it was impassable, and the men on the right wing were recalled in consequence of the artillery catastrophe. Thus it can not justly be said that an infantry attack was repulsed. The exception alluded to was that of the Inniskillings on the night of Saturday, the 24th of Feb. They failed, apparently, to dislodge the Boers. But for the rest, every assault seems to have succeeded, although in many cases the ground won had ultimately to be abandoned. Still, though this record of attacks is of a nature to inspire confidence, the general retrospect suggests that so long as the Boers occupied their entrenchments in full force, they could not be driven out, and the obvious deduction is that when they take up their last position in this war, a severe effort will be required to conquer them. We admit that this is the most pessimistic view, and that it may turn out to be entirely erroneous. The chief factor of uncertainty is the work done by the artillery. When Buller made his first attempt he had only 12 guns in action; when he made his fourth, he had 72. It is possible that to this great park of artillery, not to the reduced force of Boers in the trenches, the enemy's final defeat must be ascribed. We hope so, for, if that be the case, then obviously the future becomes much plainer sailing. England has sent out a magnificent array of guns—field guns, siege guns, howitzers, and quick firers. In that respect the Boers will be hopelessly out-classed, and it follows that the ultimate operations of the war may prove much easier than past experience justifies us in expecting. Still the sequel of the Ladysmith story should not be suffered to inspire too much confidence.

Apart from these considerations, however, there is much reason for congratulation. Certainly Buller's report of the Ladysmith garrison is not at all exaggerated. The men must have been in a very exhausted condition. We may assume that from the end of December, when trouble was taken to spread abroad a statement as to there being still an ample supply of food, short rations had begun to be the order of the day. As to amunition, it is exceedingly doubtful whether enough remained for a single day's fighting. White does not appear to have made the slightest attempt to assist Buller's last operations. When the Spion-Kop movement was undertaken, we heard of the Ladysmith garrison essaying to force a way to the Free-State Boers' laager, but on this last occasion, although there were plain evidences that the Boers had begun to retreat, White did not put out a hand to harrass or cut them off. We may be sure that he could not. His men were so exhausted and his ammunition had been so far reduced that he dared not take any risk. Could he have withstood another attack delivered in the middle of February? It is more than doubtful. The Boers lost a great chance. They will be perpetually losing such chances. Their inability or unwillingness to assume the tactical offensive is their weak point and will beat them in the end.

The campaign has now entered its second stage. The Boers have been driven out of British territory and will have to fight for the defence of their own. What will be the next steps of the British Generals? As to Roberts, we imagine that his first aim will be to destroy the Boers on his south. The telegraph speaks of a column of the enemy on the south-west of Paardeberg; this is to say, a column threatening Roberts' communications; and we now hear of a column operating on the north-west of Kimberley and shelling Barkley West, and of another column on the east. Evidently the Boers have inaugurated a system of guerilla warfare. They want to induce the Field-Marshal to divide his forces and continue the "campaign in spots," which method has hitherto proved so convenient for them, enabling them, as it does, to give full effect to their advantage of mobility. It is not likely that Roberts will go in pursuit of any will-of-the-wisps, or allow himself to be diverted from his main purpose by petty side-issues. But he can not afford to leave ten thousand Boers within striking distance of his communication between De Aar and the Modder River. If the enemy mass their forces from Stormberg and Colesberg, they will have fully ten thousand men operating on the northern bank of the Orange River, and it is quite within the chapter of a feasible attempt that they should throw themselves across Roberts' line of communications. His programme, therefore, will probably be to move up all the troops from the south of the Orange River, Gatacre, Clements, and Brabant, and either push the Boers northward, or try to catch them between his Paardeberg and his Colesberg columns. As to Buller, his men must be more or less exhausted after the hard fighting of the past ten days, but we may be sure that he will push on with all possible speed in pursuit of the retreating Boers. His role will doubtless be to try to obtain possession of Laings Nek, for although an invasion of the Transvaal from that point would be premature at present, it is important to keep the Boers occupied on the eastern frontier, so as to prevent them from combining to oppose Roberts in the Free State.

It is plain that the Home Government looks forward to at least six months' fighting still. Reinforcements to the number of 38,800 are to sail during the present month, and a further batch of 17,800 in April, or 56,600 in the two months. Thus, by the end of May, Roberts will have about 240,000 men under his command. England has never before put such an army into the field. The force of

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cavalry and mounted infantry will be very large; certainly more than twenty-five thousand, if we include the Colonials. The successes that French has achieved have doubtless proved the supreme importance of mounted men for operating against the Boers. It may be taken for granted that the Australian Colonies will furnish an additional force of 2,500 men, as requested by Her Majesty's Government. The Australians have fought splendidly up to the present, and every trooper they can send should be welcomed.

Tuesday, March 6.

Prior to the recent operations in the Free State and Natal, the Boers' casualties during the war were estimated at 6,500, which figure was understood to be based on the lowest statements. If we put the Paardeberg casualties at 4,000, and those at Ladysmith during the recent attack by Buller at 500, we have a grand total of 11,000, against at least 13,000 on the British side. That is not a serious difference, in view of the fact that the British have been acting chiefly on the offensive. But it must be confessed that the question of the Boers' losses is exceedingly obscure. The telegram tells us with all assurance that 170 wounded men were found in Cronje's camp. A hundred and seventy wounded means that not more than forty were killed, and thus we reach a grand total of 210 casualties in Cronje's force, exclusive of prisoners, during the operations that ended in his unconditional surrender. But we had been previously assured that he himself admitted a loss of 800 on one day, namely, Monday, the 19th of February. We know, also, that on the morning of that day 50 British guns began to bombard his laager, and that they continued the bombardment, with slight intermissions, for a week. Apparently after Monday the 19th this terrific bombardment did not cause a single casualty in the laager, and, what is more, the 800 killed and wounded of Monday the 19th, to say nothing of the casualties during the assault on the 18th, when our troops lost nearly 900, and the casualties in Cronje's rear guard while it defended the passage of the Modder on the 17th, dwindled down to a total of 210. How are these discrepancies to be explained? If Cronje's casualties did not really exceed 210, whereas ours were at least 850, the ratio in this particular instance is terribly unfavourable. It seems very hard to get at the truth.

Wednesday, March 7.

The Boers had 24 guns in position for bombarding Ladysmith. Those on the north, east, and west were planted at points from three to four miles distant, but on the south there were five field guns which were only 2 miles from Cæsar's camp. The heaviest artillery employed by the Boers were 4·7-inch howitzers, of which they had five, and 15-centimetre Creusots, of which they had two. The remaining 17 guns seem to have been field pieces—12-pounders—, with which the artillery of the besieged should have been able to cope. White had six batteries; that is to say, thirty-six 15-pounder field guns—not including the mountain battery lost at Nicholson's Nek—, and he had also two naval 4·7-inch guns. Numerically, therefore, he was much stronger than the Boers, but they out-classed him in heavy artillery, having seven pieces against his two. It may be taken for granted, also, that the ammunition of the naval guns was exhausted at an early period of the siege. There was evidently ample opportunity to estimate the relative efficiency of the British and the Boer field artillery, and it is scarcely possible to hope that *The Times'* correspondent made the mistake of comparing the enemy's guns of position with our field pieces. More surprising to us than the trifling nature of the casualties suffered by a garrison of nearly ten thousand men bombarded by 17 field guns and 7 guns of position during four months, is the fact that the Boers could not mass a larger force of artillery for the attack. Considering the cardinal importance they evidently attached to the capture of Ladysmith, and the great efforts they otherwise put forth to get possession of the place, we can only infer that, in spite of the magnitude of the preparations said to have been made by the two Republics, they are ill supplied with artillery. Buller had 54 field-guns, 6 howitzers, and 4 mountain guns—64 in all—when he made his last attack. He doubtless had some naval guns also, but as to that we have no certain intelligence. Now, therefore, since he has effected a junction with the Ladysmith garrison, he has 90 field-pieces, 6 howitzers, and 4 mountain guns; a formidable park.

Thursday, March 8.

It appears that not only the British field gun, but also the service rifle are declared to be inferior to the weapons used by the Boers. Mr. W. A. Ballie-Grohman, writing in The *Times*, says:—"Confining myself in my comparison of the two opposed rifles to our service arm and to the ·276 Mauser (Spanish), which, I believe, forms the bulk of the enemy's armament, I assert that the defects of the former are greater weight (9·25lb. *versus* 8·60lb.); inferior muzzle velocity, and worse trajectory (2,000 v. 2,280ft.-sec.); much inferior rigidity, caused by the woodwork, instead of being in one piece, consisting of two separate parts, a defect which is accentuated by exposure to a variable climate; a very much weaker bolt, hence increased risks from "blow backs," constituting a serious danger with our inferior, because in hot climates uncertain, cordite; a very inferior trigger-pull (straight v. drag) and, lastly, but most important, a magazine arrangement which is simply not in it with any other magazine rifle of the Great Powers. To make myself plain about this, the most serious of all drawbacks, it must be remembered that when Tommy has once fired off the contents of his magazine he can recharge it only by placing the cartridges singly into the receiving slot, while his foe reloads his his magazine by a single movement of his hand, for the five cartridges are held together in a clip, and, being a larger object to handle than is a single cartridge, it is obvious that there is less fumbling of unsteady hands when replacing at one move five cartridges than there is in placing a single one in the magazine. In the present war there have been at least three occasions when the repulses we sustained would very probably have been victories had the Boers been armed with our magazine rifles, for with it they certainly could not have sustained such a deadly hail of bullets that caused our lines to waver and then to bolt."

The garrison of Ladysmith can not have been on greatly reduced rations for a very long time. On December the 18th, they had a full ration of the necessaries of life for two months. But even at that time the difficulty about forage was beginning to be serious. The small space of grazing ground lying within the camp did not by any means suffice, for, inclusive of the mounted Volunteers, there were five and a half cavalry regiments and two brigade divisions of artillery, that is to say, six batteries. We shall probably hear that many of the animals perished, and that Buller has had some trouble in furnishing remounts. It may be noted that Buller will have a considerable force of mounted men when the Ladysmith garrison is again fit for the field: namely seven regiments of regular cavalry; a detachment of the Natal Mounted Police; a regiment of the South African Light Horse; Bethune's Mounted Infantry, and Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry—a force of from four to five thousand.

Had Buller succeeded in his first attempt to drive the Boers from their positions south of Ladysmith, they would probably have suffered a demoralizing defeat, for the garrison was then ready to co-operate. A flying column had been formed consisting of the Devonshire and Manchester Regiment and the Gordon Highlanders, with the object of moving out and attacking the Boers on the first symptom of their discomfiture, and one of the heavy guns had been posted so as to support the movement. But after the garrison had been three times disappointed, General White probably desisted from thus accentuating the failures of the relieving forces, not to speak of the fact that his troops were too much exhausted to undertake anything.

Some time ago, we quoted a letter from a German in Natal showing how thoroughly friendly the Germans in that district are to the British. Here is another proof in the form of a telegram to *The Times* dated Durban, January 22nd:—"The German community here indignantly resent the odious charges against British soldiers in Natal which have been made by some German newspapers. The German Consul has written to the *Natal Mercury* declaring that the statements referred to are absolutely untrue and are only meant to work mischief."

Friday, March. 9.

This is certainly a strange time for disaffection to declare itself openly in the Cape Colony. The only explanation we can conceive is that the places which have now thrown in their lot with the Free State lie so far out of the beaten track that news of recent events has not reached them. Prieska and Kenhardt are situated west of Hopetown, at distances of 80 and 175 miles respectively from that place. Victoria West and Fraserburg are much farther south, the former being about 10 miles west of the line of railway from Capetown to De Aar, the latter about 75 miles south-west of Victoria West. It is scarcely possible that the rebels in these places should contrive to take any part in the campaign itself, but their open disaffection introduces a highly inconvenient factor, since they threaten the railway which forms one of Roberts' principal lines of communication with the south. In fact, the railway from Nelspoort

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to Hopetown may now be said to run through hostile territory. Prieska is on the Orange River, Kenhardt on the Harlebeeste, a tributary of the Orange. It will be inconvenient to organise special expeditions for marching against these places, but probably Lord Roberts will consider it necessary. We are curious to see how pro-Boer publicists will view this new incident. Will they say that the inhabitants of Prieska, Kenhardt, Victoria West and Fraserberg are also fighting for their independence, and that they have a right to rise against the nation which has allowed them to settle for years on its territory, has afforded them full protection, and has granted them exactly the same privileges as those enjoyed by British subjects? Or will they open their eyes to the true fact that this is a deliberate war of aggression on the part of the Boers, and that its sole motive from the first has been to drive Great Britain out of South Africa? Which done, God help the unfortunate native populations.

With regard to Brabant, whose operations at Stormberg have been so successful, the following statements are made by the *The Times*' correspondent at Capetown :—

The news that Colonel Brabant has been appointed brigadier is welcomed with the liveliest satisfaction in colonial circles. The appointment is not only a recognition of splendid services in organizing Brabant's Horse, but will also give a stimulus to the enrolment of English farmers in the eastern province, who have the greatest confidence in General Brabant. He is known by the experience of many Kaffir wars to be a bold and skilful leader. I understand that the promotion of General Brabant is the first step towards the formation of a colonial division, which would be immensely popular. . . . .

The news of Brigadier-General Brabant's appointment has caused great satisfaction, as he is well known in the colony as an energetic organizer and a bold fighter, with that experience and "slimness" which are necessary to outwit the Boers. It is believed that the English farmers of the eastern province, who are the best fighting material in the country, having all the qualities of the Boer, will be much readier to join under him than they would be under Imperial officers, with all their English dash, whose methods are foreign to them. This source of strength in many districts has hardly been tapped.

I understand that the mounted force under Brigadier-General Brabant will probably be composed, besides the two regiments of Brabant's Horse, of Nesbitt's and Bayly's Horse, the Cape Mounted Rifles, the Frontier Rifles, and other eastern province rifle associations, and mounted Volunteers from the chief colonial Volunteer infantry battalions, together with additional squadrons of irregulars with colonial experience. Such a force would serve as an effective screen to cover the slower advance of the infantry.

From Kimberley to Mafeking is 223 miles. The force despatched by Lord Roberts for the relief of the latter place has therefore a very long march before it. The railway will doubtless be used as much as possible, but even then the advance must be slow, for, as the troops will be moving practically into hostile territory, to employ the railway in the ordinary manner for transporting them would be to incur great risks.

The question of the relative qualities of the British and the Boer artillery has brought into the field a number of controversialists. One of the most decisive utterances on the subject comes from an artillery officer of 50 years' experience, who says :—"I dispute the statement that Boer field artillery is in any way superior to our own—on the contrary, though finality in artillery may, as may also almost everything else, be relegated to the far distant future, I assert, without hesitation, that our field artillery is fully up to date both as regards guns and ammunition, and there is nothing in the reports from the seat of war which runs at all counter to this assertion."

Lord Strathcona's offer, now carried out, was certainly most munificent. The particulars are these :—

Lord Strathcona will provide, distinct from the Canadian Government contingent, a force of at least 400 mounted men and officers, and arm, equip, and convey them to South Africa, where they will be taken over by her Majesty's Government.

The force will be raised in Manitoba, the North-West, and British Columbia, and is to consist of single men, who must be expert marksmen, at home in the saddle, and thoroughly efficient as rough riders and scouts. The horses will be procured from the Canadian North-West.

The Canadian Government are cordially co-operating in the proposal and have consented to allow the use of the organization of the Militia Department in the selection, armament, and equipment of the force.

It is understood that the matter will be carried out under the general supervision of Major-General Hutton, C.B., commanding the Militia of Canada, and that the organization of the force will be proceeded with immediately.

GERMAN AFFAIRS.

Germany will get her fleet, or rather the fleet her Emperor wants. That is pretty certain. It is not to be a fleet equal to that of the strongest naval Power, but it is to be sufficiently formidable to make any Power hesitate before inviting a trial of force, and to weaken such a Power so seriously in a conflict that, in spite of victory, "its own position would not, in the immediate sequel, be secured by the possession of an adequate fleet." That is a diplomatic way of saying that any Power attacking Germany on the sea would be so much weakened as to be exposed to invasion. On the broad line of protecting her mercantile marine, this latest ambition of Germany's seems natural enough. Her foreign trade is developing rapidly, and the part of it carried by sea increased from 66 per cent. in 1894 to 70 per cent. in 1898. There has also been a great development in the coasting trade since the opening of the Baltic Canal, and the total amount now invested in German shipping is estimated at 500 millions of marks, while the mercantile vessels built in German yards in 1899 amounted to 190,000 tons.

It was considered necessary to telegraph to the Far East the arrival of Dr. Leyds in Berlin at the close of January, and to speak significantly of his reception by Count von Bülow. But it seems that, Dr. Leyds being the accredited Representative of the Transvaal at the German Court, his appearance at the Foreign Office in Berlin from time to time is a diplomatic duty. No one in Europe attached any special importance to the event.

We have spoken above of the German Navy Bill. The following *résumé* of it, from the pen of *The Times* Berlin correspondent, is very clear and explicit :—

The text of the new German Navy Bill, as agreed upon by the Federal Council, was published this evening. The new Bill proposes to increase the strength of the navy by raising the number of line-of battle ships from 19 to 38, the number of large cruisers from 12 to 20, and the number of small cruisers from 30 to 45. The non-recurring expenditure on the construction and armament of these vessels is estimated at 1,600 million marks, that on docks and harbours at 261 million marks. Of this sum it is proposed to raise 769 million marks by the issue of loans which will be expended over a period of 16 years; 1,092 million marks will be met from the revenue. The recurring expenditure will, it is calculated, show an average increase of 5,400,000 marks per year. The increase in the *personnel* is calculated at 33,746 men.

The Bill consists of three paragraphs, of which the first proposes to increase the number of ships on active service by a flagship and two squadrons, each consisting of eight battle-ships, two large and eight small cruisers to be employed for scouting purposes with the fleet stationed in home waters, and five large and five small cruisers for service on foreign stations. It is further proposed to increase the reserve by two line-of battle ships, one large and two small cruisers for service abroad. The monitor squadron for coast defence will be abolished, but the eight vessels of which it consists will be replaced in due course by battle-ships which will form part of the increased strength. The second paragraph lays it down that the first and second squadrons are to form the fleet on active service, the third and fourth squadrons the reserve fleet. All vessels in the fleet on active service and half of those in the reserve fleet are to be kept in constant use. The third and last paragraph runs :—"The provision of the supplies rendered necessary by this measure is to be settled every year by the Imperial estimates."

The introduction to the Bill states that during the next 16 years, as a rule, three large and three small ships are to be placed on the stocks. In order to bring the fleet intended for active service up to its full strength as soon as possible the new vessels intended for the first two squadrons are to be completed before beginning the replacement of the ships in the reserve fleet by new construction. Of the old Navy Act are retained the paragraph fixing a *maximum* which the naval expenditure for each year is not to exceed, and the paragraph which lays it down that expenditure on the fleet is not to be met by an increase of the indirect taxes upon articles consumed by the masses. The Bill does not fix the period within which the fleet is to be brought up to the contemplated strength. The Government, it is stated, is confident that the Reichstag, once it has agreed to the increase, will do everything possible to reach the goal.

The following news from Chicago refers to Dr. Holleben, formerly German Representative in Tokyo :—

Dr. von Holleben, the German Ambassador in Washington, was yesterday the guest of Chicago University, and received an enthusiastic welcome from the professors and students. Professor Laughlin, who received his Excellency in the name of the University, spoke of the great debt which America owed to German patriots, authors, and scientists, who had taken up their dwelling in the United States and had aided in the development of the country. He referred to Germany, Great Britain, and America as the grandparent, the parent, and the child. "United in loyalty to science," he said, "to art, and to literature, united in their desire to save the world from unreasoning war, united by the closest family bonds, in such alliance may the three nations live and prosper."

Dr. von Holleben expressed his satisfaction at the cordiality of his reception, and gave his audience an interesting account of the work of German Universities. At a banquet which was subsequently held the toast of the Emperor's health was proposed, and Dr. von Holleben said that, could the Emperor know the sentiment that had been expressed, he would repeat the words, "God bless our friendship with the United States."

The scheme for a Rhine-Elbe canal is now revealed in its full dimensions. It has been once rejected by the German Diet, but will be again submitted. The scheme forms part of a programme of water-ways to be constructed during the next 15 years at a total outlay of 450 million marks. Germany is certainly going ahead on a colossal scale.

The *Cologne Gazette*, referring to the recent achievements of the German Foreign Office, especially the acquisition of Kiao-chou, the Carolines, and Samoa, says: —"We do not regard it as a drawback that it was possible to gain all these successes without bluster and without war, and that the acquisitions were made in a calm, business-like way and not under the illumination of Bengal lights."

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"A calm business-like way, without bluster or war," is an admirable manner of describing the acquisition of Kiao-chou, which was seized by a squadron in time of peace without notice of any kind.

The position taken by Germany with regard to contraband of war includes the doctrine that mail bags and letters can not be opened under any circumstances. It is justly queried, with reference to this, whether Germany or any other Power would permit closed mail bags to be delivered in a country with which she was at war, were there any possibility of preventing it.

We take the following from *The Times'* correspondents' *résumé* of German journalistic utterances on the subject of the seizures of German vessels and contraband of war :—

The case of the firm of Krupp and the request of the German Government that this firm should abstain from supplying one of the belligerents with material of war are treated in connexion with the seizure of German vessels. It is argued in the Press that if the British Government is so careful in preventing contraband of war from reaching the Boers, the German Government must take equal care to prevent supplies from Germany from reaching Great Britain. But the case of Krupp has another and a purely German aspect. The first reports that the firm was engaged on an English order emanated from a Social Democratic source. A Socialist journal published in Essen asserted that the Krupp works were executing an order which they had received from a private individual whose name was kept secret, but who was really an agent of the British Government. The calibre of the ammunition was such as is only used by England and Russia. The dimensions of the shells, as stated in the orders, were given in English inches, and they were constructed to receive a charge of lyddite. Up to the time that the reports concerning the alleged order appeared in the Press, the workmen at Krupp's always talked of the ammunition as "the English shells." The object of the Socialist denunciation, it is alleged, was not so much to protest against the action of a German firm in supplying a belligerent with war material as to exhibit the firm of Krupp in an unfavourable light in connexion with the navy agitation. It was argued that the firm could not consistently advocate a great increase in the German navy with the object of challenging the supremacy of England on the seas while at the same time they were supplying that Power with ammunition. One journal bluntly says :—"The *Berliner Neueste Nachrichten* has been bought and is maintained by Krupp. That journal conducts in the interests of the navy scheme a campaign against England, while the firm of Krupp supplies England with arms for the present war."

The ways of German journalism, especially Socialist journalism, are so inscrutable that it would be useless even to guess at the origin and object of the denunciation of Herr Krupp's firm. That firm has a reputation as high as any in the world, and its loyalty to Germany is beyond reproach. The firm is constantly employed, and never suffers from a lack of orders. Moreover, as I happen to know, it never in any circumstances enters into a contract with a "private individual," but only with Governments. In view of the present state of German feeling it is most improbable that the firm should have departed from its inflexible rule in this particular instance.

Dr. Leyds, speaking to the *Echo de Paris* on January 26th, declared that the exact Boer losses to date were 212 killed or died of wounds, about 1,000 wounded, and 200 prisoners.' On the very day when he made this assertion the *London Gazette* published despatches from Buller, White, and Methuen, dealing with the operations in South Africa down to December 28th. Let us see what are the figures officially stated by these Generals :—

BOER PRISONERS.

	Prisoners.
Brandslaagte	188
Belmont	50
Total	238

In these two engagements alone the number of prisoners exceeds that given by Dr. Leyds as the total up to January 26th. The man is a colossal exaggerator We know from trustworthy sources that the casualties which he puts at 1412 really aggregated 6,500. It has to be remembered that his figures include those for the attack on Ladysmith on the 6th January.

CONTROL OF RELIGIONS.

The Buddhist priests have not abandoned their agitation against Governmental measures for placing all religions on an equal footing *vis à vis* the law. They have held another meeting, this time in the Myoshin-ji, a Zen temple in Kyoto. All the principal temples, with the exception of the Nishi Hongwan-ji, were represented. Accounts were submitted, showing the result of the efforts made to prevent the passage of the Religions Bill in the last session of the Diet and the sums disbursed for that purpose. It was decided that funds should be raised for another campaign with regard to the next session of the Diet, and that the arrangement of the whole business should be left in the hands of Mr. Ishikawa, Vicar of the Eastern Hongwan-ji.

The *Fiji Shimpo* is very severe in its criticisms of the Buddhist priests. It says that they labour under a gross delusion as to the reasons for the Bill's rejection by the Upper House. They think that the measure itself provoked opposition. Such was not the case by any means. The greater number of those that voted against the Bill had no objection whatever to the measure itself, but were dissatisfied with the details of the Government's proposals. That does not concern the priests, however. They have no higher object than to collect a good round sum from innocent fanatics and spend it on "promotion," in other words, on their own amusement. The amount thus spent since last July is said to have been 300,000 *yen*.

Miyoshin-ji in Kyoto is now the headquarters of the agitation against the Religions Bill. The Buddhists have at any rate the merit of holding to their point. They are determined not to loosen their helmet strings in the hour of victory. But they are fighting against the spirit of the time and against the Constitution, and to such opponents they will have to strike their flag eventually. We propose not to follow the steps of their campaign any longer in these columns until some interesting development occurs, for our readers must be weary of the subject.

A STORY FROM YUNAN.

The *Fiji Shimpo's* special correspondent wires from Peking under date of the 4th instant that English troops have captured a Chinese fort in Yunnan, killing 80 of the Chinese troops and militia that garrisoned it. This is a strange story. We had not heard of any British troops being sent into Yunnan. But it is possible that the Authorities in Burmah considered it necessary to take strong action with regard to the outrage recently committed on the frontier. Accurate accounts of that affair are not yet to hand. Our readers doubtless remember, however, that news reached Tokyo on the 20th of February to the effect that a fracas of some kind had taken place on the Chinese frontier of Burmah, and that it had resulted in the wounding of four people, according to one account, and the killing of two, according to another. Both statements agreed in representing the victims as connected with the British Consulate, but while the first telegram called the culprits "bandits," the second made them out to have been Chinese soldiers appointed to guard the victims of the assault. If the British Authorities in Burmah thought it necessary to resort at once to military measures, we may assume that bandits were in question, and in that case it is not impossible that 80 have been killed and wounded.

THE TOKYO OVERHEAD RAILWAY.

Nothing has been heard for a long time of the projected over-head railway in Tokyo, for the construction of which the Diet gave its consent in the tenth session. It appears that great difficulties have attended the negotiations for the purchase of land. In the Kojimachi district, however, these difficulties have been overcome, and of the 18 land-owners whose property will be affected in the Shiba district the majority have made terms. It is expected, therefore, that the work of construction will commence in June, 1901. The first section of the line will be short. Starting from Shiba-ura, which is somewhat south of Shimbashi, it will pass along Hikage-cho, thence through the Yamashita Gate, thence along Yuraku-cho, and finally reach the central station in Eiraku-cho, in the immediate neighbourhood of the handsome pile of buildings erected under the auspices of the Mitsu Bishi Company. The making of this railway will doubtless conduce to the erection of new edifices on the large expanse of ground lying beyond the castle moat—an area of 200,000 *tsubo*, of which 84,500 *tsubo* belong to the Mitsu Bishi. At present there are four blocks of buildings on the latter lot—the new Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, the insurance companies' offices, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Mitsu Bishi offices, and Messrs. Takata and Company's office. These edifices are on a scale altogether above that of any other buildings erected in Tokyo by private enterprise. The Chamber of Commerce rooms cost 200,000 *yen*, and the four Mitsu Bishi blocks are said to have involved an expenditure of about one million. According to published estimates, the over head railway company will require 40,000 *tsubo* of land for their central station and for the various structures connected with it, but the estimate seems rather exaggerated. Forty thousand *tsubo* of land in Eiraku-cho would cost over two million *yen*. It is understood to be the intention of the Mitsu Bishi Company to veto the erection of any buildings that do not satisfy a certain standard of solidity, and though edifices so costly as those already standing in the district are not likely to be speedily multiplied, it may be assumed that the Mitsu Bishi's rule, and their own munificent expenditure, will result in the creation of a quarter presenting a vivid object lesson to the citizens of Tokyo. Many and many a year must elapse before the capital of Japan ceases to be a city of hovels, but the time will come, in despite of earthquakes.

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THE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

A project has been started in connexion with the Imperial Wedding. It is that all those disposed to offer any present to the Crown Prince and his bride should contribute money instead of purchasing objects, and that the fund thus obtained should be devoted to building a fine arts museum. It is known that their Imperial Highnesses are willing to accept wedding presents, but the great majority of people must evidently experience much difficulty in providing any gift. Combination would be absolutely essential, for it would very rarely happen that one person alone could afford to offer anything acceptable, and, under any circumstances, the great majority of the lower middle classes would be precluded from taking part in the movement. If, on the other hand, it were a question of subscriptions, every one without distinction could put up his mite. This view of the case has commended itself to several of the leading artists of Japan, and they have obtained the cōoperation of Viscount Hijikata, formerly Minister of the Household Department. There is also a prospect of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce supporting the scheme. The Chamber has for some time advocated the formation of a public library, and has petitioned the Diet in that sense, but, of course, the Imperial Wedding is a special occasion, and will doubtless be viewed as such by the Chamber. To us the museum plan commends itself strongly. Japan, though she enjoys such a high reputation as a country of art, has no museum at all worthy of her name, the Hakubutsu-kwan at Uyeno, and the museums at Nara and Osaka not being in any sense representative. Probably a million *yen* could be obtained in connexion with the wedding, and such a sum would go a long way towards meeting the need. As foreigners we should be glad to see that course adopted, for whereas many, if not all, the foreign residents would be pleased to offer some congratulatory token to the Imperial couple, there is much difficulty in selecting anything suitable, whereas the system of subscription would make everything easy.

FUNERAL of VISCOUNT SHINAGAWA.

The obsequies of Viscount Shinagawa were performed on Saturday, the 3rd instant, the cortege leaving the residence of the deceased statesman at 9 a.m. and proceeding to the Hongwan-ji in Tsukiji, where the service was conducted according to Buddhist rites. The coffin was subsequently carried to the crematorium at Kameido, whence the ashes are to be sent to Kyoto for interment. There was a magnificent display of floral offerings from numerous friends, societies, and associations, and there were also many cages of birds which were set free during the service, in accordance with the beautiful Buddhist custom. An immense concourse of notables attended, among them being the Prime Minister and all the members of Cabinet and the Privy Council, Marquis Ito, Marquis Oyama, Prince Konoye, the Minister of the Imperial Household, Count Inouye, Count Hijikata, Count Soyejima and many other dignitaries of State, officers of the Army and Navy, representatives of public bodies, and private friends.

THE LAND QUESTION.

Two anonymous correspondents address a local contemporary on the subject of perpetual leases. The first, who signs himself "One of the Eleven," takes exception to our remark that "the discussion had assumed a somewhat farcical character," and says that if the Editor of the *Mail* had a few hundred thousand dollars invested in Yokohama property, he would not find the position so exceedingly comical. If "One of the Eleven" read our comments, he must have seen that we applied the epithet "somewhat farcical," not to "the situation," as he alleges, but, first, to the arguments advanced by a local contemporary which, in the face of the fact that the whole complaint of the land-holders is based on the taint of superficies supposed to have been given to the leases, nevertheless denied that superficies had anything to do with the trouble; and secondly, to the suggestion of a correspondent that the Japanese Government ought to issue a notification announcing its intention of observing its treaty engagements. To say that the line taken by such controversialists is "somewhat farcical" and to say that "the situation is exceedingly comical" are two wholly different assertions. We might allege, with truth, that Christianity has often had farcical expounders, but no honest man could pretend, on the strength of such a statement, to charge us with saying that Christianity is exceedingly comical. With writers of the type of "One of the Eleven" it certainly is not worth while to argue.

The second correspondent, "Romulus," says:—

> So long as the grounds are held by the Government and are recognized as "*Kwan yu chi*," the tenure may be *comparatively* safe because it is unlikely that any question will be raised in the Courts, but suppose that the Government *sells* the land to private parties and questions *are* raised—what then?

That appears to us to illustrate what we have often said, namely, that the whole difficulty arises from failure to appreciate the Government's obligation not to take any step calculated to impair the title guaranteed to foreigners by the treaties. As a matter of fact, the Courts have no competence to meddle with the lands. The 45th Article of the Law of Operation of the Civil Code removes these titles entirely beyond the purview of the legal tribunals.

THE TWO OTANIS.

The Rev. C. A. Tague complains that obscurity is caused in our notes on the Religious-Bill question by reference to Count Otani at one time as the "High Prelate of the Eastern Hongwan-ji," and at another as the "High Prelate of the Western Hongwan-ji.' We may explain that there are two Counts Otani, and that each of them is the High Prelate of one of the Hongwan-ji temples. Count Otani Koson presides at the Western Hongwan-ji and Count Otani Koyei at the Eastern. Unless the second name is used the two can not be distinguished, but since we have spoken of them always in connexion with their respective temples, and since we have more than once explained the fact that the two prelates have the same title, we did not suppose that any confusion could result from omitting the "Koson" and the "Koyei."

RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST.

The Odessa correspondent of *The Times*, writing on January 21st, says:—"According to the programme issued by the committee of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, 21 voyages will be made by the cruisers between here and the Far East during the present year. It is highly probable that this number will be greatly exceeded, but this will depend on the number of men that the Government will send to the Far East as reinforcements to the already large army that they have quartered there, as well as the number of guns, ammunition, and garrison stores required at the strongly-fortified places of Port Arthur and Vladivostock. It is reported that for the strengthening of the fortifications of these two places a sum of 3,000,000 roubles is to be spent during the current year." This correspondent's intelligence confirms the news received from many quarters that Russia is massing large military forces in the Far East. It is extremely difficult to form any definite idea of her present numerical strength in Manchuria and her neighbouring territories. The estimates with regard to Manchuria alone vary from two thousand to fifteen thousand. Eight thousand is supposed to be the number at Port Arthur, twenty thousand at Possiet Bay, and twenty-five thousand in and about Vladivostock. Probably we shall not be far wrong if we estimate her total strength at present in Far Eastern Asia at fifty thousand to sixty thousand men, and it is understood to be her intention to bring the total to a hundred and fifty thousand by the close of the year 1903. What service are all these troops to perform? They certainly are not wanted for defensive purposes, or for guarding the new railway routes, or for keeping the peace. When we observe, also, the rapidity with which the new railways are being pushed forward, and that Vladivostock will soon be in communication by rail with Talien and Port Arthur, it is impossible to deny that Russia is developing formidable proportions. When her road to Newchwang is finished she will be practically in touch with Peking by rail, for the British line westward from Newchwang is now completed with the exception of one bridge.

It is curious that just as this news as to the Russian Volunteer Fleet was published, M. de Freycinet, addressing the Seine Senatorial delegates with reference to the Franco-Russian alliance, is reported to have said:—"Superficial observers alone can doubt the intimacy, which is closer than ever, between the Governments of Paris and St. Petersburg. The facts show the complete and—so to say—daily agreement existing between the two States in virtue of the treaties of mutual guarantee. The security assured to Russia by the alliance with France as regards her European frontiers permits her to concentrate in Asia forces enough to protect her own special interests—we refer to Afghanistan, where new battalions have just been sent. By virtue of the same principle, if France had either to act or to defend herself in Africa, she might despatch to the opposite shore of the Mediterranean a considerable number of troops which the Russian Alliance sets free." The time was, not so very long ago, when French statesmen did not speak in such explicit terms.

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JAPANESE PEERS.

An interesting discussion is raised by the *Shogyo Shimpo* with reference to the Japanese peerage. There were 3768 peers in 1880 and the number had increased to 4523 in 1887. Of course there were many nominations of new peers in the interval; in fact, nearly all such nominations were then made. Still the *Shogyo* insists that there has been an undue tendency to extend titles to second, and even to third, sons in recognition of a father's special services. We do not see why our contemporary should complain of that, seeing that the general gist of its article is financial, but we presume that it reflects a well-informed objection to the growth of the nobility. In the early years of the *Meiji* era, the affairs of many nobles fell into a disastrous condition owing to their ignorance of economical principles and their unwise speculations. It then became one of the prime cares of the Household Department to induce them to convert as much of their resources as possible into entailed property (*sesshu saisan*). Ultimately, however, the new Peers Law placed these matters on an entirely optional footing. In 1898, the total sum fixed by entail in the houses of the ancient nobility was 16 million *yen*, whereas the sum thus fixed in the families of the 300 new nobles totalled only 4,000 *yen*, or about 13 *yen* a head. This great discrepancy did not indicate a corresponding difference of wealth. It was entirely due to the fact that the new peers, being shrewd men of the world, did not care to lock up their money in bonds or other securities paying low interest. They kept it employed in various speculations. At present, the entailed property of the several orders of peers stands as follows :—

Rank.	Entailed Property. Yen.	Average per family. Yen.
Princes 11	1,156,210	105 110
Marquises ... 33	5 929 913	119,088
Counts 89	4 484 595	53 386
Viscounts 363	4 946,987	13 628
Barons 220	140 016	636

The average for the Princes is comparatively low, owing to the fact that their ranks include many of the old Court Nobles, who are proverbially poor. On the other hand, the Marquises and Counts consist mainly of members of the ancient territorial nobility, and consequently they have a high average. But the Viscounts and Barons comprise many of the recent creations, and as these, for the reason assigned above, do not like entailing any of their property, the figure relating to them is small. The *Shogyo's* article is a general attack on the system of a hereditary nobility, but we do not find anything novel in the arguments adduced.

POLITICAL LEADERS.

Mr. Hoshi Toru accuses the Progressists of being out of touch with the times. That, he says, is the origin of all their troubles. They adopted for a campaign motto the abolition of the "three taxes," and they found themselves preaching to deaf ears, for the people did not want to have the taxes reduced and were quite prepared to put their hands in their pockets in order to promote projects with which they were in sympathy. The Progressists did not appreciate these things. They ceased to represent public opinion, and the nation consequently turned its back on them. Nor have they even the merit of consistency, for, while, as a Party, advocating a policy of retrenchment, the various groups forming the Party do not hesitate to inundate the Diet with Representations urging the expenditure of large sums on all kinds of projects.

Count Okuma says, on the contrary, that it is absurd to charge the Progressists with being conservative in matters of finance. They are quite as ready as any other body of politicians to spend money freely on worthy objects. Their contention is simply that the objects must be properly chosen, and that the methods adopted to obtain revenue must be discreet. They do not object to increased taxation : what they object to is the Government's manner of dealing with the taxes. Count Okuma is also very far from being satisfied about the Yokohama fore-shore complication. He thinks that serious irregularities occurred in connection with that affair, and he strongly condemns the Cabinet's manner of dealing with it.

In conversation with a member of the *Chiuo's* staff, Mr. Hoshi Toru is represented as having stated that the *entente* between his Party and the Cabinet exists as firmly as ever, and that no changes in the Ministry need be looked for until August or September next. There will then be a re-casting of the Cabinet, he affirms, but as to its nature he is reticent; nor does he undertake to say whether the Liberals may look forward to achieving their long-cherished aim, namely, the formation of Party Cabinets. Concerning the recent talk of renewing the coalition between the Liberals and the Progressists, Mr. Hoshi is not encouraging. It would be possible, at any moment, to form a coalition between the Liberals and the Imperialists, but since the two parties already work in harmony, and since their union would not give them a plurality in the Lower House, nothing special would be gained by taking the step. As to the Liberals and Progressists, however, Mr. Hoshi's dictum is, "nothing can be called impossible, but I don't cotton to their physiognomy (*sono tsura ki ni kuwanai*)." It must be confessed that, so long as Mr. Hoshi has charge of the controversial battery, the Progressists are not likely to be admitted peacefully to the Liberal Camp.

THE CAMPHOR MONOPOLY IN FORMOSA.

The competition for the camphor monopoly in Formosa promises to be very keen. It is stated that the Okura Company, the Mitsui Company, the Sanetomo House, Mr. Otani, the Kwansei Boyeki Kaisha, Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Company, Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, Messrs. Oppenheimer Freres, and others are among the rival bidders. A vernacular contemporary notes that of the six millions catties of camphor produced in the world, Formosa produces 5 millions. In Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Japan the exhaustion of the supply is in sight, whereas in Formosa there is an ample supply for the next 80 years, and since 50 years suffice to bring a camphor tree to maturity, Formosa may be regarded as a perennial mine : judicious planting is alone required. The value of the monopoly is therefore likely to be very great to the person who is fortunate enough to secure it.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

There is no apparent prospect of any improvement in the miserable condition of Tokyo, no sign of a street railway being built, whether electric or Serpollet, or any other. It is scarcely possible to doubt any longer that the fault lies with officialdom. The citizens are ready enough to undertake the work of building railways, but the Authorities can not make up their minds to grant permission. We did hope that before the usual influx of spring tourists from Europe and America had commenced this year, some beginning of operations would have been made, so that tangible evidences of good intention at least would have been visible in extenuation of the city's disgracefully backward condition. But that hope has proved illusory. Travellers from the West will still have to plough their way through quagmires of mud or do battle with whirlwinds of yellow dust, and would return to their own countries with an unpleasant conviction that Japan's boasted progress is all a sham were not other cities happily more enlightened than Tokyo. Who, making a forecast five years ago, could possibly have anticipated that the Korean capital, a by-word for dirt and general backwardness, would actually take the lead of the metropolis of Japan, and that nearly two years after the successful opening of electric railways in Söul, Tokyo would still be hesitating about beginning similar work? The conveniences of locomotion that do exist only help to render the defect more conspicuous. We need scarcely speak of the bone-breaking "bus," with its pretence of springs, its moribund horses, and its generally miserable appearance—a vehicle worthy of the slums of a prairie hamlet. Without descending to that disgrace, we have only to look at the tramcars, which are not only unsightly as to the cattle that drag them and as to their general arrangements, but also have the effect of utterly destroying the streets through which they pass. Pedestrians and vehicles alike make it their object to avoid the streets traversed by trams, so that whatever facilities of travel these old-fashioned rattle-traps furnish, are more than counterbalanced by the expulsion of traffic from several of the city's principal thoroughfares. It is not conceivable that the Tramcar Company would have clung all these years to the same obsolete groove, had there been any possibility of obtaining official permission to substitute electric power for the present system. Indeed, it is generally stated that the Company, 8 years ago, applied for official leave to make the conversion, and that it has been applying periodically ever since, but no one can undertake to explain the hesitation of the Authorities to grant its application. The thing is almost incredible. We can understand, though we can not sympathise with, the difficulties and obstructions that presented themselves to officialdom when several rival companies entered the field as competitors for the charter to build a general system of street railways. But there is no perplexity of that kind in the case of the Tram Company. It possesses an absolute monopoly of the streets traversed by its vehicles, and the monopoly has still a fixed term of years to run. If the directors are willing to substitute electricity for horse traction during the remainder of their term, every possi-

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ble facility ought be afforded to them, whereas, it would seem, they can not even obtain official sanction. So rumour says, at any rate, and meanwhile the horse-tram-cars go lumbering along, eschewed by all the better classes of citizens, tearing up the already bad roads, and making a laughing stock of the city. An ounce of fact is worth a pound of fiction. The Japanese nation may be progressive, but Tokyo can not lay claim to any such distinction. Tokyo gives the lie to all claims of civilized enlightenment advanced on Japan's behalf—muddy, dusty, railway-less, harbour-less, drain-less Tokyo.

GROWTH OF TOKYO.

It is very interesting to note how Tokyo is developing in a suburban sense. The central districts do not show any sensible increase of population. Indeed they may be said to have remained stationary in that respect for the past 10 years, which is not wonderful, seeing that they are already about as thickly peopled as is possible. But the suburban districts show an increase of nearly 200,000 since 1887. The *Kokumin Shimbun* publishes the following illustrative figures :—

	Central Districts.		Suburban District.	
Year.	Houses.	Inhabitant.	Houses.	Inhabitant.
1887.....	77 278	406.991	217 378	827 459
1892.....	71,423	356 115	206 955	851 914
1897.....	76 038	404.499	227 853	898 825
1898.....	76 981	402 499	233.486	1,002.863

There is still a large area of unoccupied land in most eligible suburban sites, but that it will be rapidly taken up when the electric railway is built can not be doubted. With such wretched roads as Tokyo now possesses, it is a terrible labour to get from the suburbs to the business centre, and, moreover, the suburban markets are ill-supplied. The electric railway will have an immense effect.

PROFESSOR TOYAMA.

We regret very much to learn that Professor Toyama is seriously ill. According to Tokyo newspapers, he suffered for some time from an abscess in the ear, and was obliged to undergo a severe operation which has not been attended by happy results. Inflammation of the brain has supervened, and his condition is now said to be somewhat critical. It is to be sincerely hoped that this report may prove to be exaggerated.

Our readers will learn with much regret that Professor Toyama's condition has not improved. It appears that the trouble began with an attack of influenza last October. Before he had fully recovered, Professor Toyama delivered a long lecture at a meeting of a learned society. He suffered a relapse in consequence, again became convalescent, and again disobeyed the physician's caution by attending a debate in the House of Peers and speaking on the subject of the proposal to appoint a committee for investigating the educational system. The exertion brought on fresh trouble, this time in the form of an abcess in the ear, which ultimately developed into inflammation of the brain. He has been three times operated on, but there are no signs of improvement and his condition is now said to inspire uneasiness.

Professor Toyama's condition is evidently precarious. The Emperor has conferred upon him the honours which almost invariably prelude death. He has been named an honorary professor of the Imperial University, has been raised to the second grade of the second class of official rank, and has received the Second Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

PRINCE WALDEMAR.

His Royal Highness Prince Waldemar made his official landing on Monday forenoon at Yokohama and proceeded at once by train to Tokyo, arriving in the latter city at 11.45 a.m. He is now staying in the Shiba Detached Palace. On Monday afternoon, he visited the Shiba Mausolea, and in the evening repaired to the Imperial Palace, where, after being received in audience by the Emperor in the "Phœnix Hall" and by the Empress in the "Paulownia Hall," the Prince dined with their Majesties in the "Hall of Plenty and Effulgence."

Tokyo journals contain a good deal about the doings of Prince Waldemar, the great personages that have called on His Royal Highness, the great personages on whom he has called, and the various banquets at which he has been present. The Emperor visited him at the Detached Palace on Tuesday forenoon, and conferred on him the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun, and on Wednesday forenoon the Prince was introduced to the sport of duck hunting, so well described in *The Field* by Colonel Haggard. For the rest, it is enough to say that His Royal Highness' time has been fully occupied receiving calls from and calling upon the Imperial Princes, the Ministers of State, and the Foreign Representatives. He has found leisure to purchase a complete collection of Japanese lady's head ornaments and Japanese costumes at an expense of 7,500 *yen*.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Dr. Weipart, Japanese Secretary of the German Legation in Tokyo, has been appointed German Consul in Chemulpo, and will proceed to his new post in the middle of this month. Universal regret will be felt in Tokyo for the departure of a gentleman so popular, and it is difficult to see how the German Legation can reconcile itself to the loss of such an exceptionally accomplished Japanese scholar and so learned a jurist. But Dr. Weipart is to be congratulated not merely on his promotion, but also on the fact that the sphere of his new labours offers many opportunities of obtaining distinction. There is no German Consul-General in Korea, nor any German Legation, and Dr. Weipart will thus have a comparatively free hand, being directly responsible to Berlin only.

Mr. J. H. Gubbins has been nominated British *chargé d'Affaires pro tem.* in Söul, during the absence of Mr. Jordan, who goes home on leave for 18 months. This appointment will deprive Her Majesty's Legation in Tokyo of a highly valuable official, but it is in the natural order of things that services so long and efficient as those of Mr. Gubbins should be recognised by nomination to a post of greater responsibility than the Japanese Secretaryship of the Legation.

TRUSTS IN JAPAN.

We mentioned in a recent issue that a movement is on foot to form a cotton-spinners trust in Japan, but we did not mention an apprehension which we nevertheless entertained that such an organization would be difficult to achieve, inasmuch as its basis, mutual confidence, is wanting. For years it has been patent that the formation of a trust was greatly wanted in the field of coal-mining enterprise. Japanese mine-owners were engaged in ruinous competition, which resulted in forcing rates down to a point far below the figures really obtainable in foreign markets. They could easily have obtained much larger profits without in any way endangering their business. Yet, when that obvious course was proposed to them, their invariable answer was that they could not rely upon each other sufficiently to organise a thorough system of cöoperation. Will not the same difficulty be in the way of a cotton-spinners' trust? The *Fiji Shimpo* thinks that it will. Already the thing has been essayed by cement manufacturers, but their experience was not such as to encourage imitation. Commercial morality, according to philosophers, is a special kind of conscience. It is only found in countries where commerce has long been an honoured avocation. Doubtless there is much more of it in Japan than there was twenty or thirty years ago, but the improvement has scarcely yet brought us to the region of trusts.

NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

The new torpedo-destroyers *Usugumo* and *Niji* arrived at Gibraltar, *en route* for Japan, on the 4th instant, and the *Sasanami* left Singapore on the same day.

His Excellency Li Shintok, who represents China at the Japanese Court, has received the honorary title of assistant tutor to the Young Prince Imperial.

The Government has promulgated the law passed by the Diet last session, for dispensing with the prepayment of Court Fees in cases of appeals from penal sentences.

The Osaka Municipality has decided to issue the next instalment of its harbour-construction loan at 94. The amount is 2 million *yen*, and it has been completely taken up by the Second Bank.

According to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* the production of silk cocoons last year amounted to 2,512,562 *koku*, as against 2,027,342 *koku* in 1898, a difference of 485,220 *koku* in favour of 1899.

Subscriptions for the seventh issue of the Industrial Bank's debentures will begin on the 20th instant and end on the 10th proximo. The total amount is 1½ million *yen*, and the highest prize in the lottery is 1,000 *yen*.

The eminent American geologist, Mr. F. G. Wright, is expected to arrive in Japan on the 18th or 19th instant. During his stay in this country he will probably deliver lectures at the Imperial University and before the Educational Society.

Mr. Yano, former Japanese Representative in Peking, entertained Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, at dinner in the Maple Club on Wednes-

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day. Among the guests were Mr. Tokutomi, editor of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, Mr. Asahina, editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, and Mr. Shimada, editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun*.

The Department of Communications announces that parcels containing ginseng can not be sent through the post from Korea unless they are accompanied by a permit from the Government of that country.

The new schools to be established in consequence of recent legislation are a High Normal School in Hiroshima, a High Agricultural School in Morioka (Iwate), a High Commercial School in Kobe, and a High Industrial School in Kyoto.

Lady Nakayama, mother of the Emperor, is again very ill. She had become sufficiently convalescent to move to Kanagawa, as the change of air was expected to prove beneficial, but on the 6th instant she had a relapse, and her condition at present causes uneasiness.

Mr. Hoshi Toru starts for China next month. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, implacable in its enmity, opines that the only result of his travels will be to furnish materials for some pretty paragraphs to Mr. Takenouchi, editor of the *Sekai-no-Nippon*, who accompanies him.

Rumour says that Mr. Otori Keisuke, Mr. Kaneko Kentaro, and Mr. Kiyoura Keigo will shortly receive patents of nobility as barons. We are not surprised. Rather is it remarkable that these gentlemen's names have so long been omitted from the peerage.

The recent rise in the price of raw cotton has affected Japanese spinners very sharply. They find themselves with small stocks on hand at a moment when the supply can not be replenished except at ruinous prices. It is stated that they will soon be obliged to give up night work at any rate.

His Excellency the Belgian Minister, Baron d'Anethan, who is now travelling in the South of Japan, was entertained by the leading Japanese residents of Moji on 27th of February. The Baron is said to have made a very happy speech dwelling on the extraordinary progress made by Moji during recent years, and discussing commercial affairs in general.

The new hall, forming an addition to the Fine Arts Gallery in Uyeno Park, was formally opened on the 4th instant, the President, Prince Arisugawa, performing the ceremony. The project of building this hall was mooted several years ago, but its execution was interrupted by the war with China. It has cost 13,500 *yen*.

The promulgation of laws passed by the Diet in its recent session continues apace. In the *Official Gazette* of the 8th instant, we find the Law relating to the Acquisition of Property for Public Uses; the Law for Disposing of Refuse; the Drainage Law; the Law relating to Guilds of Dealers in Products; the Law relating to Associations of Dealers in Principal Staples of Manufacture, and so on.

It is noteworthy that official ranks are bestowed in this era with much geater liberality than in pre-*Meiji* days. Very seldom indeed did an official or nobleman attain a higher position than the second grade of the third class in old times. In the pages of Japanese history we find men speaking with bated breath of *Ju sam-mi*, and as for *Shō sam-mi*, it was something quite extraordinary. But things have changed.

The Domestic and Foreign United Company (*Naigai godo-Kaisha*), with which Mr. J. R. Morse, Mr. E. Dun, the Chilian Representative and several Japanese and Chinese merchants are associated, appears to have been definitely launched. It has been decided that out of the capital of 250,000 *yen*, 50,000 shall be subscribed by the Chinese. Mr. Toyama of Osaka and Mr. Fujishima of Tokyo are put down for 30,000 each.

A number of persons have been arrested on a charge of inciting to riot in connexion with the recent developments of the Ashiwo mine affair. The Authorities are said to have obtained evidence that the disturbance was fostered by adventurers, and that the people were thus betrayed into acts of violence and turbulence which they would not otherwise have thought of perpetrating.

We mentioned in a recent issue that a company had obtained a charter for building an electric railway from Shinano-machi, in the Yotsuya suburb of Tokyo, to Omori and thence to Kawasaki. It is now stated that the Company has applied for permission to extend the line to Yokohama. As that would make a road competing with the Government railway, we imagine that there will be difficulty in obtaining a charter.

It has been decided that the Army's autumn manoeuvres shall be held this year in the middle of November, the district being Chikuzen, Chikugo, Buzen, or Bungo. Four Divisions will take part, namely, the 5th, the 6th, the 11th, and the 12th. The 5th and the 11th will form the defending force; the 6th and the 12th, the attacking.

The authorities have not confined themselves to punishing only the non-commissioned officers and first-class soldiers concerned in the recent maltreatment of privates in the Himeji garrison. Colonel Ikeda, who commanded the regiment in which the irregularities occurred, has been placed on the retired list, and Captain Watanabe, who was in charge of the company, has been seconded.

The committee appointed to draw up regulations for organizing a trust among the cotton-spinners of Japan is understood to be experiencing many difficulties. Chiefly embarrassing is the question of penalties for infringing the conditions of the trust. It is thought that a consensus of opinion can not be obtained among the members with regard to that point. Of course that is only another way of saying that a basis for establishing mutual confidence can not be found. People do not experience any such difficulty in organizing trusts in the United States.

After the Central Station of the Tokyo Elevated Railway has been built in the space called Maru-no-uchi—an event which is not expected until 4 or 5 years have passed—, an edifice for the uses of the Central Post and Telegraph Offices will be erected in the same vicinity. The premises at Yedo-bashi, now used for the Posts and Telegraphs, are spacious. They cover nearly an acre of ground. But they are rapidly becoming inadequate, for since the war of 1894-5 postal and telegraphic business has increased at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.

The Peking correspondent of *The Times*, Dr. Morrison, is now on a brief visit to Tokyo, *en route* for Peking from England. Last Monday, he had interviews with Marquis Ito and Count Okuma, and lunched with Mr. Kato, formerly Japanese Representative in London. Dr. Morrison leaves Japan on Thursday for Shanghai, and will probably travel *viâ* Korea to Peking.

The question of electric street railways for Tokyo is again on the *tapis*. It is now stated that the Government's intention is to return all the applications hitherto received, prescribe certain hard-and-fast conditions, and invite new applications on these fixed lines. If that be so, then we may expect to see all the competition recommence, with its accompaniments of agitation, intrigue and recrimination. This affair of the Tokyo street railways is becoming one of the burlesques of the century.

It seem that the construction of railways in Formosa is proceeding more rapidly than was originally anticipated. Instead of requiring 10 years to complete the main trunk line, seven years will suffice. The sums expended each year will have to be correspondingly increased—namely, by 2 million *yen*. The outlay estimated during the current year is 3¼ millions. It has been obtained from the Bank of Formosa without recourse to the issue of bonds.

The enforcement of a law requiring every newspaper and periodical in Formosa to furnish a sum of a thousand *yen* by way of security for good behaviour has had a disastrous effect. Four journals and as many periodicals have put up their shutters, or are on the point of doing so, the only survivors being the *Taiwan Nichi Nichi* and the *Taiho Nippo*. There is talk of starting a new journal on a large scale, under the name of *Taiwan Chiuo Shimbun* (Central Formosa News).

The naval manœuvres, which commence at the close of this month, are evidently to be on an unprecedented scale. Every available ship is to take part in them, and we read that all operations connected with mobilization will be carefully performed, even the dockyards being required to muster all hands and engage in repair-work day and night. It is expected that the whole affair will last about a month, but the Authorities have decided that newspaper correspondents and the public in general shall be excluded.

A meeting of the foreign residents of Tokyo was held in the Parish Building, Tsukiji, on Friday, to consider the question of offering some token of congratulation to the Prince and Princess Imperial on the occasion of their approaching marriage. The meeting having been informed that some influential Japanese had conceived a project for a general subscription, the proceeds of which should be devoted to a permanent memento of the happy event, it was decided to postpone definite action until the fate of that project should be known.

It appears that not one but two private soldiers of the Himeji garrison recently

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committed suicide, leaving documents which declared that it was impossible to endure the treatment received by them at the hands of the non-commissioned officers and first-class soldiers with whom they had to work. Officers were immediately despatched from Tokyo to conduct an inquiry, and the result is that two non-commissioned officers and eight first-class soldiers have been sentenced to various punishments, from 20 days' confinement to six months' minor imprisonment.

From the 16th instant the system of *kitte chokin*, or postage-stamp savings, goes into operation. Prettily decorated cards have been devised so that children may find pleasure in using them. They afford space for attaching a certain number of stamps, and are neatly divided into squares, one for each stamp. The idea is that children will make a pastime of collecting stamps to attach to the cards, and that when a card's complement is completed, it will be handed to the nearest post-office, where the stamps will be removed, the card given back, and the little proprietor will be duly credited with the amount of his or her economics, from 5 *sen* upwards.

An instruction has been issued by the Government requiring local officials to abstain from imposing unnecessarily harsh restrictions upon emigration to Hawaii. The law, while recommending that discrimination should be employed to prevent the influx of agitators and loafers into the peninsular empire, gives large discretion to those charged with the duty of applying it, but, as is often the case in Japan, they have been disposed to employ their discretion in a sense unfavourable to the general public. Hence the issue of an instruction recommending greater leniency, and distinctly stating that labourers applying for passage should not be required to furnish sureties.

A notification has been issued to the effect that land in the possession of Formosan aborigines may not be acquired by any outsider, Japanese subject or other, without the special permission of the Governor-General, under pain of fine and imprisonment. This veto is necessitated by the habits of the aborigines. They have no idea of settling on a farm, their custom being to cultivate a plot of land so long as it suits their convenience or their fancy, and then to transfer their labour to some other district. The consequence is that tracts of land change hands for some paltry consideration, and it appears that designing persons have been taking advantage of this peculiarity to get possession of large areas.

More or less sensational accounts continue to be published about the gold fields of Hokkaido. It is impossible to form any accurate idea of the area of the auriferous district, some authorities representing it as very large and others putting it at about five thousand acres. A new deposit is said to have been discovered at the Hiyama River, some 70 miles north-west of Hakodate, but the ore, being mixed with large quantities of iron, is not easy to take out. It does not appear that any efficient system of control has yet been introduced: about 200 persons are engaged in the work without any permits. There is talk of a new machine invented by an American named Scott and improved by a Japanese named Asakura. It has been patented, and great things are expected from it.

Japan is to be blessed by receiving some of the Buddhist relics recently found in Siam. Every one had read of the discovery. It occurred two years ago. The articles found with the casket were sent partly to the British Museum and partly to the museum in Calcutta, but the bones were handed over to the Siamese Buddhists, and now, through the intervention of Mr. Yendo Ryomin, who has been studying Buddhism for some time in Bangkok, the Siamese have decided that a portion of the bones shall be sent to Japan. There will be a grand ceremony of reverent reception. We presume that the happiness of being appointed custodians will fall to the lot of the *Shin* Sect, since Mr. Yendo is a disciple of that form of Buddhism.

The Yuraku-kai, of which Count Inouye is the founder, has appointed a committee of very influential men to investigate the best methods of encouraging home productions with a view to increasing exports and diminishing imports. The association further thinks that in order to promote trade between Japan and North China, arrangements should be made for remitting the import duties on goods coming from abroad, and landed temporarily in this country in transit. At present, Shanghai, in consequence of enjoying that facility, is the depot of a large trade which might otherwise pass through Japan. Kobe is regarded as the most suitable port of transhipment. The Committee consist of Messrs. Shibusawa, Masuda, Kato, Takahashi, Nozu, Watanabe, Sonoda, Misaki, Uriu, and others.

Mr. Otani Kahei has returned from America, whither he went to urge the expediency of abolishing the increased tax upon tea. He did not, apparently, achieve any signal success, but Tokyo newspapers represent him as tolerably well satisfied with the result of his mission. The tea-men in America, he says, had laid in large stocks in anticipation of the tax, and so long as their supply lasted they were quite content. But when it came to procuring fresh stocks and paying a heavy impost, objections were quickly heard, and these, added to the fact that the tax was originally imposed merely as a temporary measure to obtain war funds, make it certain that a measure of repeal will soon be adopted. On the other hand, the coffee interest is concerned in maintaining the tax, and thus the upshot of the matter is that nothing is likely to be done until the next session of Congress.

In the very early day of the *jinrikisha*, no one could have been more obliging, willing, or moderate than the man between the shafts. He was always ready to do a splendid day's work, and he always took his pay without grumbling. But by degrees he lapsed from that high standard. We do not think that he ever fell to anything like the level of the London cabman, for whereas in London, at one time, the general rule was that to tender a cabman his legal fare was to be roundly abused, insolence and extortion have always been exceptional among *jinrikisha*-men in Japan. Still the stranger is apt to be victimized, and now that the tourist season is in sight, the *Jiji Shimpo* writes an urgent condemnation of practices which tend to get Japan a bad name, and to deflect the Pactolean stream of travellers from her shores. Our contemporary recommends wider resort to the system of *jinrikisha* stands with fixed fares which every vehicle on the stand must observe, and would also have lists of fares drawn up in English and posted in conspicuous places.

Mr. Mariano Poncey, who visited Japan last summer, creating some commotion and becoming vicariously responsible for the removal of a very worthy gentleman's name from the list of membership of the Tokyo Club, has again arrived in this country. We trust that no one will be so foolish as to pay attention to him, unless he has come to explain that the insurgents in the Philippines see the error of their ways. It is all very well to talk about the sacred rights of independence. If there be a natural principle which entitles legislators to impose certain moral codes upon a nation, so also is there a natural principle which denies the privilege of independence to any nation that abuses the privilege as the Filipinos abuse it or as the Boers abuse it. If folks will not don the vestments of civilization of their own accord, civilized peoples have as valid a right to compel them to do so as a civilized community has to prevent its members from going about the streets in a state of nudity.

Contrary to expectation, the Law forbidding the Use of Tobacco by Juniors (*Misei-nensha Kitsuyen Kinshi-ho*) is promulgated. It obtained approval in both Houses of the Diet, but an impression prevailed that, in view of the obvious difficulty of carrying it into operation, the Government would withhold consent. However, that impression was erroneous; the veto becomes operative from the 1st of April. By "minor," for the purposes of the Law, is meant a youth of less than 20 years of age. The Law is not severe with regard to the smoker himself: the penalty in his case is only confiscation of his tobacco and smoking implements. But a parent or guardian wittingly allowing a youth to smoke becomes liable to a fine not exceeding 1 *yen*, and a tobacconist wittingly selling tobacco, cigars, or cigarettes for the use of a junior, may be fined as much as 10 *yen*. A great number of Japanese lads smoke from the age of 17. The new law will affect many juvenile smokers, and will seriously reduce the profits of tobacconists. We shall probably hear some complaints about the arbitrary manner of its enforcement.

There is a strong movement in favour of dissolving the present House of Representatives, and holding a general election in accordance with the provisions of the Amended Law of Election. By passing the Amended law the Diet has endorsed the Government's contention that the old law operated unjustly, since it did not provide even approximately adequate representation for the urban population. Such an injustice should not be left unremedied a day longer than is unavoidable, according to the view of those that favour the immediate dissolution of the House. In the ordinary course of events, the next general election would not take place until 1902, nor would the Amended Law become operative before that time. Hence the desire to

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hasten matters. We imagine, however, that a considerable interval will be required for revising the lists of the electorates so as to bring them into agreement with the reduced property qualification, and that the Government will not be disposed to hasten the process. It is conceivable, also, that some pledge was given to the present members of the Lower House in consideration of the support extended by them to the Bill embodying the Amended Law.

It is stated in vernacular newspapers that out of 280 foreigners who are liable for Prefectural and Houses Taxes in Yokohama, only 110 have paid. The remainder, 174, owe their taxes for the second half of last year, and, at the end of the current month, will be owing their taxes for the first half of the present year also. The sum now due on account of Prefectural and House Taxes is 1,691 *yen*, and to that must be added the Town Tax of 8,455 *yen*. Of course the default is entirely due to the question of liability for House Tax.

The establishment of officers in the Japanese army at present is said to be as follows:—

Field-Marshals (Marquis Yamagata, Prince Komatsu, Marquis Oyama.)	3
Full-Generals (Viscount Nozu, Viscount Sakuma, Viscount Katsura.)	3
Lieut.-Generals	21
Major-Generals	48
Colonels	96
Lieut.-Colonels	118
Majors	481
Captains	1 397
Lieutenants	1,500
Second-Lieutenants	1,302

A Tokyo newspaper publishes a statement that at the New Year's Audience in Peking on the 2nd of February not a single member of the British Legation put in an appearance. This very conspicuous abstention was attributed to the action of the Chinese Government in giving to a Belgian syndicate a railway concession previously promised to a combined Anglo-Italian syndicate. It is suggested that the reverses experienced by the British arms in South Africa have inspired a feeling of contempt for England among the Chinese, and that they are disposed now to flout her, not being without incitement from other quarters to do so. That is not unlikely. It is much easier to lose prestige than to gain it, but China is scarcely in a position to presume upon England's temporary difficulties.

The excitement about the embankment in the Mamiya district of Saitama, on the upper waters of the Sumida, has again become acute. In the Ansei era (1854-9) a law-suit was instituted by the representatives of 48 hamlets, who claimed that the construction of the embankment exposed to serious injury some 7,500 acres of arable land, their property. The suit was successful and the embankment had to be removed. But it has since been re-built. About a thousand of the people concerned made their way to the Urawa offices on the 5th instant, at 10 p.m., to prefer a complaint. They did not move *en masse*, but reached their destination in parties of from 20 to 70 persons. No disturbance took place; the police succeeded in dispersing the demonstrators quietly. There are, of course, some villagers who find the embankment an advantage, and, moreover, an idea prevails that its existence is essential to prevent floods in the Sumida which would devastate the Asakusa region of Tokyo.

The posthumous honour of elevation to the Second Class of the First Official Rank has been conferred on the late chief of the Nabeshima Clan, the celebrated Naomasa, better known as "Kanso." The great revolution of *Meiji* was not the work of the feudal chiefs. When we have mentioned Rekko of Mito, Samuro of Satsuma, Shungaku of Echizen, Yodo of Tosa, and Kanso of Nabeshima, the list of *Daimyo* that promoted the work of national unification is exhausted, whereas it is easy to draw up a catalogue of two score names of *Samurai* every one of whom contributed materially to the making of Japan's modern history. Nabeshima Kanso, father of the present Marquis Nabeshima, was undoubtedly a man of genius, and the distinction he attained becomes more remarkable when we remember the kind of education given to a feudal chief in his time—an education purposely calculated to stunt the growth of intellectual impulses and foster that of unworthy passions. It is curious that so many years should have been allowed to pass without the recognition now made by the Court, but we presume that advantage has been taken of some special anniversary of the great noble's death.

The *Genbun Ichi-kai*, a society having for its object the unification of the written and spoken languages of Japan, held its first meeting at 4 p.m. on the 6th instant. The chief promoter of this society is Mr. Hayashi Mikaomi, who has long been connected with the British Legation in the capacity of writer, and we observe that Messrs. Crowe, Holmes, and Gordon, of the Legation, are associated with him. The other prominent promoters are Mr. Tsuboi, Mr. Okakura, Mr. Fujioka, and Baron Kanda—all men of eminence in the world of literature. The purpose of the society merits the support of every one interested in the future of Japan. It is really preposterous that a country should have two languages, one for writing and the other for speaking. The question bears incidentally on the position of women in Japan, for since the language used by men when discussing any subject outside the daily routine, approximates to that of books and newspapers, it can not be understood by a woman unless she has received an extraordinary education, and the result is that intellectual intercourse between the sexes becomes impossible.

KOREA.

Two thousand Korean rioters are said to have attacked a party of Japanese at Chuk-san in Kyŏngkwi-do, Korea. Two of the Japanese were wounded and two are missing. The details are not yet reported.

It is alleged that Mr. Hayashi, Japan's Representative in Söul, has applied to the Korean Government for permission to establish wireless telegraphic stations along the Korean coast. What that means, exactly, we can not tell, but such is the story.

The Söul correspondent of the *Jiji Shimpo* puts the income of the Korean Government for the present fiscal year at 6,162,796 *yen* and the expenditure at 6,161,871 *yen*, so that there is a surplus of 925 *yen*. That is very different from the exceedingly pessimistic figures published by other Japanese journals.

The same correspondent makes light of the Uensan mine affair. He says that it is all a question of money. The Pritchard-Morgan people have put up 100,000 *yen*, and if they chose to put up 80,000 more, nothing further will be heard about the despatch of soldiers to prevent mining operations or about other methods of opposition on Korea's part.

A telegram from Korea says that the Government of that country has at length decided to sanction the mining operations at Uensan, for which Mr. Pritchard Morgan has been so long and so pertinaciously applying. The sanction is said to be conditional, but we are not told anything about the nature of the conditions.

A singular story is published to the effect that the King of Korea has refused to grant an audience to the British Representative, on the ground that the latter behaved rudely at a recent audience when discussing the affair of the Uensan mine, and that the Korean Government had asked for his recall. The newsmongers are coming out. They are preparing to pervert into a prettily sensational incident the ordinary event of Mr. Jordan's return to England on eighteen months' furlough, a well-earned rest.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

There is a marked revival of interest in the ideograph problem. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* has invited leading men to express their views on orthographic reform, and not a few have responded to the request. Among them Mr. Maejima Mitsu, of Post Office fame, writes in a very earnest manner. He tells us that he has been working in the cause of reform for more than 30 years, that he has appealed in vain to statesman after statesman and scholar after scholar. He despaired of the success of the Romaji-Kai and the Kana-no-Kai from the first. The persons who took part in the movement did not, he says, realise the difficulty of carrying their theories into practice, and the majority of them were not really in earnest. Mr. Maejima thinks that the reform ought to begin with the newspapers and magazines, the writers for which have it in their power to accustom the public to understand articles without relying on anything more than an ideograph here and there. As the change from the characters now used to Romaji is considered too sudden, let Romaji be the final goal and let the *kana* be used as means of reaching it, says Mr. Maejima. There is perhaps little that is new to be said on the subject of the change which it is desirable to bring about. But there is still a good deal of opposition to change of any kind. Dr. Inoue Enryō has lately come forward in a most open way and championed the cause of the ideographs. The following is the gist of what he says, in reply to the advocates of reform, in a recent number of the *Tōyōtetsugaku Zasshi*. Dr. Inoue's article is entitled *Kanji hai subekarazu* (Ideographs should not be abolished):—Among those who are in favour of dispensing with the characters there are many who are not sufficiently

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well-educated to appreciate them. Others are *Kokugakusha*, admirers of pure Japanese writing, who object to everything Chinese. Then there are of course a number of foreigners interested in furthering a change that will suit their convenience in various ways. Foreigners say that the ideographs are very difficult and that the study of them hurts the eyes, and what not. To Japanese they are not difficult, and as regards the short-sightedness from which so many students suffer, it has been caused in most cases by studying foreign books. It is said that Chinese characters are very complicated and much more difficult to remember than words written in Roman letters. But is this so? Take the character 天 (*ten*); does it not consist of much fewer strokes than heaven? Is not 地 (*chi*) easier than earth? It is said that the ideographs are very numerous, but they are derived from each other or formed by combination, so that if one knows one or two thousand one can by means of these understand more than ten times that number. Then is it not an immense advantage to be told by the construction of the ideograph to what class of things each object represented belongs? A certain portion of the character tells us whether the object is a vegetable, or a mineral, or whether it is a mental faculty or emotion. No such convenience is to be found in Roman letters! Then how much more artistic are the ideographs than the Roman letters. In our mode of writing the main ideas of the sentence are expressed in Chinese characters and the comparatively unimportant connecting links consist of *kana*; hence by glancing down the line we can get the sense with a rapidity that is not possible when the signs used all speak to the eye in the same way, as is the case with Roman letters. The idea is in the character, and no sooner do we see the latter than the former presents itself to the mind. There is no spelling out of long words in order to get the meaning. Our system imparts knowledge at sight. I deny that there is any great difficulty in our acquiring a knowledge of ideographs. Where we do find difficulty is in acquiring a knowledge of Western literature. It is of course necessary for us to study foreign books, because Occidentals are undoubtedly ahead of us in civilisation. Otherwise we should do well not to trouble ourselves with any such study. Just as in order to get new ideas Europeans have had to study two dead languages, ancient Greek and ancient Latin, so we have to tackle tongues that present great difficulties to us. But there is no reason why on this account an Oriental nation that for centuries has had the closest connection with China should dispense with characters that are still used by over 400 million people. There is a good deal of sentiment connected with our use of the ideographs which it is not desirable to suppress in any way. Our written language connects us with our forefathers and is associated in our minds with all that is sacred. Those who propose a radical change in orthography do violence to this sentiment. It is quite evident that our public documents owe much of their power to the language in which they are penned. Imperial Rescripts, for instance, would never command the respect they now receive if the ideas they express were clothed in what to us would appear as less dignified language. The argument that in order to amalgamate the written and spoken languages the use of ideographs should be discontinued has no weight with me. The process of amalgamation is going on to-day and can be carried as far as desirable without involving orthographic change of any kind.

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The following literary notes are taken from various sources. Last November the *Shigakkai* (Historical Society) held an important commemorative meeting at the Botanical Gardens, Koishikawa, at which the President of the Society, Dr. Shigeno, gave an account of its history, and Mr. Shimada Saburō, in a speech that lasted two hours, impressed on the audience the importance of publishing in a fearless manner the material which had been collected. Mr. Hamao and others also addressed the meeting.

Three new literary organs have come into existence, the *Kyora Bunkō*, the *Kwatsubundan*, and the *Bungei Shimbun*. The first of these seems to be well got up, somewhat in the fashion of the *Shincho Gekkan*, but whether it will prove a success seems to be very doubtful. The *Kwatsubundan* aims at effecting great things, and the first number is well supplied with matter. The *Bungei Shimbun* is to appear three times in the month. It consists of about eight pages and sells at 2 *sen* per copy. New style verses, so much in vogue a few years ago, are not in favour at present. In recent years two young men have composed a great many verses that have been appreciated in some quarters. They are Messrs. Shimasaka and Tsuchii. The former has gone to Shinano to teach in a school and the latter has become one of the teachers of the Sendai Second High School. Both are said to be disappointed with the results of their literary labours as far as poetry is concerned.

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There are certain modern Japanese on whose conservatism a very liberal education seems to have had little effect. Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō may be said to be one of these and Mr. Nishimura Shigeki another. The latter gentleman has contributed an article to the *Taiyō* on the foreign ownership of land, and the possession of mining rights, which reiterates the time-worn arguments against the adoption of this course and denounces the advocates of a liberal policy towards foreigners as traitors to their country and as greedy of gain. The fact that the new treaties confer no such rights as those just mentioned, Mr. Nishimura thinks, is something on which the nation may congratulate itself. If the pro-foreign party is allowed to have its way the independence of the country will be endangered. There is nothing new whatever in Mr. Nishimura's article, which may be pronounced unscholarly, as it fails to state fairly the arguments of the writer's opponents.

In the last number of the *Taiyō* Dr. Ariga has a very long article on the secrets of Western diplomacy, in which he speaks in high praise of Lord Salisbury's far-seeing policy in Africa and in China. Dr. Ariga reminds us that Prince Bismarck was wont to speak disparagingly of Lord Salisbury, of whom he said "He is one of the pillars of the British Empire, but a painted pillar." Bismarck no doubt sees in the land of shades how mistaken he was, says Dr. Ariga. This writer proceeds to show that years ago Lord Salisbury foresaw the possibility of England's recent difficulties in Egypt and the present crisis in South Africa, and, with a view of being ready to grapple with them, adopted a very conciliatory policy in other parts of the world, and made a special point of coming to an understanding with Germany. There is no doubt, says Dr. Ariga, that China has occupied a subordinate place in Lord Salisbury's mind, and that he has for many years past held that African questions are of more vital importance to England than Chinese. This accounts for the forbearance that has been repeatedly shown when Russia has scored successes in the Far East. The capabilities of even the greatest Powers are limited, and every foreign Minister has to determine where he shall insist on having his own way and where he shall allow other Powers to do as they please; the principle of statecraft being one of give and take. Superficial observers of the course of events have fancied that Lord Salisbury has been repeatedly checkmated by Count Mouravieff. But this has not been the case. Every concession made to Russia by England has been made with a view of facilitating the attainment on England's part of greater ends elsewhere. To England the concession of a Chinese port or railway rights in Manchuria were comparatively trifling affairs. English public opinion for a long time failed to understand Lord Salisbury. It was only when they saw how firmly he acted over the Fashoda question that it began to dawn on the English people that his yielding in China and elsewhere was part of a fixed plan that had the permanent stability of the British empire as its end. For a long time Russia's Foreign Ministers have acted on the principle that nothing would induce Salisbury to go to war. The Fashoda affair and the Boer War have thrown the Russians out of their calculations. At the beginning of the present war Russia tried to work up an alliance against England, but Count Mouravieff found, to his surprise, that nothing would induce Germany to go against England in this affair. Who did the checkmating here? asks Dr. Ariga. Lord Salisbury had foreseen the contingency and had carefully provided for it, and this while half the world was saying that he was being nonplussed by Count Mouravieff. The essay of which we have only given a short abstract shows a most minute acquaintance with recent events as well as with the intricate ways of modern diplomacy.

The same number of the *Taiyō* from which we have quoted above contains an article on the Transvaal War by Mr. Fukumoto Makoto in which the writer comes to the conclusion that England is in the wrong. He says that Japan can afford to be indifferent as to which side wins, as the combatants are both of alien race, but that the majority of Japanese seem to think that might is right and that if England can show herself to be stronger than the Boers, she has a right to rule over them.* This view, says Mr.

* We do not think this at all a fair account of Japanese public opinion on the subject. It seems to us that it inclines the other way, and sympathises with the Boers because they are supposed to be oppressed weaklings. So that, instead of worshipping physical force, the majority of Japanese regret its preeminence in the world.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

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Fukumoto, we ought to be ashamed of. He quotes a great many instances of what he calls English irrationality and seems to believe that the Boers have all the grievances and the Outlanders none.

* * *

Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō in the *Teikoku Bungaku* writes on ideas associated with colour. The following is the gist of his article. Black and red may be said to be opposites as regards association, the former being gloomy and the latter gay. The red of the early dawn has always been regarded with pleasure. Chaucer speaks of the Eastern sky as laughing. It is this association of red with lively feelings that makes women use it in their own dresses and deck their children with it. The colour is figuratively used for intense zeal. To be red-hot in a cause expresses the acme of earnestness. Rouge is with us a greater favourite than ordinary red, and pink has perhaps more charms for us than rouge. Pink-blossoms are not surpassed in beauty and delicacy by anything that the whole world of colour has to offer. When black and red are combined the gloom attached to the former seems to rob the latter of its cheerfulness. Taking man's life as an illustration of the ideas associated with colour, childhood may be represented by pink, youth by rouge, middle age by ordinary red, and old age by a very dark red (that is black and red combined). With blue depth and great expanse are associated. It is an imperfection in our language that we use the word *awo* for both blue and green. To us a light blue is green. In a figurative sense we uses our word for green in the same way as the English word green is used. If they have "green-horn," and a "green young man," we have *awo-shosei* and *awo-nisai*. With light green we associate the idea of delicacy and weakness. The ideas connected with yellow are less pronounced than those of many other colours. The colour is a favourite when seen in a sunset or in the autumnal leaf; as seen in the chrysanthemum for a long time in this country it was an emblem of seclusion or estrangement from the world. Yellow may be said to be associated with simplicity, while suggesting the remote. There is a great deal of grandeur connected with a glittering gold colour, but a dusky gold is by no means pleasing. White has always been associated with purity. For Japanese white blossoms have great charms, and a white flower is regarded as the queen of flowers. White figures largely in Shintō ceremonies, which may be said to be a religion that attaches immense importance to purity. White skin is much admired in this country. Shiny white, however, of any kind is considered objectionable. Glittering ice causes gloom, as does white foam on the seashore. . . . In foreign countries ideas are associated with flowers. Germans have what they call *blumens sprache*. But these associations are in many cases derived from local customs and incidents, and hence are not of world-wide interest. In the matter of colour it seems to me of great importance that the stage should never offend public taste. To introduce red on mournful occasions and black in the midst of mirthful scenes shocks the feelings of the audience and spoils the effect of a play.

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The *Teikoku Bungaku* has published its usual January summary of the literature of the year and, as has been our custom for several years, we reproduce the principal parts of it in these columns.

I. EDUCATION. — Although there has been a great deal of discussion on educational questions, few of these have been in any way satisfactorily settled. The new educational magazines started during the year are:—The *Kyōiku Kōron* (公論), the *Kyōikudan*, the *Nihon no Shōgaku Kyōshi* and *Kyōiku-gakujitsu kai*. Among books, in addition to several translations, there appeared Saitō's *Jitsuyo Kyōiku-gaku* (The Science of Practical Education), Satō's *Shakai Kyōiku hō* (Methods of Educating Society); Ota's *Shinsen Kyōiku-gaku*, Shimoda's *Kyōiku Genron* and Yuhara's *Kyōiku-teki Shinrigaku*. Most of these were written with the object of discussing questions connected with elementary school teaching. As regards general theoretical discussion, there is much less of it than there was. The tendency to adopt foreign systems indiscriminately is less prevalent than it used to be several years ago, and the value of practical knowledge is being increasingly appreciated.

II. RELIGION.—Last year was remarkable for the way in which religion came to the front in public discussion, more especially in connection with the educational policy of the country, but it would not be true to say that religious devotion and faith have in any way increased. The controversy over religious education was fraught with many lessons. Buddhists and Christians used the occasion for emphasising their well-known views. One of the events of the year worth recording is the despatch by both sects of young men to foreign countries for the purpose of study. A large number of Buddhists seem to have a great desire to rationalise their religion and bring it into harmony with the spirit of the times. As for Christianity, never has there been a time when churches have been so poorly attended as they are now. (*Kaidō no sabishiki koto sono kyokudo ni itaritari*).

III. THE WORLD OF THOUGHT.—It cannot be said that there has been much activity in the region of abstract thought, but a great many practical questions have been discussed with a good deal of zest. A scientific study of mind has commenced, which promises to yield satisfactory results. Japanese mythology has been investigated by critics whose methods are distinctly modern; and in face of the revelations which writers on this subject have made not a few have come to the conclusion that traditional teaching on the subject of the gods is no longer worthy of credence. It is a decided characteristic of modern thought that it finds its chief interest in practical questions rather than in metaphysics.

IV. FICTION.—After the month of January there was not much activity. But what is very significant is the fact that both Rohan and Kyōka have turned their attention to real life and are bent on portraying it in an attractive manner. Both of these novelists have taken up their pens again in earnest.

V. LANGUAGE.—The study of the Japanese language has been pursued with renewed vigour during the year. Works on grammar, dialects, and similar subjects have been very numerous. The Gengo Gakkai have collected a large amount of material which is to be published during the present year in a magazine that will henceforth appear periodically.

VI. NEW STYLE VERSES.—Compared with former years the year 1899 was marked by an absence of specimens of this style of literature. There is no doubt that Bansui (Tsuchii) and Toron (Shimasaka) have no rivals in point of style, though they have many imitators. The few poems that appeared during the year were, in our estimation, an improvement on those of the previous year.

VII. TRANSLATION.—In this line last year showed a marked improvement on the year before. In fiction the works that attracted most attention were Futabatei's *Sakabukuro*, published in the *Bungei Club*; Shūtō's (Osada), *Ukarechō*, *Koi-no-Napoleon*, and *Wokan* and Bakkoya Sanjin's *Osero*, published in the *Taiyō*. This last work was specially well done. Sanjin has studied English literature to some purpose and has acquired the art of reproducing Shakespearian ideas in our language in a most effective manner. Other translations of comparatively minor importance are Gyokumei's *Magokoro*; Kocho's *Kokoro no Kuma*; Rohan's *Shide no umi*; Nanyō's *Mahō-isha*, and Ruikō's *Yukihime*. Though Iida Kiken's *Shiido*, published in the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, has called forth a certain amount of adverse criticism, as an introduction to the literature of Southern Europe it has considerable value. In providing reading matter for the young the labours of Iwaya Sazanami must not be forgotten. The *Sekai Otogibanashi* has embodied a great many of the ideas current in the West among young people, much to our satisfaction. Gyokumei's *Tsuki* (月) *Monogatari* and *Utsukushiki mori* (森) make excellent reading for young folks. Turning to more serious literature, a work that has been greatly talked about is the 審美綱領, *Shimbikōrei*, by Mori Ogai and Omura Seigai, which is no other than a reproduction of the German philosopher Hartmann's views on Esthetics. The defects of this work are excessive abbreviation of the original arguments and the employment of a large number of unfamiliar technical terms. Many of the words used were coined by the authors for the occasion and they give to the book an air of pedantry that is anything but pleasing. Mr. Takayama Rinjirō's *Kinsei Bigaku* (Modern Esthetics) in point of intelligibility is far ahead of the *Shimbikōrei*. Other learned translations worthy of mention are Dr. Nakajima's translation of Professor Ladd's "Cognition," Mr. Nakajima Tokuzo's *Shinrigaku gairon* (概論) (Wundt's); Yamabe's *Rinrigaku Hihan*, Standard of Ethics, (Sidgwick's), Fujii's *Tetsugaku-hanron* (汎論), Kumamoto and Shiraishi's *Doitsu-teikoku-shi* (History of the German Empire) and Hoshima's *Gengo Hattatsu*, Growth of Language, (Whitney's). The learned world is to be congratulated on the fact that at last the terms used in translation have attained to a state of considerable uniformity.

VIII. HISTORY.—There was great activity in this field of research during the year, and many steps were taken towards publishing the results of the labour of previous years. The Biographical Dictionaries that have appeared or are in course of compilation contain an enormous amount of historical information. There is the *Dai Nippon Jimmei Jisho* published by the *Keisai Zasshi* Company some years ago, which is now about to appear, in the enlarged and revised form; and there is the *Teikoku Jimmei Jisho*,

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published by the Tōkyō Zusho Kaisha, which, though not equal to the work mentioned above, is very creditably done. It will not be long before Mr. Yoshida Tōgo's *Dai Nippon Chimei Jisho* (Japanese Gazetteer) makes its appearance, the first work of the kind that has been issued in Japan. Other important histories are the *Meiji Hōseishi* (History of Modern Law) by Mr. Kiyoura, formerly Minister of Justice, and the *Nihon Bijutsu Shi* (History of Japanese Fine Art) issued by the Hakubunkan. This work is to be sent to the Paris Exhibition, we hear. The specimens of art given in it are said not to be so fine as those contained in the 美美大觀, *Shimbitaikwan*, and this is to be regretted, but both works stand quite by themselves in Japan. Dr. Shigeno has in hand a history of the *Meiji* era, which is being written specially for the Chinese, with a view of giving them some idea of how Japan's transformation was brought about. The valuable historical materials which have been collected by the Imperial University are now undergoing publication, and it is expected that the first instalment will be issued in March next. The appearance of this work is awaited with considerable interest.

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In No. 24 of the *Gwaikō Jihō* Dr. Ariga writes at great length on the foreign policy of the great European Powers during the nineteenth century and discusses very thoroughly the present tendency of political affairs in Europe. The nineteenth century he divides into the following periods: (1) The Age of Reaction (against the excesses of the French Revolution). (2) The Age of Constitutional Government. (3) The Age of Nationalism (when the people belonging to each nation assumed the control of affairs), and (4) The Age of Expansion. As it is impossible to reproduce the whole of the essay in this summary, even in an epitomised form, we will give only a short abstract of Dr. Ariga's views on the political situation now existing. The expansion of empires in a great many cases includes annexation of territory, and this involves the maintenance of large armaments, and as this is a costly affair, the policy of expansion undoubtedly meets with opposition among the people who have to pay the bulk of the taxes imposed with a view of carrying out the policy. So that the statesmen who are shaping the foreign policy of the various European powers are obliged to provide a stock of clever pretexts in order to blind the eyes of the people to the real significance of the course being pursued. Though the grabbing of territory is the real policy of the great Western powers, it is not as a rule so represented to the people of the various countries on whose support the Governments are dependent. The way for annexation is carefully prepared by the obtaining of all manner of rights and privileges. A variety of epithets are applied to the kind of control exercised over other powers; "influence" being one of the mildest of them. A certain portion of a country is said to be within this or that power's sphere of influence. This is the prelude to the establishment of a protectorate when a plausible pretext for such a course offers itself. At present Europe has its eyes on Africa and the extension of power there by various European states, but since only certain parts of Africa are suitable for European settlement, it will not be long before the interest of the West will be absorbed by China and Korea. In our life time we shall see gigantic changes in this quarter of the political world. The whole of the Far East may realise this in time to avert some of the consequences that would be involved in the carrying out of the present policy of European powers. . . . . What it is important to notice in connection with the foreign policy of each great European state is the tendency to combine forces against peoples of alien race wherever possible. The way in which England and Germany have come to an understanding is very significant. The policy of expansion adopted by both countries makes it desirable that in order to outvie other powers, they should act together as much as possible. They take the view that the world is big enough for each power to satisfy its ambition to the full. This Anglo-German coalition places France in an unenviable position, as Russia will never combine with France in the same way that Germany is combining with England. Her methods of extending her borders are not such as would be endorsed by the French people. Her love of stratagem, clever lying, bribery, and the like, and the fact that her government is carried on by a despotic oligarchy whose methods are repugnant to the notions of the French people render it impossible that the two nations should ever work harmoniously for any length of time in the carrying out of a far-reaching policy. It is curious that this coalition of Western powers against the East was proposed by Bismarck 15 years ago as the most effective policy to adopt in view of the difficulties attending the expansion of empire. It has been given to Count von Bülow, under the direction of the German Emperor, to put Bismarck's theory into practice. The results will be far-reaching, as the history of the 20th century will record.

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In the *Gwaiko Jihō* appears a translation of a letter received by Dr. Ariga from Mr. M. Thomas Alfred Walker, M.A., LL.D., dated Nov. 14th, 1899, which gives the views of the writer and Professor Westlake on the real cause of the Transvaal War. These we thus state briefly:—England's treaty with the Transvaal does not justify her interference with the internal government of the country. She interferes on the general grounds that her subjects have been improperly treated and that she cannot consent to allow this to go on. This right of interference cannot be disputed. But the maltreatment of the Outlanders was only an occasion for bringing on the war. For years it has been a question as to which race should be ultimately predominant in South Africa, the Dutch or the English. The number of Dutch subjects in English territory rendered it possible that at any time they might elect to found a Dutch republic in South Africa, in which case England would occupy a very subordinate place. The Dutch in Cape Colony, having the franchise, might at any time take a step by which exclusive English rule would be at an end. This situation could only be saved by making it sure beyond the shadow of a doubt that Great Britain would brook no rival in South Africa. The war is the result of England's imperial policy, and the success of that policy is involved in her final triumph over the Boers. This great issue of the war is not seen by the mass of the English people, who regard it as having for its chief objects the punishment of the Boers for their oppression and the wiping out of the reverse suffered by our arms at Majuba Hill.

COUNT INOUYE ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Count Inouye, in the course of a recent address to the Bankers' Club, said the trade of Japan was not yet on a satisfactory footing. The pernicious effects of the war had endured to the present. The expansion of armaments had necessitated an increase of fighting men from 200 000 to 400 000, and this meant that 200 000 men have been withdrawn from productive employment. Indirectly, too, as well as directly, the expansion had injured the productive power of the people. He found from enquiry of the headmen of the villages in his neighbourhood that ex-soldiers were unable to return to their former labour after dismissal from the service. Moreover they were discontented with coarse food and clothing. Increase of population and rise in prices had brought about an increase of imports, and now of salt and eggs alone the imports were 1 200,000 and 800 000 *yen* respectively. The various enterprises which had sprung up after the war, and the extension of the railway system had also tended to increase the amount of imports. Considering, further, the increase of luxury among the lower classes, the future of Japan was not free from anxiety. People were apt to talk about a foreign loan whenever they found the money market tightening, but was it possible at present for Japan to float such a loan? England, the great money market, was now involved in an expensive war with the Transvaal, and could hardly be expected to be in a position to accept loans for other countries. There was only one remedy for the economical evils of Japan, and that was to prevent the exodus of specie by encouraging home manufactures Bankers, however, should set their faces against enterprises of a speculative nature.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT.

The second Junker Chamber Concert of the present season was given in the Van Schaick Hall on Tuesday, 6th instant, before a small audience: the room being about half-filled.

Apologies were circulated for the absence of Mrs. Melhuish and Mr. H. A. Poole, absent through illness: their places were filled by Mrs. Payne and Miss Koda respectively.

Mrs. Payne, as usual, sang delightfully (although her first song by Grieg was spoiled by the *strepitoso* accompanist); and gained the only encore of the evening for her third selection by Tschaikowsky.

The remainder of the programme calls for no comment—the instrumental performances were not equal to those done at previous concerts. The following was the amended programme:—

PART I.

1.—String-Quartette in A Major .....Haydn.

2.—Scena..... Autumn Storm .....Grieg.
Mrs. Payne.

3.—Sonata in C minor for Violin and Piano.....Grieg.
Dr. Crusen and Prof. Junker.

PART II.

4.—Andante.....Violin Concert.....Mendelssohn.
Prof. Junker.

5.—Fantasia in C Minor .....Mozart.
Dr. Crusen.

6.—*a.* Treue Jonnie .....Beethoven.
b. Ye who have yearned alone..Tschaikowsky.
Mrs. Payne.

7.—2 String-Quartette:
a. Angelus.....Liszt.
b. Intermezzo.....Mendelssohn.

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FAREWELL DINNER TO DR. CLAY McCAULEY.

The members of the Tokyo Club gave a farewell dinner on the 26th February to Dr. Clay McCauley, who, to the profound regret of the foreign and Japanese residents of Tokyo, is leaving this country after a long residence of conspicuous usefulness as an Unitarian Minister, and the greatest helpfulness as a leader in all intellectual and social movements. His Excellency the United States Minister presided at the dinner. We append the speeches :—

H.E. Col. Buck,—Gentlemen of the Club, we have as a guest this evening a gentleman who is about to leave the country with the conviction that he will never return to it: a gentleman who came to this country several years ago as a representative of a great organisation of most worthy people in the United States. I hear that he has won the confidence and respect and friendship of people of all nationalities alike. He has been for years a member of our club and one of its officers, and he has endeared himself to all by the rare qualities of comradeship and good will and heartiness of manner which he has always manifested to all who have met him. I think that I express the views of all present in stating that we will earnestly regret the loss of so valuable a member, a man who has been so long with us and who has always shown himself so active and earnest in the support of the club and in all other work in which he has been engaged. In wishing him, as we all do, a pleasant journey to the United States, all the good things of life, and all the happiness that any man can expect, I think you will all feel—as I do—that he will never forget his friends in Japan and that he will always have pleasant recollections of his friends and associations with the club. Gentlemen, I wish you to join me in drinking long life, health, and prosperity to our friend Dr. McCauley.

Dr. Clay McCauley—Mr. President and fellow members of the Tokyo Club :—I assure you it is not mere formality of speech when I say that I feel, as deeply as I can feel, the honour of being your guest this evening. I have been a member of the Tokyo Club for more than 10 years and I think for about half that time in close relations with it as one of its officers. I will not depreciate or criticise your judgment in asking me to accept your hospitality this evening, unworthy as I may feel. I will accept your goodwill as it is given and appreciate it in the depths of my heart. During the 10 years that I have been a member, I think there is hardly a day when I have been in Tokyo and have not been within the precincts of the Club. I was with you when we met in the limited precincts of the Rokumei Kwan, and I was with you in the struggles which we went through in our endeavours to obtain these more suitable quarters. My Club record has been a very large one, more so perhaps than that of most members should be, because, situated as I have been, without a home really, and having my residence near to the Club, I have made the Club as it were a part of my home, so that day by day I have come here and now I look back on my life in the Club as one of the most pleasant of my experiences in this country. Here in its rooms I have formed many of my most delightful friendships and closest intimacies, so that when I go away from my home here I will remember my life in Tokyo and especially in the Tokyo Club with the greatest pleasure. I am going away not to return; it is not a new experience, for the Club is one subjected to constant change. A Club in New York or London or Berlin or in any of the great cities of Europe or America has a fixed membership. Men commence in their youth and remain as members until, as old men, they sit round the card tables or mumble old stories round the fireside. But here we have an unfixed and unknown quantity: our life is constantly changing—I have never seen a place where there is more change. I have thought that our club is like an eddy in a great river: the great current passes on and yet there is a circular movement which remains in one place. The particles change but the form remains the same: we see people coming and going and yet the Club remains. Some are drawn upward to that bourne from which no one returns: some are shot off at a tangent into the great river of life, into the great sea of the world, and we see them no more. Constant change, coming and going, is commonplace; my departure is nothing new, and by and by there may be but few who will remember the faces of to-day or who can count more than a few years of continuous membership. This leads up to the thought that the special characteristic of the Club in its fuller usefulness is cosmopolitanism. There is no place in the world which equals this place for the clubbing together of people from all parts of the world.—men of all sorts and conditions speaking diverse tongues and having all sorts of differences of customs. This very cosmopolitanism is one of the most interesting features, as making towards the general understanding of man by man and towards universal peace. Men cannot come together as we do here and make friendships as we do without having such emotions raised within them that when they go home they will not be ready to counsel or even to back up any great war against those nations whose people they have learned so much better to understand. This national characteristic has a greater or less bearing upon the future peace of the world. And looking at it in this light I have always felt it my duty to act in the Club not so much as an American as a man. I have always tried to leave outside the door all the racial prejudices and to meet men of other nations not as such but as members of a common family, and I have tried to make the club a model home for such a family. And in all clubs this mingling of nationalities will bring about a better understanding and a better appreciation of nation by nation. I shall always remember my life in Japan with pleasure: I have made my home here in the club and have better learned to understand and to live. I go away, as much a citizen of the world as an American, and now, thanking you most cordially for what I feel unworthy to receive, the gift of your hospitality, I propose in return the Tokyo Club, and to the members I will drink the commonplace toast of health and prosperity and to the Club many years of continued success and usefulness.

Mr. J. Conder.—The President having done me the honour of calling upon me for a few remarks, as I am not a countryman of Mr. McCauley's, I would just like to say a few words on behalf of those other nationalities which, owing to several untoward circumstances, are represented here in rather small numbers to-night. We feel that we are losing a great friend and a gentleman who has done a great deal to help us in our amusements as well as in our more serious work. It is hard for those who remain to see friends to whom they have become attached taken away from them and we feel like the soldiers remaining of a company which has been decimated. One by one our comrades are taken off, some going to that bourne from which no traveller returns and some to a different earthly home across the ocean where we may or may not meet again. I wish to add the regrets and the hearty good wishes of Mr. McCauley's English friends and those of other nationalities represented in this Club. This dinner is entirely a farewell dinner to Dr. McCauley, but since it was arranged another departure has been announced. Another friend is going away, though only for a short time, and I think we should not lose the occasion of proposing a farewell toast to Mr. Herod.

Mr. J. R. Herod.—As Mr. Conder says in his remarks, so I also feel that I have no desire to detract from the fullness of our farewell to Dr. McCauley by seeming to share it with him. Neither do I wish to try to tarnish the eloquence of any one who has spoken so well, and I have another reason for not entering upon a long explanation of my feelings, which is that our speeches are growing into an endless chain into which you will all be drawn, and so it seems desirable to make the links as short as possible. I thank you all for your very generous remarks and toast. We are here to-night as it were in the Inn of the Canterbury Tales: Dr. McCauley has delivered the clergyman's speech and it would not become me to enter on a lengthy oration. Here in Tokyo we all have our places, I have my little row to hoe, and I try to do it quietly and well. As for Dr. McCauley I must pay tribute to a good-natured genial, hearty friend, every day the same, who will advise you and help you, and always for your good.

Mr. Fukai—I have not been prepared at all to say anything this evening, but since I have found that I am the only Japanese present I feel impelled to say just a few words in order to thank Dr. McCauley for what he has done for the country and for the Japanese. Since this country was opened to foreign intercourse the material side, so to speak, of European and American civilization has been very copiously represented in this country. We Japanese have exerted ourselves to adopt the material civilization of the West, but the intellectual refinement and higher culture has been rather poorly represented, and moreover our people have been rather careless in this matter. The result is that the moral and intellectual foundation of life in Japan has passed away, and we have not had up till now a very strong moral and intellectual life as based upon foreign ideals. But the Japanese now feel that it is necessary to adopt not only the material side but to assimilate our intellectual and spiritual life to that of the Western world. On this line I think that what Mr. McCauley has done during his long stay in this country is very remarkable. Of course there have been Christian missionaries who have done very good work here, and I do not hesitate to express my appreciation of their efforts. The Japanese nation in general has been unable to accept what these missionaries has to offer them. I am unable, perhaps, to express myself in sufficiently delicate language, and feel that I am speaking in too coarse a manner when I say that the Christian faith as preached by the majority of missionaries has not been acceptable to the majority of Japanese and the intellectual class of our people has not been very profoundly affected by the preaching of the ordinary missionary. But Mr. McCauley's work has had, I think, a very remarkable influence on the current of thought among the higher classes of Japanese, and I think it is beyond question and admitted on every side that he has done a great deal to introduce into this country the intellectual and spiritual side of western civilization. For this reason I think it is not proper for me, as the only Japanese present, not to thank Mr. McCauley for what he has done for this country, and I propose now in general, western and common civilization.

Dr. McCauley—There is a rule in Parliamentary circles that no one must speak twice until all others have spoken, but if you allow me I will break this rule and say a word or two in reply to Mr. Fukai's very unexpected sentiment. I am not recognised by the regular missionaries as one of their number, but it is an open fact that I have come as a representative of the higher thought and life of the western ethical life and attainment. I have tried to be a man in accordance with the professions of my belief, and I have come here as a representative of a body of men who feel that they were responsible for their beliefs in matters of religious faith and practice and who strive more to represent in actual life the worth of human conduct than to rehabilitate the spiritual world or to guide the course of human reason. My purpose in coming to Japan was not to impose upon the Japanese any faith of western countries, but to welcome any yearnings the Japanese themselves might have toward a spiritual faith. And so my

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life has been one of attendance and waiting, ministry and co-operation: I have never taken the initiative. I think all the most helpful ethical teachers among us will be those who have felt the necessity of basing their lives upon ethical principles and upon high spiritual practice. The influence of our sympathy promises a great deal. I am anxious as a friend of Japan that she shall be saved from spiritual and moral wreck. I have no intention of giving you a sermon. I have tried in the way of sympathy and encouragement to welcome and develope the spiritual aspirations of the Japanese themselves. We are the first to leave the country on account of action taken by the Japanese. They have entered upon an autonomous commercial and practical life and we have urged them also to another life also autonomous—an autonomous religious life. And I think such a life growing out of the people themselves, will be permanent because it is of the people and not from without, and that it will grow and prosper. I am glad indeed to hear from a Japanese so much appreciation of this fact. The religious life of the future will constantly develope, and it is my hope that the future will bring a life of deepest reverence for all that nature and providence has given to man.

Dr. A. G. SMITH, of Yokohama, and Mr. MASON spoke warmly of Mr. McCauley's personal qualities as a travelling companion on many pleasant holidays.

Professor TERRY said he found that his club intercourse with men of all nationalities made him feel familiarwith all countries of the world.

Mr. DUER spoke in praise of the excellent results of cosmopolitanism as illustrated by the success of the Municipal Council of Shanghai, of which he gave a few particulars.

Dr. LEHMANN spoke on behalf of the German Community and the German Asiatic Society. Messrs. E. H. Vickers and C. S. Griffin also spoke, and Mr. Griffiths, just back from a long stay in Formosa, added a few remarks.

THE NIPPON GINKO.

The reports submitted by the Bank of Japan to the general meeting of shareholders show that the transactions conducted by it during the 32nd year of *Meiji* reached 9,300 millions *yen* approximately. Below are the comparative figures for the past five years:—

	Receipts. Yen.	Disbursement. Yen.	Total. Yen.
1895 ...	1,504,920,922	1,509,000,310	3,013,921,232
1896 ...	2,661,136,053	2,659,398,133	5,320,534,186
1897 ...	4,530,554,779	4,484,585,054	9,015,139,833
1898 ...	4,509,474,048	4,509,856,182	9,019,330,230
1899 ...	4,661,265,912	4,652,664,842	9,313,930,754

Thus the Bank's transactions have almost trebled during the five years, a result which must be regarded as the result of the steady development of the business interests of Japan.

Turning to profit and loss account we find that the profit for the period under review was 5 million *yen*. The following are comparative figures for the five periods above mentioned:—

	Net profit. Yen.	Rate of dividend. Per cent.
1895	2,666,899	14
1896	3,849,831	13
1897	5,846,560	13
1898	4,692,227	11
1899	5,030,052	12

The dividend for 1899, compared with that for 1897, shows a slight decrease, but the cause of this is to be found in the fact that in spite of a considerable increase in the amount of loans issued during last year, a reduction in the scale of interest, together with the depreciation of bonds, has necessitated the appropriation of profits in order to supply the losses arising from these circumstances. That the Bank has still been enabled to realize a profit of over five millions of *yen* is a fact which must be regarded as satisfactory.

As regards the reserves, the figures stand as follows:—

	Reserve. Yen.	Total Reserve from the beginning. Yen.	Ratio borne by the Reserve to the Capital. per cent.
1895...	1,050 000	8,600,000	38 2
1896...	650.000	9,250 000	41.2
1897...	2,670.000	11 920 000	52 9
1898...	1,100 000	13,020 000	43 4
1899...	980,000	14,000,000	46.6

From the above it may be perceived that the reserves have swollen from 8 million *yen* to 14 millions during the past five years, and the ratio they bear to the capital, which amounts to 30 millions at present, has increased to 46 6 per cent. The decrease from 52.9 per cent. for 1897 to 43 4 per cent for 1898 is simply due to the increase of capital in the latter year. The funds thus set apart as a reserve are to be appropriated for the purchase of bullion and public bonds.

As to deposits the following figures are given:—

	1899. Yen.	Inc. & dec. as compared with the preceding year. Yen.
Aggregate total of deposits	1,796,009,197	+148,714,473
Repayments	1,748,547,568	+ 50 533,391

As regards fixed loans the figures stand thus:—

Gen. loans (fixed) ..	45,362,954	— 82 697,956
Repayments	59,902,239	— 85 954,206
Loans at the close of the year	10,737,402	— 14,539,285

The enormous diminution in loans as seen in the above table is owing to the adoption by the Bank of the process of simplifying transactions by discounting bills on security of goods after the Commercial Code came into operation, whereas the enforcement of the Stamp Regulations has augmented the amount of taxes to such an extent as to exceed the discounts allowed for loans.

The loans on current accounts were follows:—

	1899. Yen.	Inc. or dec. as compared with the preceding year. Yen.
Loans	623 397.205	+92,817,221
Repayments	624,651,789	+92,121,639
Loans at the end of the year	2,207,585	— 1,254,584
Loans contracted ...	220	+ 19
Highest amount of overdrafts allowed	14,338.800	+ 874,000
Head Office ...	7,815,000	— 461.000
Osaka branch...	3.583,000	+ 642,000
West provincial branch.....	833 300	+ 350 000
Hokkaido branch	290,000	+ 19,000
Nagoya branch.	683.000	+ 52,000
Sapporo Out-office.....	40.000	+ 40.000
Kyoto Outoffice	844,500	+ 165,000
Otaru Outoffice	190,000	+ 7,000
Fukushima Out-office.....	60,000	+ 60,000

Thus the total loans issued have been over forty-three times the maximum amount of over-drafts allowed.

Again, during the year under review the discounts on both foreign and domestic commercial notes, as well as bills payable in specie at the Mint, have amounted to 419 million *yen*, an increase of 130 millions as compared with the previous year. As to domestic notes the figures stand thus:—

	Amount of discounts Yen.	Notes rejected. Yen.	Rates of rejections to applications per cent.
Head Office.....	197,399.179	9 500,918	4.6
Osaka branch ...	92,633,488	20,551,275	18.2
West provincial branch	30,492,121	5,648,186	15.6
Hokkaido branch	919,599	89.528	8.9
Nagoya branch.	20,853,695	2,311,323	10.
Kyoto Out office	38,727,857	11,421,655	22.8
Otaru Out office	4.792,304	349.711	6 8
Fukushima Out office	1,750.553	44,853	2.5
Total.....	387,568,800	49,917,499	

Compared with the previous year each district shows more or less decrease, but as the districts where rejections are numerous suffer from lack of credit it is to be hoped that the rate will still considerably decrease by the time for compiling reports for the 33rd fiscal year. With regard to foreign discount bills the figures stand as below:—

	1899. yen.	Increase or Decrease. yen.
Exchange bills for exports.	27,923 827	+3.225.214
On England	12 588 949	+4,843.072
On France	6.871,059	+ 132,062
On America	8 463,818	—1.749.919
Exchange bills for imports.	2,816 142	—4 372 341
On Yokohama	2,816,152	—1 932 789
On Kobe	—	—2,439.551
Total	30,739 969	1,147,126

The profit and loss account for the latter half of last year, classified according to localities, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, is as follows:—

	Net profit for latter half of 1899. Yen.	Same for 1898. Yen.
Head office	1,911,351	1,888 507
Osaka branch	377.718	464,620
West provincial branch.	184,371	252,190
Hokkaido branch	—11,499	—3,727
Nagoya branch	127 733	117 810
Sapporo out-office	—12.899	—8 573
Kyoto out-office	170 956	137 946
Taipeh out office	—79 573	—162.342
Otaru out-office	13 454	17.043
Fukushima out-office ...	—205	—
Total	2,679.408	—2,703.476
Balance	24,067	

Minus sign represents loss.

Thus, the figures for the latter half of 1899, compared with the corresponding term of the preceeding year, show a decrease of 24.000 *yen*. This may be owing partly to fresh payments imposed by the Government upon the Bank in spite of the reduction in the amount of taxation for issues above the legal limit, and partly to a general falling off in the rates of interest.

As to bullion and specie actually held by the Bank at the end of 1898 and 1899, the figures stand as follows:—

	End of 1899. yen.	End of 1198. yen.
English gold coins	260.749	113.061
American gold coins ...	1,780.379	1,046.753
French gold coins	10,389	—
German gold coins	2.466	—
Russian gold coins	20,052	—
Old coins	342,137	328,485
Gold and silver mixed bars	16,536.858	17,156,011
Sundry gold bullion ...	8,069 671	—
Gold bullion	2,200 520	5,466 355
Gold coins	74,394,134	66,088 268
Silver bullion	7,000,000	—
Silver *yen*.....	127.009	—
Total.....	110,617.358	90,335 944
Balance	—	20,281,414

Compared with the corresponding term of the previous year, the above figures show an increase of about 20 million *yen*. This increment is attributable to the fact of trade having entered upon a normal course, and that the indemnity and English sterling bonds have been brought home from London. The following are the comparative figures for public bonds held by the Bank at the end of 1898 and 1899:—

	Market value in Dec. 1899. Yen.	Same in 1898. Yen.
Pension bonds (5 per cent. interest)	7,987,367	7,965,139
Old loan bonds	78.909	86,714
Naval bonds.....	1,343,722	1,343.099
Consols	20.993.175	25 442,118
Imperial bonds.....	3.684,600	3,907,100
War bonds	4.743.135	508,190
Foreign bonds	17,262,697	1,122,005
Total.....	56,100,606	40,374,366

Thus the amount of bonds has increased by 15 million *yen* during the past year. The Bank, it must be noticed, having purchased public bonds to the value of 7,620,000 *yen* during last year, subscribed to 2 million pounds face value

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of similar debentures, and sold 8,410,000 *yen* worth of the same, the actual accounts at the end of the year stood as mentioned above. The augmentation noticeable in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year is due to subscriptions for bonds raised in England.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom).

LORD ABBOT OTANI.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Please allow me space to call your attention to what appears to me to be a discrepancy in your statements concerning Count Otani. In your issue of Jan. 27th, you speak of him as the "Chief Prelate of the Eastern Hongwanji," and the "High Prelate of the Eastern Hongwanji." Feb. 10th, you again speak of him, but this time as being of the *Western* Hongwanji. One more reference is made to him in your issue of Feb. 17th, when he is called "High Prelate of the Western Hongwanji" To those who know, the above might not lead to any confusion, but to those who do not know, your articles on the troubles in Buddhist ranks can hardly be said to be clear.

Yours truly, C. A. TAGUE.

Yamaguchi, February 26th.

THE BOER WAR.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In answer to a letter addressed me from Sendai by Mr. Dening, asking me if I would agree to publishing Prof. J. A. Walker's letter to me in the *Japan Daily Mail*, I have the honour of writing to you to the effect that, the letter being not originally intended for publication, I fear I will do injustice to Prof. Walker by delivering his letter *as such* to publicity. But at the same time I see no harm in contributing to the *Mail* such extracts of his letter as will convey the general idea of what one of England's rising international lawyers thinks on the present war. It is as follows:—

"We have been having an exciting time here lately in international affairs. The Transvaal business is occupying all minds. It is a long time since there was such a display of national enthusiasm. I am afraid that in its inception I could not but recall the growl of Walpole on the outbreak of a popular war with Spain in the last century: "They are ringing their bells now; they will be wringing their hands soon." The final end of this war is, I suppose, well nigh inevitable, but it bids fair to be purchased by great bloodshed. I have not studied the events leading up to the war as closely as I could wish or as I hope to do. So far as I have gone, however, it does seem to me that, if the matter be treated solely as one of *intervention*, the British case is not strong. I mean to say that if the convention between Great Britain and the Transvaal be alone taken into account, President Kruger has a strong case. The word 'Suzerainty' in itself being meaningless, or well nigh so, one must go for British right in the Transvaal to the conventions made between the two governments, and it is clearly open for the Transvaal to contend that, whilst Great Britain did in 1884 reserve under "Suzerainty" the rights of international representation, she did expressly resign to the Transvaal Government the right of control over all *internal affairs*, amongst which must be ranked the determination of the conditions upon which the Transvaal citizenship shall be awarded. Regarded from this point of view, however oppressive the action of the Transvaal Government towards British and other immigrants, Great Britain would not be within her rights in interfering. It is not for Great Britain to be *custos morum* even of States under her 'Suzerainty.' The defence of the British action must, I think, be put on another ground altogether. The struggle is really a struggle of Dutch versus English for for the control of all South Africa. The war has been commenced on a minor issue, but the question is whether the British Imperial authority shall stand in South Africa and extend to the North, or whether there shall arise in South Africa a *Dutch* United States. The work of the Africander Bond cannot be disregarded. The Dutchmen of the Cape have been allowed equal rights with the British and they are in a majority. If the process which has been going on were to be allowed to continue, the Transvaal with the Orange Free State might play the part of head centre in a great conspiracy for the establishment of a Dutch Confederated States. Great Britain is striking at the arch-conspirators. That is to say, the war is, for the British, a *defensive* war of Imperialism. If you look at the map of Africa, again you will see how the non-possession of the Transvaal would nullify the acquisition of the all important Delagoa Bay. With the Transvaal under imperial control the Imperial line would be practically unobstructed from Delagoa Bay to Fashoda and Khartoum and so to the Nile Mouth. We are anticipating a War of Dutch Independence and at the same time securing our great central African Imperial Advance. This is my idea. I understand that Prof. Westlake has similar ideas. Meantime with the British people the war is a war of justice against Boer opposition, of British interests against Dutch monopolists, of revenge for Majuba Hill."

Prof. Walker's letter is dated St. Peter's College, Cambridge, Nov. 14, 1899. Hoping you will kindly sympathise with my almost solitary undertaking to publish a diplomatic review in order to instruct the Japanese public in these matters,

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

NAGAO ARIGA.

No. 56 Miogadani, Koishikawa, Tokyo, 24th February, 1900.

A REPLY TO "JUSTICE."

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—I read with considerable amazement a letter in your issue of the 2nd inst., upon "The Boers and their Independence."

Justice lays it down "That the right to decide to what extent and to whom it will grant political privileges is essential to the sovereignty of any state," therefore he says, "the Boers are fighting for their independence."

What on earth has that to do with this South African War, in reference to which the proximate cause was the failure of the Boers to observe certain clauses of a Convention between Great Britain and the Transvaal Republic, whereby they had not only been guilty of gross injustice to British subjects but had created a state of affairs dangerous to the well-being of British South Africa?

Surely before "Justice" can with reason accuse the British Government of acting wrongfully towards the Transvaal Boers, he must show the above mentioned contention to be unfounded.

He then goes on to state that if the British had the right to demand privileges, the Transvaal was not an independent State, and they (the Boers) are now exercising a right always left to people who feel themselves wronged; the right of revolution.

Was more pernicious nonsense ever penned, save by a Bedlamite?

Had the Transvaal Boers been British subjects, will "Justice" point out to whom the British Government should have addressed its demands for privileges?

Of course, the fact that demands were made on the Transvaal of necessity implies that it was a more or less independent State.

As for the right of revolution always left to a wronged people, that strikes me as rather a dangerous doctrine to be held by a citizen of a State which frequently shocks civilized humanity with the spectacle of a mob of its white citizens cruelly murdering with impunity a fellow citizen because he happen to be a negro.

However, to return to the subject in hand, I venture to suggest it would have been much more to the purpose had "Justice" shown us in what respect the Boers are a wronged people instead of romancing as to the right to revolt. "Justice" then proceeds, "it is manifestly absurd to suppose the Orange Free State is assisting the Transvaal to resist a demand they themselves thought right."

Had he known one quarter as much of his subject as he should have done to justify him in expressing publicly his opinion as to the righteousness or otherwise of British action in South Africa, he would not now require to be told that shortly before the war broke out President Steyn astonished the British public by explaining his action in joining forces with the Transvaal, on the ground that the independence of the Orange Free State was of no value if that of the Transvaal ceased to exist. Later it transpired that a defensive and offensive alliance between the two States had existed for some time past, and finally abundant evidence has been brought to light to show that the real object of the rulers of the two Republics and their co-workers was to drive the British flag out of South Africa.

"Justice" will find in the January number of the *Nineteenth Century* an article entitled "The South African Conspiracy against British Rule," by the Rev. Dr. Wirgman, canon of Grahamstown Cathedral, who writes with the advantage of experience gained during a residence in South Africa of nearly 26 years. Amongst other things the article relates a conversation which took place some 17 or 18 years ago between Mr. Theo. Schreiner (brother of the present Cape Premier) and Mr. Reitz, now State Secretary of the Transvaal Republic, in which the letter invited the former to join the Afrikander Bond.

Mr. Schreiner declined to do so on the ground that he saw the object of the Bond was the expulsion of the British flag from South Africa, which, if ever attempted, would lead to a bloody war in which the God of Battles would be on the side of the British.

His prophecy has now been nearly completely fullfilled. Owing entirely to Mr. Reitz and his co-workers a bloody war is now raging in South Africa, and it only remains for the allied Republics to be overthrown (a by no means improbable event) for the whole of the prophecy to be literally and absolutely fulfilled.

The fact of the matter is, there are now in print so many accounts of the growth of this South African trouble that there is no excuse for "Justice" or any other person of intelligence remaining ignorant of the question except that of complete indifference to it; in which case it would be wiser for them to abstain from publicly ventilating their views.

FAIR PLAY.

March 4th, 1900.

THE BRITISH SOLDIER.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—A good deal has been said about the Psalm-singing and piety of the Boers, and it is sometimes said in such a way as to imply that the British go forth in a very different spirit. We who know the British soldier at all intimately know that this is not the case, though the national reticence is very apparent in religious matters and forbids anything like long prayers. I think that the enclosed extracts from a letter just received may interest some of your readers. The writer is engaged in raising a regiment of Colonial troops:—

"So far we have merely been collecting men, giving them a place to sleep in and something to eat, and then trying to drill them a bit. This morning we had our first regular parade, and as it was Sunday I made it a Church Parade and gave them quarter of an hour of prayers, using the Prayer Book Mr.——gave me, also a prayer composed by myself for the occasion and which I enclose, as I should like that you would use it too, as I know you will. To-morrow being Christmas

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Day, we are going to have no work and have organized a bit of a dinner for the men, all the officers subscribing. We have some curious people in our ranks—men of all sorts; a brother-in-law of a duchess, a Lieutenant in the Navy who has got leave; we have several ex-officers and several men who were in the Jameson Raid; several Australians and several New Zealanders, a Swedish count—all sorts and conditions of men. Christmas Day.—I am very fit indeed, and don't feel the heat. I have had a very pleasant day. As there was nothing much to do in Camp, I made the men a little speech telling them to enjoy themselves but to be careful not to get into trouble, then I gave them a holiday. After that Mr.——, Mr.—— and I came into town and went to the Cathedral. It seemed more like Christmas when we heard the old hymns. We had an excellent sermon from the Bishop, who explained that it was not a mockery to say "Peace on earth," even though nations were at war, and that we might feel at peace even when going into battle. I like his preaching; he always has something interesting to say and he just talks enough about the war and not too much. After his sermon we stayed to Communion."

[Prayer enclosed:—O Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, send down a blessing on the ————, that they may be faithful and true and may serve Her Majesty Queen Victoria loyally and nobly. Grant that they may prevail over their enemies and that when this war is over they may return to their homes in honour, prosperity, and health. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake.—Amen]

Yours truly, B.

Tokyo, March 5th, 1900.

FUKHIEN.

The *Jiji* publishes some notes by Mr. Shiga Juko on a recent tour in Fukhien. Mr. Shiga seems to have supposed at first that Fukhien was the most fertile district of South China, and the richest in valuable productions and mines. He was surprised, however, at finding that the territory, being so mountainous, has but a small area of ground fit for cultivation. The people, under such physical disadvantages, find great difficuly in gaining a subsistence. Every year there is a large emigration to Formosa, Australia, and California. Mineral wealth, however, appears to be scattered over the entire district. The most prominent mines are those of silver in Engchun, iron in Aukeng and Kotian, lead in Pengho, and anthracite coal in Siau bu. Hot springs of very high temperature also abound. In short, Fukhien may be considered a mining district, and it will be advisable for Japan to secure at once mining privileges as a preliminary towards the establishment of a footing in South China. Railway concessions are also important. A railway of 560 miles from Foochow to Kiukong is necessary. Some may say that, as Japan has been unable to construct even the Söul-Fusan railway, any attempt to acquire concessions in a territory like Fukhien, which is still more distant and has little or no direct connection with Japan, would excite the ridicule of the world. But it must be observed that the territory, if left to itself, is in danger of passing into the hands of other nations. The opening of the port of Tswanchiu is also of the first necessity. Seven-tenths of the immigrants into Formosa are from Tswanchiu, while the remaining three-tenths come from Canton. The inhabitants of Tswanchiu import their staple food, rice, from Formosa, and export, in return, hats, caps, pans, umbrellas, woven goods, and other necessaries. Ever since Japan's subjugation of Formosa, they have continued their trade, but in a different form. Their transactions with Formosans are now conducted secretly, and are thus attended with numerous abuses. This fact alone justifies the opening of Tswan-chiu. Commercial statistics relating to Foochow and Amoy show that their trade is gradually but steadily declining. As to travelling in Fukhien, Mr. Shiga's remarks are interesting. He says it is expedient to discard the former fashion of travelling in Chinese dress, and to adopt instead European costume, which lessens the dangers of the journey. Carrying a sword or a revolver seems to create absurd uneasiness among the natives, and the traveller had better leave such weapons behind. What strikes one in China is the difference between the various spoken languages. Fukhien alone has six different dialects, and interpreters not acquainted with the official language are therefore of little service. Two or three persons, however, well versed in the official tongue are to be found in every village. As to climate, it must be remembered that the three months of March, April, and May are rainy and that as the Chinese seem then indisposed to travel, serious inconvenience will be experienced in undertaking a journey at this time of year. Discretion must also be exercised at the beginning and the close of the year, for at this particular period murder and robbery are rife. Another point of great importance for travellers is that they should provide themselves in all seasons with at least three blankets, and one *futon*, except in mid summer, and should carry during the hot weather a mosquito net and a supply of foreign candles.

A MARINE PRODUCTS BANK.

The *Ketsai Zasshi* states that elaborate investigations have been made with regard to the representation which was made to the Diet for establishing a Marine Products Bank. It was found that dealers in marine products were in the 24th year of *Meiji* (1891) in debt to the amount of over five million *yen*. This was shown by a special report compiled by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. These people have been in the habit of carrying on trade under the so called system of *mayegure*, or advance receipts, paying interest at more than 5 per cent. They were, however, able to liquidate the debts in a satisfactory manner without causing inconvenience to their creditors. But naturally they must be almost entirely at the mercy of wholesale merchants or capitalists.

It is thought that if the dealers were furnished with loans redeemable in yearly instalments they would be able to develop the industry to a considerable extent.

A central bank should be established, with offices or agencies in various cities and prefectures, the only branches being in Hokkaido and Kiushiu. As marine products at present amount to 50 million *yen* annually, the bank should be provided with a capital of at least 5 million *yen*, and vested with power to issue debentures to five times that amount, while loans should be issued to the extent of one-tenth of the total output in each Prefecture. Credit should be given to fishing corporations formed as juridical persons, and to persons holding immovable property. Advances on goods, and on deposits from fishermen should also be made, while accommodation should be given, in some cases, on the security of movable properties.

LANGFELDT AND CO. LIMITED.

The meeting of this company was held on Monday afternoon at No. 73. There were present Messrs. Weinberger, W. R. Bennett, C. B. Bernard, D. H. Blake, F. Grosser, F. H. Bull, B. H. Pearson, and C. Tornoe (Secretary).

On the motion of Mr. Bull, seconded by Mr. Blake, Mr. Weinberger took the chair, in the absence through indisposition of Mr. J. F. Lowder.

The report was taken as read. The Chairman commenting on it, said the business of the last half-year had on the whole been good, and but for the unfortunate Manila venture they would have been able to declare a fair dividend. The prospects of business, as pointed out in the report, were very favourable, and they hoped to make everything smooth by the end of the half-year.

After some remarks on the necessity of writing off large amounts for old stock, the report was passed.

On the motion of Mr. Bull, seconded by Mr. Blake, Messrs. Weinberger and Bernard, who retired by rotation, were re-elected directors.

Mr. Guinness was re-elected auditor, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the directors, proposed by Mr. Bennett.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A fire occurred at 2.20 on the morning of the 5th inst. at 130, China-town, Yokohama, occupied by Tay Ah Man. The house was completely destroyed, and 3 adjoining houses and 1 godown damaged. The property belonged to Kon Ah Man, a commission agent, and was fully insured.

Vice Admiral Sir Compton E. Domville will succeed Sir E. H Seymour in command of the British fleet in China. He commanded B Fleet during the last naval manœuvres and is now Admiral Superintendent of Reserves. His flagship will be the *Glory*, now completing at Portsmouth, which will replace the *Centurion* on the China Station.

Tamura Eitaro, aged 28, and Ota Yonezo, aged 11, beggers, were arrested on the 4th inst. by the Isezakicho Police. It was found that the former tried to burn a pawnshop by setting fire to a dog kennel in Suyeyoshicho, 1chome, some time ago, while Ota had set fire to a house in course of construction in Hagoromocho Nichome, on the morning of the 1st inst.

Many regiments of the British Army and ships of the Royal Navy, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*, have a pet on the strength of their company, and H.M.S. *Peacock*, now in Shanghai, has emulated the Welsh Fusiliers and adopted a goat. The sailors have made him a collar bearing the ship's name and as all hands are fond of him, he has a very pleasant time. "Billy," who is only in the kid stage of life just now, joined the ship at Manila.

Colonel and Mrs. Bullard, who have been appointed by General Booth to take command of the Salvation Army in Japan, arrived in Yokohama on the *Rohilla* on the 27th ult., and proceeded to Tokyo the same day. These officers come from the command of Army work in North India, and, owing to their long experience of Eastern customs and work, the appointment is looked upon with satisfaction by the Army workers.

A military correspondent at Odessa states that large quantities of both heavy and light ammunition are being concentrated there from the various military depots in the eastern provinces of Russia for early shipment to the Far East. A considerable number of guns, chiefly for forts, will also be taken out early next month, in order to supersede weapons of remoter make which were placed in positions in the Liaotung Peninsula when it first came into the possession of Russia.

The three Chinese tailors who were found gambling on the 26th February at 136, Yokohama, were tried before Judge Kuwada in the Yokohama Ku Saibansho at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the courtrooms being crowded with Chinese. Barrister Fujiwara appeared for the prisoners. The evidence of the three policemen who arrested the men was taken, but each contradicted the other. At Mr. Fujiwara's request the procurator, judge, and clerk visited the premises. On their return Mr. Fujiwara made a lengthy speech, in which he quoted the Civil Code referring to gambling. He also said that the evidence showed that the Chinese were in the act of separating the checks, or chips, into four parts, preliminary to playing the game of "Ma Chau," and they were waiting the arrival of the fourth player necessary for the purposes of the game. The law could not arrest persons who were not actually gambling. Judgment was given in favour of the defendants.

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IMPORTANT LAW CASE.

J. R. MORSE V. THE MAYOR AND CITY AUTHORITIES OF KOBE.

The case of J. R. Morse *v.* the Mayor and City Authorities of Kobe, for the cancelling of a contract concluded with the Kobe Waterworks and for the payment of 25,000 *yen* compensation for losses incurred through a breach of contract on the part of the Waterworks, came on for hearing on Saturday before Judge Fujise, Judges Shimamura and Morii in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho. Mr. Suzuki appeared for plaintiff, and defendants were represented by Messrs. Kusaka, Sakurai, Ota, and Otsuki.

Mr. Suzuki, in opening the case for the plaintiff, stated that Mr. Morse was visited by the Mayor and members of the Municipal Council of Kobe, on 7th July, 1899, in order to negotiate the sale of Kobe Water Works bonds. An inducement was held out to Mr. Morse for the purchase of these bonds in the shape of a promise of large orders for materials to be used in the construction of the Water Works. The Mayor also told him that those bonds were not like the Tokyo City and Osaka Harbour Works bonds, inasmuch as they would be redeemable in sterling, or at a fixed rate of exchange, which would make them more attractive to purchasers abroad. The rate of exchange was discussed at length, the Mayor favouring the rate fixed by the Finance Department on the 1st July, 2s ½d. to the *yen*, but to this Mr. Morse refused to agree, as he would be obliged to borrow money at 2s. 1/16d. This point was finally settled in Mr. Morse's favour, and the following letter was sent to the Mayor by Mr. Morse :—

> "In accordance with our understanding, I agree to take from you Kobe Municipal bonds to the extent of *yen* 1,000,000 in the denomination of 1,000 each, with the endorsement of sterling exchange on the back of each bond at the rate of £103'7/8½ for *yen* 1,000, and at the rate of 92 per *yen* 100. One-half the above amount, I will take and pay for on the 15th of this month, and one-half on or before 15th December."

Mr. Morse stated that an agreement was entered into at once, and on 15th July he advanced the sum of *yen* 460,000 in exchange for the Mayor's receipt and the agreement to deliver *yen* 500,000 in bonds on 15th August. When the bonds were brought to him, he merely examined the English translation, and as he found the sterling rate in accordance with the agreement, he took it for granted all was right. On the 11th September, he examined these bonds with Mr. H. W. Denison, when, to his surprise, he discovered the rate of exchange was not mentioned in the Japanese text of the bond and that the translation was incorrect. He immediately wrote the Mayor pointing out the fact, but he received no reply from the Mayor. The matter was left in abeyance until the end of November, when Mr. Morse called on the Mayor. He asked the Mayor as to his intention regarding the redemption of the bonds in sterling. The Mayor replied that it was his original intention to have the rate of exchange fixed and to redeem the bonds in sterling, but after receipt of Mr. Morse's letter of Sept. 11th, he applied to the Minister of Finance and learned that he could not make such a contract, and therefore he could not change the Japanese text of the bond. Mr. Morse again wrote to the Mayor under date of Dec. 1st, 1899, stating that the misunderstanding had made it impossible for him to sell the bonds abroad, and consequently he could not take up the remaining *yen* 500,000 on the day appointed for the payment of the balance. He received the following reply :—

Kobe, Dec. 1st, 1899.

JAMES R. MORSE, Esq.

Dear Sir,—A proposition for paying with sterling for Water Works bonds of this city, which was made by you at our last meeting of the 29th ult., has been introduced again to the City Council, and the matter was very carefully discussed, but a decision was arrived at contrary to your desire, same as previously. The other request of postponing payment of balance on bonds until May of 1900, which was agreed upon between you and the City Council, to be paid up on or before 15th December this year, was also rejected. You understand the circumstances as above, and hoping the agreement will be carried out on or before the 15th December this year, as fixed upon at first.

Faithfully yours,
Y. NARUTAKI,
Mayor of Kobe.

On December 5th the Mayor wrote again stating that "it was and is our principle that we do not refund in sterling in any case." He said he had mentioned this in a letter dated 15th September sent in reply to Mr. Morse's letter of the same month, but this letter Mr. Morse had not received. The Mayor further asked Mr. Morse for payment of the balance on or before the 15th Dec., in accordance with the agreement. Mr. Morse wrote back reviewing the whole of the transactions, and pointing out that the placing of orders with Mr. Morse's firm for several hundred thousand *yen* worth of supplies on commission terms of 5 per cent. was an inducement held out to Mr. Morse at the time of contracting, but no orders had since been placed with Mr. Morse's firm, and therefore it was necessary for him to take legal action in his interest. Mr. Morse was waited on by several representatives of the Mayor on the 12th December. They asked him what his intentions were regarding the remaining undelivered bonds. Mr. Morse in his turn asked them if it had not been the original intention of the Mayor and members of the Council to redeem these bonds at the rate of exchange fixed in their agreement. They replied that it certainly was their original intention to do so, but the Mayor was compelled to cancel the original proposal, as he had failed to obtain the permission of the Finance Department.

Counsel for the defendants admitted that Mr. Narutaki, Mayor of Kobe City, representing the Kobe Water Works, had entered into an agreement with Mr. Morse for the sale of bonds, but the Mayor never agreed to the proposal of having the bonds redeemed in sterling.

Another of defendants' counsel stated that the refusal of Mr. Morse to fulfill the contract was due to an advance in the rate of interest in consequence of the war between England and the Transvaal.

This statement was contradicted by Mr Suzuki.

The defendants called for the evidence of Honda Seiji and Fujiwara Kichisaburo, members of the Waterworks Committee of Kobe, and also Miyauchi Nisaku, chief of the Kobe Waterworks.

The plaintiff applied that three witnesses, namely, Yamamoto Shigezo, and Ishii Sennosuke of Kobe, and Matsuo Shinzen, of the Finance Department, should be summoned.

The applications were granted with the exception of that referring to the last-named witness, which will be decided later.

The Court finally adjourned to 12th April.

TELEGRAMS.

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, March 2.

It is officially announced that Dundonald entered Ladysmith on the evening of the 28th.

A despatch from Buller dated the 1st inst. says that Dundonald with the Natal Carabiniers and a composite regiment entered Ladysmith the previous night.

The country between Buller and Ladysmith is reported to be clear of the enemy, and Buller, at the time of his despatch, was moving on Nelthorpe.

Clements occupied Colesberg yesterday and received an enthusiastic welcome.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Paardeberg under date of the 28th ult. that the Boers are reported to be in force on the South West.

Buller cables from Nelthorpe on Thursday at 5 in the evening :—

"I have just returned from Ladysmith. Except a small rear-guard to the northward of Surprise Hill all the besiegers have retired in hot haste. The country to the south of the town is quite clear. The garrison will require a little nursing before being fit for the field."

Lord Lansdowne has announced that 38,800 troops will sail during the month of March, and 17,800 during April.

The Army Estimates total 61,499,400 pounds sterling, and provide for 430,000 men.

There are immense rejoicings in England over the relief of Ladysmith.

Lord Roberts telegraphs that on the 28th, the Boer prisoners departed for Cape Town under escort of the Imperial London Volunteers and the Gloucester Regiment. The women and children were sent to their homes. One hundred and seventy wounded Boers were brought in to the British Hospital, many having been pitiably neglected. The Boers are indignant at Cronje refusing them medical aid.

Reuter's correspondent at Paardeberg sends an account of the meeting between Lord Roberts and Cronje. Both men saluted, then Cronje dismounted, and Roberts shook hands with him, saying, "You have made a gallant defence, Sir." Refreshments were then ordered and conversation ensued.

Shanghai, March 3.

The Government has telegraphed to Australia for 2,500 more mounted troops. The Australian Premiers are considering the matter.

Roberts and Kitchener arrived at Kimberley on the morning of the 2nd, and were to leave again on the 3rd.

A party of Boers is active on the north-west of Kimberley, destroying and looting. There is also a party shelling Barkley West.

Newspaper correspondents telegraph from Paardeberg that the British scouts are in touch with the enemy to the eastward. Their force is estimated at 7,000 men.

Barton was wounded on the 29th ultimo.

The Times correspondent in Ladysmith says that the casualties since the investment of the place were as follows :—

	Killed.	Wounded.	Died of Disease.
Officers.....	24	70	6
Rank and File...	235	520	340
Total	259	590	346

Grand Total..... 1,195

Shanghai, March 4.

On the 3rd inst., Gatacre reconnoitred in force in the direction of Stormberg and shelled the Boers' laagers. The enemy replied with two guns, which were located.

The Colesberg Boers have all returned to the Free State.

Buller telegraphs from Ladysmith under date of the 3rd inst. that the defeat of the Boers was more complete than he had dared to anticipate. The whole district is completely clear, except on top of Reenen's Pass.

The Boers' last train left Modder

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Spruit yesterday, and they then blew up the bridge. They moved their wagons to the north of Ladysmith six days ago, so that there is no chance of intercepting them, but they left vast quantities of ammunition and herds of cattle. They got away all their guns except two.

[NOTE.—Modder's Spruit is nine miles from Ladysmith along the railway to the Transvaal. It is therefore evident that the great majority of the Boers have retreated in that direction.—ED. *J.M.*]

Mr. Chamberlain has asked Australia for an additional force of 2,000 men, similar to the Bushrangers. The Imperial Government will bear all the expenses. The Premiers have agreed to heartily cooperate. New South Wales will probably contribute 750.

Shanghai, March 5.

Dundonald made a dramatic entry into Ladysmith. He found the ridge concealing Ladysmith unoccupied and determined to ride through the gap into the town. Two squadrons galloped swiftly over the rough ground until the sentry challenged them. Then the tattered, listless men of the garrison gathered round and raised a feeble cheer.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Dordrecht under date of Sunday that Brabant's Colonial Division is now attacking the Boers in a strong position at Labuschagnes Nek.

President Kruger is visiting the Free State to consult with President Steyn. It is believed that the consultation has reference to proposals for peace.

A cablegram from Leyds published in America says that the Boers want peace, but that they insist on their independence.

The Australians, moving out of Colesberg with two guns, reconnoitred Wagon Bridge over the Orange River, which was found to be still intact. A shell dispersed fifty Boers who were on the opposite bank.

Shanghai, March 6.

The Queen has abandoned her projected trip to the Continent and has decided to remain in England at the present juncture.

Later news from Dordrecht says that Brabant's Brigade occupied the Boers' position. The enemy made a determined attempt to retake it, but were repulsed with heavy loss. The British casualties were 6 killed and 15 wounded.

The Times' correspondent telegraphing from Osfontein, under date of the 2nd inst., says that opposition is anticipated at Abraham's Kraal, 30 miles east of Paardeberg, where Joubert is collecting a force from the whole of the Ladysmith troops and the N.-Eastern elements of the Free State. It is reported that the advanced posts of the Boers hold Achtertang.

The enemy is still in force at Norvals' Pont bridge.

All was well at Mafeking on the 15th February.

The Budget to meet the war expenditure of 60 millions increases the income tax by 4d. in the £, the tax on beer by 1s. a barrel, the tax on spirits by 6d. per gallon, that on tobacco by 4d. a pound, that on cigars by 6d., and that on tea by 2d. a pound. It extends the stamp duties on transactions in stocks to produce sales, suspends the sinking fund and certain annuities for next year, and raises the remaining 35 millions by bonds or stocks terminable in 10 years and not by consols.

The casualties in the relief of Ladysmith were 93 killed and 709 wounded.

The Emperor of Japan telegraphed to the Queen his congratulations on the success of the British troops in South Africa.

Shanghai, March 7.

Gatacre has entered Stormberg unopposed.

Brabant's victory was complete. The Boers are in full retreat and are being pursued.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Osfontein under date of the 3rd inst. that French's artillery shelled the right of the enemy's position on the North of the river. The Boers' position extends eight miles, and the country is favourable for British operations. There is abundant water.

A strong Kimberley force is marching to the relief of Mafeking.

Buller reports that Natal is practically free from the enemy. There are 800 typhoid cases in Ladysmith.

The House of Commons has adopted the Budget resolutions relating to additional duties, and has also approved the loan.

Shanghai, March 8.

Reuter's correspondent at Ladysmith telegraphs that a portion of the garrison made a reconnaissance and discovered the Boers in a position behind Pepworth Hill. An engagement followed, but the attack was not pressed, and the troops returned. The casualties were slight.

The Boers stubbornly resisted Brabant on the 4th and 5th, and then retreated suddenly, moving their guns and wagons. The British casualties amounted to 30 killed and wounded.

Reuter telegraphs from Capetown under date of the 8th that the districts of Prieska and Kenhardt have proclaimed themselves Free State territory. Nearly the whole of the Dutch population is rebellious. The movement is spreading to Victoria West and Fraserberg, as well as other districts. The rebels are estimated at 3,000.

H.M. the Queen visits Ireland in April.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Osfontein, under date of the 7th inst., that on that day he attacked the enemy occupying a position 4 miles on the North and 11 on the South of the Modder River. The cavalry succeeded in turning the left flank of the enemy, who are now in full retreat, closely pursued. The British casualties are few.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, March 2.

The British casualties from the beginning of the war until the present time aggregate 12,834.

The English have occupied Colesberg, the Boers retiring into the Orange Free State.

Buller telegraphs that General Dundonald's column entered Ladysmith on the evening of the 28th. The Boers have evacuated the whole region between Colenso and Ladysmith.

Saigon, March 3.

Buller entered Ladysmith on the 1st of March. The garrison is in a very enfeebled condition. The Boers have retired with their artillery. There is great enthusiasm in London.

Saigon, March 4.

Cronje was yesterday put on board a British ship at Simonstown.

The Boers are concentrating on the road to Bloemfontein.

In the French Chamber, M. Lasels questioned the Government on the subject of irregularities committed by the High Court. The discussion ended by a vote of confidence, 287 to 138.

Saigon, Feb. 5.

General de Gallifet, Minister of War, was recently attacked with congestion of the lungs. His condition is improved, but absolute repose is ordered by his physicians.

The President of the French Republic yesterday received Mr. Thompson, President of the American Youths Association for erecting a monument to Lafayette. He handed to M. Loubet, in the name of President McKinley, the first dollar received for the subscription. The speeches exchanged on the occasion affirmed the friendship of the two republics.

General Joubert is concentrating his forces at Abrahams Kraal.

The Times announces from Lorenzo Marquez under date of the 4th March that there is a persistent rumour that the Transvaal has opened negotiations for peace.

Saigon, March 7.

The House of Commons has voted an increase of taxes amounting to 25 millions sterling for the expenses of the War.

Saigon, March 8.

Roberts is concentrating his forces at Osfontein near Paardeberg; the Boers are concentrating theirs in the same neighbourhood. Buller is sending columns of troops towards the passes on the frontiers of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

Three thousand Dutch in the provinces of the N. W. of the Cape Colony have revolted.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

The wives of the various Foreign Ministers in Peking have been received in audience by the Empress-Dowager.

Later.

The Empress-Dowager is dangerously ill. There is a rumour of her death, but its truth is uncertain.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 1	F. Mar. 9
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China 2	M. Mar. 12
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. Mar. 12
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 3	Tu. Mar. 13
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Koenig Albert 4	Sa. Mar. 17
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 5	Su. Mar 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co	Doric	M. Mar. 19
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Annam 6	Th. Mar. 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co	Em. of Japan	Th. Mar 22
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 7	M Mar 26
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Th. Mar. 29

1 Left San Francisco on the 23th ult.
2 Left Shanghai on the 9th inst.
3 Left Vancouver on the 29th ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 6th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.
6 Left Saigon on the 9th inst.
7 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Sa Mar. 10
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Stuttgart	Sa. Mar. 10
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. Mar. 12
America	P. M. Co.	China	W. Mar 14
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. Mar 14
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Tonkin	F. Mar. 16
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Mar. 19
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Mar. 21
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W. Mar. 21
anada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F Mar. 23
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Tu. Mar. 27
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Mar. 31

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BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, March 3rd :—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,176.002
Amount of convertible notes issued...	212,121.365
Government deposits	61,185,359
General deposits	4,692,268
Exchange liability	40 029
Total	323,215,034

Cr.	
Discount notes	58 828 550
Foreign discount notes	11.665 345
Loan to Government	22 000,000
General loans	66.559 021
Exchange liability	1.818 664
Government bonds	55 846,351
Property...	2.025 964
Bullion and Specie	104,661,136
Total	323,215.034

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	215,451,646

Bullion and Specie :—

Gold	98,823.280
Silver	4,000,000
Total	102,823,281

Securities :—

Government bonds	21.302,921
Government certificates	22.000,000
Government bills	12,013.548
Commercial notes	57.311,890
Total	112,628,356

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	385,827
Silver	—	—
General loans	2,137,160	—
Government deposits	3,590,863	—
General deposits	271.837	—

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 462.

Key move Q to Q R 4

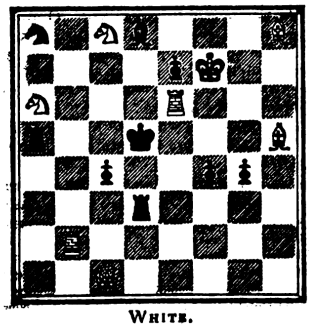
Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 464.

By E. P. Bell.

"Best Two-er" *Football and Field* Tourney.

Black.



White.

White mates in two moves.

Game No. 569.

S. W. Bampton, of the Franklin Chess-Club, Philadelphia, and one of the crack players of the Quaker City, and Griffith, the rising star of the University of Pennsylvania, played the following game in the Franklin-Club Championship Tourney now in progress. The score and notes are from *The Times*, Philadelphia.

Ruy Lopez.

White—Griffith.	Black—Bampton.
1—P to K 4	P to K 4
2—K Kt to B 3	Q Kt to B 3
3—B to Kt 5	P to Q R 3
4—B to R 4	Kt to B 3
5—P to Q 3	P to Q 3
6—Castles	B to K 2
7—R to K sq	Castles
8—Q Kt to Q 2	Kt to K sq
9—B to Kt 3	K to R sq
10—Kt to B sq	P to B 4

Mr. Griffiths has adopted a slow development which is not congenial to his style, and the result is that Black now assumes the role of first violin.

11—Kt to K 3	P to B 5
12—Kt to Q 5	B to Kt 5
13—P to B 3	B to Kt 4
14—Q to K 2	Kt to B 3

White now commits a technical mistake in pushing his K R P and thereby weakens his position. In defending, keep your Pawns as far as possible unmoved.

15—P to K R 3	B to R 4
16—Kt takes Kt	Q takes Kt
17—B to Q sq	Kt to K 2
18—Q to B 2	Q to Kt 3
19—Kt takes B	Q takes Kt
20—P to B 3	B to B 2

Now, by virtue of his P to R 3, White has a hole at Kt 3.

21—Q to B 2	B to K 3
22—K to B sq	R to B 3
23—K to K 2	R to Kt 3
24—K to B sq	Q to R 4
25—K to K 2	R to Kt 6

It fits like the paper on the wall.

26—R to R sq	Q to Kt 4
27—R to R 2	Kt to Kt 3
28—B to Kt 3	B takes B
29—P takes B	Kt to R 5
30—K to B sq	R to K B sq
31—P to Kt 4	R to B 3
32—P to Kt 5	R to Kt 3
33—P takes P	P takes P
34—R takes P	P takes R 3
35—P to Kt 4	Kt takes B P

A fine sacrifice.

36—P takes Kt	R takes B P & wins.

For if Q takes R, then Q to Kt 8 ch, etc.

Games from the Vienna Tournament.

Sicilian Defence.

White—Brody.		Black—Maroczy.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P Q B4	23 Q B2	B K2
2 Kt K B3	P K3	24 K B sq	Q Q3
3 P Q4	P x P	25 Q K2	Q Q4
4 Kt x P	Kt K B3	26 P B4	Q K5
5 Kt Q B3	B Kt 5	27 P Q Kt 3	P KR4
6 B Q3	Kt B3	28 B B sq	Q Kt8
7 Kt K2	P Q4	29 Q Kt2	Q Q6ch
8 Castles	P x P	30 Q K2	Q Q5
9 Kt x P	Kt x Kt	31 Q Q2	Q K5
10 B x Kt	B Q3	32 Q K2	Q B4
11 P K B4	Castles	33 Q K5	Q Kt8
12 B K3	B K2	34 Q Kt2	Q Q6ch
13 Kt Q4	B Q2	35 Q K2	Q Q3
14 Q R5	P K Kt 3	36 Q Q2	Q K3
15 Q B3	B B3	37 Q K2	B B sq
16 Kt x Kt	B x Kt	38 B Kt2	B K2
17 B x B	P x B	39 P B5	Q x RP
18 K R Q sq	Q B2	40 Q K5	Q Kt8ch
19 P B3	K R Q sq	41 K K2	Q B7ch
20 R x R	R x R	42 K K sq	Q Kt8ch
21 R Q sq	P Q B4	43 K K2	Q B7ch
22 R x R ch	B x R	Drawn.	

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 2nd March,—Kobe, 28th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 2nd March,—Shanghai via ports, 24th Feb., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 2nd March,—Muroran, 27th February, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Natuna, Danish steamer, 458, G. Peterson, 3rd March,—Hongkong, Teakwood.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, E. W. Filmer, 3rd Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 2nd March, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Albatross, U.S. Fish Commission steamer, 638, J. F. Moser, 4th March,—Guam.

Saint Bede, British steamer, 2,287, A. McPherson, 4th March,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 2nd March, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Nurnberg, German steamer, 2,663, Pesch, 5th March,—Hamburg via ports, and Shanghai, 28th Feb., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 5th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, 28th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 5th March.,—Hakodate, 2nd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Futami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, James Thom, 5th Mar.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 4th Mar., Mails and General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 5th March—Otaru via ports, 27th Feb., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

St. Mirren, British ship, 1,855, John G. Whier, 6th March,—New York via Adelaide, 10th Dec., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Tonkin, French steamer, A. Vaquier, 6th March, —Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 5th March, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Lovstakken, Norwegian steamer, 2,002, Reinertsen, 6th March,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 4th March, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Stuttgart, German steamer, 3,209, P. Grosch, 6th March,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 5th March, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Saxonia, German steamer, 2,660, Krech, 6th Mar., —Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 28th Feb., General.—C. Illies & Co.

Garonne, U.S. Army Transport, 2,485, Conradi, 6th March,—Manila via Nagasaki, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Nishihara, 6th March,—Yokkaichi, 5th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oopack, British steamer, 2,517, J. Barber, 7th March,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 6th March, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 7th March,—Yokkaichi, 6th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, W. Thompsen, 7th March,—Moji, 4th March, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Orestes, British steamer, 2,992, Peters, 8th Mar., —Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 7th March, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 8th March,—Otaru via ports, 2nd Mar., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 8th Mar.,—Kobe, 6th Mar., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand, Austrian steamer, 3,160, G. Morovich, 2nd March,—Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,081, Aubert, 2nd Mar. —Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, K. Soyeda, 2nd Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benvenue, British steamer, 1,468, Potter, 2nd March,—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 4th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 4th Mar.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kiyoichi Maru (formerly *Diana*), Japanese schooner, 72, Thompson, 4th March,—Sealing Cruise, Stores and Sealing Gear.—Capt. Eden.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 5th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 5th Mar.,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sendai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,064, K. Kawahara, 5th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Calchas, British steamer, 4,278, Thos. M. Gregory, 6th March,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, W. E. Filmer, 6th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, S. B. Lockyer, 7th Mar.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 7th March,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 7th March,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 7th March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Nishihara, 7th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Bede, British steamer, 2,287, A. McPherson, 7th March,—Manila, P.I., Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Lovstakken, Norwegian steamer, 2,002, H. Reinertsen, 7th March,—Moji via Uraga, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Esmeralda, British schooner, 139, J. T. Harrison, 8th Mar.,—Guam, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Garonne, U.S. Army Transport, 2,485, Conradi, 8th March,—Seattle, Washington, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 8th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Eddy and daughter, Miss von Fallot, Major C. Sakamoto, Mr. R. Masujima, Mr. A. J. Pumfret, Mr. T. B. Pocklington, and Mr. A. Yamamoto, in cabin; Mr. S. Tomoichi, and Mr. K. Shirai, in second class; 30 in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Capt. S. Tomioka, Mr. Mr. J. P. Terry, wife, infant and amah, Brig.-Gen. G. H. Weeks, Mr. S P. Jensen, and Dr. Crusen, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Rev. J. L. Humphreys, Mrs. Humphreys, Mr. C. Pereira, Mr. E. Runge, Miss Runge, Mr. G. Kaehler, Lieut. Skorupo, I R N., Mrs. Skorupo, Lieut. Vladimirde Bodesco, I.R.N, Mr. W. J. Carlisle, Mr. H. R. Lewis, Mr. S. W. Barnaby, Mr. Adolf Schaffe, Mr. T. H. Holmes, U.S.N., Mr. D. J. Hindley, Lieut. Ellis, I.R.N., and Lieut. D. Kouznitzoff, I.R.N., in cabin.

Per British steamer *Futami Maru*, from Melbourne via ports:—Mr. A. Marks, Mr. F. G. Sale, Mrs. F. G. Sale, Mr. K. Asakura, Mrs. M. Asakura, Miss Cooper, Mrs. A. H. Fifield, Mr. E. Espenhahn, Mr. T. Nakanishi, and Mrs. T. Nakanishi, in cabin; Mr. Watson, Mr. K. Naitow, and Mr. I. Deguchi, in second class; 12 in steerage.

Per German steamer *Stuttgart*, from Bremen via ports:—Mr. Hans Meyer, Mr. M. Suda, Mr. and Mrs. Kalep, Mrs. Schmitz, Mr. C. E. Fiske, Mr. G. Thebaud, Mr. Watson, Mr. Weiss, Rev. D. M. Lang, Mr. F. P. Loup, Consul and Mrs. Thiel, and Mr. Giovanni Salciconni, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Tonkin*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Corvisart, 2 children, and amah, Mr. Thevenet, Miss Y. Sato, Mr. and Mrs. Bell and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Monks and child, Mr. and Mrs. Suzor and child, Mrs. Roth and daughter, Mr. Berthet, Mr. Rey, Mr. Dubourg, Mr. Leiborich, and Mr. Gavee, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Sydney*, for Marseilles via ports:—Comte A. Rossi Martini, Dr. A. Gomi, Major E. J. Sarkies, Mr. Kawakita, Mr. I. Ishikawa, Lieut. Diaconoff, Mr. Asanuma, Mr. Tatsui, Mr. K. Nakao, Mr. Y. Shirasawa, Mr. Matsuura, Mr. S. Kitahama, Mr. Matsumoto, Mr. Katayama, Mr. Ogawa, Mrs. and Miss de Raush Transbenberg, Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Shinomiya, Mr. G. S. Smith, Mr. Lynam, Mr. Fitzgerald King, Mr. Long Nin Kong, Mr. Josub Ahamed, and Mr. F. Hoffmann, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. H. D. S. Perry, Miss Hughes, Mr. A. J. McClure, Mr. R. W. Hutchison, Mr. E. Blake, Mr. Cheong Kee, Mr. Chan Son Nen, Mr. H. T. Paul, Mr. Gordon Smith and guide, and Mr. Arratoon, in cabin; 16 Chinese and 5 children, and 1 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. J. Laughlin, Mr. T. K. Laughlin, Mr. Paul, Mr. T. B. Pocklington, Mr. Geo. Killian, Mr. Akidzuki, Mr. W. C. Vaughan, Mr. H. W. Andrews, and Mr. J. Bumken, in cabin; Mr. S. Kanaya, Mr. N. Masuda, Mr. M. Shirai, Mr. Y. Sawai, and Mr. H. Chiba, in second class.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, for Marseilles via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 234 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 125 bales.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 73 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 42 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is very little doing for the time of year. Prices have an upward tendency, and buyers hold off, apparently not recognising that there is no possibility of values receding for some considerable time to come.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$3.00 to 3 30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 34½ yds 45 inches	3.30 to 4.00
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0 32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0 65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0 68 to 0.78

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9 20 to 11 25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-4 inches.	0 90 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 oz., 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.80

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42 Doubles	$370.00 to 390 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	315.00 to 345.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350 00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400 00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$28.50
Indian Broach	28.00
Chinese	27.00

METALS.

There is little doing. Prices show a tendency to advance.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward	6.50 to 7 00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanized iron sheets	13 00 to 14 50
Wire Nails assorted	8 50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 18 inch)	7.50 to 7.90

KEROSENE.

Market steady.

American	$1.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.05 to 1 08
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

Market steady at last quoted rates.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.10 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.11 to 6.25
Brown Taitong	4 40 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Some business has been done as the market declined but there is no life in the trade, both Europe and America reporting dull market and sending in very low offers.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,160 to 1,165
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,110 to 1,120
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,150 to 1,155
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,160 to 1,170
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,120 to 1,130
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,120 to 1,130
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	1,090 to 1,100
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,120 to 1,130
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,090 to 1,100
Re-reels—No. 2	None
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	None
Kakedas—No. 1	1,080 to 1,090
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,060 to 1,065
Kakedas—No 2	1,030 to 1,035
Kakedas—No 2½	1,000 to 1,005

WASTE SILK.

Small business in better qualities of Kibiso at quotations. In other sorts the stock on offer is very poor in quality, and no business is doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	$180 to 190
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 170
Noshi—Oshu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshu, Good	
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	140 to 145
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	130 to 135
Noshi—Bushu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Good	
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshu, Good	None
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	110 to 120
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 165
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 155
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	None
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	None

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 8.

Silver from London unaltered and discounts in the open market now quoted 4 per cent. Rates have declined $\frac{1}{16}$ all round to-day.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 15/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0½
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅝
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2 0 15/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	259½
— Private 6 months' sight	260½
America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅛
Germany—Bank sight	207
— Private 4 months' sight	212½
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74½
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 8.

Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 210. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 70. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Brett's have buyers at *yen* 9. Oriental Hotels, Kobe, have buyers at *yen* 145. Founders are wanted at *yen* 450. Japan Breweries are steady at *yen* 150.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., have been sold to Shanghai at Tls. 215.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...210 Buyers.
Grand Hotel ...237 50 Sales.
Club Hotel, ... 90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel ...145 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co. ... 70 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co. ...150 Steady.

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, March 8.

Breweries are steady at *yen* 145. Engine and Iron Works are steady at *yen* 210. Grand Hotels—A few shares can be had at *yen* 235. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 80, sellers at *yen* 90. Oriental Hotels can be placed at *yen* 145. Langfeldts—Offers of shares are wanted. Laundries have sellers at *yen* 50.

Debentures—Breweries are in demand at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs and Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Marusan Breweries are obtainable at *yen* 45.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50	210 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50	145 S.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	235 S.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	145 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Debs.), $108	430 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $50	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	65 B.
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., *yen* 50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	110 B.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.—Buyers, Sa.—Sales, St.—Steady N.—Nominal, W.—Weak E.—Enquiries,

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Tokyo, March 7

Redemption Loan Bonds	94 60
War Loan Bonds	94 65
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	98.70
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	430.50
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68 80
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	284 50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.50
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	68 00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	107.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	29.10
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	74.30
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	64.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	25.20
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	126 00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	78.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	57.50
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	48.70
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	62.00
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	46 70
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	95.50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway, 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	81 00
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	90.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	47 50
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	33.50
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	48.50
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	27.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	36 80
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	30.25
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	18.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 23	22 80
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	228 70
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	203 80
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	67.80
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25	27,90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new paid up yen 10	14 50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	28.70
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	23 00
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	39 00
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20	32.00
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Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	244.00
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Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	140 50
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25	17.00
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	8.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	53 50
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Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up yen 25	22.50

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA AND SHIMBASHI.

YOKOHAMA—5 30, 6.10, 6.45, 7.19, 8.38, 9 10, 9.35, 10 05, 10 50, 11.35, a.m.; 12 20, 12 57, 1.30, 2, 2 36, 3 10, 3.55, 4 35, 5, 5 33, 6.15, 7.16, 8, 9.13, 10, 10 50, and 11 15 p.m.

SHIMBASH —4 50, 5 45, 6 50, 7.25, 7 55, 8.30, 9.05, 9.25, 10 10, 10 45, 11.25 a.m.; 12, 12 30, 1.10 1 40, 2 25, 3, 3 25, 4, 4.50, 5.25, 6 30, 7, 7 35, 8 20, 9.15, 10, 10 35, and 11.20 p.m.

YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

Leave.	Arrive.
Yokohama ... 6 50 am	Kobe .....10.47 am
Yokohama ... 1.14 pm	Kobe ..... 9 00 am
Yokohama ... 6.30 pm	Kobe .....11.19 am
Yokohama ...10.32 pm	Kobe ..... 6 36 pm
Kobe ..... 6 00 am	Yokohama ...10 05 am
Kobe .....12.05 pm	Yokohama ... 8 05 am
Kobe ..... 6 00 pm	Yokohama ...10 50 am
Kobe .....10 00 pm	Yokohama ... 6.13 pm

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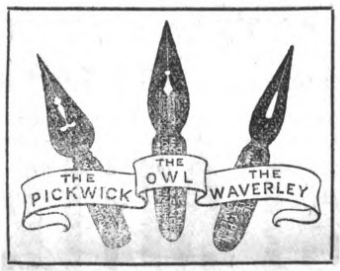

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same: and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

At the British Legation, Tokyo, on March 11th, the wife of ARTHUR HYDE LAY, Acting Japanese Secretary, of a son.

DEATHS

On Tuesday morning, March 13th, at Kobe, JOANNA, widow of the late Captain Joseph Thomas, aged 64 years.

At the Shanghai General Hospital, on Monday, the 5th of March, 1900, JULIUS GIESE late Captain of the N.Y.K. *Fushiki Maru* aged 51 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

GERMANY has declined to intervene on behalf of the Transvaal.

THE condition of the garrison at Mafeking is very pitiable, supplies of food running short and illness increasing very rapidly.

CRONJE is to be deported to St. Helena pending the close of the war.

A WAR loan of £30,000,000 has been issued in London and covered twenty times over.

THE German gunboat *Iltis* arrived at Nagasaki on Thursday evening from Amoy. She will leave for Kobe after a day or two.

THE administration of the Caroline, Pelew, and Ladrone Islands, recently purchased by Germany from Spain, will be attached to that of German New Guinea.

H.M.S. *Edgar* has been ordered to leave England early in March for Hongkong with relief crews for the sloops *Algerine* and *Phœnix* and the surveying ship *Waterwich*.

THE German warship *Hertha* arrived in Yokohama harbour from Hongkong on Wednesday. She has on board His Excellency Vice-Admiral Bendemann, and his flag was duly saluted.

THE British have occupied Bloemfontein without opposition, the former President of the Orange Free State presenting Lord Roberts with the keys of the public departments.

THE sum of £20,000, the balance of £60,000 stolen from Parr's Bank a year ago, has been mysteriously returned. The notes were found on Feb. 10 inclosed in a steamer passbook.

A COOLIE named Okazaki Tsurukichi, employed in cutting stone from the quarry at Nakamura Takachigayato, was killed on Friday afternoon, a large piece of boulder falling on him.

THE ship's company of the Danish war ship *Valkyrien* were entertained to dinner at the Public Hall on Saturday evening. The men made a great impression as they marched along the Bund.

HONGKONG papers state that Lieut. C. R. Emrich, of the U.S.S. *Brooklyn*, died in hospital at Hongkong of typhoid fever, and was buried there with military honours on the 26th February.

THE exchange of ratifications of the Samoan Treaty took place on Feb. 16 h at the State Department at Washington. This is he last ceremony necessary to give full effect to the Samoan agreement.

THE newspapers of Berlin announce that Mme Nellie Melba, the prima donna, is engaged to marry Herr Dr. Joseph Joachim, the famous violin virtuoso. Herr Joachim is 69 years old and Mme. Melba is 34

IN the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Saturday the suit for divorce brought by Mrs. McKelvey (*née* Lela Miriam Stilson Bell) on the ground of desertion, was dismissed. Plaintiff was ordered to pay the costs of the suit.

ON Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock, a junk belonging to Hoshino & Co., a forwarding agency in Yokohama, capsized near Urapa. An N. Y. K. steamer, the *Fukagawa Maru*, rescued the ship-wrecked sailors, who were brought to Yokohama.

RAINS and a rapid thaw caused many English rivers to overflow about the middle of last month, and there were unprecedented floods in various parts of the United Kingdom. Several provincial towns were inundated, great damage being done to farmers. Hundreds of sheep and other live stock were drowned, and much of the railroad traffic was suspended.

AN ordination service was held in All Saints' Church, Kobe, on Sunday forenoon, Mr. Edward Makeham being admitted to the order of Deacons. The Bishop of Osaka conducted the service. Mr. Makeham will labour among the seamen of the port.

THE Tugela River is the longest if not the broadest river in Natal. It rises in the Drakensberg mountains, and where it enters British territory there is a rapid and precipitous leap of 1,800ft. This is one of the greatest waterfalls in the world.

A *soshi* actor belonging to the "Kiraku-za" Theatre recently decamped with some theatrical robes. He was arrested by the Kotobukicho Police on Friday. His name is Onouchi Ukinosuke, age 19, and recently he stole some money from his fellow actors.

SIX hundred bales of cotton, arrived by the *Oopack*, consigned to Ko Tai, a Chinese merchant of No. 52 Settlement, have been refused landing by the Sanitary and Water Police Authorities. The cotton is to be sent back to Shanghai, by the *Oopack*.

OVERTURES for peace have been made during the week by Presidents Kruger and Steyn, but as they demanded the full independance of both republics, Lord Salisbury telegraphed back that the proposals could not be accepted. A peace delegation has left for Europe.

WE are glad to learn that the appeal recently made through our columns on behalf of the building fund of the Army and Navy Mission Work at Yokosuka has resulted in some 600 *yen* being collected. Much more is still wanted, but this amount justifies the committee in beginning work this month.

THE case of Umeseko, the quartermaster of the *Tamba Maru*, who bit Mr. Kent, the fourth officer, and was sentenced to five days' detention and appealed, came up on Friday in the Chiho Saibansho before Judge Satow. Barrister Tanaka appeared for the prisoner. The former sentence of five days' detention was confirmed.

LORD WOLSELEY has received a letter from the Queen in which Her Majesty says that, realising the necessity of measures for home defence, she appeals to her old soldiers, both officers and men, to serve her once more for one year, confiding in their devotion to the country and loyalty to the throne. Such battalions will be designated Royal Reserve Battalions.

TERRIFIC snowstorms took place throughout Germany in February. Great damage was done to shipping, and thousands of telephone and telegraph connections were broken. The street traffic in Berlin was greatly impeded and other cities suffered seriously, particularly Bremen, Hamburg, Oldenburg, Kiel, Dresden, Rostock, Breslau, Koenigsburg, and Papenburg.

THE prospectus has been issued of S. Moutrie & Co., Ld., which is to take over the business of S. Moutrie & Co., of Shanghai and Yokohama. The proposed capital is $125,000 in 2,500 shares of $50 each, the provisional directors being Messrs. R. P. Allen, E. P. Wickham, and S. Moutrie, the last of whom will join the board after allotment, and is to be the manager of the Company for ten years. Of the shares, 1,200 have been applied for and will be allotted in full, and the remaining 1,300 are now offered to the public, the list of applications closing on the 31st instant.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, March 10.

It is interesting to observe that just after the publication of Lord Methuen's statement as to the almost insuperable difficulty of undertaking successful flanking operations against a Boer army, in view of its great mobility, Lord Roberts is winning decisive victories by that very kind of strategy. Yet the statement and the object lesson are not so contradictory as may seem at first sight. Methuen was speaking with reference to the forces at his own disposal. What he meant to convey, doubtless, was that unless a commanding officer had an army large enough to hold the Boers effectually in front while sending a powerful column to turn their flank, the latter operation must prove futile. Methuen never had such an army under his command. There is some reason to think that the numbers of the Boers opposed to him at Belmont, Graspan, the Modder, and Maggersfontein were exaggerated owing to this very faculty of mobility. The enemy succeeded in concentrating such a force at every point threatened that an undue estimate of his strength was suggested. Still he certainly had not less than ten thousand men, whereas Methuen's whole force totalled only fourteen thousand; a disparity quite insufficient for effective flank attacks combined with strong frontal movements. Above all, Methuen was weak in cavalry. He could not muster even a few squadrons to turn a Boer retreat into a rout, French and his cavalry brigade having been left behind to secure the lines of communication. Roberts, on the contrary, is comparatively strong in cavalry and mounted infantry. He is the first English general in this war who can be said to be thus equipped. Dundonald's Horse were of immense service to Buller, but the opportunities for using troops of that kind against a position like the Boers' entrenchments at Ladysmith must have been few. Roberts' successes have been due almost entirely to his mounted men. By means of them he severed the communications of the Maggersfontein Boers; by means of them he arrested Cronje's retreat and compelled him to go into laager; by means of them he has now turned the enemy's flank at Osfontein. We may add that the only British successes south of the Orange River were the work of cavalry, namely, French's operations about Colesberg and Brabant's operations in the vicinity of Stormberg. One of the tactical lessons taught by this war will be the necessity of adding to every army a large mounted contingent. It will be a welcome lesson to England, where equestrianism may be called a national accomplishment, but in Japan's case it gives new prominence to a question we have often discussed, that of providing a supply of horses to take the place of the miserable ponies that now drag the guns and carry the troopers.

Tuesday, March 13.

The Boers can not be said to be making a good fight at present. Their effort at Osfontein was evidently intended to be resolute, but it ended in something like a fiasco. An attempt to hold a line of entrenchments in a country suited for turning movements by cavalry can never be effective. It would seem, too, that the Boers are weak in field artillery. That fact must have struck every one reading the accounts of the various fights. The enemy's guns have never made any mark. They do not appear to have had more than four batteries (24 pieces) of field artillery at Ladysmith, where the main body of their troops was massed. What is most difficult to understand, however, is their failure to assemble a strong force for the defence of Bloemfontein. There has not yet been time, perhaps, for the whole of the Natal army to reach the scene of the fighting in the Orange Free State. From Ladysmith to Bloemfontein via Johannesberg is 558 miles, and from Bloemfontein to the field of the fighting on the 10th instant is about 60 miles. We may assume that the bulk of Joubert's columns had made good their retreat from Ladysmith before the 27th of February, and that Buller's last struggle was with the rear-guard, which subsequently occupied the Drakensburg passes. There had thus been an interval of only eleven or twelve days for Joubert to bring his men across to Bloemfontein and marshal them in position to oppose Roberts' advance. Twelve days would scarcely be sufficient to move any very large number of men and horses to such a distance by a single line of road, but certainly it should have amply sufficed to carry over five or six thousand at least, and since there were supposed to be fully thirty-five thousand Boers already under arms on the west of the Drakensberg, we see no reason why Roberts should not have been confronted by from twenty to twenty-five thousand men, at a moderate calculation, whereas De Wett had not more than ten thousand in line at Osfontein. These things are perplexing. One is tempted to think that either the Transvaalers are leaving the Free-Staters to fight alone, or that the number of the Boer forces has been over-estimated. It is very possible, however, that the Boers are now directing their efforts solely to hampering Roberts' advance, in order that time may be gained for bringing up the Natal forces, and thus concentrating a strong army at some favourable place on the west and south of Bloemfontein. That hypothesis would account for the comparatively feeble character of the opposition Roberts is encountering at the moment.

Perhaps it may be well to explain that Broadwood's Brigade, which is spoken of in the telegram as having found the Boers in position at Driefontein, is a body of colonial cavalry. Since December, vigorous and most successful efforts have been made in Cape Town to organize mounted troops. The first regiment of South African Light Horse thus organized was sent to Natal under Colonel Byng in December, the intention being to recall it for service in the Free State as soon as Buller could spare it. The second regiment, under the command of Colonel Broadwood, was fully organized by the middle of January, and is now evidently operating in the van of Roberts' advance. There can be no doubt that by this time a fine force of cavalry and mounted infantry has been brought together in Cape Colony. Most of it is probably guarding the lines of communication, but some has been sent to the front.

Buller had 32 infantry battalions of regular troops after he joined forces with the garrison of Ladysmith. Losing Warren's Division, his force will be reduced to 24 battallions, plus cavalry, artillery, and a strong body of colonial mounted troops. Some of his artillery and cavalry may be withdrawn, but he will remain with something like thirty thousand men.

Thursday, March 15.

The advance of the British force in the Orange Free State does not appear to be directed against Bloemfontein only. On the 10th instant a battle was fought at Driefontein, and on the 11th we hear of Roberts continuing his march from Aasvogelkop. Now it is quite certain that, if our maps are correct—and two of them show an agreement indicating accuracy—, the troops that fought at Driefontein on the 10th cannot possibly have been anywhere in the neighbourhood of Aasvogelkop on the 11th. The former place lies on the road trending north-east from Kimberley and debouching at a point considerably to the north of Bloemfontein, whereas the latter is on the direct road running eastward from Kimberley to Bloemfontein. Of course, a commanding officer, when he has to advance a large body of troops, avails himself of all serviceable roads, for reasons which constitute the alphabet of military operations. But he must choose roads that converge towards his point of attack, whereas the two roads of which we speak do not converge on Bloemfontein. The northerly route leads in the direction of Winburg, and an army marching by it could scarcely take part in an assault on Bloemfontein. Its immediate objective would be a point on the railway considerably north of that town, and its ultimate objective, Winburg. We do not lay down these facts with absolute certainty, since the only published maps of the region of operations leave a great deal to be desired in the matter of accuracy of detail. But, as we have said, the two most trustworthy show Driefontein to be a small lake quite out of the direct route of troops moving against Bloemfontein, and hopelessly out of the route of troops having their advance guard at Aasvogelkop. The inference is not quite plain, but what suggests itself as most probable is that Roberts has divided his army into two columns, one of which, the smaller, is marching direct upon Bloemfontein, while the other is advancing with three objects, first, to interpose between the Bloemfontein Boers and the Transvaal reinforcements, by severing the railway at a point fifty or sixty miles north of Bloemfontein; secondly, to cut the line of retreat of the Bloemfontein defenders and get between them and Winburg; and thirdly, to move upon Winburg itself with the least possible delay. If this plan of campaign is actually in operation, we may see results very much more important than the mere capture of Bloemfontein. It will be observed, of course, that this northerly movement, supposing it to be actually in progress, would be a plan precisely in keeping with the strategy which proved so successful in the case of Kimberley. From the moment that a strong British force set foot in the district between Kimberley and Bloemfontein, the position of Cronje at Maggersfontein became untenable, and from the moment that a strong British force sets foot in the district between Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Winburg, the position of the Boers in Bloemfontein will become untenable, and the Transvaal and the Free State will be broken in two. We entertain a strong hope that this programme may be in

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process of execution. The capture of Bloemfontein would, of course, be a great stroke, and its moral effect upon the Free-Staters could not be doubtful. But much of its value would be diminished if the Boers now fighting for the defence of Bloemfontein and opposing the passage of the Orange River, were able to retire safely and effect an union with the Transvaal army under Joubert. The forces under Roberts' command are large enough to warrant a division such as that we have indicated. He must have from fifty to sixty thousand men at least manœuvering in the Free State, and it is not likely that he is driving them all towards one point when a dual objective offers such large advantages. We must note, however, one factor of uncertainty, namely, whether it has been possible to organize transport facilities for all the movements we are supposing. There are at least six distinct transport services now at work in South Africa. There is Buller's transport; there is that of Gatacre and Brabant; there is that of the Colesberg-Norvalpont column; there is that of the north-western column just sent against the Cape Colony rebels; there is that of Mafeking-relief column; and there is that of the Bloemfontein column. It must have been a colossal undertaking to organise all these services, and the rapidity with which the feat has been accomplished is one of the finest records of the war. It will have been observed that within two or three days of the receipt of news that disaffection had declared itself at Victoria West, Fraserburg and Kenhardt, we heard of troops having been despatched to those districts, a clear proof of the high state of preparation that had been reached. Still the organization of another transport service for a Kimberley-Winburg corps might overtax the available resources. We must be content for the moment with conjectures.

It is possible that the Boers will carry out their intention, announced some time ago, of making no serious attempts to defend Bloemfontein but of quietly transferring the seat of Government to Winburg. Bloemfontein is not a large place. It has only 8,000 inhabitants, one half of whom are coloured people. Still it is the capital of the Free State, and it probably contains great quantities of stores and ammunition, which the Boers can not have had time to remove. Winburg is much more favourably circumstanced for purposes of resistance. It is only 80 miles from Bethlehem, to which point the railway runs from Van Reeuen's Pass through Harrismith, and, being 60 miles north of Bloemfontein, it is correspondingly accessible from the Transvaal. The occupation of Bloemfontein, apart from the moral effect produced upon the Free-Staters by the loss of their capital, would create a most embarrassing situation for the Boers that are still attempting to oppose the passage of the Orange River by Clements, Gatacre, and Brabant. It is from Bloemfontein that they are receiving their supplies.

The Transvaal's appeal to Germany is unexpected. It comes earlier than could have been anticipated, and it confirms the impression suggested by recent events that the union between the two Republics has been shaken, and that the Transvaalers see themselves threatened with the necessity of having to carry on the war single-handed.

THE LATE PROFESSOR TOYAMA.

Professor Toyama died on the night of the 7th-8th. It has been stated that he expired on Wednesday morning, but the latest intelligence is that his condition did not become hopeless until that night, and that he expired before Thursday morning. We do not pretend, however, to speak with any certainty as to the time. There are some who even allege that death has not yet taken place, their assertion being based on the absence of any official statement. Japanese etiquette, as our readers are aware, does not permit the conferring of rank on an individual after death, under ordinary circumstances, and it thus happens that the official intimation of a distinguished man's decease is often deferred for some days. However, there can be no doubt about the lamentable fact of Professor Toyama's death, whatever be the exact time of its occurrence. He was only 48 years of age, in the very prime of physical and intellectual vigour, and in his case intellectual vigour meant something very much out of the common. His story brings him upon the stage at the early age of fifteen, when, in the year that saw the fall of the Shogunate, he already held the post of teacher of English in the Kaisei Gakko, embryo of the Imperial University, of which he was destined to become President thirty-one years later. During that interval he had filled many posts connected with education, and had studied for some five years in the United States, graduating at the University of Michigan. He possessed a singularly accurate knowledge of the English language, and could use it with great effect for purposes not only of scientific and philosophical discussion, but also of satire, as some of his friends and most of his enemies knew to their cost. For he was a man with many enemies. His exuberant energy of mind drove him into the political arena, where he was prepared to run a vehement tilt against any one that differed from him. The public remembers vividly his uncompromising attacks upon the Educational Department after it passed under the control of Mr. Ozaki Yukio, attacks which, however forcible and brilliant, would have possessed greater dignity had they not come from an official who had just lost the portfolio held by the rival he assaulted. As a member of the House of Peers, also, Professor Toyama showed his polemical qualities. His speeches, sparkling with epigram and sometimes outspoken almost to the verge of discourtesy, disturbed the continuity of the Peers' traditions, and inspired his sedate colleagues with anxiety not to come within range of such an opponent. Yet with all this fire of fight and strong intellectual combativeness the late Professor was a man of thoroughly kindly disposition. His name was associated with numerous charitable institutions and educational enterprises of a benevolent character, and his aid, whether material or moral, could always be relied on for the promotion of any good object. We believe that his mental attitude towards the Christian religion was favourable, but it always seemed to us that in this one respect he lacked the courage of his opinions. Like all clever men, he had his poetic moods, and the result was an endeavour to mould the Japanese language into a form resembling that adopted by Western poets. We do not think that much success can be claimed for the effort. There is talk of conferring a peerage on the deceased scholar. His labour in the cause of Japanese education certainly seems to justify that distinction.

The late Professor Toyama left instructions that his funeral should be conducted on the humblest and least expensive scale, but it was, of course, out of the question that a man of such eminence should be carried to the grave without a great number of mourners. At 1 p.m. on the 11th instant the cortêge left the residence of the deceased in Ushigome and proceeded to Yanaka in Uyeno. Nearly all the men of note in the scientific, literary and educational circles of Tokyo followed the bier, so that the procession was one of the most imposing ever seen in Tokyo. Conspicuous among the mourners were Count Kabayama, Mr. Okuda, Viscount Kuki, Viscount Tani, Mr. Uyeda, Mr. Sawayanagi, Mr. Kikuchi (President of the Imperial University), Viscount Fukuoka, Marquis Hosokawa, Mr. Otori, Mr. Hamao and Mr. Kato. The death of such an eminent man in the very prime of life has caused wide-spread sorrow.

IRELAND.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, while contrasting the disaffection of a section of the Irish people with the loyalty of the British colonies, comments on the fact that no soldiers in the British army fight more bravely for England than the Irish, and that many of England's greatest generals have been men of Irish extraction. It need scarcely be said that these remarks are elicited by the Queen's recent order that the shamrock should be worn by all ranks in Irish regiments on St. Patrick's Day. This act, combined with the Queen's approaching visit to Ireland ought to have a marked effect upon the romantic, emotional Irishman. But the bane of Ireland is the professional political agitator, on the one hand, and the people's innate love of fighting on the other. You can not find an Irishman able to give an intelligent account of the reasons that make him such a hot advocate of Home Rule. At least, we have never found such a man, and it has been our privilege to hear many Home Rulers essay a statement of their faith.

THE SPECIE BANK.

The Specie Bank held its regular semi-annual meeting on the 10th instant at 2 p.m., Mr. Soma occupying the chair. The following accounts were presented and passed :—

	Yen.
Gross Earnings	8,471,913
Brought over from last account	411,625
	8,882,938
Expenses, &c.	4,083,436
	4,799,502
To Reserve	500,000
Dividend	3,900,000
(namely, regular dividend 900,000, special dividend 3,000,000)	
New buildings	50,000
Carried over	349,502
	4,799,502

N.B.—The special dividend in question is paid on account of the third issue of new shares. The Bank's capital is now 29 million *yen*, of which 18 millions will soon be paid up.

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DEATH OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL.

We deeply regret to announce the death of the United States Consul-General for Yokohama, Mr. John F. Gowey, which took place at the Consulate on Tuesday morning at 8.30. Mr. Gowey had been in poor health for some time, suffering from an internal tumour, and he had had the intention of returning to America this month. An operation was undertaken on Sunday by Drs. Koch, Eldridge, and Rokkaku, and was completely successful as far as the immediate object was concerned. Unfortunately, however, the patient's vitality—he was always a delicate man—was at a very low ebb, and, though for a time it appeared that he might rally, signs of sinking were observed about 3 a.m. on Tuesday, and he succumbed a few hours later, death being due to exhaustion.

Mr. Gowey was born at North Lewisburg, Champagne County, Ohio, on December 7th, 1846, and was educated in the Public Schools and at Ohio Wesleyan University. He studied law under General John H. Young at Urbana, Ohio, and was called to the bar on June 10th, 1869. He afterwards practised at Urbana, and, interesting himself in politics, became a member of the Ohio Legislature, representing Champagne County during the years 1873-5. He was then elected prosecuting attorney for the county, in which post he served for four years. He acted as delegate from Ohio to the National Republican Convention of 1880. In April, 1882, he was appointed by President Arthur as Registrar of the United States Land Office at Olympia, Washington Territory, and he served in this position till August, 1886. In November of that year he was elected a member of the Upper House of the Territorial Legislature, and in 1889 became Mayor of the City of Olympia, being re-elected in 1890. In 1889 he was chosen a member of the Constitutional Convention for the new State of Washington, and was chairman of the Republican State Committee for 1889 and 1890.

In August, 1890, Mr. Gowey was appointed by President Harrison Consul General for Kanagawa, and the appointment was confirmed by the Senate, but he resigned it without entering upon the discharge of the duties. Seven years later, he was again appointed, this time by President McKinley, to the Consulate General of Kanagawa. In July of the same year the title of the Consulate General was altered to Yokohama, and a new Commission was made out appointing Mr. Gowey, who arrived here in September, 1897. During his residence in this country Mr. Gowey, though a man who by the bent of his intellect was of rather retiring habits, made many friends, both among his own nationals and the other members of the community. His intimate knowledge of law and the judicial cast of his mind enabled him to fulfil with the greatest efficiency the duties of a judge devolving on him before the advent of mixed residence, and his legal acumen was not more remarkable than the kindliness and forbearance he showed on the Bench. His loss will be generally mourned, and the greatest sympathy will be felt for the widow in her bereavement. Mr. Gowey had one son, who is at present in Korea. According to present arrangements the funeral will not take place till his return.

The late Mr. Gowey was a Mason of high standing in the United States. Passing through all the chairs appertaining to the lower degrees, he gradually rose to the exalted rank of Assistant Inspector-General in the 33° of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A., his strong predilection for literary and intellectual research finding wide scope in the ritual, philosophy, and traditions of the mystic craft.

The affairs of the Consulate are temporarily in the hands of Mr. J. McLean, Vice-Consul.

CURRENCY AND THE CUSTOMS.

The Customs returns for this year show an excess of imports over exports to the amount of 20 million *yen* during the months of January and February. The specie exported in the same interval exceeded that imported by six millions. This balance of trade is now a perpetual source of uneasiness to the Japanese. It is one of the penalties they have to pay for engaging in the unnatural struggle for gold that the monometallic mania has imposed upon the civilized world. Some critics allege that the rise in the price of commodities and the large demand for imported goods are due to what they regard as an undue issue of convertible notes by the Bank of Japan, but when we are asked to believe that an average of six shillings per head of the population represents too great a volume of circulating media in a progressive country like Japan, we are inclined to be sceptical. Certainly, if imports exceed exports to the extent of 100 million *yen* throughout the year, as seems to be anticipated, and if specie flows out to a corresponding extent, the foundations of the gold system will become insecure. But how many examples of serious inconvenience arising from such a cause does the economical history of world furnish? Certain Japanese publicists remind us of the gentlemen who have undertaken to agitate about the tenure of land in Yokohama. The former keep themselves and their countrymen in a state of perpetual ferment about chimerical perils that threaten the national finances, and the latter, by constantly uttered complaints, surmises and suspicions have convinced the public that their titles are unsound, and persuaded the Banks that to advance money on such security would be most unwise. Foreign Banks lend millions of *yen* readily enough on the guarantee of the Japanese Government. Is it likely that they would hesitate to lend a few thousands on the same guarantee plus a full equivalent in landed property if the holders of the property had not themselves announced that their tenure is defective?

POLITICAL MATTERS.

Mr. Tanaka Shozo, the celebrated member of the Lower House, is suffering from an ailment which is said to have developed symptoms of insanity. He has always been noted for extreme excitability, and upon him rests the responsibility of many of the "scenes" that have taken place in the House. It would not surprise the public to learn that he suffers from some abnormal irritability of the brain.

There is renewed talk about Ministerial changes. The Liberals seem to be again agitating, and as usual the motive attributed to them is an impatient desire to obtain a share of administrative power so as to realize their long cherished aim of Party Cabinets. Three projects are said to be on the tapis, first, to secure Marquis Ito's aid and reconstruct the Cabinet *in toto*; secondly, to make Marquis Saigo Premier and work on conservative lines; and thirdly, to leave Marquis Yamagata at the head of the Ministry and obtain some portfolios for the Liberals. We give the rumour for what it may be worth.

Rumours continue to be circulated about a determination on the part of a section of the Liberals to obtain some speedy and substantial recognition of their services to the Government. They are said to have reverted to their old demand, two or three portfolios; and the plea attributed to them is that they can not go to address their constituencies without having something solid to show as the result of their long connexion with the Cabinet. They contend that they are in danger of being discredited as blind adherents of a Ministry which accepts their assistance but which does not give them any substantial return. The *Fuji Shimpo*, referring to this rumour, predicts that so long as Marquis Yamagata remains at the head of the Government there is no chance of the Liberals' obtaining their desire, for the Marquis will not consent to preside over a Cabinet which includes representatives of a political party.

BUDDHIST RELICS.

Preparations continue for receiving with due honour the modicum of the bones of Buddha that the Government of Siam is about to present to Japan. The *Nippon* indulges in some caustic humour in connexion with this matter:—The only relic of the sacred body possessed by Japan is the *Namubutsu no share* preserved in the shrine on Shimyo at Hiyei-zan. This is supposed to be one of the Buddha's eyes. Prince Shotoku held it in his clenched hand when he was born, and he did not open the baby fingers until he reached the mature age of 2 years, when, turning to the West, he joined his infant palms in prayer and the relic fell out. It is, therefore, not the mere remnant of a disintegrated corpse, but a miraculously preserved relic. Yet the Sect which have the honour of being its custodians attach less value to it than they do to the tooth of Nichiren, the founder of their faith. There is an ivory bone of Buddha in Ceylon, and there are various unauthenticated and probably false portions of his person in different parts of the world. "The clog and the idol, are they not carved out of the same tree?" Plain-spoken as these reflections are, it seems to us that our worthy contemporary would be reconciled to a great demonstration in welcome of the relics were Japan to be the recipient of all the bones found in the crystal urn. But that she should be a sharer on equal terms with Ceylon and Siam appears to ruffle the *Nippon's* sense of dignity.

It has been discovered at Aldershot, happily in time, that many of the carbines served out to the 4th Cavalry Brigade were undersighted, and in other respects defective. The weapons have been called in.

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"HAS JAPAN A FUTURE?"

Under the above title, the *Congregationalist* has the following:—

The sudden rise of Japan to a recognized place among great civilized nations is one of the most remarkable of the political phenomena of the closing years of this century. Will she maintain this place? She has won it by the aid of Christian nations, especially the United States, Great Britain, and Germany. She has learned from them the principles of civil and religious liberty. She can stand with them only by maintaining these principles.

Last year the treaty went into operation which gave Japan full jurisdiction over United States citizens within that country. The same year Japan adopted a restriction against personal liberty that would be tolerated by no other civilized nation. The department of education issued an order forbidding religious instruction in recognized private schools, "even outside the regular course of instruction." In our comment on this matter some months ago, we were in doubt whether the decision committed the government to the deliberate purpose of suppressing religious teaching in schools supported by private funds; but the interviews between the representatives of such schools and of the Department of Education, recently published in the *Japan Mail*, remove all doubt on that point.

A petition for relief from these restrictions was presented to the Minister of Education, signed by several Japanese, American and English educators. The petition sets forth that the position of the department is without precedent in enlightened countries, and that it is an infringement on the religious liberty guaranteed by the constitution. To these points it was replied that the authorities were aware that the position was without precedent, but that the matter had been decided from the Japanese point of view, and that the liberty guaranteed in the constitution is liberty to believe a religion, but not necessarily liberty to propagate it. The counsellor for the department, Mr. Okada, further urged that the higher public schools were overcrowded, and that if students were admitted to them from private schools they would crowd out those from public schools; and that, as they might have a better knowledge of English than those from the public schools, they might put the latter at a disadvantage.

The results of these interviews are not encouraging to those who have looked for the development of Japan into an enlightened nation. The arguments urged for the narrow policy adopted do not exhibit either mature statesmanship or the character that aspires to it. If it is persisted in, Christian schools in Japan must be closed. If that is made necessary, it will mean the exclusion of Christian civilization and the principles of liberty which belong with it. If Japan denies these principles to her citizens, she will lapse into national weakness. If the Japanese point of view is one that leads her rulers to deprive her subjects of liberties granted by all enlightened nations, she will not find herself ranking with those nations.

We do not at all believe that the position taken by the Japanese Government will be permanent. A bill has already been introduced into the House of Peers by the Government giving to Christianity the same official standing as Buddhism, and if the bill passes all religions will be alike before the law. We note that the Minister of Education expressed some confidence that in time Christian schools doing the work of public schools might have the same privileges granted to them. But the question of the future of Japan does not depend on the reluctant granting or the withholding of privileges from Christian schools. Will her Government treat its subjects with justice? Does it respect its own constitution? Is it disposed to protect those individual rights without which enlightened government and national progress are impossible? It is on these vital matters that Japan is on trial before the nations and her answer to these questions will decide whether her sudden rise is a temporary phenomenon or the advance of a great people to a position of abiding power in the world.

It is well that the Japanese should clearly understand the views entertained in Western countries with regard to their proceedings in this important matter. There have been many indications that the Educational Department desires and intends to apply the celebrated *Kunrei* in such a manner as to impose minimum restrictions upon the introduction of the religious element into the atmosphere of private schools. But so long as the *Kunrei* stands some restrictions are inevitable, and just so long will it remain idle to say that the spirit of the Constitution is operative.

DEGRADED PEERS.

Three members of the nobility have been reduced to the rank of commoners by His Majesty's order. Viscount Toda for dissolute habits, and Viscounts Umezono and Sanemori, with the latter's son Sanemono and his daughter Eiko, for the disordered condition of their household affairs (*katei-binran*), which, we presume, is a way of saying that they are insolvent. This incident furnishes a text for the *Jimmin* to preach on its favourite subject, the advisability of limiting the hereditary tenure of a title to two, or, at most, three generations. That is a very old contention. Of all countries we should say that Japan is the most unlikely field for the application of such a doctrine, seeing that she has the oldest nobility in the world, and that the sacrifice involved in depriving them of their titles would be proportionately great.

With reference to the general subject of which this fall of certain noblemen from grace forms a part, *Yamato Chuyo*, writing in the *Japan Times*, expresses the opinion that a remedy for the present demoralized state of society will be found "when the young men of yesterday shall have become the fathers of growing families" and when, in consequence, "the young generation of to-morrow will have parents who will be alive to their responsibilities, both individual and social, and with real authority and possessed of extensive experience and a practical education before which the children must needs bow." It is very interesting to hear the opinions of a thoughtful Japanese upon a subject so important. We are not quite sure, however, that we fully understand *Yamato Chuyo's* meaning. His article begins with an explanation that when Japan entered upon her new career at the commencement of the *Meiji* era, she "passed under the control of young men" who would brook no authority and heeded no warning from their elders. These men, he goes on to say, "untrammelled as yet by those household cares which are the bone and marrow of social morality," not unnaturally "ran to excess in the gratification of the weaker side of their nature." It appears, therefore, that the "young men of yesterday," whose acquisition of growing families plus all the usual accompaniment of household cares, is to furnish a remedy for existing demoralization —these young men are the makers of the *Meiji* era; the youths who placed themselves at the country's helm in 1867 and have been steering her pretty constantly ever since. Very true undoubtedly is the assertion that young men took charge when the Bakufu fell. We have often ticked off the list of names, 56 in all, which represent the makers of the *Meiji* era, and, so far as we have been able to make out, their average age did not greatly exceed thirty. But that is 33 years ago. Many of the 56 have crossed the Styx, and those that remain must average over sixty years of age. Is it not a little late in the dayto hope that they will by and by become parents "alive to their responsibilities both individual and social" and so forth? We should like to hear *Yamato Chuo* explain his meaning more explicitly, for the subject is full of interest.

A HOTEL IN KYOTO.

The following circular has been issued:—

THE ORIENTAL HOTEL, LIMITED.

SIR,—I beg to enclose herewith copies of Resolutions which will be proposed at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held on the 19th inst. The opinion of the Directors is unanimous that the proposed changes would be very advantageous to the Company, and they have no hesitation in recommending the Resolutions to the Shareholders.

The new capital is asked for in order that the Company may be enabled to purchase an excellent site in Kyoto, and to build thereon and furnish an hotel to be worked by them in conjunction with the Oriental Hotel in Kobe.

There is at present at Kyoto no hotel under foreign control or management. The only foreign style hotels at Kyoto are Yaami's and the Kyoto Hotel. These both belong to the same Japanese proprietor, and it is a generally recognised fact that they do not comply with the requirements that foreigners expect in a first class hotel.

Kyoto, owing to the charm of its situation, its beautiful neighbourhood, and its many objects of interest, has a greater attraction for foreign residents and travellers than any other city in Japan, and more time is spent there by tourists than in any other of the places usually visited.

The number of foreign visitors to Japan is increasing annually, and there is every reason to believe that it will continue to increase. The acquisition by the United States of the Philippines, the Revision of the Treaties between Foreign Powers and Japan, the greatly increased facilities to travel by the addition of new steamship lines, and the improvement in speed and accommodation on the lines already existing, the opening up of China to railway, mining and industrial enterprises, and the general increase in Japan's foreign trade, are but some of the many reasons that are bringing more and more travellers to the Far East and to Japan.

The field that is now open for a good hotel at Kyoto under foreign management must most assuredly be availed of sooner or later, and your Board is of opinion that such an hotel worked in conjunction with the present Oriental Hotel could be worked to far greater advantage than by a new Company, and would prove a most remunerative undertaking.

A beautiful and most suitable site containing about 12,000 *tsubos* has been secured, and arrangements have been made for the management of the new hotel, which the Directors feel confident will work satisfactorily. It is estimated that the cost of opening the Branch will be covered by the increased capital.

The opening of such a Branch is authorised by the Memorandum of Association of the Company, and the Articles of the Company provide for an increase of capital.

Should you be unable to attend the meeting, and wish to support the Board in passing the above resolutions, you will be so good as to sign the enclosed proxy in favour of the Chairman, Mr. A. H. Groom, and forward the same to the Secretary at the Oriental Hotel, Kobe, before the 16th instant.

The rights of Founders' shares and Debenture holders will be in no way prejudicially affected by the carrying out of this scheme; on the contrary, the value of the former and the security of the latter will, the Directors believe, be materially enhanced,

I am, your obedient servant,

GEORGE A. ADAM,
Secretary.

Kobe, March 8, 1900.

This appears to us to be a project of which the success is assured. That a good hotel is wanted, and badly wanted, in Kyoto can not be doubted for a moment. The test of several years' experience shows that the Japanese have not yet acquired ability to successfully run an hotel on foreign lines. The subject has often previously been discussed in our columns. A conclusive example is the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Considering the advantages it possesses in the matter of site, building and opportunity, we are bound to say that the Imperial Hotel is a failure. The reason is Japanese management. If Europeans or Americans were to set up a Japanese hotel in Tokyo and

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attempt to work it entirely without Japanese aid, no people would more keenly appreciate the irrational character of the enterprise than the Japanese. Yet such an undertaking would be less unwise than an attempt on the part of Japanese speculators to establish a hotel in pure Oriental style in their own capital; for whereas foreigners in Japan have innumerable models of Japanese restaurants and inns to guide them, Japanese in Japan are almost entirely without such aids. Thus the Imperial Hotel does not begin to be what it might be. The most partial visitor can not call it comfortable or really well managed. When due allowances are made for the absence of foreign assistance, the hotel is good enough. Indeed, it deserves some praise. But there should be no necessity to make allowances. There would not be were the hotel's career governed by principles of serious finance. From the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, however, to Yaami's or the Kyoto Hotel in the western capital is an immense descent. The Kyoto hostelries are examples of how not to do it. One endures them because nothing better is to be had, but they would not attract a single foreign visitor were they brought into competition with a rival establishment properly organized and worked under competent foreign management. That is why we regard the projected hotel as a certain success, for with such men for directors as Messrs. Groom, Hellyer, Reynell and Simon, all of whom have had long experience in Japan, it is sure to be well designed and organized, and, as the letter quoted above justly points out, Kyoto is, of all cities in Japan, the most attractive to foreign tourists. It is more than probable, indeed, that when this enterprise becomes an accomplished fact, many tourists who now make Tokyo or Yokohama their head-quarters will decide in favour of Kyoto. It appears that the projectors contemplate something on a large scale since they speak of acquiring twelve thousand *tsubo* (ten acres) of land. That is enough to make a small park, and a very beautiful park it would be, as well as a very convenient, for the site commands an exquisite outlook over the city and is only some seven minutes walk from the railway station. Under any circumstances it is a good speculation to procure a large area at present in Kyoto, for land in that city does not yet command a fraction of the value it will possess in future years. We look upon this enterprise with much interest as it will be the first started by foreigners outside the Settlements, and its success will probably inspire others to follow suit. The local authorities will doubtless see reason to place every possible facility at the disposal of the projectors, for it is in the interests of the citizens of the old capital that as many foreign tourists as possible should be attracted thither.

The newspapers of Tokyo speak of Mr. M. Kirkwood as the principal promoter of the proposed Kyoto Hotel. We presume that Mr. Kirkwood is a considerable share-holder, but his name does not appear among the promoters, so far as we know.

H.M.S. *Barfleur*, with Rear-Admiral Bruce on board, left Nagasaki on Friday afternoon for Yokohama by way of Kobe. The *Barfleur* will return to Nagasaki in the course of two weeks or so. H.M.S. *Centurion* is expected there from Hongkong in a few days.

BLUNDERING RADICALISM.

In a recent issue, the *Jiji Shimpo* published a leading article headed "His Majesty the Emperor's Congratulatory Message." Here is an exact translation of the article:—

It is stated that His Majesty the Emperor sent a congratulatory message to Her Majesty the Queen of England with reference to the victories won by British troops in South Africa, and that Her Majesty immediately returned a courteous answer. That this will have the effect of drawing the two Courts into still more intimate relations need scarcely be observed, neither can we doubt that its useful effect will also be to augment and make closer the sentiment of warm friendship between the two countries of England and Japan. Her Majesty the Queen of England has shown exceptional solicitude about the present war. She has (for example) invited and entertained the families of officers proceeding to the campaign, and to every soldier at the seat of war she has sent a packet of chocolate bearing her own signature. It is said that even her appetite and her rest have been impaired by anxiety, and that in spite of her great age she has abandoned her usual visit to a health-resort abroad. The complexion of the war in South Africa recently underwent a marked change, and we have seen the English army gain victory after victory. Naturally that is due to the excellence of the strategy employed, but when the matter is summed up we can not choose but ascribe something to Her Majesty's influence and virtue (*onosukara keikwaku no kwambi wo tsuge taru ga tame to wa iye sore wo ichigen sureba Heika no itoku ni kisesaru wo yesu*). The great victory on the Modder River, the relief of Ladysmith—the news of these successive victories must have given Her Majesty much satisfaction and we may assume that it brought great joy to the nation also. The people of Japan do not for a moment regard England's victories as an affair of an alien country. They have full and genuine sympathy with her, and although the congratulatory message sent by the Emperor may be primarily ascribed to the good relations between the two Courts, it must also be regarded as representing the sympathy that the whole Japanese nation entertains towards England. We do not doubt that the people of England will appreciate our feelings, and that this incident will conduce to strengthen the amicable relations of the two countries."

These are warm utterances, and we venture to assure the *Jiji Shimpo* that Englishmen will fully appreciate the great friendliness they display. It is, therefore, with a feeling of profound disgust that we read the following letters addressed to a local contemporary and published by it with reference to the *Jiji's* article:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN HERALD."

SIR,—In your issue of last evening, you published a translation of the *Jiji's* comment on the Emperor's congratulatory telegram to the Queen of England anent the recent British successes in South Africa, and the Queen's reply thereto. This exchange of courtesies would have been harmless in itself, had it not excited in the mind of the writer in the *Jiji*, a crawling subservience to the idea of royalty, which sounds weirdly in the nineteenth century and smacks unmistakeably of Stuart days in England, when orthodox courtiers believed in the doctrines of Divine right and professed to regard the Sovereign as the Lord's Anointed. Perhaps some allowance has to be made for the Oriental exuberance of the *Jiji's* style when speaking of Princes, Potentates, and Powers, but, even so, it is pernicious balderdash to refer to British victories as being due to the "glorious virtues of Her Majesty, though *partially*, no doubt, * * * to the perfection of the plans adopted by the Commanders in the field." Such contemptible grovelling is not likely,—at least I hope not—to please the independent Englishman, who, while he may respect the Queen as a sensible constitutional monarch, and a good woman in private life, does not regard her as of more than mortal clay, or as in any other way immune from the weaknesses of ordinary humanity. The fact is, Sir, that the apparently growing tendency in some quarters to exalt the monarchical theory and pay gratuitous homage to royalty *per se*, is almost enough to drive one to republicanism, as a protest. I repeat that the *Jiji's* language is simply sickening in its ostentatious humility, and does not reflect the opinions of respectable Englishmen who wish to see credit given to those who deserve it, irrespective of such accidents as birth and station.

Yours, INDEPENDENT.
Yokohama, March 9th, 1900.

THE "JIJI SHIMPO" AND THE QUEEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN HERALD."

SIR,—I notice in the *Japan Herald* of yesterday evening, that the *Jiji Shimpo* is of opinion that the successes now achieved (in South Africa) are due in no small degree to the "glorious virtues of Her Majesty." I believe that the words in the original are more emphatic, and consequently more absurd, than in your translation; they ascribe the credit of Roberts' and Buller's success primarily to the Queen, and quite secondarily to the skill of the Generals. Suppose a great disaster instead of a victory had befallen the British troops, would that, too, have been due to the virtues of the Queen, or would the Generals have been censured for their stupidity? There is a double edge in this sycophantic writing.

I have no doubt that both papers were actuated with the best intentions in applying to the case of Great Britain the courtly terms of expression in common use in Japan, and all Englishmen will cordially recognise the good spirit evinced by this courtly tone towards England—a good spirit consistently shown by the Japanese throughout the the varying fortunes of the war. But the words used seem to imply that many Japanese have a very erroneous idea of the feeling with which the majority of soberminded Englishmen regard the monarchical institutions of their country; and that impression it would be well to correct.

The great body of Englishmen, I take it, are in favour of monarchy for two reasons. The first is a sentimental one. The British monarchy is a venerable institution, and we cling to it from sheer habit, just as we cling to the wig and gown of the barrister, to the solemnly senseless forms of parliamentary procedure, to the absurdly antiquated English in official proclamations, to the obsolete language of the Bible. Our upper classes—both the small section of the Howards, Percies, and Paulets and the large section of successful lawyers, stock jobbers, brewers, and manufacturers—must have a centre round which to revolve, and the great middle classes, who can never hope to step into the magic circle, still enjoy reading the court circular, and satisfying their innate British spirit of snobbery by following the movements of the great. This, though a purely sentimental, is nevertheless a very strong motive of attachment. The second reason is a more practical one. Englishmen do not see that, either in France or America, the Republican ideal is free from any of the vices of limited monarchy, while it has a large crop of faults peculiarly its own, which we are happily spared. Then, again, in a vast and scattered Empire like our own, composed of races and communities of different races and conflicting interests, the Queen is certainly a more potent name to conjure with than a President Chamberlain or a President Primrose. For these various reasons ninety nine out of every hundred Englishmen are well satisfied with things as they are, and even the hundredth, though he may speak loudly about liberty and justice and the rights of men, would not risk ten shillings on the realisation of his Republican ideals.

But it must not be assumed, for all that, that our loyalty is the loyalty the Turk feels for the Commander of the Faithful, that the French aristocrat felt for Louis le Grand, or that Filmer preached in the time of the Stuarts. It is a strictly reasoned and moderate loyalty. Most of us cheerfully admire the personal qualities of the present Queen, and even the most lukewarm admit that, even if she has not done much good, she has refrained from doing harm. But, with the exception of a few poor fools, we are under no illusions of the Divine right order. The Victorian age has doubtless has been a great one for England, but it would have been as great if any equally innocuous monarch, with an equally good title, had occupied the throne. To give the Queen credit for all the grand achievements of her reign is not nonsense merely, but dangerous nonsense. It assumes that the Sovereign has some higher and more sacred power than the sanction of the nation: that there is in kingship some subtle essence that differentiates royalty from ordinary human humanity. That doctrine received its death blow when the English, by the cruel irony of fortune, had to choose for their king the boorish ignorant elector of a petty German principality, and it would be dangerous as well as foolish to revive it in an age when every schoolboy has ideas on the evolution theory and has some smattering of the philosophy of Bentham, Mill, and Spencer. The earlier Princes of the House of Brunswick, of the earth earthy, inferior in manners, education, and intelligence to the ruck of the

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aristocracy they governed, were never more than a disagreeable political necessity, supported loyally, but without enthusiasm, from sheer motives of expediency. The Queen is not so regarded; she has won a place in the hearts of her subjects partly by her personal virtues, but chiefly by being content to leave the Government almost entirely in the hands of her Ministers. If the English Sovereign were to pursue any other course, the great majority of Englishmen would remember how their ancestors' stout English hearts rose against the tyranny of the Stuarts, and it would be found that what passes current as loyalty to the Throne, is but another name for loyalty to the free institutions of England.

It is possible that Mr. Chamberlain's recent reference to the "almost sacred name of the Queen" has given a twist to Japanese ideas. It was certainly a remarkable phrase for an ex-Democrat and ex-Republican like the Colonial Secretary to use, but I presume that he only meant it figuratively; he considers the name of the Queen sacred just as he considers that of a Duchess, or a Marchioness or even a brewer's lady in good society—sacred. Mr Chamberlain's reverence for blue blood has grown to immense proportions since he gained admission to the gilded salons of the great. But if he used the word in its literal sense, he was talking most pernicious nonsense, calculated to disgust and offend many who are truly attached to the present constitution, with its Royal figurehead and its sovereign people.

Yours faithfully, VOX POPULI.

Yokohama, March 9th, 1900.

The language used by these two writers is finely forcible. It has a noble ring of the stump-orator. Even had the *Fiji* used the words attributed to it by the *Japan Herald* the utter gracelessness of tirades like those indulged in by "Independent" and "Vox Populi," should have suggested itself to any mind, however coarse its fibre. If a foreign journal publishes an article breathing hearty friendship for England at a time when the newspaper press of nearly all other countries has nothing but abuse for her, the most tactless Englishman might have sufficient grace to refrain from harsh criticism of the diction of the article, even though he finds there something out of touch with his own special views about monarchies, democracies, and such matters. But this is not a gross offence against good taste only. The attacks of "Independent" and Vox Populi" are based upon a falsehood. The *Fiji Shimpo* never said that "the British victories were due to the glorious virtues of Her Majesty, though partially, no doubt, *** to the perfection of the plans adopted by the commanders in the field." What it said was that the victories were "of course due to the excellence of the strategy employed, but that when the matter is summed up, we can not choose but ascribe something to Her Majesty's influence and virtue." "Vox Populi" carries the falsehood even further. "I believe," he says, "that the words in the original are more emphatic, and consequently more absurd, than in your translation; they ascribe the credit of Roberts' and Buller's successes primarily to the Queen, and quite secondarily to the skill of the Generals." Did "Vox Populi" consult the original? Most assuredly he did not. No one with even the most rudimentary knowledge of Japanese could fall into such a monstrous blunder. What right has he, then, to stand forth and talk about "the original"? "Independent" was misled by the ridiculously false translation of the *Japan Herald*, but "Vox Populi," not content to be merely misled, must come forward with a still more absurd mis-statement of his own to mislead others, pretending, foorsooth, that he has referred to "the original." The exquisitely comical side of the incident will probably appeal to the *Fiji Shimpo*. We hope that our contemporary will laugh heartily at these viciously democratic sermons of "Independent" and "Vox Populi" based upon a text which is cipher. Will they apologise? Perhaps, but if they have the grace to admit their error they might have had sense to see how utterly tactless and repulsive their letters must appear.

We judged rightly when we predicted that the correspondents of a local contemporary who, misled by a grossly false rendering of an article in the *Fiji Shimpo*, attacked that journal's political creed, would not have the grace to apologise when they discovered their error. They represented the *Fiji Shimpo* as saying that the recent successes of the British troops "are apparently due to the glorious virtues of Her Majesty, though partially, no doubt, it (*sic*) may be attributed to the perfection of the plans adopted by the commanders in the field," whereas what the *Fiji* really said was that the victories were "naturally due to the excellence of the strategy employed, but that when the matter is summed up, we can not choose but ascribe something to Her Majesty's influence and virtue." The two statements are totally different. One makes out that the soldierly qualities of the British force contributed in a partial degree only to their victories, the Queen's "glorious virtues" being the chief cause of success; the other gives the credit primarily to the soldierly qualities, but claims that, in casting up the final account, Her Majesty's influence and virtue must not be omitted. No Englishmen would endorse the former assertion; every Englishman would endorse the latter. That is just the difference. Every Englishman is ready to admit that the virtues of the Queen have been one of the factors making for England's progress and growth in the Victorian era, and that the honour and affection in which Her Majesty is held by her subjects and by her soldiers, help to consolidate the empire and to strengthen its armies. What the *Fiji Shimpo* really wrote might have appeared in any British newspaper without provoking hostile criticism. What the *Fiji Shimpo* was erroneously represented as having written, could not have appeared in any British journal without exciting ridicule. The simple and manly course for "Independent" and "Vox Populi" would have been to say:—"We have been misled by an incorrect translation. Now that we know the truth, we withdraw our strictures." But they do nothing of the kind. Or, to speak, more correctly, *he* does nothing of the kind. For there is apparent reason to believe that "Independent" and "Vox Populi" are one and the same person; that the person is in reality an *employé* of the journal to which he addresses himself, and that the adoption of different "noms de plume" when discussing the same subject in the same issue of the same journal, is merely one of those tricks which pressmen of a special type deem justifiable. "Independent" and "Vox Populi" having now been reduced to one person, we find that person attempting to escape from the very false position into which he was originally betrayed, and his avenue of escape is personal abuse of the editor of the *Japan Mail* supplemented by a pretence that the old-fashioned and silly doctrine of the divine right of kings has been again resuscitated. It was a very small matter to have been misled in the first instance, whatever may be said of the gracelessness of the comments based upon the misapprehension. But it is a proceeding of another complexion to adhere to an error that has been demonstrated, to decline to make one word of apology for rude sarcasm based entirely upon that error, and to endeavour to hide such conduct under abuse of a third party and under dissertations on wholly irrelevant issues. The assumption of a dual personality, the employment of different *noms de plume* by the same individual, the manœuvre of manufacturing simulated expressions of public opinion within the precincts of a newspaper office, the refusal to acknowledge an established blunder or to withdraw or express regret for abuse based upon it—all these things make a very pretty record.

THE SPINNING INDUSTRY.

Twelve of the cotton-spinning companies, including nearly all the most influential, have succeeded in forming a trust, on the basis that the amount of yarns exported by the association shall bear a fixed ratio to the number of spindles at work: namely, 10 bales for 5,000 spindles, 20 for 10,000, and so on up to 20,000 bales, when the ratio becomes vague, the number of bales being put at "50 or upwards." The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are agents for the Trust, and its business will be conducted in their Osaka office.

It is stated that the number of the various spinning factory-hands in Japan aggregates 58,000, and that the conditions of their service are so unsatisfactory that ten per cent. of the total quit the work every month. Thus in ten months the whole of the hands are renewed. The expense involved in changing an employé and teaching him is estimated at 10 *yen*, whence it would follow that a loss of nearly seven hundred thousand *yen* is entailed annually by this constant unrest. The explanation given is that the factories have not yet learned how to treat their work-people properly. The *Chuo* considers that this problem, so long as it remains unsolved, represents one of the three great obstacles to industrial progress in Japan, the other two being want of capital and want of raw material.

DEATH OF BARON YAMADA.

The death is announced of Baron Yamada. Inflammation of the lungs, coming in the sequel of an attack of influenza, terminated fatally on the morning of the 12th instant, after an illness of eight days. The deceased was in his sixty-seventh year, but his general health was robust up to the time of his last illness. The early part of his career was connected with judicial duties, and having subsequently served as Governor in some important prefectures, including Osaka and Kyoto, he received the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce in 1897. In the following year he became Director of the Board of Audit, which position he held at the time of his decease.

Subscription lists have been opened in Shanghai on behalf of the widow of the late Sir Chaloner Alabaster, who has been left in needy circumstances; and for the Indian Famine.

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THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

It is plain that if the United States Government persists in applying to Hawaii the restrictions enforced generally in American territory against the immigration of contract labourers, and against foreign ships engaging in the coastwise trade, the very exceptional feeling of friendship hitherto entertained by this country for the United States will be considerably chilled. After all, a distinct promise was made to Japan at the time of the annexation of Hawaii that the rights and privileges already acquired by this empire in Hawaii should be respected and confirmed. Can it be claimed that the promise is fulfilled if contract labourers who have hitherto been free to enter Hawaii, are forbidden by law to proceed thither; or if Japanese ships touching at Hawaii, are not allowed thereafter to enter America's territorial waters? No such claim can be honestly set up, nor is there the least probability, we imagine, that the Washington Government will think of setting it up. Japan's position in this matter is exceptional. She has nearly sixty thousand of her subjects in Hawaii, and the fact should be taken into due consideration even though no attention were paid to the promise by which America has bound herself.

Complaints of America's contemplated action with regard to Hawaii and the Philippines continue to be published by vernacular newspapers. It is now pointed out that the United States is no longer in a position to complain that Japan sells much to America and buys little in return. The balance of transactions has been almost established and Japan is now entitled to expect considerate treatment. But it will not be considerate treatment, nor anything like considerate treatment, if America deliberately ignores the pledges given by her to the Japanese Government at the time of the annexation of Hawaii, where Japan has sixty thousand of her subjects. It is plain that this question threatens to make an unfortunate breach in the close friendship hitherto existing between Japan and America.

It is predicted by the *Asahi Shimbun* that the action of the United States is destined to present one of the most difficult problems of foreign policy for Far-Eastern nations. This forecast is founded on the fact that America has undergone a metamorphosis. From a republic, self-contained, treating foreign States with the utmost consideration, entirely free from aggressive impulses and regulating her international procedure by the rules of right and justice, she has suddenly become metamorphosized into a military Power, obeying the instincts of conquest and expansion, and stretching aggressive hands even to distant regions of the Far East. She has acquired Hawaii and the Philippines as the first-fruits of her new career, and seeing that despite her comparatively weak navy and small military establishment, no Power in the world seems disposed to say her nay, it is difficult to set any limits to her doings hereafter when she shall have furnished herself with a strong navy and a big army. We need scarcely say that the *Asahi's* article is inspired by the prospect of the United States' applying its restrictive policy to its new possessions, Hawaii and the Philippines. The *Asahi* regards that as a great misfortune, but sees no remedy and can only lament such a signal fall from grace on the part of the Great Republic. But have we not all foreseen these things for many years? America can not be an exception to the universal rule, growth or decay.

The condition of some of the Japanese who were rendered homeless by the recent sanitary precautions in Hawaii is said to be very pitiful. Miserable lodgings have been provided for them, and they are expected to subsist on two meals of gruel daily. This information is furnished by a emigrant who has just returned from Hawaii. He alleges that the Government had always desired to destroy the quarter where these Japanese lived among a number of Chinamen, and that the alarm of plague furnished a welcome pretext. It is well to receive such statements with reserve.

The United States Government has issued regulations providing that seamen discharged from foreign ships in American ports shall stand upon the same footing as contract labourers for purposes of landing. It appears that the issue of these regulations has been necessitated by abuses which have occurred on a somewhat extensive scale. Ship-masters have been in the habit of placing upon the list of the crew the names of men who had not any genuine connexion with the duties of navigating the vessel, but who resorted to that device for the purpose of evading the Immigation Law. Arrived in the States, they at once obtained their discharge papers from the ship, and were enabled to land as sea-men, though in reality they were labourers. It is to prevent this evasion of the laws that the new regulations have been issued. They do not affect the landing of *bonâ fide* members of a ship's crew.

MR. JORDAN AND THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

The Sōul correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* sends a most circumstantial account of the "incident" which is said to have occurred between Mr. Jordan, the British Representative in Sōul, and the Korean Foreign Office. The correspondent undertakes to furnish even a verbatim copy of despatches said to have passed between the Foreign Office and the Chargé d'Affaires. We do not see how copies of these documents can have come into the possession of a newspaper correspondent, and we therefore refrain from translating them in full. The gist of the Korean despatch is that Mr. Jordan having several times applied for an audience with the Emperor, it was necessary to inform him that his conduct, on the occasion of a previous audience, had been deficient in the usual forms of courtesy and that application had consequently been made to Her Majesty's Government for his removal. The despatch went on to say that he habitually endeavoured to secure his ends by threats and exhibitions of force; that the Korean Government objected to such methods, and that if concessions were desired, they must be sought by conciliatory means. Mr. Jordan, in reply, is said to have denied emphatically that he had been guilty of any lack of courtesy, however slight; to have objected that, did any grounds for such a complaint exist, they ought to have been set forth at the time instead of waiting until several days had elapsed; and to have concluded by saying that if the Emperor received him, he should take the opportunity of assuring His Majesty that there had not been the smallest intentional departure from the strict rules of etiquette and courtesy on the part of the British Representative.

Is it conceivable that the Korean Foreign Office penned such a despatch? We have never found anything of the kind in any archives. But inasmuch as Mr. Jordan is about to quit his post on eighteen months' leave and to be succeeded by Mr. Gubbins, the public will be disposed to indulge in its usual pastime of putting two and two together.

AN ILL-TIMED CLAIM.

If Colonel Mareuil, chief of Joubert's staff, had been gifted with a little foresight, he would have refrained from writing to *La Liberté*, claiming that two Creusot agents managed the Boer artillery throughout the siege of Ladysmith, for the management of the Boer artillery throughout the siege of Ladysmith must be regarded as the greatest fiasco of the war, up to the present. We stated in a recent issue that the Boers had 24 guns for the attack of Ladysmith. That statement referred, however, to the position at the close of December, and we know that the Boers placed new guns in position at a later date. Among the attacking artillery there were at least two 15-cent. Creusots; in other words 5.9-inch guns, which were much more powerful weapons than the two 4.7-inch Naval guns possessed by the garrison. The Boer armament included also five 4.7-inch howitzers. Using these seven heavy pieces during an interval of three months, and supplementing them by seventeen field-guns, they produced scarcely any impression on Ladysmith. That is not a record to be proud of. If French experts were really responsible for it, Colonel Mareuil would have done better to conceal the fact. We are inclined to think, however, that the explanation of the failure is the obstinacy of the Boers. Had the siege operations been under the effective control of French officers, it is scarcely possible that Ladysmith could have held out. But it is one thing to put guns in position and another to ensure their proper use. We have been told of a private letter from a German officer serving with the Boers. He complained bitterly of their refusal to take instructions, and their dogged resolve to work in their own way. Referring to this very matter of the bombardment of Ladysmith, he said that to show the Boers how to do it was precisely the way to prevent them from doing it. Ceusot's men seem to have made a fiasco, and their countryman, Colonel Mareuil, has been unwittingly unkind to them, but we should like to hear the story of the survivor of the two.

A TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATION.

Mr. Kodama, formerly Chief Judge of the Supreme Court and now a member of the House of Peers, has addressed the following telegram to the Queen:—

Shosuke Kodama, member of the House of Peers of the Imperial Diet of Japan, humbly presents congratulations to your gracious Majesty for the success of the British arms in South Africa.

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THE TWO REPUBLICS.

The news that overtures for peace have been made by the two Republics, naturally evokes comment from Japanese journals. The *Jiji Shimpo* concludes that, in view of the blood and treasure England has expended, she can not possibly reconcile herself to anything less than annexation. Whatever the Government might be disposed to do in deference to prudential considerations, the nation would surely not endorse any half-hearted measures. It is nevertheless our contemporary's evident opinion that England's relations with the other Powers of Europe will be jeopardized by the annexation of the two Republics, for a large increase of territory supplemented by the development of strength that this war will bring, must have an effect on the balance of power, and will augment the jealousy of rival States.

These comments are suggestive, and we should hesitate to dissent from them altogether. But with regard to the terms granted to the two Republics—assuming that England will, by and by, be in a position to dictate terms,—it seems to us that there is a consideration much more imperative than the imperial ambition of the British people. It is that, as a matter of elementary precaution, Great Britain is bound to provide against any repetition of the experiences she has just suffered. It is beyond question that the two Republics had been steadily and strenuously preparing for war during many years, and that their ultimate purpose was, not merely to defend their independence, which was not threatened by any forcible process, but to drive the British flag out of South Africa. Is it not England's plain duty to guarantee herself against a renewal of that attempt? Were the two Republics situated on her borders, so that she could watch them closely and be always prepared to deal swiftly and effectively with emergencies, she might be justified in recognising their independence. But they are seven thousand miles distant from her shores, and they lie in the interior of a continent which is ill-provided with facilities of transport. To move an efficient army against them is a stupendous task. If, then, they are allowed to return to an independent condition, England would have to choose between three courses: either to maintain a military force of a hundred thousand men in the Cape Colony and Natal, in order to guard against disaffection among the Dutch Colonists and against a second invasion of her territories by Boer armies; or to abandon South Africa to whatever fate its inhabitants can work out for themselves; or to drift back into the old state of unpreparedness and reliance on happy chance. None of those courses can be contemplated for a moment by a practical nation. The first essential of any settlement must be the complete disarming of the two Republics and the establishment of a system of government which will effectually check all attempts to strike against England's dominion in South Africa. Were the maintenance of the Republics' independence compatible with the attainment of those objects, all thoughtful Englishmen would like to see them independent. We know the sweets of liberty and we respect and admire the courage and perseverance hitherto shown by the Boers. But the safety of the British empire stands paramount in the eyes of British statesmen and British subjects. They will never consent to the restoration of a situation from which the perils and sufferings of the past five months might be evolved again at any moment. As to the question of the balance of power, no State except Germany is immediately concerned. Some Germans hold that the preservation of their South-African colonies is not consistent with the annexation of the two Republics by Great Britain. Englishmen do not think anything of the kind. They believe that the future has only friendship and co-operation in store for the Teuton and the Briton. But it is at all events apparent that whatever apprehensions the Germans may entertain on that score, Germany is not going to interfere between England and the Republics. Apparently the German press does not think that right was originally on England's side, but certainly the German nation will not deny the right of conquest when conquest is achieved.

TOKYO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce has just held an extraordinary meeting at which it was unanimously decided that the privilege of owning real estate and of engaging in mining enterprise should be extended to foreigners. Our readers are aware that the Diet, in its last session, passed a bill giving to foreign juridical persons the right of engaging in mining. But the Tokyo Chamber proposes to go further, and to confer the right on individual foreigners. The Chamber bases its recommendation on broad lines. It places the question of the introduction of foreign capital in a secondary rank, and argues that Japan, having entered the comity of nations on equal terms, ought not to discriminate any longer between her own people and the foreigners who come under her jurisdiction. We are glad to find such an expression of liberal views on the part of the Chamber, and to observe that higher ground has been taken than the mere selfish consideration of attracting foreign capital.

THE BURNING OF THE THEATRE FRANCAIS.

The destruction of the Théatre Francais, news of which appears in our telegraphic columns, is a most lamentable affair. The site of the building teemed with associations of the high and palmy days of the French monarchy. In 1629 the great Cardinal Richelieu caused the Hotel de Richelieu to be erected, after the plans of the architect Le Mercier, on the sites of the old Hotels d'Armagnac and Rambouillett. The *salle de l'opéra* of the Cardinal Duke, which was upon this site, was burned down in 1763 in a fire which swept away the whole group of buildings. The opera house was rebuilt, but in 1781 another fire destroyed the new building. Louis XVI. then commenced the construction at the opposite extremity of the Palais Royal of a new theatre, which was opened to the public on the 15th May, 1790. This is the theatre which has just been destroyed. It contained, in addition to archives most precious for purposes of theatrical research, artistic collections of inestimable value.

MURDER OF BRITISH OFFICIALS ON THE BURMAH FRONTIER.

News from China makes it plain that the telegraphic reports recently received of a murderous outrage on the Burmah-Chinese frontier were in the main correct. Two Englishmen, Dr. Kiddle and Deputy-Assistant Commissioner Sutherland, were killed, and Mr. Litton of the Consular service was wounded. The murderers are said to have been soldiers forming a guard supplied by the Governor of Yunnan, and the scene was Mengka, which lies about 150 miles south-west of Momien. These facts are stated in bare outline. They appear, however, to be well authenticated and they render it difficult to understand the news subsequently telegraphed to the effect that a force of British troops had attacked a Chinese garrison and killed 80 men. It will probably be found that the perpetrators of the outrage were, not Chinese guards, but some of the bandits who infest the region.

The *Rangoon Times* of the 14th February reports:—Further news has been received from Mr. Scott that the Las burnt certain Shan villages, notwithstanding the presence of Chinese troops. Mr. Scott has summoned the military police reserve from Hopang to his assistance. Captain French-Mullen is starting to join Mr. Scott at Mongkaw on the 19th instant.

DEATH OF MRS. IWASAKI.

The death is announced of Mrs. Iwasaki, mother of the late Mr. Iwasaki Yataro, and grandmother of Baron Iwasaki Hisaya. She expired at 6 a.m. on the 14th instant, in her eighty-seventh years. Mrs. Iwasaki had always enjoyed exceptionally good health, but she was overtaken this winter by an attack of influenza, which brought on other complications. The funeral will take place on the 18th instant, at half-past two in the afternoon, and the interment will be in the family vault at Somei, where the remains of the late Mr. Iwasaki Yataro lie.

THE LEE-ENFIELD AND THE MAUSER.

Our paragraph about the Lee-Enfield and the Mauser rifles has misled more than one correspondent. It seems to be thought that because we wrote "Mauser .276 (Spanish)," we intended to imply that the Mauser is a Spanish invention. All the world knows that the Mauser is a German rifle. But there are two types, the German (.311) and the Spanish (.276). They are usually distinguished as "German" and "Spanish." That is all. Since, however, we are responsible for having brought this matter on the tapis, it seems only fair to quote the remarks recently made by a correspondent of *The Times* with regard to the comparative efficiency of the two weapons:—

SIR—Among the volumes of correspondence about defects, real or implied, in our military equipment, as the outcome of events in South Africa, disparagement has been cast on our service rifle and the marksmanship of our soldiers, while the Mauser rifle and marksmanship of the Boers have been unduly over-rated. These ideas find ready belief among many always ready to accept anything to our detriment, but so many references have been made to me for my opinion on the subject that in deference to a generally expressed desire I venture this remonstrance.

My task is to show that our service rifle is as good as, and in no respect inferior to, the best in the

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hands of the Boers, and that it is a gross perversion of facts to rank the Boers of to-day as superior to our soldiers as marksmen. It is therefore incumbent on me, first, to say that my experience in the subject of rifles (military and sporting) and ammunition extends back 40 years, and that 18 years of my service were passed (in all grades from regimental to chief instructor of a school of musketry) solely in the instruction and training of officers and men in musketry.

The majority of the rifles in the hands of the Boers are Mausers, of which there are two calibres —the German, ·311 and the Spanish, ·276. The subjoined table gives the technical merits of these rifles in comparison with others in a concise form :—

Name.	Calibre.	Bullet: Weight in grains.	Bullet: Driving value.	Bullet: Comparative weight per section.	Approx initial velocity foot seconds.
	Inches.				
Lee straight pull	·236	112	·273	2·5	2,500
Krag-Jorgensen, &c. ...	·256	162	·335	3 0	2,400
Mauser, Spanish	·276	173	·313	2 8	2,250
Lee-Enfield..	·303	215	·326	2·9	2,000
Mauser, German.....	·311	227	·325	2·9	2,025

These figures are worthy of attention, for they show of the ·236 that, though it may have the highest initial velocity, it is lowest in all other points and is therefore inferior in ranging power; of the ·256 that it is superior to all others all round; of the ·303 and ·311 that there is nothing to choose between them; and of the ·276 that its higher initial velocity is neutralized by the low figures of its bullet values, and it is inferior to them in range. It is, therefore, evident that the British Lee rifle is not inferior to the German Mauser, and that though the initial velocity is inferior to that of the Spanish Mauser, its superior bullet values make it superior in ranging power. It will be obvious to those acquainted with the subject of "ballistics" that the above comments in no way refer to the systems of breech and magazine mechanism, but solely to the barrel (*i.e.*, calibre and rifling) and cartridge (*i.e.*, explosive and bullet).

Now, as to the respective standards of marksmanship of the average Boer and of "Tommy," have those who so freely praise the former and belittle the latter condescended to consider the conditions under which they have met in the field of war? The Boer carefully prepares for himself a "position" comfortably placing himself in safety behind earth or rocks whence he can see, and not be seen, and can fire deliberately, generally, too, having previously measured distances and made a rest for his rifle. Now look on the other picture. Our soldiers come into action, say, at 1,500 yards, and thence onwards are under a perpetual storm of lead, and to reach their unseen enemy have to lose no time, but drop, fire, rise, rush, the excitement and exertion making the heart and head throb, and hand and eye shake. The wonder is that even their splendid courage carries them through it. Let these conditions ever be reversed, and the Boers, even in triple strength, attack our infantry in a prepared position, and I venture to say that not a single Boer would ever reach the British line. The belief that the Boer is a wonderful shot is utter nonsense. Some of those of 40 years ago might have been fine game shots owing to plentiful practice, but the Boer of the present generation is but an indifferent shot and it must be borne in mind that the majority have only recently been served out with military rifles, with which they have had little training. On the other hand, our men have had excellent training under careful supervision, are familiar with their rifle, and under service conditions are better shots than the soldiers of any other nation.

I crave your permission to add that it is not from partiality for our service rifle that I have written this, for ever since its initiation in 1888 I have strongly opposed it, on account of the system of breech and magazine mechanism. It is not a difficult matter to lay hands on a military rifle superior in all points to the Lee-Enfield, and we British should at least spare no money to equip our Army with the very best that money can procure, for the blood of our soldiers is the costliest in the world.

I have, &c.,

W. F. NUTHALL, Colonel, late Inspector Army Ord. Depart.

Miss Mary Ritchie, daughter of the Right Hon. Charles Thomson Ritchie, president of the Board of Trade, was married to the Hon. Frank Russell, son of Lord Russell of Killowen, at Brompton Oratory on Feb. 17th.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The torpedo-destroyer *Kagero* arrived at Nagasaki on the 14th instant.

Viscount Nomura Yasushi has been appointed a member of the Privy Council.

A batch of students, numbering 331, have just graduated at the Naval Artillery College.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has added to its fleet a steamer of 1887 tons and 11 knots speed.

Dr. Kitasato has had an honorary degree conferred on him by the Imperial Military University of St. Petersburg. He already holds similar distinctions from learned bodies in other countries.

Countess Hijikata has had a stroke of paralysis and now lies in a dangerous condition. The Countess' health has been more or less broken since the unhappy death of her favourite son, about a year ago.

Prince Waldemar was received in farewell audience by the Emperor and Empress of Japan on the forenoon of the 10th instant. In the afternoon he visited the Red Cross Hospital, and on the 11th he left Tokyo, after a sojourn of six days.

It appears that the Odawara Electric tram does run to Yumoto, after all. Conflicting statements have been published, but according to a prospectus just issued by the company, the rail goes from Kodzu to Yumoto a distance of 8 miles. The electricity is generated by water power.

The *Asahi Shimbun* reports that the Japanese police have arrested a Formosan bandit chief in the interior of China and brought him to Amoy. We presume that the constables engaged in their work were Formosan Chinese in Japanese employ, but even on that hypothesis their incursion into Chinese territory seems peculiar.

A considerable part of the buildings belonging to the *Boseki Yōhin Kaisha* (Cotton-spinning Supply Company) in Osaka has been destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at 70,000 *yen*, but there is insurance on the building to the amount of 40,000 *yen*, and on the stock to the amount of 3,000 *yen*.

Very conflicting accounts are given of the produce of the Esashi gold mines. The *Chugai Shogyo* puts the whole of the last year's yield at *yen* 600,000 worth, and says that the number of persons engaged in the work was 12,000. The *Jiji*, on the contrary, alleges that the output during April, May and June, alone, of 1899 was 19 *kwan* 166 *momme*, and that the total output for this year will be about 70 *kwan*. It is at all events evident that the district is yielding a rich return. The auriferous area is estimated by the *Shogyo* at 1,379 *ri*, which would be a square with a side of about 37 *ri*. It is difficult to believe that the area can be so extensive.

There is talk of a fine arts company being organized on a large scale, the promoters being Japanese, American, English and French. Japanese newspapers put the capital at twelve million *yen*, and say that it is to be a partnership concern, commencing operations in 1902. The names of the partners are given. The Japanese is Mr. Kobayashi of Nikko, and the foreigners, so far as we can discover from their transliterated names, are Messrs. Gardiner, Piers and Meyn.

The high cold wind felt in Tokyo and Yokohama on the 12th instant is now connected with a heavy snow-fall reported from Fukui in Echizen, Yokkaichi in Ise, Tottori in Inaba, and from Shizuoka and Sapporo. From the last named place 8 feet of snow is reported.

Prince Waldemar entertained several of the Japanese Ministers of State and the Foreign Representatives at dinner on board his ship on the 13th instant. It is understood that his Royal Highness will now proceed again to Tokyo and take up his quarters at the Imperial Hotel, whence he will visit Nikko and other places of note.

Count Itagaki, interviewed by a member of the *Mainichi's* staff, reverts to his frequently advanced opinion that there is urgent need to reform the manners and customs of the Japanese people. His censure seems to be directed specially against their want of modesty. We sincerely hope that he will succeed in imbuing many publicists with the same idea.

According to Tokyo journals, the stock of silk in Yokohama at present is much larger than it was at the corresponding period last year. These are the figures given :—

	At present.	At corresponding period of 1899.
Kikai-ito	6 680 bales	2,206½ bales
Zanguri	1,180 bales	108 bales
Kakeda	682 bales	24 bales
Totals	8,542 bales	2,338½ bales

The debts of the Eastern Hongwan-ji total 1,200,000 *yen*, it is said. Conferences have recently been held with the object of devising some means of paying off the money, and the result is that the adherents of the Sect in Kaga, Noto, Echizen and Etchiu will be asked to put up one-fourth of the amount, while Kyoto, Nagoya, and other places will find the remainder. This temple has been a heavy burden on the shoulders of the faithful.

It is stated that Tokyo is at length on the verge of taking the final plunge in favour of electric street railways, and that the Sampa-godo will see the concession come in its direction after all. 'Tis a long lane that has no turning. The public, however, has been so repeatedly deceived in this matter that belief in anything practical will not be easily entertained.

There is a project on foot to construct another line of railway between Tokyo and Yokohama for the carriage of goods only. Its termini would be at Etchiujima and the Yokohama Custom House, respectively. The promoters imagine that as goods only would be carried, their road would not compete injuriously with the Government railway, though the idea apparently is to run the two side by side. Surely that is a somewhat sanguine view?

The Industrial Bank announces its seventh issue of prize-bearing bonds. The amount is 1½ million *yen*, the rate of interest, five per cent., and the face-value of each bond, 20 *yen*. The bonds become redeemable from October 1st, 1900, and the redemption will be completed in 40

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years from that day. Applications will be received from the 20th instant up to the 10th proximo, and the subscribers will be required to pay the amount allotted to them between May 1st and May 5th. The prizes are, one of 1,000 *yen*; nine of 100 *yen*, and ten of 140 *yen*.

The newly arrived Austro-Hungarian Representative hadaudience of the Emperor to present his credentials on the 13th instant, and was afterwards received in audience by the Empress.

The two Turks, whose destitute condition has for some time caused concern to charitable Japanese, are about to be shipped to the United States with a sum of 194 *yen* in their pockets. The money was collected chiefly through the exertions of Mr. Masuda Mankichi, the diver, who, ever since his operations in connexion with the wreck of the Turkish frigate *Etourgoul*, seems to have taken special interest in Turkey and its affairs. He has supported these castaways for a considerable time at his own charges.

Experiments are about to be made by Japanese merchants in cotton-growing in the province of Fuhkien. The work is to be under the auspices of the Osaka Cotton Spinners' Union, which has decided to put up a sum of 3,000 *yen* annually for three years, entrusting the conduct of the enterprise to Mr. Inouye Jiutaro. There is reason to believe, it is said, that the climate and soil of Fuhkien are well adapted for the purpose, and naturally the enterprise is viewed with popular favour as a kind of assertion of the rights acquired by Japan within her "sphere of influence."

A fatal accident is reported from the kerosene-oil district in Echigo. It occurred at the Urase wells near the village of Nagaoka. Seventy-seven men are employed there. They live in wooden shanties, and as there has always been danger of land-slips or avalanches, the buildings exposed to these perils are erected within a forest, so as to utilize the shelter of the trees. In spite of that precaution, however, an avalanche buried one of the edifices at 5 a.m. on the 3rd instant. There were 12 men in the hut at the time. Nine of them were dead before the snow could be removed; one was slightly injured, and two escaped unhurt.

In digging the foundations for the Prince Imperial's Palace, a rather interesting discovery was made. The workmen came upon a stone-lined cellar, the roof of which had fallen in. Among the earth and rubbish that filled the interior, a number of silver vessels were found—dishes, arms, cups, and such things, some of them weighing several pounds. All were ornamented with vine-leaf scrolls and chrysanthemum-paulownia medallions. There could be no doubt that they had originally belonged to the *Daimyo* of Kishiu, whose residence stood on the site of the proposed Palace in pre-Restoration days. They have accordingly been restored to that family.

The very small scale on which Japanese institutions are modelled is beginning to attract much attention among the economists of this country. Count Inouye recognised the evil many years ago and urged reform, especially in the field of agriculture, where not only are farms inconveniently small, but also the same farm is often divided into several parts widely separated from each other, to the great waste of labour. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a clever article on the same subject. Banks, railways, insurance companies, commercial and industrial enterprises—everything partakes of the tiny character of the household industries which for centuries have constituted the typical form of Japanese bread-winning undertakings. There is immense need of change.

The idea is that the Mitsu Bishi firm will devote something like ten million *yen* to putting up solid brick structures on the large tract of land held by them in the Maru-no-uchi district. By degrees foreign firms will doubtless desire to have offices in Tokyo, and Maru-no-uchi would be an ideal place for providing accommodation. Doubtless the Mitsu Bishi will be prepared to build according to plans approved by the intending occupant of an edifice. Thus ulitmately, in the immediate vicinity of the central station of the street railways and of the post and telegraph offices, there will spring up a little city altogether different in style from the Tokyo of to-day.

The talk recently heard about the organization of an Anglo-Japanese company to exploit the kerosene wells of Echigo, now assumes the form of a statement that Messrs. Abe Hikotaro and Tanaka Keisuke have formed an association with Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, and that the association has acquired some wells at Kamada for a sum of 60,000 *yen*. From thence to Naoyetsu a pipe is to be laid, and it is stated that the idea is to bring various Japanese firms into the coalition which will ultimately assume large dimensions. This enterprise appears to us to be very promising, and we are glad that a great English company is taking a part in it.

The repairs of the *Fuso* have been completed at the Kure Docks, and the ship has successfully undergone her speed and gunnery trials. It is said to have been a very extensive work, as the ship had received great damage in her collision. But the Kure experts proved themselves fully equal to the occasion. There are now two docks in operation at Kure, and the larger of them is capable of accommodating a first-class line-of-battle ship. It is expected that the Naval Department will at once give orders for the construction of a third-class cruiser, and that the materials will be ordered from England next month.

The *Fiji Shimpo* steadily continues to exhort the Government to take some decisive action about the Tokyo Street Railways. "Give the charter to a private company, and be done with it," says our contemporary; "or announce definitely that the Municipality itself will undertake the work, and let a beginning be made." We may add that the story of the street railways has exhibited one thing at all events, namely, the extraordinary patience of the Japanese people. Not a single question was asked in the Diet about a subject which in Europe or America would long ago have excited the public beyond endurance. The Authorities seem to be labouring under a kind of intellectual paralysis in this matter.

Our vernacular contemporaries speak of a plan for clearly defining the bounds of Tokyo city and Tokyo suburbs. In the city would be included the Nihonbashi district, the Kyobashi districts, and parts of the Kojimachi and Kanda districts. A canal would be dug surrounding the city, and special regulations would be enacted, prescribing the nature of the buildings, the arrangements as to drainage and road-making and so on, within the city (*shinai*), a different system being applied to the suburbs (*shigai*). This programme is based on a conviction that the city, as it now exists, is altogether so straggling and so extensive in proportion to its inhabitants that no efficient municipal system can be applied without resource to excessive taxation.

At a conference of prison wardens just held in Tokyo, it was decided that prisoners should be divided into nine classes with reference to diet. The first class, consisting of men engaged in the most arduous kind of manual labour, will receive a daily ration of 9.4 *go* of rice and barley, and the ninth class, which comprises persons awaiting trial and persons undergoing punishment for minor offences, will have 4.2 *go*. We should think that prisoners of the first class will be puzzled to dispose of such a ration, although a large part of it is barley; but prisoners of the ninth class are apt to go hungry very often, for, though 4 *go* of rice is supposed to suffice for an ordinary person leading a sedentary life, 4 *go* of a mixture containing two-fifths of barley is a scanty meal for an able-bodied man.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* declares that two foreigners of a very doubtful character are residing at an hotel in Yokohama. They go out in various disguises and do not allow any one to have access to their chamber. The suggestion, we need scarcely say, is that they are Russian spies. If there were appended some demonstration of the things likely to occupy the attention of a spy in Yokohama, this story would gain in credibility. In the year immediately preceding and immediately following the beginning of the *Meiji* era, almost every foreigner, however humble his position or insignificant his individuality, imagined that all his sayings and doings were perpetually subjected to Japanese espionage. Some of the people of this country appear to be similarly tormented by a Russian spectre.

It is stated that a considerable increase has taken place in the number of appeals from convictions in cases of minor offences, and the fact is attributed to recent legislation, which dispenses with the necessity of putting up a certain sum of money when lodging an appeal. The Appeal Court of Tokyo has had to increase its sections from three to five, we read, but it is difficult to believe that the new law can have yet produced such a marked effect, as it has only been a few weeks in operation. At all events, if the facts be as alleged, they show that the legislation was required. There is an uneasy conviction in many minds that owing to the present system of conducting preliminary examinations in Japan, not a few unjust convictions take places. The radical remedy is to amend the procedure so as to bring it into line with more civilized methods, but in the meanwhile every facility provided for obtaining a review of a lower tribunal's verdict is welcome.

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It is suggested by the *Jiji Shimpo* that instead of putting sea-coast lads in a lath-and-plaster building for purposes of elementary education, their school should be a ship anchored in the harbour of Yokohama, Kobe, or Nagasaki. That interesting idea is based on the theory that it is all important for the Japanese to become conversant with maritime affairs. Our contemporary speaks of the boat-men in the service of some of the Western feudal chiefs in the days of the Tokugawa. These boatmen used to assist in transporting the Daimyos and their belonging over-sea, for the purpose of their compulsory visits to Yedo in alternate years. They were a greatly despised class, but in modern times some of them have become highly prosperous. There is, in fact, a great opening for the youth of Japan in the field of maritime enterprise. Already the demand for sailors and ship's officers far exceeds the supply, and the *Jiji* observes that England's example ought to inspire the Japanese. The Englishman is in demand for sea-going purposes all the world over.

KOREA.

The Korean Government is reported to have agreed that compensation must be given in connexion with the recent outrage at Chiksan, of which Japanese subjects were the victims. The sufferers have arrived in Söul and are pressing their claims in person.

The Emperor of Korea is said to have rejected the suggestion of the Judicial Department that An Keiju, who recently left his refuge in Japan and voluntarily surrendered to the police in Söul, should be punished with death. It appears probable, now, that An will escape with comparatively slight punishment.

According to a telegram published by the *Asahi Shimbun*, the Uensan-mine complication has been settled, the Korean Government agreeing to grant the concession to Mr. Pritchard Morgan. No details are given by our contemporary's correspondent, but we may observe that this result conflicts with the previously published reports of strained relations between Her Majesty's Legation in Söul and the Korean Government, and of an application by the latter for Mr. Jordan's recall.

Quite an extensive series of experiments in wireless telegraphy is being conducted under the auspices of the Japanese Naval Department in Korean waters. Apparently the idea is connected with coast defence, for the islands on which stations are being erected may be said to extend from the mouth of the Tadang on the west coast to Yuensan on the north east. The telegraph lines between Söul and Fusan being in Japanese hands, it is not unnatural that these experiments should be undertaken by the Japanese Naval Department. The circumstances are well adapted to the use of wireless telegraphy, and it is evident that if all the main islands in the waters of Korea were brought within such a circuit, a great step towards a system of coast defence would have been taken.

The *venue* of the Horticultural Exhibition, now being arranged by the British Women's Patriotic Association, has been changed from the Bluff Garden to the Public Hall, and the date is fixed for May 23rd.

LAW FOR THE REMOVAL OF GARBAGE.

The above law has recently been promulgated over the signatures of the Premier and the Home Minister. We condense it as follows:—

Art. I.—Any person who owns, or occupies, or uses land in a city is under obligation to remove dirt and rubbish from the place which he owns, occupies, or uses.

Art. II.—The city authorities are required to perform the dirty of cleansing the streets in cases where the obligation falls on no individual.

Art. III.—The city authorities are required to dispose of garbage collected by persons under obligation to remove same.

Art. IV.—Any revenue or gain realized in connection with measures specified in the preceding article accrue to the city funds.

Art. V.—The local Governor may appoint special officials in a municipality with a view to enforcing strict cleanliness and to inspecting the condition of each district.

Art. VI.—The officials so appointed are empowered to enter any private land for the enforcement of necessary measures.

Art. VII.—In case any private individual fails to comply with the provisions of this law, or his methods are deemed to be imperfect, measures may be taken directly by the aforesaid officials at the expense of the municipality.

Art. VIII.—The persons under obligation will be liable to expenses incurred by the Municipality for the measures mentioned in the preceding article.

Art. IX.—The kind of dirt or rubbish to be removed and the process of removing the same, as well as other necessary arrangements for maintaining cleanliness, shall be determined by Ordinance.

These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of April in the 33rd year of *Meiji* (1900).

LITIGATION AND ARBITRATION.

In the Kobe Chiho Saibansho judgment has been delivered in the case of Yamada Keisuke, of Kyoto, against Th. de Berigny, of Berigny and Co., Kobe. The claim was for 18,529 *yen*, and arose out of a contract to supply railway sleepers to the defendant. Defendant alleged that the sleepers were not supplied up to time, and that some were not of the quality of the sample. The Court, however, decided against him, and gave judgment for the amount claimed with costs. It is interesting to note that the contract included a provision that in case of any dispute the matter should be submitted to the Kobe Chamber of Commerce for arbitration. The plaintiff, however, applied directly to the Court, ignoring the provision. Dealing with this important point, the Judges, in giving their decision, said:—

> We considered this point and discovered that a party can institute an action at Court, no matter what the nature of the case is, provided that it is not exempted specially by law and that the Court is also entitled to judge the case. The right of instituting an action against another party is a most important right and it is not to be thrown away beforehand. It is specified in the 8th book of the Application of the Civil Codes, relating to the provisions for arbitration, that parties may refer their disputes to arbitrators, but it is not absolutely held to be necessary to submit to arbitration, no matter how the matter stands, even though an agreement to arbitrate has been executed. The provisions relating to arbitration aim at bringing a dispute to a peaceful conclusion, and either party is entitled to institute an action in Court when he thinks that an amicable conclusion is not to be expected. No provisions specified in Law prohibit the plaintiff in such case from instituting an action. The defendant's protestation is wholly groundless.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

Recent advices from India give particulars of the very great proportions the Famine has now assumed. The distress is unparalleled in the history of British rule in India. The Queen has given £1000 to the Indian Famine Fund; the Prince of Wales two hundred and fifty guineas; the Princess of Wales a hundred guineas; and the Duke and Duchess of York £100 each. Other contributions are: The London Stock Exchange, £10'000; Messrs. Neumann & Co., £1,000; Messrs. Schroeders, £500; Messrs. Speyer Bros., £500; Messrs. F. Huth & Co., £250; Messrs. W. & A. Gilbey, £250; Lord Leven, £100; Lord Llangattock, £100; and Lord Wenlock, £50. The opening of the Indian Famine Relief Fund has been received encouragingly in England. The Lord Mayor's appeal dwells on the population and area involved, and the extent of relief required, mentioning the fact that fertile tracts, which have never been affected, are in sore straits. The sympathy, he says, binding England and India together is stronger and closer than at any previous period. By Feb. 28, the Fund has reached £78 000. A Famine Relief Fund had been opened by the Viceroy. There was an immense gathering in Calcutta, and six lakhs of rupees were collected at the meeting. The Maharaja Durbhunga has contributed one and a half lakh of rupees; the Maharani Hatwa one lakh; Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company eighty thousand rupees; the Viceroy ten thousand; the big mercantile firms from five to thirty thousand.

NEWSPAPERS & WAR EXPENSES.

One would have thought it was sufficiently well known, remarks the *Printer's Register*, that with a great daily newspaper war time is rarely, if ever, a period of profit, but, on the contrary, quite the reverse. But the *Church Family Newspaper* has been addressing questions on the subject to the heads of some of the London dailies. Mr. J. Le Sage, managing editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, has replied that there is no mystery as to how war affects a big paper. If it is able to give first-class despatches its circulation is greatly increased, "but then war, in itself, is very costly, especially when nearly every word costs four shillings, as in the present instance, for cable alone." Mr. E. Peacock, manager of the *Morning Post*, writes:—"Except in the case of halfpenny evening papers, which cost little to get up and make their profit upon street sales, a war is a misfortune to newspapers. It diminishes advertising business, increases expenditure by thousands of pounds, and brings in per contra only thousands of pence. Of course, there is that intangible quantity 'prestige' also to be placed to the credit side of the account."

These remarks apply equally well to some newspapers in Japan.

THE CHILDREN'S CONCERT.

The Children's Concert, which was postponed on account of the death of the late U.S. Consul-General, Mr. John F. Gowey, has now been fixed for Tuesday, the 21st inst., with the dress rehearsal on the Saturday preceding. One novel feature of the entertainment may be mentioned. It is that the two upright pianos to be used have been made entirely in Yokohama at the manufactory of Mr. T. Nishikawa of No. 30 Hinodecho Nichome—being the first time that pianos of Japanese make have been used at a foreign concert on the Bluff.

A Nihilist plot is said to have been discovered, having its headquarters at Warsaw and ramifications at St. Petersburg, where some 150 persons have been arrested. No details as to the object or organisation of the plot have ranspired, but the persons implicated appear to belong to the middle classes.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

In the *Fukuin Shimpō*, under the title of "National emotional deficiencies and Buddhist Teaching," we find some very discerning remarks. The writer maintains that the Japanese, as a people, have always lived for the present, that among them practical experience has stood for more than mere speculation. In worshipping the ancients they have felt that their ancestors were like themselves in most things, if better in a few. The real typical Japanese mind is at once optimistic and utilitarian. The view of life taken is a cheerful one. No kind of pessimism is entertained naturally by the Japanese. The question which the *Fukuin Shimpō* puts and endeavours to answer is, how far has Buddhism suceeded in eradicating fundamental national characteristics? This subject is treated by Mr. Adachi in his "History of Buddhism." There is not the slightest doubt, observes Mr. Adachi, that the Japanese are an optimistic people, that they set a high value on this present world, that they hold experience in great esteem. Shintō has helped to perpetuate this feeling, and the influence of Confucianism has been in the same direction. Original orthodox Buddhism may be said to occupy the opposite pole of thought, to be pessimistic to the core. But no attempt was made to propagate this extreme form of Buddhism in Japan. The system known as the 大乘, *daijō*, and many of the original precepts of Buddhism were not taught. What was propagated was the 小乘, *shōjō*. The reason for the adoption of this course was the feeling that the more extreme form of Buddhist teaching would prove too much opposed to Japanese sentiment to allow of its being successful. Commenting on these remarks, the *Fukuin Shimpō* says:—In the main we agree with this view. The Japanese mind has no regard for mysticism and takes no delight in such subtle distinctions as are drawn by Buddhism. Though it is quite certain that Buddhism was greatly modified to suit the native mind, yet it has been engaged in its turn in changing national sentiment so as to bring it nearer its original conception of the world and human life. But the history of Buddhism is on the whole a history of compromises. Even the very greatest teachers seldom disclosed their real thoughts and made use of all manner of devices for inducing people to join their sects. The giving of Buddhist names to Japanese deities and the representing local Japanese divinities to be identical with old Indian Buddhist divinities are well-known facts. But this system of compromise has, on the whole, proved a failure, says the *Fukuin Shimpō*, and those persons who advocate the Nipponising of Christianity are on the wrong track. For a religion to change its teaching to suit national sentiment is a confession of weakness. Christianity must never do this in Japan if it hopes to fulfil the highest function of religion, the transformation of national as well as individual character.

* * *

The *Fukuin Shimpō* (No. 240) has an article on Reformatories by Mr. Tomeoka Kōsuke, who, perhaps, is the greatest authority in Japan on this subject. Mr. Tomeoka thinks that Japan has in the past neglected to prevent crime by providing employment for the class of youths who are apt to take to crime as a means of making a livelihood. But there are signs that the authorities are turning their attention to methods of reform, and there is a feeling among those in power that in the past sentences have been unnecessarily severe in many cases. In the draft of the Revised Code the question of mitigating circumstances is specially dealt with. Mr. Tomeoka has studied the systems of reform prevailing in Germany, France, England, and America. He says that no country has been so successful as England in closing the avenues that lead to crime. In England, crime has decreased at such a rapid rate that there are not much more than half the number of prisons that used to exist. The cause of this decrease is the industrial homes provided for the young, where they are taught how to make an honest living. There are in England 229 Reformatories for the young, to which boys of criminal tendencies are sent. The inmates of these institutions amount to 30,000 and the cost of their maintenance is 4½ million *yen*. Compared with England Japan's method of treating crime may be pronounced an entire failure. The amount we spend in maintaining prisons England spends in preventing crime. The results of the two different methods of procedure are very striking. While Japan has 60,000 prisoners England has only half that number. There are three methods of preventing crime. One is to endeavour to change the minds of prisoners while they are in prison. A second is to endeavour to control their lives after they have been discharged from gaol. A third is to educate those young people who hover around the brink of the abyss of crime. The third method, if the results it yields be considered, proves to be the least costly of the three. It stands to reason that the earlier the work of imparting instruction designed to prevent crime be commenced the more effective it is likely to be. Hitherto Japan has not realised this. Prison expenses are now to be borne by the Treasury, and the Central Government has decided on establishing Reformatories in every province. This is good as far as it goes, but it would be far better were a number of training schools for young unfortunates established. It would be well to entrust this work to private enterprise and to give Government grants to institutions, as is done in England. It is very questionable whether even the Reformatories established by the Government will be efficiently worked. The carrying on of all such work by a set of officials who take no real interest in it is apt to become perfunctory and to fail in attaining the end in view. Works of benevolence can only be successful when all engaged in them are full of benevolent feeling. . . . . According to investigations made by the Home Department, there are at present only three institutions in Japan of the kind that have been so successful in England, where the young are taught how to get a living. These are the Okayama Orphan Asylum, the Shibusawa Poor Asylum, and the Hara Reformatory. This kind of work should be carried on by religious sects. This is beginning to be realised by both Buddhists and Christians, but it cannot be said that in the Christian Church works of benevolence have been pushed as much as education. The Buddhists, since the Sugamo prison episode, have awakened to the fact that they must not be behind Christians in advocating and promoting prison reform. Not long ago no less than 7 million *yen* was collected by Buddhists for the furtherance of works of charity. The Chief Abbot is contemplating a visit to Europe accompanied by 13 students. The latter are to spend some years in studying social questions and in investigating the methods of teaching and enlightening the masses followed in the West. Mr. Tomeoka concludes his interesting article by urging Christians to put more energy into works of benevolence.

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Commenting on the multiplicity of Christian sects in Japan, as shown by the reports (40 in number), sent in to the Home Department, the Rev. K. Ibuka, writing in the *Fukuin Shimpō*, expresses general satisfaction with the existing state of affairs in the Christian Church. He says that the body of Christ (the church) is one in all essential respects. All Christian sects hold alike the following truths. (1) That there is a God, who is the creator of the Universe. (2) That Christ, the Saviour, is the Son of God. (3) The Holy Spirit's influence on man. (4) Future rewards and punishments. (5) That the Old and New Testaments contain the teaching of God in a special manner. The differences between sects concern either (1) Ecclesiastical Government, or (2) Forms of worship or ceremonies. These are all of minor importance and are perhaps an unavoidable concomitant of imperfect knowledge. Any outward union Mr. Ibuka thinks to be unrealisable. A union founded on compromise would not last. Compromise is repulsive to some of the best Christians. What they believe, they believe sincerely, and they fail to see why they should relinquish this belief to please others. Heart union, Mr. Ibuka thinks, exists in the minds of all the best Christians. With any attempt to force outward union, Mr. Ibuka has no sympathy. The Christian army consists of a number of regiments that are fighting against a common foe under different flags and what they should try to do is to outvie each other in heroic action.

* * *

At the 21st meeting of the Comparative Religion Society, held some weeks ago, Mr. Hachihama read a long paper on Magical Art or Enchantment. We can only give a few of the conclusions to which he has come on this subject. Mr. Hachihama is the author of a book called *Meishin no Nippon*, which is practically a history of Japanese superstitions. In the paper now before us he says that there is evidence to prove that in Japan as elsewhere magic has always connected itself with religion. Just as in our word "magic," the pretended intercourse of the old Persian magi with spirits from the other world is commemorated, so in the Japanese word *majinai*, the *maji* is allied to *majiru* and *majiwaru*, and intercourse with the gods is the chief idea embodied. Mr. Hachihama does not think that Japanese magic was borrowed from China originally but that it sprang up in a natural manner and has mixed with general teaching in reference to the gods. Its objects are two, to protect persons from evil and to confer benefits on them. Harm-bringing magic is almost unknown. From incantations it is entirely separate. It is quite different from divi-

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nation too. Divination aims principally at knowing Heaven's decisions and acting on the knowledge, but magic, while including the above objects, aspires to altering those decisions in favour of certain human beings. The term *majinai* conveys to us an idea of comfort and pleasure, it being undoubtedly gratifying to read the past and read the future. Magic is called an art because it adopts certain methods of inducing the gods to change their minds, or nature to change its course. The handling of the figure known as *teriteribōsu*, so as to insure the weather desired, is an art. Magic is most comprehensive as regards regions where its influence may be felt. It not only professes to interfere with the acts of men, but it claims power to stamp out disease and to protect against calamities. Illustrations of this are to be found in abundance in Mr. Hachihama's paper, but the subject is too indirectly connected with religion proper to allow of its occupying more space in this summary.

* * *

In the *Tōkyō Maishū Shimpō*, in an article entitled "Religion and the State," Mr. Ukita Kazutami maintains that all powerful States have originated with religion. The following is the gist of Mr. Ukita's essay:—The history of Europe shows that it was under the controlling influence of Christianity that the now powerful nations consolidated. The liberty of the early Teutons was the liberty of barbarians from which nothing great ever proceeds. The beginning of Germany's greatness dates from the time when the ancestors of the present race first became subject to the rule of the Church of Rome. In the early years of the formation of a nation what is most needed is authority to which all alike are willing to bow. Despotism rather than liberty is needed for the welding of society in the first stages of development. The despotism of mere physical force is not enough to make a strong nation. The feeling that there is a higher law than that made by man to which the rulers and ruled must alike bow is a necessary factor in the creation of the highest kind of national unity. It is when a state has connected itself with the Divine law and when it is regarded as entrusted with the administration of that law that it becomes sacred in the eyes of the people. The patriotism of a people, then, may be traced to religious feeling among them. When the early Tokugawa Shōguns decided to patronise Buddhism and to make it a State religion, they saw that it would contribute enormously towards making government easy. To say that the most religious people in Japan have always been the most patriotic is only saying what is true. And what is worthy of note is that among Christians the patriotism is as strong as it is among Buddhists and Shintoists. . . . But, however necessary is the connection of Church and State in the early years of a nation's history, later on the feeling of the majority is in favour of their entire separation. To rely on religion to enforce or to furnish a ground for the exercise of the authority of a Government is felt to be out of date now-a-days. And for a religion, on the other hand, to be invoking State patronage or aid is deemed a sign of weakness. All things have their season. The connection of religion with the State, which formerly was a source of national strength, is now deprecated on all sides as neither good for the religion nor good for the State.

* * *

In the Roman Catholic organ, the *Koye*, under the title of "Religious Bondage" a writer complains of the bigotry of Protestant countries in the matter of granting religious liberty. Though Governments may declare all religions to be alike in the eyes of the law, public opinion draws sharp distinctions, and in Protestant countries Roman Catholicism is at a discount. Denmark and America are specially cited. It is said by the writer in the *Koye* that in the United States the tide of popularity has turned against Admiral Dewey solely on account of the report that he is about to marry a Roman Catholic. And yet, says the writer, America is always boasting of her fairness and liberality.

In No. 208 of the *Koye*, writing of "Public Opinion on Religion" a contributor says that it is worthy of record that during the past few months some very noted men have acknowledged in a public manner the necessity of religion in Japan. Among these Count Okuma and Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō specially call for mention. But though it is agreed that some form of faith is needed there is no consensus of opinion in Japan as to what this faith should be, and many write in disparaging terms of all existing religions and advise the starting of something new. The writer arrives at the conclusion that the number of imperfect creeds in the world is apt to be very bewildering, and hints that perfection is only to be found in one quarter, which of course is the orthodox teaching of the sect to which he belongs.

* * *

Dr. De Forest, of Sendai, has recently published a small pamphlet on "Home Life in Japan" which, while acknowledging the many good customs prevailing among the Japanese, points out what are the drawbacks connected with married life among the Japanese. Adoption, marriage, divorce, and concubinage are all discussed in turn. We observe that Dr. De Forest, while condemning much that takes place in Japan, confesses that Western countries have by no means reached a state of perfection as regards the relation of the sexes. He maintains that many of the customs of the Japanese form great barriers between them and foreigners, and contends that the reputation of Japan as a civilised country is affected by the retention of practices which are not openly sanctioned in Europe and America.

* * *

L'Abbé Francois Ligneul has added two new works to his already formidable list. They are both on the Roman Pontiff. The first entitled *Romakyō-ō* gives a historical account of the present Pope and some of his predecessors, discusses the ideas entertained in reference to the office he holds, and describes Rome, with its numerous associations and objects of interest. After his wont, M. Ligneul at the close of the little volume deals with several very knotty questions connected with the main subject, such as the badness of some of the Popes, (M. Ligneul is careful to explain that by "badness" he only means unsuitability for the office assumed) and Papal despotism. M. Ligneul in the concluding pages of the book takes notice of the fact that in Japan in late years Popery has been a synonym for despotism. For the mistaken notion that the rule of the Pope is necessarily despotic, the Japanese have, according to M. Ligneul, to thank those Protestants who have deliberately misrepresented the Holy Father and his methods of government. The title of the second work before us is "The Pope and Modern Society." This consists of 26 chapters, the heading of each of which is different. The connection of the Pope with every branch of modern society and with all phases of popular modern thought is discussed, the headings being such as the following: "The Pope and Liberty of Speech," The Pope and Secret Societies, "The Pope and Revolutionists," "The Pope and Economists," "The Pope and Writers on Sociology," and so on. The work covers 177 pages and sells at 20 *sen* per copy at the Sansaisha, Kijichō, Kanda, Tōkyō.

* * *

Some little time ago Mr. Shimada Hankon read a very long paper to the Keizaigaku Kyōkai on the connection between religion and government in Japan in times past. Mr. Shimada displays a very minute knowledge of this subject and his essay was considered of sufficient interest to be printed in full in a secular magazine, the *Keisai Zasshi*. It is too long for us to attempt to epitomise it in these columns. We content ourselves with culling from its pages a few facts which it seems to us have a distinct bearing on the attitude of the nation to religion generally at the present time. At the beginning of the Meiji era there existed only two chief departments of government, one being the 神祇官, Jingikwan, and the other the 大政官, Daijōkwan. The former always took precedence of the latter, and the orthodox theory was that in all matters the administrators of Government were carrying out the instructions of the gods. With the creation of the Kyōbushō in March, 1873, came the gradual separation of government and religion. The Jingisho, which dates from the beginning of Meiji, and which was replaced by the Kyōbushō, is chiefly remembered on account of its raids against Buddhism, which it attempted to crush beyond all hope of recovery. The Kyōbushō, while favouring Shintō, treated Buddhism with more consideration than had been shown to it by the Jingisho. There was an attempt made at the beginning of the Meiji era to compile a Japanese Bible, which was intended to occupy the place of a canon. But, after holding numerous meetings to discuss the subject, the scholars came to the conclusion that the task was beyond them. A document drawn up by the leaders of the movement is still in possession of the Shajikyoku. Under the Kyōbushō all the priests, whether Buddhist or Shintō, were ranked as subordinate Government officials under the title of Kyōdōshoku. At this time modern Shintō sects were unknown, Shintō adherents being spoken of as Eastern or Western adherents. The Kyōbushō directed that the term Shintō should be applied to religion in general, and that no distinction should be made between Buddhist and Shintō priests. An institution known as the 大教院, Daikyōin, was created which had for its object the amalgamation of the two creeds. But the amalgamation consisted of the subordination of Buddhism to Shintō, Buddhist priests being actually required to don the *Kannushi's* distinc-

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tive dress. After these ridiculous vagaries had been resorted to for some time, says Mr. Shimada, Shimaji Mokurai returned from Europe and at once advocated the abolition of the Daikyōin and pronounced it to be a mischievous institution. The fact was that, though the Government was nominally controlling religion, there was nobody in the higher ranks of officialdom who knew or cared anything about it. But, the attention of the Government being called to existing abuses, they created a set of supervisors or overseers known as 管長, Kwanchō, who were the representatives of sects, that held the rank of *Chokunin*, and who were responsible to the Home Minister for all irregularities committed by their subordinates. There was no attempt in this arrangement to sift the wheat from the chaff. A sect like the Tenrikyō, noted for its contaminating practices, held equal rank with the Shinshū or other bodies. Though it takes us back to an earlier period than we have now reached, it is important to mention that when the Jingishō was still in existence an attempt was made to force certain Nagasaki Christians to conform to Shintoism. These Christians were summoned to Tōkyō, tried, but found innocent of any offence of which the law could take cognisance. In Tokugawa days they would have been killed. But the Government decided that, since they were backed by a foreign power, it was politic to allow freedom of action. The whole episode only made the ecclesiastical zealots ridiculous in the eyes of the world. Mr. Shimada gives a long account of the secularisation of Buddhism, and of the degradation of all its lofty ideals. He shows conclusively that Government patronage has invariably proved a curse instead of a blessing. The most prosperous sects have been those which have least depended on Government help, such as the Shin and Hokke. The almost universal contempt in which Buddhist priests are held to-day by the educated classes is to be attributed to the character of the men who now fill the office. In some parts of Japan it is common to choose the greatest fool in the family for the priesthood, on the ground that it is the only possible way of his getting a living. . . . . In ancient times there was an important distinction drawn between two classes of priests, a distinction which extended to character. There were what were called 官僧 *Kwansō* and 遁世者 *Tonseisha*. The latter renounced the world and did not even call themselves priests. The former were the rectors of temples that were richly endowed by the Emperors and the consequences of the patronage they received were very manifest in the lives they lived. Mr. Shimada agrees with Mr. Fukuzawa in thinking that both in origin, education, and conduct the Buddhist priests of the present day are as low as they well could be. There are few temples where women are not kept on one pretence or another. The children that are given out to be maintained out of charity are usually the priests, own offspring. It is a pity, concludes Mr. Shimada, that a religion which has such a glorious past should present such a spectacle to foreign eyes in this enlightened age.

* * *

Dr. Motora and 15 other gentlemen have addressed a series of questions on religion to the students of all the High and Middle Schools of Japan. They are asked to say whether in their homes, at school, or by reading books they have had religion urged on them, or whether, on the contrary, in the family, the school, or among friends they have been prejudiced against religion. They are questioned too, as to the effect on their minds which intercourse with society generally has had. The following queries are put: (1) Do you believe in religion? Are you at liberty to believe it if you wish? (2) Have you any desire for religion? (3) Have you at any time believed in religion? If so, and you have relinquished this belief, state your reasons for this course. (4) If you believe in no religion, what do you depend on for regulating your daily conduct? Do you dislike religion? If so, why? (5) If you don't believe in religion yourself, do you recognise its necessity for others? If so, on what grounds?

* * *

Mourning over the decay of morals during his long illness last year, the necessity of making a special effort to create a new basis of ethics impressed itself on the mind of Mr. Fukuzawa, and a short time ago he invited the co-operation of all teachers at the Keiōgijuku in preparing a small pamphlet setting forth the main principles of the system of practical morality recommended. The pamphlet which was compiled by the teachers and approved of by Mr. Fukuzawa has been printed and widely circulated, and summaries of its contents have appeared in the newspapers. It will be seen that under 29 headings the compilers of this little work have embodied the teaching of Mr. Fukuzawa on morals generally. The statement is of considerable interest from several points of view. The following is its gist. (1) The essential principles of our system of practical ethics are self-respect and independence of spirit in both men and women. (2) Persons endowed with self-respect should be careful not to do anything that would be derogatory to their rank as human beings. (3) Every individual should aim at being entirely independent of the help of others by working for his or her living. (4) One of the chief aims in life should be to keep both body and mind in a state of health and vigour. Anything that tends to interfere with this should be avoided. (5) To develop to the utmost and to make as complete as possible the lives which have been given to us by nature, is one of our chief duties. (6) A spirit of progress and enterprise on the one hand and a firm hold on what we already possess on the other require courage, and this courage must be cultivated. (7) The intellect needs to be developed in order to enable a person to weigh various possible courses of conduct and to decide on the proper one to follow. (8) The exalting of men at the expense of women is a barbarous custom. (9) Marriage being one of the gravest events of a man's life, great care should be taken in the choice of a partner. That a man should have only one wife, who should live with him on equal terms as long as the two lives last, is one of the very first principles of ethics. (10) The love that exists between parents and children is real and unmixed, and nothing should be done to lessen or destroy it. (11) Boys and girls, while looking forward to be independent in later life, when under the care of their parents should follow their directions in all things. (12) After becoming adults men and women alike should continue to study and to cultivate their moral natures. (13) If the object be to built up a thoroughly strong and active community, the independence of families and of individuals in each family must be established. (14) In order that society may be effective as a whole, it is necessary that each individual, should respect the rights of others, and, while maintaining his own independence should be careful not to interfere with the independence of others. (15) To harbour hatred and jealousy and to indulge in retaliation of any kind for injuries received is a barbaric and evil custom. In establishing reputation and clearing it from any reflections that have been thrown on it, no underhand methods of any kind should be resorted to. (16) In all the duties of life it is of immense importance to cultivate a sense of responsibility. In things great or small we should act honestly and straightforwardly towards those to whom we are responsible. Self-respect demands this of us. (17) In intercourse with others we should trust them and give them good reason to trust us. It is only by mutual confidence that men can act together and accomplish their purposes. (18) It is by a due observance of the etiquette of life that men show their respect for each other. Remissness in etiquette is inexcusable. (19) Judge of the feelings of others by what you feel yourself. Your regard for your own affairs should teach you how to make allowance for the same feeling in other. (20) Kindness of heart should extend even to animals. Objectless destruction of life is to be condemned. (21) By means of art and literature man's heart is refined and elevated. Therefore the cultivation of a taste for these becomes a duty. (22) Since government is absolutely necessary to our welfare and security as subjects of the empire, we are under an obligation to pay what taxes are required for the maintenance of the government. (23) Having paid our taxes, it is within our rights as citizens to see that the money is wisely spent, and we also have a right to a voice in law-making. (24) We are all under an obligation to defend the country against foreign foes by sacrificing our property and our lives if such should become necessary. (25) Obedience to the law is imperative. (26) In intercourse with foreigners we are to bear in mind that they are on an equality with us. To treat foreigners as inferiors is altogether out of keeping with the ideas of self-respect and independence which form the basis of morals. (27) It is our duty to hand down to posterity in an improved form the civilisation we have received from our ancestors. (28) Education has for its object the development of self-respect and independence in the minds of the young and the imparting of instruction as to how a living is to be made. (29) The above principles we not only agree to observe ourselves, but we shall take steps to induce others to observe them.

The *Jiji Shimpō* on the 25th ult. published a leading article on the subject of practical ethics, showing the necessity of something being done to supply the young with higher ideals than they now possess.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom).

A GERMAN MAGAZINE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—If you think it might be of sufficient interest for some of your readers, you would oblige me by informing the public through your valuable paper that now for the first time a German magazine has been published in this country by Germans. There is already in Japan a bi-monthly German magazine, *Zietschrift für Deutsche Sprache*, edited by some clever Japanese for spreading and deepening the knowledge of the German language.

The new magazine, a copy of which I beg to send you to-day, is issued monthly, and published by the Evangelical-Protestant Missionary Society (German and Swiss) under the editorship of Pastor H. Haas. Its title is *Die Wahrheit* (Truth); so it introduces itself as related to *Shinri*, which is also a publication of our Mission, but in Japanese under the editorship of Mr. Minami. The size of *Shinri* has been somewhat reduced since January, since it is devoted from now to the discussion of scientific theology and philosophy only. *Die Wahrheit*, however, will contain chiefly religious matter in a popular form in order to be profitable to others besides theologians.

The first number brings an introductory article "Die Wahrheit," by H. Haas; "Ist die Religion Wahn oder Wahrheit?" by O. Schmiedel; "Das Christentum und die ärztliche Praxis," by E. Schiller; "Schillers Lotte als Christin," by T. Burggraf; "Janssen und die geschichtliche Wahrheit," by H. Haas, and "Vermischtes."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AD. WENDT.

Tokyo, March 5th, 1900.

AN ILL-TIMED CLAIM.

Monsieur l'Editeur du "Japan Mail."

Monsieur,—Bien qu'habitué, en lecteur attentif de votre estimable journal, aux profondes et savantes déductions que vous savez tirer chaque jour des faits plus ou moins exacts que la censure nous laisse parvenir sur la guerre Sud-africaine, je ne puis vous cacher la surprise que m'ont causée les conclusions de votre article du 10 courant, "An ill-timed Claim."

Vous me permettrez donc de ne pas être de votre avis quand vous venez attribuer l'insuccès du siège, ou plus exactement, de l'investissement de Ladysmith, à la manière défectueuse dont les agents du Creusot auraient dirigé le service des quelques pièces de siége dont disposaient les assiégeants. Je suis même surpris qu'un officier d'artillerie puisse admettre que 4 ou 5 canons de siége, aidés d'une vingtaine de canons de campagne, et tirant à intervalles éloignés par suite de la rareté des munitions, soient en mesure de réduire au silence, par simple bombardement, une place défendue par 9,000 hommes et 38 canons.

Si donc le bombardement de Ladysmith n'a pas eu d'effet destructeur sérieux, c'est que les Boers manquaient à la fois de canons de siége et de munitions et non pas que ces canons étaient défectueux ou mal servis. Votre critique des agents du Creusot, en admettant qu'il y en ait eu, me parait donc mal fondée.

Vous faites également erreur en disant que les *canon de siége* boers de 5″ 9 sont de beaucoup plus puissants que les *canons de bord* anglais de 4″ 7; c'est au contraire ces derniers qui sont plus puissants que les canons de siége.

J'ajouterai, en terminant, que si j'ai cru devoir protester contre votre critique, c'est non pas pour la critique en elle-même, laquelle ne saurait rien changer à la situation actuelle, mais parce qu'elle émane d'un officier d'artillerie dont la haute compétence et la parfaite impartialité dans ces questions spéciales ne sauraient faire de doute.

UN ARTILLEUR FRANÇAIS.

Tokyo, 16 Mars, 1900.

[Surely our correspondent has greatly misinterpreted our article. We expressly stated our belief that the fault was due to the Boers themselves, and not to the agents of Creusot. In fact we said that if Frenchmen had really directed the artillery operations, Ladysmith could not have held out, and that the obstinacy of the Boers in neglecting advice was probably the real cause of the failure. As to the question whether two naval 4.7-inch guns were competent to resist five 4.7-inch howitzers and two 5.9 inch Creusots, we must adhere to our original opinion; and as to the ammunition, it seems to us that the scarcity must have been on the side of the besieged.—Ed. *J. M.*]

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society took place at Van Schaick Hall on Friday evening, when there was a very good attendance of members and friends. The overture was nicely played by Mrs. Helm and Mrs. Abegg, after which Mr. A. Bellamy Brown read his paper on "A Misunderstood Man of Letters," the subject being William Makepeace Thackeray.

Mr. Brown combatted, at the outset of his address, the charge of cynicism so freely placed to Thackeray's account in the "way-bill of life" which the public and unauthorized biographers generally draw up after the departure of all famous characters from this "brief stage." Quoting from the recently issued biographical edition of Thackeray's works, which have come from the pen of his devoted surviving daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, and also from Mr. Lewis Melville's "Life," and Mr. Spielman's "History of *Punch*," Mr. Brown sought to convey to his hearers some idea of the inner life of the great English stylist, that more intimate side of his nature which Thackeray strove to hide entirely from the public gaze. Tracing his career from his birth in Calcutta in 1811 until his departure from Weimar, when the real struggle for bread commenced, the lecturer took his hearers by retrospect into the literary life of England in the early forties, when Thackeray first began to attract attention in the pages of *Punch* and *Fraser's Magazine*. Referring to Thackeray's married life, Mr. Brown said—As we now know, the fond hopes formed of this union were but partially realised; or rather, after opening very brightly, the marriage ended in gloom and cruel sorrow; for, within a few years, Mrs. Thackeray fell ill and the blight of insanity came upon her, to cloud and embitter the rest of her husband's days. It was one of the saddest of life's little ironies—the hackneyed phrase seems sadly inadequate in his case—that this man, overflowing with the domestic affections, should be deprived of all hopes of a happy home circle just at that period of life at which a man generally makes a happy exchange in preferring his wife's drawing-room to the smoking-room of the club, and assuming, as Trollope puts it, those domestic ways of living which are so becoming and pleasant as one tops the hill and begins to see the plain below across which the evening shadows will soon be falling. In one of his ballads, Thackeray makes a pathetic reference to his loneliness.

Ah me! how quick the days are flitting!
I mind me of a time that's gone,
When here I'd sit, as now I'm sitting,
In this same place, but not alone.
A fair young form was nestled near me,
A dear, dear face looked fondly up,
And sweet lips spoke and smiled to cheer me—
There's no one now to share my cup.

Letters were quoted to show how keenly Thackeray felt the joys of home-life and how deeply the iron entered into his soul when this all too brief happiness passed away. Henceforth he devoted himself to his daughters, those children to whom he refers so lovingly in his ballad of the "White Squall":—

I thought, as day was breaking,
My little ones were waking, and making
A prayer at home for me.

To the break-up of his home-life; to his diffidence in his powers as a writer to attract public attention to his works; to his unreadiness with his "tale of bricks" at the appointed day; to his unmethodical habits, and to the disappointments experienced in his early youth, the lecturer attributed Thackeray's quasi-pessimistic views of life—this was the secret of his fits of melancholy apart altogether from his horough dislike of all that partook of snobishness and low-breeding. Several letters written by Thackeray during his tours in the United States were quoted, as well as many stories which have been related by Americans and Britishers who knew the novelist intimately, the lecturer seeking to disprove the popular fallacy of Thackeray's incurable cynicism. To those who are acquainted with Thackeray solely through the medium of his more famous books, the ancient charge may, perhaps, seem fully substantiated. Yet how they misunderstand the man! The light which has recently been thrown upon the scene, disclosing him as he really appeared to his children and more intimate friends, shows that Thackeray was a high-minded, big-souled giant, with the faith of a little child in many things which the world is too apt to scoff at, and with a super-abundance of love for all who truly loved him. The lecturer concluded by quoting some stanzas from Shirley's Brook's noble tribute in *Punch* at the time of Thackeray's death, the eve of Christmas Day, 1863.

He was a Cynic! By the love that clung
About him from his children, friends and kin;
By the sharp pain light pen and gossip tongue.
Wrought in him—chafing the soft heart within.

The musical portion of the programme was resumed after the interval and proved, as usual, very delightful. Mrs. Irwine and Miss Leach were loudly applauded for their songs; and Miss Irene Scott received a hearty recall for her pretty violin solo. The pianoforte selections of Mr. W. Karl Vincent were of a very high order. Following is the full programme:—

Part I.

Overture ....." Walser ".....Ph. Sharwenka.
Mrs. Abegg and Mrs. Helm.
Paper..." A Misunderstood Man of Letters."
Mr. A. Bellamy Brown.

Part II.

Violin Solo..." La Cinquantine "...Gabriel Marie.
Miss Irene Scott.
Duet ....." The Angel " .....Rubenstein.
Mrs. Irwine and Miss Leach.
Piano Solo..... (a) " Serenade " .....Ohlsen.
(b) " Romance " ...Rubenstein.
Mr. W. Karl Vincent.
Song ... " Imperfectus " ... Sir William Robinson.
Miss E. Burdett Leach.

DRAINAGE LAW.

The principal provisions of this law are:—(1) For constructing drains or water courses in the city the permission of the Home Minister must be obtained, the applicants presenting a programme of operations, the estimates of expenditure, and a statement as to the time of commencing and completing the work. (2) Owners or occupants of land are required to make suitable arrangements for draining dirty water or rain water into the main drains. (3) Any portion of State land may be ceded to the Municipality without compensation if necessary for drainage purposes. (4) The Home Minister may, if it be necessary, issue orders to city authorities for the construction of drains. (5) These provisions are also applicable to Urban and Rural districts and villages.

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MOVEMENTS OF TRANSPORTS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER, 1899.

Transport.	Left.	Date.	Arv.	Date.	Troops &c on Board.
Kent ...S'ney	Oct. 28	Cape Town	Dec. 4		N. S. W. Contingent of Lancers & Medical Corps.
Cornwall Brisbane	Nov. 1	Cape Town	Dec. 14		Queensland Contingent.
Rapidan Eng.	Nov. 1	Cape Town	Dec. 9		Det. Bde. div. staff R.F.A. 2nd Div. Field troops R.E. Det. 1st Roy. Dns, Reservists A.S.C.
Aberdeen...S'ney	Nov. 3	Cape Town	Dec. 10		Additional N.S.W. Contingent.
Ismore...Eng.	Nov. 4	Strand ed	Dec. 3		63rd batty. R.F.A. 2 sqdns. 10th Hussars. Troops and most of guns saved, horses nearly all lost.
Columbian...Eng.	Nov. 5	Cape Town	Dec. 2		H. Q. & 1 sqdn. 10th Hussars.
Ranee...Eng.	Nov. 5	Cape Town	Dec. 5		H. Q. & 1 sqdn. 2nd Dns.
Dictator.Ire.	Nov. 6	Cape Town	Dec. 1		1st Royal Scots.
Algeria..Eng.	Nov. 7	Cape Town	Dec. 5		Bde. div. staff R.F.A. Corps trps, 28th batty. R.F.A.
Arawa...Eng.	Nov. 7	Cape Town	Dec. 1		2nd Shropshire Lt. Infy, Det. 2nd Duke of Cornwall Lt. Infy.
Chicago.Eng.	Nov. 8	Cape Town	Dec. 1		Det. 2nd Shropshire Lt. Infy, Det. amm. col. (howitzer) R.F.A. Half 6th Dn Gds.
Templemore..Eng.	Nov. 10	Cape Town	Dec. 2		13th Hussars.
Greek...Eng.	Nov. 11	Cape Town	Dec. 2		1st Essex Regt.
Canning Eng.	Nov. 12	Cape Town	Dec. 4		Det. amm. park, 63rd batty. R.F.A. (howzr.)
Montfort ...Eng.	Nov. 13	Cape Town	Dec. 8		Det. Pontoon troop R.E., 6th (fortress) compy. R.E., Det. 13th Hussars, B.Q. & half 61st (howzr.) batty. R.F.A., 76th batty. R.F.A.
Sicilian..Eng.	Nov. 15	Cape Town	Dec. 10		20th (fortress) Co. R.E, 4th and 78th batty., R. F. A. Ammn. park H. Q.
Goth.....Eng.	Nov. 15	Cape Town	Dec. 10		45th company R.E. Ammn. col. Corps trps.
British Princess.Eng.	Nov. 16	Cape Town	Dec. 7		Spdn. 2nd Dns, Remounts, Det. amm. pk, Half 61st batty. R.F.A.
Nairung.Eng.	Nov. 16	Cape Town	Dec. 8		No. 4 Mountain batty A.S.C.
Antillian Eng.	Nov. 17	Cape Town	Dec. 9		Sqdn. 2nd Dns, Bde. div. staff A.S.C.
Dunera.Malta	Nov. 21	D'ban	Dec. 14		1st Derbyshire regt.
Gaul.....Eng.	Nov. 24	Cape Town	Dec. 16		10th Bde. staff, 2nd Bay, Warwickshire regt,
Doune Castle .Eng.	Nov. 24	Cape Town	Dec. 16		1st Yorkshire regt. Divisional staff.
Simla ...Ire.	Nov. 26	Cape Town	Dec. 18		2nd Dorsetshire regt, Drafts.
Maplemore..Eng.	Nov. 29	Cape Town	Dec. 24		Spdn. 2nd Life Gds. Sqdn. Roy. Horse Gds. Drafts.
Canada .Eng.	Dec. 2	Cape Town	Dec. 10		11th Bde. staff, 1st S. Lancashire regt. A.S.C, 37th (field) company R.E., Drafts.
Avondale Cle ...Eng.	Dec. 2	Cape Town	Dec. 26		2nd Middlesex regt. Drafts.
Norman.Eng.	Dec. 2	Cape Town	Dec. 19		2nd Lancashire Fusiliers.
Dilwara..Eng.	Dec. 2	Cape Town	Dec. 25		2nd R. Lancashire regt, 2nd Berkshire regt. Drafts.
Pinemore Eng.	Dec. 4	Cape Town	Dec. 29		Sqdn. 2nd Life Gds. Det. Roy. Horse Gds, Det. ammn. col. Corps troops, Drafts.
Atlantian Ire.	Dec. 5	Cape Town	Dec. 29		Bde. div. staff R. F. A. 5th Div, 19th and 28th battys. R.F.A, Ammn. col. R. F.A. 5th Division.
Palamacotta...India	Dec. 8	Durban	Dec. 21		1st Devonshire regt. 1st Gloucestershire regt. King's Roy. Rifles, 2nd Gordon Highlanders.
Majestic..Eng.	Dec. 13	Cape Town	Dec. 30		1st York & Lancaster regt. Drafts.
Tantallon Castle...Eng.	—	Cape Town	Dec. 26		Siege train R.G.A., Detachments R.E.

Short Diary.

Dec. 3.—Colonel Plumer entered the Transvaal from Tuli.

Dec. 8.—Sharp fight near Enslin with Boers who attempted to raid telegraph and railways. Boers beaten off and communication restored.
Sortie from Ladysmith under General Sir A. Hunter. Lombard's Kop carried and the Boer guns captured or destroyed. British casualties 4 killed, 17 wounded.

Dec. 9.—General Sir W. Gatacre with a serious reverses in attempting to surprise the Boers at Stormberg. The British were forced to retire with a loss of 23 killed 62 wounded and about 600 missing.

Dec. 10.—Sortie from Ladysmith under Lt.-Col. Metcalfe. Surprise hill captured and a howitzer destroyed. British casualties 12 killed, 44 wounded, 6 prisoners. General French drove the enemy from Vaal Kop.

Dec. 11.—General Lord Methuen attacked 12,000 Boers entrenched at Magersfontein. Attack failed and the British withdrew to the Modder river next day. British casualties about 957.

Dec. 12.—Garrison at Mafeking placed on reduced rations.

Dec. 13.—General French defeated about 1,800 Boers between Arundel and Naawpoort. British casualties 9. Boer Boer casualties about 40.

Dec. 14.—Engagement near the Orange river between Boers and Mounted Infantry. The Boers retired to Gormansberg.

Dec. 15.—General Sir R. Buller advanced from Chievely against the Boers position near Colenso on the Tugela. The British were repulsed with a loss of 11 guns and 1,100 casualties.
An Army Order was issued for the mobilisation of a 7th Division for service in S. Africa.

Dec. 18.—Field Marshal Lord Roberts was appointed Commander-in-Chief in S. Africa, with General Lord Kitchener as Chief of the Staff.
The War Office announced that the remainder of the Army Reserve was to be called out, and that 9 battalions of Militia together with Yeomanry, Volunteers, and Artillery reinforcements were to go to S. Africa; also that the Colonial offers of troops would be accepted and irregular cavalry be raised locally in S. Africa and at home.

Dec. 19.—The War Office issued regulations regarding the employment of Yeomanry and Volunteers in S. Africa.

Dec. 24.—A portion of General Sir W. Gatacre's force occupied Dordrecht.

Dec. 30.—The Boers were defeated in a skirmish near Dordrecht.

BANKING IN JAPAN.

According to investigations completed by the Finance Department and published in the *Keizai Zasshi*, the number of banks throughout the empire at the end of January last was 2,051, their aggregate capital being no less than 440,386,669 *yen*. Compared with December of last year the figures shows an increase of 19 banks and 2,197,200 *yen* capital. Below are details:—

Banks.	No.	Capital at the end of January yen.	Increase in comparison with the previous month. No.	Capital in yen.
Nippon	1	30,000 000	—	—
Specie	1	24,000,000	—	—
Industrial	1	10,000,000	—	—
Agricultural and Industrial	45	27,820,000	—	—
Formosa.....	1	5,000,000	—	—
Saving { home.....	353	36,625.000	3	660,000
Saving { abroad..	1	1,250,000	—	—
Joint stock. { home.....1,355		273,749,315	10	1,357,200
Joint stock. { abroad...	6	2,964,450	—	—
Joint partnership.	53	10,706,900	3	100,000
Joint capital	133	10,075,184	1	30,000
Individual	102	8,195,520	2	50,000
Total 2,051		440,386,669	19	2,197,200

Many of these banks are on no very sound basis, and it is doubtful whether their operations will be long continued. Following are figures for the past three and a half years:—

Banks.	Capital in Yen.	Increase per half year. Numbers.	Capital in Yen.
Dec., 1899 ...2,032	438,189,469	121	30,759,165
June, 1899 ...1,911	407,430,304	104	22,553.970
Dec., 1898 ...1,807	384,876,334	79	20,477,210
June, 1898 ...1,728	364,399,124	125	42,806,110
Dec., 1897 ...1,603	321,593,014	146	35,818,500
June, 1897 ...1,457	285,774,514	117	40,639.970
Dec., 1896 ...1,340	245,134,544	—	—

COTTON SPINNERS' TRUST.

At a meeting of the principal cotton dealers and representatives of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, recently held in Osaka with a view to organising a cotton yarns trust, the following resolutions were passed:—(1) That the new organisation be called the Cotton Yarn Trust, and its central offices be established in Tokyo, with branches in Nagoya, Osaka, Okayama, and Kiushiu. (2) That the term of the Trust shall expire on 31st January of the 34th year of *Meiji* (1901). (3) That the object of the Trust shall be to promote mutual advantages in the sale of cotton yarn. As to the means of attaining this end, the following provisions were drawn up:—(1) Telegrams to be forwarded every day from the cotton-producing districts with regard to the condition of cotton, fluctuations in price, and other facts of importance. (2) Similar intelligence to be forwarded from Shanghai and Hongkong, which are now the chief markets for yarns. (3) The chief manager, on receipt of above telegrams, shall report to other managers the prices of yarn, which shall be determined by estimating the cost of labour and a profit of 7 *yen* per bale, in the case of goods to be sold in the interior. As for goods for export 50 *sen* will be paid for each bale out of the repayment of the Bombay freight in addition to 2 *yen* to be allowed for encouraging the trade. (4) Each spinning company of the Union shall report to the Head Office the daily output of yarn, as well as the amount produced during several months past. (8) The Head Office shall also report to each company the amount of daily transactions and the class of goods sold. (6) Payment for and delivery of goods shall be effected directly by the parties concerned. (7) Each corporation admitted into the Union shall pay 25 *sen* for each bale towards the expenses of the Trust. (8) Defaulters shall at once be excluded from the Union Spinning Corporation.

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PEKING.

(From our own Correspondent.)

February 23rd, 1900.

The most exciting event in these parts was the selection, a month ago, of a successor to the throne. The successor is not to the present Emperor, Kuang-hsü, but to the previous Emperor, Tung-Chih. Thus Kuang-Hsü, by being of the same generation with Tung-Chih, is not in the line of succession. He should not have been chosen originally, and for that act the Empress Dowager was criticised. Now for other reasons she repents of her choice and makes a new experiment. The Emperor, however, has not abdicated. This is unnecessary, as his life cannot be long prolonged. The new choice is the grandson of the late Fifth Prince, a lad of 14 years. He is put under the tutelage of two of the highest literary men in the Empire, who are also the most conservative. In fact, the whole trend of the present *régime* is most reactionary. It is to be hoped that the reaction will go no further. If politics are like the swing of the pendulum it is about time for a reaction to take place. There is still a considerable party of progress even among the Peking officials. They are careful in what they say, but they prefer progress to the old *régime*. They disclaim all connection with Kang Yu-wei, who is the one object of the Empress Dowager's wrath. Her policy seems to be that of winning over the most conservative first, and when that is done she may enter on reform measures of her own.

The foreign Ministers had audience with the Emperor on the 19th. He said nothing himself, but his little speech was read by Prince Ching. There is sympathy felt for him in his loneliness by both Chinese and foreigners, but there is nothing done to bring about his rescue or to add a little comfort to his last days. Merchants and others in Shanghai and elsewhere have telegraphed in favour of the Emperor retaining his high rank. This has angered the Empress Dowager, but has restrained her in insisting on his abdication. She is content to have him a puppet in her hands.

A price is placed on the heads of Kang Yu-wei and Liang Chi Chiao. We hear that the latter has become a Japanese subject. This may legally prevent his capture or death, but there are those ready to have the honour o killing the man. Beware!

MR. W. G. BAYNE AS "FALSTAFF."

Mr. W. G. Bayne has made his reappearance on the Shanghai stage. Here is the welcome accorded him by the *North China Daily News*:—Many years have passed since the three Falstaff scenes from "Henry IV" were given in Shanghai by the A.D.C., when Mr. Bayne, the *Falstaff* on Tuesday, was the slim young prince, and Mr. Stephenson, the greatest melodramatic actor we have ever had in Shanghai, the *Falstaff*. Those who saw Mr. Stephenson in the part will never forget the humorous unction and the twinkle with which he gave the words: "By the Lord, I knew ye as well as he that made ye;" it was better than Phelps, undoubtedly the best professional representative of *Falstaff* in modern times. But reminiscences are apt to flatter, and we do not doubt that if we could see Mr. Stephenson's *Falstaff* again to compare it with Mr. Bayne's, we should find that the latter was every whit as good a rendering. Mr. Bayne, to use the current phrase, enters thoroughly into the skin of the fat knight; he is *Falstaff*, the greedy, thirsty, irresponsible, witty, unscrupulous, fat old Jack, magnanimous in his very cowardice. What a loveable old wastrel he is, so loveable with all his faults that such a stern and self-sufficient old school-marm as Queen Elizabeth herself insisted on Shakespeare's writing another play of which he was to be the hero; and to this we are said to owe *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Later in the evening Mr. Bayne appeared as *Jones Robinson Brownsmith* in the evergreen "Little Toddlekins." He was excellent, as usual. "Every telling point in his lines was made the most of, and at all times he held the house completely."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Judgment was given in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Monday morning by Judge Satow, in the case of Mr. A. L. Manley against a Japanese, for medical expenses for plaintiff's dog, which had been cut with a sword by the Japanese. Plaintiff was awarded the sum of *yen* 20.50, the amount claimed, the defendant to pay coats.

The marriage of Lord Chesterfield to Miss Enid Wilson set precedent at naught, the bride wearing a satin train embroidered with silver lilies, doves, and stars, while the bridesmaids wore scarlet cloth coats with triple capes and picturesque felt hats. Lord Chesterfield's gifts to them were big sable muffs, instead of the ourthodox bangle, while his gift to the bride is a diamond tiara and a cheque for £2,000.

Kimberley was reduced to great straits just before its relief. Details of the December death rate show that in a population of 14,000 whites and 19,000 blacks the mortality was 60 whites and 138 blacks per thousand. The infantile death rate was 671 per thousand among the whites and 912 per thousand among the blacks. Enteric fever was prevalent. This frightful state of things showed no improvement in January or February.

President Kruger's letters have about them a ring of the celebrated despatches of the Kaiser's grandfather, the Emperor William. In a letter to President Steyn about the supposed defection of Free Staters at the Modder River, Oom Paul says: "If we retreat it is owing to cowardice. I have noticed that want of co-operation has caused us to evacuate our positions. Your Honour must impress upon the officers and burghers that they must resist to the death. In the name of the Lord, with this determination, and with a prayerful attack, I have confidence that we shall secure the victory. For Christ has said 'Whosoever would keep his life shall lose it, but whosoever would lose it for truth's sake shall keep it.' Send this together with your plans and advice to the officers."

Messrs. David and William Henderson and Co. launched at Partick on 31st January, a twin-screw steamer, built to the order of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. This vessel, which is similar, but with increased first-class passenger accommodation, to the five steamers completed by the builders a little time ago for the same owners, has been built under the supervision of Mr. A. R. Brown, Japanese Consul at Glasgow, and Mr. George M'Farlane. Her principal dimensions are:—Length, over all, 493 ft.; beam (moulded), 49 ft. 2 in. depth (moulded), 33 ft 6 in.; and she has a gross tonnage of about 6,000. The machinery will be supplied by the builders, and consists of two sets of triple-expansion engines, each having cylinders 20 in., 33½in. and 56 in. diameter by 48 in. stroke. The vessel was named *Shinano Maru* by Mrs. Negishi, wife of the Japanese manager of the company in London.

Mr. George Lynch, artist of the *Illustrated London News* in Natal, who was taken prisoner by the Boers, describes a hymn service in the Boer laager behind Lombard's Kop, from which the Transvaal "Long Tom" daily bombarded Ladysmith. "About fifteen men, mostly about thirty or forty years, were crowded into the tent, which was excessively hot. Two candles were stuck in bottles placed on empty cases; the men squatted around, two or three reading from the same hymnbook. They had laid their pipes beside them and their rifles were stacked about the tentpole. They sang well in lusty, clear voices free from any nasal twang. The effect was strikingly picturesque, the strongly marked, earnest faces in the candle-light thrown out against the dark background of the shadows behind. Similar scenes were to be witnessed at each laager every evening, sometimes in three or four tents at the same time."

A burglar broke into the Yaami Hotel, Kyoto, on Sunday morning at about 3 o'clock and carried away *yen* 515 in Japanese and foreign money, a revolver, a hat, and ivory pipes belonging to Messrs. Anderson and Borland, who arrived from Yokohama on the 2nd and 7th respectively. The burglar first entered the room occupied by Mr. Anderson and took the articles mentioned into the corridor. He then entered the next room occupied by Mr. Borland, who was awakened by the noise of the burglar searching for valuables. He called to the people of the hotel, when the burglar pointed a revolver at his face and fled out of the room.

The last will and testament of the late Duke of Westminister was filed on Feb. 16th. It shows a gross estate valued at £594,229. This does not include, of course, the enormous entailed landed property. The widow will get the residuary estate after the various bequests. The testator left to the National Gallery Hogarth's celebrated painting, "The Gate of Calais." To old servants the Duke left annuities. Those of five years received one year's wages. Princess Adolphus of Teck, whose marriage portion was £75,000, received nothing in addition under the will. The bequests to the daughters vary from £25,000 to £40 000. The sons receive life annuities of £30 000 and £50,000 each. The *Daily Chronicle*, commenting upon the will, says: If the death duties had never been imposed would the Duke of Westminister's estate have been declared at the absurd figure of £500 000? Unless the public are entirely astray in their calculations, that sum more nearly represents a single year's income. We should imagine that the total estates approximated £14,000,000, at which they were once estimated.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, March 3rd:—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,261,830
Amount of convertible notes issued	208,796 788
Government deposits	62,058,544
General deposits	6,847,757
Exchange liability	22.517
Total	322,987.435
Cr.	
Discount notes	57.463 445
Foreign discount notes	11,665 345
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,075.281
Exchange liability	1,085 065
Government bonds	55.617,911
Property	2,036.028
Bullion and Specie	105,071,357
Total	322.981,435

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	206,693 469
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	89,155.964
Silver	4,000,000
Total	102,155.964
Securities:—	
Government bonds	18.825.755
Government certificates	22.000,000
Government bills	12,102,547
Commercial notes	51 608,202
Total	104.527,505

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	667.323
Silver	—	—
General loans	1,516,160	—
Government deposits	873,185	—
General deposits	2,155,389	—

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SATSUMA-CHO FIRE BRIGADE.

The annual meeting of subscribers to the Satsuma-cho Fire Brigade was held on Wednesday afternoon at Keil's Building, Mr. J. Dodds presiding.

REPORT.

The following report was submitted :—

ACCOUNTS.

The contributions collected from the various Fire Offices for the year amount to Yen 2,230.00 and the Policy fees paid in by Agents to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank during the twelve months to Yen 2,837.00. The former shows an increase of 225 Yen, and the latter a decrease of 948 Yen compared with the year ending December, 1898.

The Working Account and General Expenses show an increase in the total for the twelve months of about Yen 425, which is accounted for by additional wages and other little expenses. With the balance in hand it is hoped that arrangements may be made for the building of two new Fire Wells and for the connection by Telephone between the Fire Station and the Police Station on the Bluff, and also between the Brigade's Chief Station at Lot No. 238 and the Settlement Police Headquarters.

WATCHMEN AND PATROL.

The Tower look-out has been kept up all through the year, and the regular service of Patrol men has been carried out as usual during the Winter months.

FIRE, &C

The Brigade men have attended to 23 Calls during the year, and in addition to the fires in the former Settlement, at which they have done good work, they have rendered valuable assistance at the fires in native town, including one in Ashibikicho, &c., which destroyed about 3 200 houses on the night of 12th August.

The water supply at all fires in the former Settlement has been good.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Satsumacho Fire Brigade,
Yokohama, 1st January, 1900.

To the Fire Brigade Committee,
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the following report of the work of the Satsumacho Fire Brigade during the year 1899.

The number of calls for Fires, or supposed Fires, has amounted to 23 ; of these in the *Yamashitacho* (former Settlement) 7 ended in total destruction, 7 were slight, 2 no damage, 1 chimney alarm and 1 false alarm.

On *Yamatecho* (Bluff) —1 resulted in total destruction and 2 were slight.

In Native Town—2 ended in total destruction with loss 3,211 houses and several partially destroyed.

The causes, as reported, were as follows, viz :—

YAMASHITACHO (Former Settlement).

Unknown	8
Doubtful	3
Overheat of Stove	1
Rain on Lime	1
Defective Flue	1
Carelessness	1
Kerosene Lamp	1
Chimney Alarm	1
False Alarm	1

YAMATECHO (Bluff).

Overheat of Fire Grate	1
Bath Heater	1
Stove	1

NATIVE TOWN.

Unknown	2
Total	23

The figures above only refer to calls which involved the turning out of the Firemen, Fire Engines, Hose Reels, &c., belonging to the Satsumacho Fire Brigade.

I beg to place on record that the Fire Brigade have worked most amicably with the Police and Water-works authorities.

I think it but right to mention that great credit is due to Mr. S. Ikariyama, Inspector-in-Charge of Kagacho Police Station, for his urbanity at all times, and his endeavours to have his force work in unity with this Brigade, and also to Mr. K. Okada, Inspector-in-Charge of Yamate-honcho Police Station, and his men for the valuable assistance rendered at fires on the Yamatecho during the year.

I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

N. MORGIN,
Hon. Supt. Satsumacho F.B.

LIST OF FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1899.

YAMASHITACHO (Former Settlement).

January 2nd—No. 5 Bund, Y. U. Club, Outbuildings, &c., Damage estimated at	$ 5,000
January 12th—No. 180, Outhouses, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
March 20th—No. 20, Grand Hotel slight, Damage estimated at	900
March 27th—No. 90, Outhouses, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
March 28th—No. 92, Office Building, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
April 7th—No. 31, Stone Godown, Entirely destroyed, Damage estimated at	18,000
June 21st—No. 60, Stone Godown, Contents destroyed, Damage estimated at.	7,500
June 28th—No. 36, Outhouses, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
July 15th—No. 147 (China Town), Office & Dwellings destroyed, Damage estimated at	9,000
July 25th—No. 22 Water Street, Offices destroyed, Damage estimated at	9,000
August 20th—No. 186 (China Town), Dwelling, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
August 27th—No. 189 (China Town) Dwelling, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
August 28th—No. 148 (China Town), Dwelling, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
September 4th—No. 189 (China Town), Dwelling, Very slight, Damage estimated at	—
October 28th—No. 199 (China Town), Dwelling, and Offices destroyed, Damage estimated at	6,500
November 11th—No. 149 (China Town), Dwellings and Shops destroyed, Damage estimated at	8,000

YAMATECHO (Bluff).

January 15th—No. 213, Private Residence, slight, Damage estimated at	600
September 23rd—No. 162, Private Residence, Entirely destroyed, Damage estimated at	11,000
December 9th—No. 52, Private Residence, slight, Damage estimated at	250

KEROSENE GODOWNS, ISHIKAWA.

December 12th—Alcohol in Repairing Shed, Damage estimated at	1,500

NATIVE TOWN.

August 12th	Ashibikicho, &c., Over 3,000 Houses destroyed.
August 18th	Ogimachi Nichome, About 4 or 5 Houses destroyed.

ENGINE, ETC., AVAILABLE AT FIRES.

"Relief" steamer, Shand and Mason, 350 gallons per minute.

"Victoria" steamer, Shand and Mason, 400 gallons per minute, worked by the Brigade stationed at the Brigade Station.

6 Hose Reels.

6 Stand Pipes.

21 Lengths Leather Hose, about 840 feet.

60 Lengths Canvas Hose, about 3,000 feet now in use.

2 600 feet new spare Hose. All 2½ inch.

1 Police Ladder, Fire Escape, and combined Ambulance from Merryweather and Sons, London.

3 Ladder Trucks, each with 6 lengths scaling ladders, 10 fire hooks, axes, 1 steel grappling-iron with 100 ft. of rope, and an ambulance.

1 Small French Manual Engine, 17 gallons, 6 men

1 Small American Manual, 44 gallons per min., 10 men with 200 feet hose, at General Hospital, Bluff.

1 Shand and Mason's Large Manual, 134 gallons per min., 30 men, with 10 lengths 2 in. canvas hose, 500 feet, stationed on the Bluff, in the U.S. Naval Hospital's compound.

2 Small Shand and Mason's Manuals, 17 gallons per min., 6 men, with about 500 ft. of Hose, at the Bluff Station.

6 Extinctems, (Dicks' Patent), at the Bluff Station and Public Hall.

CHANGES UNDER THE NEW TREATIES.

Owing to the new Treaties having come into force the status of the Brigade has been changed, and, although worked on the same lines as before and with the same staff, it is re-named the Satsumacho Fire Brigade, and under the arrangements with the Authorities two Honorary Advisers must be appointed at each annual meeting to represent the subscribers to the Brigade (Fire Insurance Agents). The present arrangements are that the buildings, materials, and plant are lent to the Japanese Authorities, the working expenses of the Brigade being undertaken by the Foreign Fire Insurance Offices through the Honorary Advisers, and any changes in the staff or other arrangements are to be left to the Honorary Advisers and the Authorities.

COMMITTEE.

The present Committee, consisting of Messrs. James Dodds, H. Grauert, J. D. Hutchison, J. Kern, E. Flint Kilby, N. P. Kingdon, James Walter, and W. B. Walter, beg to tender their resignations.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following Resolution at the annual general meeting, viz :—

That the appointment of Messrs. E. Flint Kilby and J. D. Hutchison as Hon. Foreign Advisers to the Brigade to carry on its business with the Japanese Officials be confirmed. That the working of the Brigade be continued as heretofore, but be in charge of the Yokohama Fire Insurance Association Committee, with whom the Hon. Foreign Advisers shall communicate in case of need.

Yokohama, March 12th, 1900.

SATSUMA-CHO (YOKOHAMA) FIRE BRIGADE, IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE HON. TREASURER.

DR.

WORKING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR.

1899. Dec. 1st. To Supt. Morgin, wages for the year	Yen. 1,560.00	
To European Engineer do	1,200.00	
To do Foreman do	360.00	
To Japanese Engineer do	180.00	
To Japanese Assist. Engineer (3), wages for the year	288.00	
To Japanese Coolie Foreman, wages for the year	84.00	
To Japanese Tower Watchmen (2) wages for the year	240.00	
To Japanese Patrol-men (4) wages for 6 months	168.00	
To Bluff Station, 1 Foreman & 2 Firemen, wages, &c, for the year	300.00	
To Hose-reel Station No. 107, 1 Foreman and 2 Firemen, wages, &c., for the year	345.60	
	4,725.60	
To Coals, Oil and Sundries for the year	70.32	4,795.62
To "Shand and Mason" Hand Engine for Bluff Station	75.00	
To Clothing and Uniforms for Coolies	210.28	
To Customs duty paid on Lubricators, &c.	6.96	
To Painting and repairs to Fire Stations	40.00	
To Legal expenses in connection with new arrangements made with Kencho Authorities	200.00	
To Ground Rent Lot 238	87.28	
To do Bluff Station to Sept., 1900	3.74	91.02
To Gasworks Account, Gas for 12 months		119.28
To Waterworks Account, water 12 months		64.27
To Advertising and Printing		23.25
To Balance carried forward to 1900		2,119.53
		7,745.51

CR.

1899. Jan. 1st. By Balance from 1898		1,453.97
Aug. 21st. By Proceeds of old Hose, &c., sold at Auction		44.50
Dec. 30th. By Proceeds of Hand Engines sold		90.00
Dec. 31st. By Subscriptions collected from Fire Offices during 1899	3,230.00	
By Policy fees paid in the H. & S. Bank during the year	2,837.00	6,067.00
By Interest on H. & S. Bank current account for this year		90.04
		7,745.51

E. & O. E.
Yokohama, 26th February, 1900.

J. D. HUTCHISON,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with vouchers and found correct.

J. M. COLLUM, Auditor.
2nd March, 1900.

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The CHAIRMAN, in a few comments on the report, said a copy of the full agreement with the Japanese authorities was now in the minute book of the Brigade and was open to inspection.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. HOLM, the report was passed.

The CHAIRMAN then directed attention to the following paragraph in the report:—

The present Committee, consisting of Messrs James Dodds, H. Grauer, J. D. Hutchison, J. Kern, E. Flint Kilby, N. P. Kingdon, James Walter, and W. B. Walter, beg to tender their resignations. The Committee recommend the adoption of the following Resolution, viz.:—

That the appointment of Messrs. E. Flint Kilby and J. D. Hutchison as Hon. Foreign Advisers to the Brigade to carry on its business with the Japanese Officials, be confirmed. That the working of the Brigade be continued as heretofore, but be in charge of the Yokohama Fire Insurance Association Committee, with whom the Hon. Foreign Advisers shall communicate in case of need.

He said the old Fire Brigade Committee considered that the Fire Insurance Association Committee was the proper body to work the Fire Brigade under the changed conditions. Latterly the Brigade had been supported almost entirely by the subscriptions of the Fire Insurance Companies and the policy fees collected at the time of insurance. This system would be continued, and the fees would be collected at the time of issuing the policies.

Mr. T. W. MCILRAITH proposed, and Mr. BAUKAL seconded, the adoption of the recommendation.

Mr. FORD said in regard to these fees there had been some difficulty in collecting them in many instances, and he thought it would be well to see to this. Several people had declined to pay the fees.

It was pointed out by Mr. FLINT KILBY that in the new tariff the fees were incorporated as part of the tariff.

The resolution was passed unanimously, and the meeting broke up.

TELEGRAMS.

THE BOER WAR.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.)

The following telegram has been kindly placed at our disposal by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Tokyo:—

"From Lord Salisbury to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Tokyo.—On the 5th inst. the Boer Presidents telegraphed their offer to make peace on condition that the incontestable independence of the two Republics as sovereign international States be secured and assurances given that those of Her Majesty's subjects who have taken part with the Republics in the war shall suffer no harm whatsoever in person or property. I replied on the 11th instant that, in view of the use to which the Republics have put the position given to them by the Conventions, and the calamities which their unprovoked attack has inflicted on Her Majesty's dominions, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to assent to the independence of either the South African Republic or the Orange Free State. The full text of both telegrams has been laid before Parliament."

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

Shanghai, March 9.

The *Daily News* says that 5,000 Kaffirs are digging trenches round Pretoria.

It is stated that the Government has decided to send Cronje to St. Helena until the termination of the war. No proposals for the exchange of prisoners will be entertained.

Buller's total losses from the 14th to 27th Feb. were:—

252 .....killed.
1,512 .....wounded.
95 .....missing.

The *Daily News* says that the Boers routed at Osfontein are estimated to have numbered 10,000. They were commanded by De Wet and De Larey. The British captured a gun, an immense quantity of forage, and a large number of tents.

Gatacre has occupied Burghersdorp.

Clements occupied Norval's Pont on the 3rd inst. The bridge was found blown up and the enemy were holding the north bank, but not in great strength.

A telegram from Mafeking, dated the 19th of February, says that typhoid and malaria are raging in the women's and children's laager. Many of the garrison are dying owing to want of good food. The hospitals are full to overflowing.

The Queen drove through the chief streets in the West End yesterday and received an immense ovation. It was a memorable scene.

At the sale of the Duke of Westminster's stud, Flying Fox fetched 37,500 guineas.

The Queen has ordered that henceforth on St. Patrick's Day, all ranks in the Irish regiments shall wear as a distinction a sprig of Shamrock in their head dress, to commemorate their gallantry in the recent battles.

Shanghai, March 10.

Roberts telegraphed from Osfontein on the evening of the 7th that the British were very successful, the enemy being completely routed. They were at the time of wiring in full retreat. The enemy's position was extremely strong, and a direct attack would have caused heavy loss. Therefore, a turning movement was made, the fighting being necessarily wide. It was practically confined to the cavalry. The horses were much exhausted.

French reports that the horse batteries did much execution. The British casualties were 50.

Roberts telegraphs from Poplar Grove, under date of the 8th, that Kelly-Kenny's Division, infantry brigades and horse artillery, marched 10 miles eastward.

Troops have been despatched to the disaffected districts in the north-west of Cape Colony.

The Naval Brigade from Ladysmith has arrived at Durban *en route* for Simonstown. There was tremendous enthusiasm.

General White has gone to Maritzburg.

Clements has moved his main camp six miles nearer to the Orange River. The Boers have completely withdrawn to the Free State.

Roberts telegraphs from Poplar Grove that Presidents Kruger and Steyn were present in the fight on the 7th, and did their utmost to rally the Boers, but the rout was complete, the Boers declaring that they were unable to withstand the British artillery and such a formidable cavalry force.

Shanghai, March 11.

General Warren's Division is going from Natal to re-inforce Roberts.

A war loan of 30,000,000 sterling has been issued. The rate of issue is 98, the rate of interest 2¾ per cent., and the loan is repayable on the 5th April, 1910.

Reuter telegraphs from Poplar Grove under date of the 9th instant, that French is 10 miles ahead. He reports the front clear of the enemy. The Boers are disorganised. The general impression is that the progress to Bloemfontein will be unopposed.

The eighth division begins to sail from England on the 14th inst.

Kitchener is on the Victoria Road organizing the advance of troops into the rebellious districts of Griqualand.

Brabant has occupied Jamestown.

Various peace reports are current. The Republics are said to be insisting on their independence, but nothing definite has transpired, and little is expected therefrom.

White had a splendid reception at Pietersmaritzberg. He is weak and feverish.

The Boers are entrenching near Biggarsberg, and guarding the western passes of the Drakensberg.

Shanghai, March 12.

The War Loan has already been thrice covered.

Offers have been received from the United States to take the whole loan.

Brabant is advancing on Aliwal North. Broadwood's brigade, when advancing towards Bloemfontein yesterday, unexpectedly found the enemy in a strong position on the kopjes at Driefontein. Kelly-Kenny's division arrived and there was sharp fighting. The British cavalry turned the position. The Boers were dislodged from the centre kopje, but they tenaciously hung to the rest. Forty Boers were taken prisoners; there were a number of dead. The British force is moving forward to-day.

Roberts telegraphs from Driefontein under date of the 11th. He says that the brunt of the fighting yesterday fell on Kelly-Kenny's Division. The Welsh and the Essex Regiments dislodged the Boers from two strong positions at the point of the bayonet. The Boers suffered heavily, leaving 102 dead and 20 prisoners.

Roberts has again telegraphed to President Kruger and President Steyn complaining of the abuse of the white flag and also of the use of explosive bullets.

Shanghai, March 13.

Large numbers of rebels are surrendering in Ladygrey, Herschel and Aliwal North. It is reported that thousands of rebels contemplate surrendering to Brabant.

[Note—This part of the message is rendered obscure through the mutilation of two words. —ED. *J.M.*]

The Boers on the border are in serious straits.

Reuter's agent telegraphing from Driefontein on the 11th inst., says that the Australians were largely engaged in the fighting on the 10th inst., which was very severe. When the enemy fled the Australian Cavalry alone was able to pursue.

Shanghai, March 14.

Presidents Kruger and Steyn, besides addressing Lord Salisbury, appealed directly for the intervention or the mediation of the Great Powers. America, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland answered promptly and emphatically in the negative. Lord Salisbury replied:—"The British Government can only answer your Honours' telegram by saying that Great Britain is not prepared to assent to the independence of either the Transvaal or the Free State." In connexion with the request of Presidents Kruger and Steyn, the United States offered to mediate, if desired, but Great Britain declined. The Presidents in

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their despatch state that they will persevere with the war to the end if England is resolved to destroy their independence.

The Times' correspondent writes from Mafeking under date of the 6th that the sickness and suffering are terrible. The garrison is subsisting on horse flesh and on bread made from forage.

Our losses at Driefontein were 320 wounded and 70 killed and missing.

* Delayed in transmission.

Shanghai, March 15.

The statement is incorrect that America offered mediation. She merely acted as go-between in transmitting the message from Pretoria to London. Messrs. Fischer and Wolmanse, with Mr. Wessels, of the Free State, have sailed for Europe as a peace deputation.

Brabant has occupied Aliwal North.

Shanghai, March 15.

Roberts wires that by the help of God and the bravery of the troops he has taken possession of Bloemfontein. The British flag now flies over the Presidency vacated by Steyn.

The late President Frazer and the members of the late Government, the Mayor and the Landrost, and the other officials met Roberts two miles from the town and presented the keys of the public offices.

The enemy have withdrawn from the neighbourhood, and all seems quiet.

The inhabitants gave the troops a cordial welcome.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

Saigon, March 10.

On the 8th inst. at midday the Théatre Francais was destroyed by fire. An actress, Mademoiselle Heuriot, was found burnt to death in the midst of the ruins.

At Osfontein Roberts advanced to attack the Boers, who retired after a feeble resistance.

In Buller's last operations he had 1,869 killed, wounded, and missing.

Saigon, March 11.

The library, the archives, and most of the objects of art of the Theatre Français were saved. The fire is attributed to a stove. The representations of the Theatre will be continued at the Odéon or the Opera.

The Boers are entrenching in the Biggarsberg and Drakensberg Mountains.

Roberts' head-quarters are at Poplar Grove, 10 kilometres to the east of Osfontein.

General French is pursuing the Boers.

Saigon, March 12.

Several English newspapers speak of President Kruger having made proposals for peace. But England will show herself uncompromising.

Saigon, March 13.

The French Minister of Finance has prepared a project of law for imposing a tax of 4 per cent. upon the general income, which will be assessed at five or six times the amount of the house rent.

A telegram from London says that a sharp engagement took place yesterday at Drieffontein, on the road leading to Bloemfontein. The Boers were driven from their entrenchments.

Saigon, March 15.

Lord Salisbury has announced in the House of Lords that he has received proposals of peace from the Presidents of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and that he has replied refusing to consent to the independence of the Republics.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, March 14.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's building at Peking has been totally destroyed by fire. Everything valuable was saved.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 463.

Key move Q to Q R 2

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 465.

By PILLSBURY.

Finishing touches by Reichelm.

BLACK.

WHITE.

White mates in three moves.

GAME No. 571.

INTERCOLONIAL TELEGRAPH MATCH.

The following important game occurred at board 2 in the match on New Year's Day between South Australia and New South Wales:—

RUY LOPEZ.

White—W. F. Harrison (Adelaide.) Black—W. H. Jonas. (Sydney.)

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 Q K3	Kt R4
2 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	17 KtxB	QxKt
3 B Kt5	Kt QB3	18 Q B3	Q Kt4(!)
4 Castles	P QKt3(?)	19 BxP	QxKt
5 BxKt	QPxB	20 QxKt	R Kt3
6 KtxP	B Q3(?)	21 Q Q-q	Q QKt5
7 Kt KB3	B K2	22 B K5	Castles
8 P Q3	B KKt5	23 P R3	Q Kt4
9 P KR3	B R4	24 P Q4	QR Ktsq
10 B B4	P KR3	25 P KKt3	P B3
11 QKt Q2	P KKt4	26 B B4	R Kt5
12 B K5	P Kt5	27 Q B3	QxKtP
13 PxP	BxP	28 P B3	Q Kt4
14 Q K-q	R KKtsq	29 K Kt2	P KR4
15 Kt R2	Q Q2		

Drawn game.

GAME No. 572.

A game recently played in the Vienna Chess Club:—

THREE KNIGHTS' GAME.

White.—A Neumann. Black—J. Kaufmann.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 RxP	Castles
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	17 RxQ	KRxR
3 Kt B3	B B4	18 Q B4ch	K R-q
4 KtxP	KtxKt	19 QxP	Kt B3
5 P Q4	BxP	20 Kt Q6	Kt K4
6 QxP	P Q3	21 R Q-q	P KR3
7 P B4	P QB4	22 QxKt	PxQ
8 Q R4ch	Kt B3	23 Kt B7sq	K Ktsq
9 B Kt5	Kt K2	24 RxRch	RxR
10 Castles	B Q2	25 KtxR	P QKt3
11 P B5	P B3	26 Kt B6	Kt R4
12 R Q-q	Kt Q5	27 KtxP	Kt B3
13 B KB4	BxB	28 Kt B6	KtxP
14 KtxB	Kt K7ch	29 KtxP	Resigns
15 K Rsq	KtxB		

NOTE.

3...B to B 4 is a weak move. Safer is 3.—Kt to B 3, the Four Knights Game. Herr Kaufmann, being one of the strong Vienna amateurs, we assume that he tried this variation as an experiment, and for the sake of a livelier game; but it turned out too lively. Black played weakly afterwards, too. 5...B takes P is inferior to 5...B to Q 3. Black's chief difficulties arise from being compelled to play 6...P to Q 3, compelling 7...P to Q B 4, which leaves eventually a weak Q P. He could have mended matters somewhat with 9...B to Q 2 (instead of 9...K^t to K 2,) whilst after 11, P to B 5, he was compelled to 11...P to B 3, in order to stop 12 P to B 6, which would have given White an overwhelming attack; but the attack was not less violent as it is, Herr Neumann concluding by giving up the Queen in the end, having enough in hand to win the game speedily.

NOTES.

The death is announced of Dr. Max Lange, the well-known player and theoretician, at the age of 67. His name will always be remembered in connection with the Max Lange variation of the Guioco Piano opening.

The Austro-Hungarian National Tournament at Vienna the prizes for which were bequeathed by the late Baron Kolisch, resulted in a victory for Geza Maroczy, who scored 9 games out of 11. The second and third prizes were divided between C. Schlechter and a new player named Brody. Alapin took the fourth prize, the other scores being Marco, Wolff, and Zinke 6, Kolve, 5. Popice, 4½, Albin, 4, S. Schwarz and Prock bringing up the rear. It is unfortunate that ill-health prevented Charousek from competing. The next international tournament begins at Paris on May 15 The prize fund already amounts to 16,000 francs.

Phillsbury is an inveterate smoker of strong cigars. When questioned, recently, by a reporter of the Washington *Post*, whether or not his smoking was harmful to him as a Chess-player, he said:—"No, I don't find smoking interferes with my play. Some folks say it takes the sharp edge from one's intellect, and spoils one's memory. I haven't found it so. I've smoked since I was fourteen, and I can play better when I have a cigar in may mouth—only a cigar, never anything else. When I play a lot of games at the same time I must be keyed up to it, as it were. I practise what you call self-hypnotism. It is largely will power. You see, it's just this way. When it comes my turn to make a move at one of the Chess-boards my mental powers are concentrated severely on the one move. All the other Chess-boards, the Checkers, and Whist are obliterated from my mind. It is as though I had never started playing these games at all. I seem to remember nothing of them. I come to a decision, the move is made, and I turn again to the cards in my hand. Quick as lightning the game of Chess vanishes from my mind. Now it is nothing but Whist with me. I seem never to have had a thought of anything but the game of cards. I play one. Then I move one of the checkers. These transitions of mind take place so quickly that I seem to be playing Chess, Checkers, and Whist all at once, and to be thinking of all the games at once. But it is as I explained. The only thing I really need for the ordeal is my cigar.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Koenig Albert 1	Sa. Mar. 17
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 2	Su. Mar. 18
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. Mar. 19
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Annam 3	Tu. Mar. 22
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 4	Th. Mar. 22
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. Mar. 26
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 5	M. Mar. 26
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Th. Mar. 29
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Tu. April 3
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Th. April 5
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9

1 Left Kobe on the 16th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.
3 Left Shanghai on the 16th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 14th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	M. Mar. 19
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. Mar. 21
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	W. Mar. 21
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	W. Mar. 21
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Mar. 23
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Koenig Albert	Sa. Mar. 24
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Tu. Mar. 27
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Annam	F. Mar. 30
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. Mar. 31
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. April 4
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Sa. April 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Swatow, German steamer, 631, Lehmann, 9th March,—Hongkong, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Atlantico, Austrian steamer, 2,179, C. Gerolinich, 9th March,—Trieste via Singapore, General.—Browne & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 9th March,—Shanghai via ports, 3rd March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 10th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 17th Feb., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 11th March,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 10th March, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

China, American steamer, 2,422, Daniel Friele, 12th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 11th Mar., Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 13th March, — Vancouver, B.C., 27th Feb., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 13th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 11th March, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Tatsuta Kan (6), Japanese Despatch Boat, 864, Commander H. Idzuchi, 13th Mar.,—Yokosuka 13th March.

Queen Louise, British steamer, 2,170, Frame, 14th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 2,488, Vyvyan, 14th March,—London via ports, and Kobe, 12th March, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,350, J. Barwise, 14th March,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 13th March, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Hertha (34), German cruiser, 6,000, Capt. von Usedom, 14th March,—Hongkong.

Java, British steamer, 2,733, G. W. Gordon, 15th Mar.,—London via ports, and Kobe, 14th March, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Nurnberg, German steamer, 2,663, Pesch, 9th March,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Stuttgart, German steamer, 3,209, P. Grosch, 10th March,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Oopack, British steamer, 2,517, J. Barber, 11th March,—Manila, P.I., Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Saxonia, German steamer, 2,660, Krech, 12th Mar.,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275 Wm. Ward, 12th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Swatow, German steamer, 631, Lehmann, 12th March,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Orestes, British steamer, 2,992, Peters, 13th March,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 13th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 14th March,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Commodore T. H. Allen, American ship, 1,621, R. L. Merriman, Jr., 14th March,—New York via Kobe, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Natuna, Danish steamer, 458, G. Peterson, 14th March,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

China, American steamer, 2,422, Daniel Friele, 15th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tatsuta Kan (6), Japanese Despatch Boat, 864, Com. H. Idzuchi, 15th March,—Yokosuka.

Atlantico, Austrian steamer, 2,179, C. Gerolinich, 15th Mar.,—Kobe, General —Browne & Co.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 15th March,—San Diego via Honolulu and San Francisco, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Lieut. T. Hyaku, I.J.N., Mr. C. F. A. Vouger, Mr. C. Wills, Mr. S. Arima, Mr. M. Stewart, and Mr. Y. Murai, in cabin; Mr. A. Edger, Mr. P. Nepruan, Mr. H. Nishikawa, and Mr. G. Ite, in second class; 45 in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. W. B. Cogswell, Mr. L. D. Fisk, Misses Browning (3), Mr. E. Y. Judd, Mr. J. E. Augerais, Rev. F. Cromer, and Mrs. B. M. Steibel and son, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. B. M. Steibel, and Rev. B. C. Haworth, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. G. H. Rosing, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Laidrich, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Arthur G. Cohn, Mrs. W. Bishop and family, Mrs. S. Norman, Miss Blanche Platt, Mr. E. E. Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Blake, Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Crile, and Mrs. T. H. Underwood and son, in cabin; Mr. Paul Nebeling, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Rodgers, in European steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Gordon Smith and guide, Mr. J. H. Pye, and Baron von Kendall in cabin; 5 in steerage.

Per American steamer *China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. F. H. Eldridge, Mrs. C. Easton, Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Mansell, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Rodewald, Miss Rodewald, Mrs. Von der Heyde, Miss R. M. Elwin, Miss E. L. Elwin, Baron d'Anethan and servant, Mr. F. J. Reville, Miss M. F. Denton, Mr. A. L. Young, Mr. A. Mason, Mr. Schwab, Mr. I. Kasahara, Mr. J. E. Averill, Mr. I. D. Abraham, and Mr. R. Platt, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mrs. G. C. Holberton, 2 children and servant, Rev. and Mrs. A. Pieters and 4 children, Mrs. S. D. Hepburn, Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Canright and 3 children, Mrs. Dr. Begler, Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Smith and 6 children, Mrs. V. Turnpauch, Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Soothill, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Sharp, Mrs. J. E. Davison, Mr. J. K. Davison, Mr. N. S. Clark, Miss R. B. Smith, Miss M. E. Smith, Miss C. Thomson, Mr. J. Tullock, Mr. O. G. Leslie, Mr. C. R. Morling, Mr. H. Ramseges, Mr. Yu Yuen Chai and servant, and Mr. C. Schuetle, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. Geo. Ade, Mr. L. Albenburg, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Adams, Mrs. B. Bavauda, Miss Bertina Bennett, Mr. Carter, Mr. C. S. Champness, Mr. Louis Ceresole, Mr. and Mrs. Cockburn, Mr. W. B. Field, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Frazar, Mr. W. L. Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lord and Son, Mr. Mali, Mr. Augusta Mathez, Miss Mona Monteith, Mr. F. Newson, Mr. J. W. Parmelee, Mr. H. Richnitzer, Dr. and Mrs. Schmidt, Mr. N. M. Shaffer, Mr. K. N. Shaw, Mr. Twyford, and Mr. C. Haworth, in cabin. 7 Intermediate and 88 steerage passengers.

Per British steamer *Java*, from London via ports:—Staff Surg. and Mrs. H. W. P. Doyne, Mr. Percy Elliot, and Mr. Pettican, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Stuttgart*, for Bremen via ports:—Miss Archer, Mr. J. S. Scott, Mr. F. Danckwerts, Mr. M. Pors, Mr. Clay McCauley, Mrs. Danckwerts, 2 children and amah, Miss Dyke-Poore, Miss J. Cameron Smith, Mrs. J. Macnab and child, and Mr. and Mrs. P. Vantier, child and amah, in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. S. K. McMorris, Count O. Orgoni and servant, Mr. G. Salcicioni, Mr. B. M. Stiebel, Rev. B. C. Haworth, Mr. Arthur G. Cohn, Mrs. S. Norman, Mr. J. E. Coats, Mrs. W. H. Bishop, 2 children and nurse, Mr. F. A. Blake, Mrs. F. A. Blake, and Mrs. T. H. Underwood and son.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. C. Ariyoshi, Capt. M. Hamada, Lieut. T. Hyaku, Mr. J. Brown, and Mr. S. Tomoichi, in cabin; Mr. S. Nagaki, Mr. I. Hayashi, and Mrs. Y. Oya, in second class.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is still a deadness about the market and prices must be taken as purely nominal. Home values have still a tendency to rise, but Japanese buyers are not inclined to accept the prices asked.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$3.00 to 3.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 34½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 4.00
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.38½
WOOLLENS.	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2 8 to 3 0lb. 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3 8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.80

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos 2/80, Plain	315.00 to 345.00
Nos 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400 00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$28.50
Indian Broach	28.00
Chinese	27.00

METALS.

The market is inactive, quotations being nominally as last given.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ¼ inch and upward	6.50 to 7 00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanized iron sheets	13 00 to 14 50
Wire Nails assorted	8 50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to ⅛ inch)	7.50 to 7 90

KEROSENE.

The market is steady at late rates.

American	$1.10 to 3.15
Russian	3.05 to 3 08
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The usual steady trade has been done.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.10 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.11 to 6.25
Brown Daitong	4 40 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 30

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market has been quiet till within the last two days, when considerable business has been done for both Europe and America. Prices are now on the upward course. A better feeling all round is apparent, and probably more business will be done at a further increase in values.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,200 to 1,210
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,210 to 1,230
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,140 to 1,150
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,160 to 1,170
Filatures—No 2, Fine	1,120 to 1,130
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re reels—No 1	1,130 to 1,140
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,100 to 1,110
Re-reels—No. 2	None
Re-reels—No. 3	None
Kakedas—Extra	None
Kakedas—No. 1	None
Kakedas—No 1½	None
Kakedas—No 2	None
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

No change in the market. The absence of good quality tends to restrict business, the parcels on offer being poor. No change in quotations.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	$180 to 190
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 170
Noshi—Oshu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	140 to 145
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	130 to 135
Noshi—Bushu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	None
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	110 to 120
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 165
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 155
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	None
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	None

TEA.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	Nominal
Finest	Nominal
Fine	Nominal
Good Medium	Nominal
Medium	Nominal
Good Common	Nominal
Common	Nominal

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 15.

No change in silver from London and discount tending rather easier have not affected local rating exchange.

London—Bank T.T.....	2/0 15/16
— — Bills on demand.....	2/0 1/4
— — 4 months' sight	2 0 1/8
— Private 4 months' sight ...	2/0 1 1/16
— — 6 months' sight ...	2 0 1 3/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight.....	254 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight ...	259 1/8
— Private 6 months' sight ...	260 1/8
America—Bank Bills on demand.....	49 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight ...	50 1/8
Germany—Bank sight.....	207
— Private 4 months' sight...	212 1/2
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight ...	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight.....	74 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight ...	75
India—Bank sight	151 1/4
— Private 30 days' sight	153 1/2
Bar Silver (London).....	27 9/16

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 15.

Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 212.50 for April delivery. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 70. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 150. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works ...210 Buyers.
Grand Hotel .....235 Steady.
Club Hotel..... 90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel .....150 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co. ..... 70 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co. .....145 Buyers.

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, March 15.

Engine and Iron Works are wanted at *yen* 212 50 per April. Grand Hotels are steady at *yen* 235. Oriental Hotels changed hands at *yen* 150. A few more shares can be placed at the same rate. Founders' have buyers at *yen* 450. Laundries are obtainable at par. Breweries—A small lot of shares changed hands at *yen* 147 50.

Debentures—Breweries are steady at *yen* 110. V. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108. Offers for Nagasaki Hotels first issue are wanted.

Puniooms were sold to-day at $7.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50 ...	212.50 B.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. *yen* 50	145 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100.....	235 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100.....	150 Sa
Oriental Hotel, Ld (Debs.), $184	450 B.
Nagasaki Hotel Ld., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ld., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10.....	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ld., $100.....	75 Sa
Helm Bros., $50	55 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd *yen* 50 ...	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100.....	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100.....	108 S.
Brett & Co., Ld. 7% Deb., $100...	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ld. 7% Deb. $100	N

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=steady N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries

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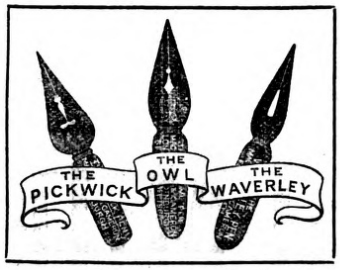

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

On the 20th March, at Kobe, the wife of JAS. L. ROBERTSON, of a Son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 20th February, at Zion Reformed Church, Chambersburg, Penn., U.S.A., by the Rev. A. M. Schmidt, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Schaeffer, ROBERT E. GILL, of Kobe, Japan, son of the late Rev. Wyatt Gill, B.A., LL.D., of the South Pacific, to MARY COMFORT, only daughter of the late William E. Hollowell, of Chambersburg, Penn., U.S.A.

DEATHS.

On the 19th March, 1900, at No. 107 A Bluff, GEORGE JOHN WILLIAM, aged 2 years 4 months, infant Son of Michael Trockey.

Died suddenly, on the 15th instant, at Ealing, Middlesex, England, JOHN ALEXANDER FRASER, late of Yokohama, (by Telegram).

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE CROWN PRINCE'S marriage will take place in May.

THE Agra Bank has resolved to go into voluntary liquidation.

MRS. PATTON'S benefit concert last Tuesday was a pronounced success.

THE possibilities for peace in South Africa have not increased during the week.

PRINCE WALDEMAR has finished his visit to this part of Japan and left Yokohama on Friday.

THE Boers are retreating North-ward before Lord Roberts, skirmishing at every suitable point.

PRESIDENT STEYN threatens to shoot as a traitor any burgher who refuses to fight against the British.

THE plague is raging at Calcutta and Patna, the deaths during one week in Bengal exceeding 41,000.

MR. K. KOSAKA, public procurator of the Yokohama Local Court, returned from Europe on the 16th inst.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha have purchased the German steamer *Uto Maru* (1,000 tons). Delivery was taken at Kobe.

THE Yokohama Choral Society's second concert for the present season will be given in the Public Hall on Wednesday.

TRAINS on the Yonezawa-Niwasaka line, suspended by reason of the snow, commenced running again on the 19th inst.

SNOW fell at Hodogaya, Fujisawa, Oiso, Odawara, and Hakone on the 19th. Some snow fell in Yokohama on Sunday.

FIVE hundred emigrants accompanied by two constables left Kagawa Prefecture on the 15th inst. for Nemuro and Muroran.

A FIRE which is estimated to have destroyed 10,000 *yen* worth of goods, broke out in a spirit factory at Nishinohato-machi, Bakan, on the evening of the 18th inst.

REAR-ADMIRAL MORI, harbour-master of Yokohama, will leave for Shanghai and Hongkong in a few days to make an examination with regard to harbour work.

WE understand that the Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Society have in rehearsal that most amusing of farcical comedies "Charley's Aunt," which will be given soon after Easter.

A REPORT from the Governor of Kumamoto to the Home Department says that a fire broke out on the 15th inst. at 11.30 p.m. at Sakasegawa-mura, and 180 houses were destroyed.

ALL the mail-steamers for Europe and America alike are crowded with Eastern residents returning to the home-lands either for good or on furlough. The exodus from Yokohama is very great.

ON the 19th instant, when the 3.10 p.m. train from Shinagawa was passing the glass factory, a shot was fired which broke the window of a first-class carriage. No body was injured.

ICHIKAWA DANJURO, the famous actor, is ill and the play at the Kabukiza has had to be postponed until the 24th. Danjuro speaks of retiring definitely from the stage owing to increasing age. If he carries out this intention the next play will be his last. It is called the "Soga Kyodai" and Onoye Kikugoro will appear with him.

NINETY-NINE emigrants left by the steamer *Belgian King* for San Francisco, on the 15th. Japanese emigrants to the number of 135 left by the steamer *China* on the 15th instant for San Francisco.

THE news reached Yokohama on Wednesday of the death at Ealing, England, of Mr. J. A. Fraser, for over 30 years a resident in Japan, where he won the esteem of all who knew him. He leaves a widow and young family.

THE Formosan Governor-General reported to the Home Department that at Taipeh one new case of plague and one death were declared on the 15th. There have been 120 cases and 100 deaths since the 1st January.

THE death-rate in Manila for the last six months has been equal to 60 per 1000 per annum. The *Manila Times*, after comparing Manila unfavourably with Hongkong, says that the Manila death-rate is positively appalling.

A COLLISION occurred off Temposan, Osaka, on the 19th inst., between the Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamer *Kamogawa Maru* (427 tons), and the steam dredger *Kanasaki Maru* (100 tons) belonging to the Osaka Harbour Works. Both vessels were badly damaged.

A FIRE broke out at 2.40 a.m. on the 17th at No. 152, Furocho Nichome, Yokohama, occupied by a blacksmith named Takahashi Matsugoro. Twenty-nine houses were destroyed and 13 damaged, including a Christian Church. A rumour is current that the blaze was the work of an incendiary.

SOME coolies engaged in the Matsuyama coal mine, Fukuoka, were imprisoned a few days ago, owing to the cage in which they were descending, breaking and blocking up the shaft. Three were killed, but the other five, though maimed, lived from the 6th to the 17th instant, subsisting principally on the water which they could find.

ON Tuesday night at 10 o'clock, Okin, wife of Inouye Ginjiro, living at Miyagawacho, Sanchome, Yokohama, jumped into the canal with intent to commit suicide. She and her husband had been drinking when a sweet-heart of the husband called and the wife, in a fit of jealousy, ran out of the house, and threw herself into the water. She was rescued by passers-by.

A QUESTION has arisen as to whether the assistant surgeons in the American army who accepted commissions with the rank of Captain are entitled to the pay of that grade. The comptroller General has ruled that the pay of assistant surgeons who have served less than five years is $1,600 per annum, being the pay of 1st lieutenants of cavalry; and after five years service $2,000 a year.

TIS an ill wind that blows nobody any good. The other day a poor man living at Umeda, Umejima-mura, Minami-adachi, Tokyo, had to take a day off from his usual work in order to cleanse his house to satisfy the sanitary regulations lately enforced by the police. In turning out an ancient pot he discovered the following old coins, the existence of which had never been suspected, 126 *nibu* (gold), 83 *nishu* (gold), and 66 *ichibu* (silver). The man now declares that the plague has made him rich.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, March 17.

From Bloemfontein to Kroonstad, which President Steyn has chosen for his new capital, the distance is 110 miles; just the distance from Maggersfontein to Bloemfontein. Kroonstad has some evident advantages from the Boers' point of view. It is only 70 miles from the Transvaal frontier, and can therefore be easily reinforced from the Transvaal. Further, it is only 60 miles from Bethlehem, the terminus of the railway passing from Ladysmith over Van Reenen's Pass into the Free State. Thus any troops that the Boers may have in the Drakensburg district between Van Reenen's Pass and Harrismith can be quickly concentrated in the neighbourhood of Kroonstad. Two rivers have to be crossed by an army moving from Bloemfontein towards Kroonstad. They are the Vet and the Valsch; the former 50 miles beyond Bloemfontein, the latter a few miles south of Kroonstad. It is probable that the Boers will make a stand at each. One of Roberts' difficulties is that in marching against Kroonstad he had Van Reenen's Pass on his right flank. That feature might not be serious so far as concerns the attack on Kroonstad itself, but to advance northward of the latter place without clearing the Boers from the Drakensberg passes of the Free State might be dangerous. Here, perhaps, we find an explanation of the news that Warren's Division has been dis embarked again at Durban. Roberts observes that the Boers are still clinging to the mountains with the object of menacing his communications, and he has therefore decided to entrust to Buller the task of driving them out. Another point is that the Boers are reported as occupying strong positions at the junction of the Biggarsberg and the Drakensberg ranges. We infer, therefore, that they have not yet fully evacuated the north-western corner of Natal, and that Lord Roberts proposes to have them driven off British territory altogether. At all events, if the Boers choose to remain on the frontiers instead of hastening back to defend their cities and territories, General Buller may be well employed in keeping them there.

If it were permissible to suspect Lord Roberts of a little grim humour, we might suppose that his description of the causes which gave Bloemfontein into his hands was addressed to President Kruger and the psalm-singing Boers. The old President, whose sincerity we do not doubt but whose worldly interests may reasonably be supposed to colour his interpretation of the Scriptures, places ostentatious trust in Providence, and would have his comrades believe that ultimate defeat is impossible since the Deity is on their side, as may plainly be shown by exegetical demonstration. But Lord Roberts comes along, captures the Free State's chief town, and then announces that the victory has been achieved by "the help of God." The British Army, we suspect, will laugh not a little over the Commander-in-Chief's despatch, reading it as a direct response to the boasts of the Biblical Boers. Providence can scarcely be fighting for both sides. Nothing now remains for Kruger except to say that "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

The *Jiji Shimpo* makes a pretty point in connexion with this despatch of Lord Roberts. Addressing itself to the multiplex demagogue who, writing in the columns of a Yokohama English journal, has shown so much concern lest any credit should be given to the Queen to England for the victories of her troops, if inquires how Lord Roberts' analysis is to be read. The *Jiji's* article, which roused the dual democrat's ire, said that the successes in Africa were naturally due to the excellence of the generals' strategy, but that it was impossible not to give some credit to the Queen's influence and virtue. That statement was interpreted to mean that the valour of the troops and the skill of their commander had partially contributed to these good results, but that the Queen's illustrious virtues were the main factor making for triumph; and a great deal of fine ratiocination was employed to show that if Her Majesty was to be credited with the present successes of her men, she must also be blamed for their previous failures. What the *Jiji* now wants to know is whether Lord Roberts intends to say that God was the prime contriver of the British army's recent victories, and that the army itself acted a partial and secondary part only; and what we who write should like to learn is whether, in returning thanks to the Deity, Lord Roberts must be held to allege that the early failures of our troops are ascribable to the temporary alienation of Providence.

Monday, March 19.

We observe with interest that the view expressed in these columns with regard to Buller's third attempt to relieve Ladysmith coincided with that taken by military experts in London. According to the correspondent of the Associated Press, the theory most widely accepted in military circles was that Buller's retirement "was ordered by Lord Roberts, and that both General Buller's and General Macdonald's operations were made by the direction of the Commander-in-chief in order to occupy the Boers at widely separated points so that they would be unable to transfer any portion of their forces to oppose the projected advance" into the Free State. We do not think it correct to say that Buller's retreat was ordered by Lord Roberts, but we do believe that the main purpose of his third attempt was to hold the Boers rather than to relieve Ladysmith. It was pointed out originally in these columns that the apparent success of the Boers' plan in keeping the war outside their own territory and compelling the British to fight under most disadvantageous circumstances would be turned into failure unless they seized the right moment for falling back and concentrating their divided forces. They did not seize that moment; they allowed it to pass, and the consequence is that a powerful British army is being driven into the vacuum resulting from their disjointed operations. President Kruger is reported to have said that he was not at all chagrined by the failure to reduce Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking. The Boers, he explained, were quite as well satisfied to keep the garrisons of those places imprisoned within their lines and living, or starving, at British expense, as to have them subsisting in Pretoria in the capacity of prisoners of war. The old gentleman's excuse might not have sounded quite so silly if the forces of the two Republics numbered a quarter of a million, and if they could consequently have afforded to permanently detach forty or fifty thousand men for the purpose of watching twelve or thirteen thousand Englishmen. But the situation assumed a very different complexion when they had to devote nearly their whole army to detaining purposes, not leaving any considerable force for operations in the field. It is possible, of course, that they may still have some clever strategical programme up their sleeve, and that their failure to defend Bloemfontein was deliberate, in view of the unfavourable nature of the country for their special manner of fighting. But when a State allows its capital to be occupied by the enemy's forces, it has suffered a disadvantage not easily retrieved. Of one main buttress at any rate the Boers' cause has been deprived: all the hopes they founded on an uprising of the Cape Dutch must now be definitely abandoned. They must rely on their own unaided strength, which is diminishing every day, while that of the British is increasing. We look still for some very severe fighting and probably a heavy list of casualties, but the tide has certainly turned.

General Buller has been very hardly treated by fate in this war. The task that devolved on him was one of immense difficulty, and if ever ill-luck dogged a commanding officer's efforts, his was a case in point. It is quite plain that the disaster which compelled him to abandon the first attempt at Colenso was due, not merely to failure on Colonel Long's part to carry out instructions, but to direct disobedience of orders. Colonel Long allowed himself to be carried away by the circumstance of the moment, and the loss of all his guns resulted. It appear, further, that the retirement from Spion Kop was not sanctioned by Buller. He exonerates the officer who ordered it, but the fact is that the retiring force actually met a body of troops moving to their support. Had they held on a little longer, the hardly-won position need not have been abandoned. Then, as to the third essay, Buller had to figure as making another failure, when in reality he succeeded in achieving his object; and as to his final effort, which ended in the relief of Ladysmith, the public will always regard it in the light of a corollary to Roberts' coup at Maggersfontein, though the list of casualties shows that Buller fought a hard and bloody fight.

Wednesday, March 21.

The point of paramount interest in the immediate future of the South-African campaign is the use that Lord Roberts will make of his lines of communication. There are three railways available for the attack of the Transvaal; that from Cape Town *via* De Aar, running through British territory along the borders of the Free State and the Transvaal; that from Port Elizabeth and East London, crossing the Orange River at two points, Norvals Pont and Bethulie, respectively, and forming one road from Springfontein northwards *via* Bloemfontein to Pretoria; and that from Durban *via* Laings Nek to the Transvaal capital. It seems to us very probable that the British General will organise three *corps d'armée*, one to enter the Transvaal from the east, using the Natal railway; one to enter from the West, making Vryburg, perhaps, the starting point and using the Cape Town railway;

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and one to enter from Viljoen's Drift, using the Bloemfontein-Pretoria railway, With the troops now in South Africa, each of these corps could be forty thousand strong, leaving fifty thousand to guard the lines of communication, and assuming that twenty thousand are *hors de combat* from casualties and sickness. Another fifty odd thousand are to sail from England during March and April, but we omit them from the account at present. It is plain that Buller is not to be left idle in Natal with forty thousand men. He has the first right of all to take an active part in the further stages of the campaign, for he has borne the brunt of it hitherto with much suffering and comparatively little glory. Then, again, it is not likely that Methuen's column, which has been sent to relieve Mafeking, will either march back to Kimberley when it has effected its immediate purpose, or remain inactive at Mafeking. We speak of Methuen as being in command of the relief column. But Methuen's Division has evidently been broken up. The Highland Brigade is with Roberts; two thousand of the Guards are with Pole-Carew in the district south of Bloemfontein, and the remainder of the Guards, about five thousand, have not been mentioned in recent telegrams. It may be taken for granted that they form the bulk of the Mafeking column, and that the relief of the place will not be the only part played by them in the future campaign. Lord Roberts will naturally desire to demonstrate to the Transvaalers the uselessness of continuing the struggle, and the effective way to accomplish that, so far as we can see, would be to march three armies into their territory, one from the east, one from the west, and one from the south. Each of these armies would draw its supplies from a different maritime base, which is a consideration of no small importance with regard to facilities for obtaining and transporting food stuffs and material of war. Besides, if the Transvaalers contemplate a guerilla war, the best way to defeat them is obviously to spread the attack over as wide a range of territory as possible. Doubtless, had this fight taken place 50 years ago, the Boers would have ended by making another trek. But their trekking days are at an end, for they are surrounded on three sides by British territory and by Portuguese on the fourth. It seems hard at first sight that in the whole of wide Africa there is not a place for them to obtain the solitude and seclusion they desire. But they should have been content with what they had, instead of trying to drive England out of South Africa in order to build up a huge republic with the dominions snatched from her. They owe their misfortunes to the ambition and greed of their leaders.

Thursday, March 22.

The news of Sir Alfred Milner's departure from Cape Town, accompanied by his military and private secretaries, may mean, perhaps, that some negotiations for peace are on the *tapis*. If so, they probably refer to the Free State only. But it may also mean—and this we think the more likely interpretation—that Milner goes to consult with Lord Roberts with reference to some questions of local government in the occupied territory.

The pursuit of Olivier's commando in its retreat from Aliwal North is a difficult undertaking. The commando probably took the road to Rouxville (25 miles from Aliwal North) in the first place, and then turned eastward to Smithfield (22 miles from Rouxville), whence a road leads direct to Winburg via Helvetia and Dewetsdorp. Smithfield lies in a plain, but once that place is passed, Olivier's column would ascend a high plateau, and remain on it until within some twenty miles of Winburg. It is highly improbable that the Springfontein cavalry can have reached Smithfield (55 miles from Springfontein) in time to intercept Olivier, and there would be nothing left except to follow him along the mountain plateau. The cavalry from Bloemfontein, however, is more favourably situated. The distance from Smithfield to Dewetsdorp is nearly 60 miles; the distance from Bloemfontein to Dewetsdorp is barely 40, and the Bloemfontein road appears to be the more feasible of the two. If the cavalry set out from Bloemfontein at about the time of Olivier's passing Smithfield, it ought to intercept him in the neighbourhood of Dewetsdorp. It might also take a more northerly route to Thaba Nchu, 42 miles from Bloemfontein and 28 miles north of Dewetsdorp. In that case, supposing that the Bloemfontein cavalry set out while Olivier was between Dewetsdorp and Thaba Nchu, it should be able to cut him off. Should Olivier reach Thaba Nchu, however, without being intercepted, he will doubtless make a long detour eastward *viâ* Ladybrand, and to continue the pursuit would then be almost hopeless. Unless, therefore, we hear that he has been forced into action near Dewetsdorp or Thaba Nchu, the probability is that he will escape. The country is in his favour, and we may assume that he has a much better knowledge of it than his pursuers have.

Brandfort, where the Boers have blown up the railway bridge over the Modder, is 35 miles north of Bloemfontein. The destruction of the bridge can not make much difference to the British troops, for the Modder at Brandfort presents no serious obstacle. Besides, Driefontein, where the Boers were recently defeated, is on the north of the Modder, and troops advancing eastward from that district would render it impossible for the Boers to make any stand at Brandfort. The mere destruction of a railway bridge is a comparatively useless operation unless there is a possibility of keeping the enemy, under fire while he attempts to repair it.

Lord Kitchner's presence at Prieska in Griqualand West suggests that he regards the disaffection in that district as a matter of some importance. So, doubtless, it is, since it threatens the security of the communications with Cape Town. But apparently the rebels have no special desire to join the fighting, or they would have already come into collision with the force sent to subdue them.

Friday, March 23.

So far as can be at present ascertained, the number of men detached by the Boers from Ladysmith for the defence of the Orange Free State was only six thousand. Twelve thousand are said to have remained to oppose Buller's advance, but, if that estimate be correct, what became of the rest? No one supposes, we presume, that White, with nine thousand men, was surrounded in Ladysmith, and that Buller, with some thirty thousand men, was held at bay at Colenso, by an army of only eighteen thousand Boers. There can not be the least doubt that in the early days of the investment the Boers had from twenty-five to thirty thousand of all arms. They were able to keep ten thousand investing Ladysmith, and to put from fifteen to twenty thousand in their line of defences opposite Buller. Was this army reduced to eighteen thousand men at the finish, and are we to suppose that from seven to twelve thousand had been put *hors de combat* by British bullets and bayonets and by disease? Buller and White had over six thousand casualties from the commencement of their offensive and defensive operations, but it is most improbable that the Boers, acting chiefly on the defensive, suffered to any similar extent. There are two ways of explaining the discrepancy; first, that many of the Free-Staters quietly went back to their farms; secondly, that the Boers, so soon as they began to suffer reverses, set themselves to understate the numerical strength of the beaten troops. The latter hypothesis is highly probable. If we accept it, the conclusion is that the forces facing Buller at the close of the Colenso struggle numbered about eighteen or twenty thousand.

Under any circumstances it is becoming more and more difficult to reconcile facts with the statement industriously circulated by the Boers at the beginning, namely, that they had a hundred thousand men in the field. If they possessed any such force, it has managed to make itself invisible in the most remarkable manner. Cronje was supposed to have twelve thousand men at Maggersfontein. Then, when his communications were cut, he attempted to retreat with a force which does not appear to have numbered more than five thousand. The remaining seven thousand marched northwards, and ultimately effected a junction with the six thousand sent from Ladysmith. So, at least, it would seem. Meanwhile, the contingents on the Orange River also were hastening northward. These numbered at least four thousand in the Stormberg district and five thousand at Colesberg, independently of any troops that Cronje may have detached to strengthen the latter corps with the idea of striking at Roberts' communications. Here we have twenty-two thousand men available for the defence of Bloemfontein. Yet Roberts found himself opposed by ten thousand only. We can only say that if the Boers really have in the field anything like the forces they claim to have, they are employing them in a most disjointed and ineffective manner.

Prejudice has a wonderful power of colouring spectacles. Some good folks were thrown into a condition of almost hysterical pity by the spectacle of Cronje surrounded and refusing to surrender. The *Sun's* correspondent cabled that "all Europe was looking on in mingled horror and admiration at the magnificent but heart-rending tragedy." What was all Europe doing with its eyes, then, while the Mafeking tragedy was in progress, month after month; or the Kimberley tragedy; or the Ladysmith tragedy? At Ladysmith, when the investment was complete, General White asked Joubert to allow the women and children to withdraw. Joubert refused. It was his purpose to employ the sufferings of the women and children as a means of breaking down the courage of the British garrison. It is impossible to conceive anything more brutal.

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At Mafeking the Boers, despite frequent warnings, directed their cannon, time and again, against the buildings where the women and children were lodged. The garrison, a mere handful of men, had to endure this shocking sight, and had subsequently to see the women and children dying of disease brought on by starvation and confinement. But there were no newspaper correspondents to talk of the "magnificent and heart-rending tragedy," or of "a mighty voice of protest rising from one end of the European continent to the other." These partisans make themselves supremely ridiculous.

With reference to the subject of transport in South Africa, the following very interesting extract from a letter of *The Times* Cape Town correspondent contains striking information :—

It has been truly said that an army fights on its belly—a fact some of our generals at times overlook—and in the matter of keeping man and horse supplied with food the ox-wagon transport plays a great part in South Africa. True it is that so far during this campaign the railways have done all of this, but when the Free State is reached the ox will be called on. Meanwhile at the various camps all over the country the ox transport is being utilized for all sorts of useful purposes, such as removal of stores to outposts, carriage of fire wood and daily camp necessities. In the Cape Colony alone a contract was concluded with Mr. Julius Weil to supply 700 wagons, each with a span of 16 oxen. Though originally the idea had been to allocate these in equal proportions between three advancing columns, the exigencies of the campaign have resulted in one-third being sent to De Aar, which supplies Naaupoort, Arundel, and Orange River forces as called upon, while the balance of about 470 wagons is retained at Queenstown and Sterkstrom. In addition to the wagon contract, another was concluded for a practically unlimited number of small spans of oxen, to be used in military carts and wagons. The Imperial Government learned several valuable lessons in the Zulu war, and one of these was to contract for such transport and not to purchase. The service is at once more efficient, and in the end is undoubtedly more economical. The contract could not apparently be in more able hands. Without default, almost without hitch, the requirements of the C.O.'s are attended to and carried out successfully. The amount of organization required is of Cook-like proportions and does credit to the contractor and his able lieutenants. The large transport camps at De Aar, Sterkstrom and Queenstown well repay visits and should be good object-lessons to those in charge of the Imperial mule transport, whose camps cannot be spoken of in very high terms. These latter, however, it must be admitted, have to deal with servants less amenable to discipline. The mule drivers are all Cape boys, while the ox drivers and leaders are Kaffirs or Hottentots, who very speedily learn to obey a firm and just master.

The contractor's system is admirably simple. The owners of every five wagons hiring to him were invited to nominate a white man as conductor, and in most cases owners themselves took the positions, so securing men personally interested in looking well after wagons and oxen. To every 50 wagons, however, the contractor also appointed an inspector of his own choice, and in addition a head man for every hundred wagons, to whom, for purposes of maintaining order, honorary military rank was granted. The result is most successful. In the transport camp strict military discipline is observed and the complex machine runs like clockwork. If it be reckoned out it will be seen that in a camp of 230 wagons there must be at least 460 natives, without counting all drivers and leaders of small spans of six and eight oxen used in military carts, and that, with the same exception, at least 3,680 oxen have to be looked after. The task requires brains, system, and patience to an extraordinary degree. The question of pasturage alone would wear out a Job, particularly when it is remembered that the owners of farms, mostly Dutchmen, throw every conceivable obstacle in the way. Our English commanders to a certain extent are fighting with one hand tied behind their backs. The delicate susceptibilities of the "loyal" Dutch must in no way be offended, and accordingly, though there may be martial law in operation, the service has to suffer, not only as regard grazing for oxen, horses, and mules, but in many more important, even vital, points. No restriction on the liberty of the subject must be attempted for fear of alienating an already hostile people. The task of keeping the transport efficient, always difficult and rendered doubly hard, has notwithstanding, so far been ably carried out.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND MARQUIS ITO.

There has been a good deal of editorial discussion recently in Tokyo with regard to Marquis Ito and political parties. The question immediately debated is that of reform or reconstruction—whether the existing parties can be brought into a satisfactory condition by alterations and adjustments, or whether they must be reorganized *de novo*. In the articles that have been published on the subject we do not find much that would interest or instruct our readers. The kernel of the matter is simply this, that all the parties are anxious to secure Marquis Ito for a leader, and that the Marquis is unwilling to throw in his lot with any one of them unless very radical changes have been effected. Marquis Ito is at present engaged upon a work which demands most extensive research, profound knowledge, and much time. He is the only statesman in the empire who possesses the combination of qualities necessary for such a work. It would be possible, doubtless, for others to conduct the required investigations ; though evidently it must always be a task of immense difficulty to draft a code of laws for the regulation of everything relating to the Throne in such a manner as to embody the most enlightened principles of the new civilization without doing violence to any of the immemorial traditions of Japan. Still such a feat is not beyond the reach of industry and care. But the man responsible for the work must also possess the full confidence of the Sovereign and of the nation, and truly we do not see that this combination of qualities to be found anywhere outside Marquis Ito. One can easily imagine, therefore, that the Marquis has no inclinations to abandon his present undertaking for the sake of leading a political party unless he sees that such a course is essential to the successful development of parliamentary institutions, which may be said to be of his own creation in Japan. That point of view does not appear to have presented itself to the journalists who are now discussing the political situation. But they make one very interesting and very discouraging assertion. It is that whereas Marquis Ito's conception of party reconstruction is based upon the sincere adoption of a patriotic policy and on its earnest pursuit without regard to personal profit, the party politicians are actuated chiefly, if not solely, by notions of selfish ambition. The *Asahi*, for example, goes so far as to say that the prevailing conception of party cabinets is not an institution representing the honest public-spirited views of the majority of the nation and maintained in place by the supporters of those views, but is simply a machine for bringing the sweets of office and the golden opportunities of power within reach of a certain coterie of professional politicians. The verdict seems harsh. Doubtless it embodies something of the injustice that disfigures all sweeping generalities. But it is a Japanese judgment on contemporary Japanese.

FOREIGN INSURANCE OFFICES AND THE LAW.

It is stated that seventy-four applications have been made by representatives of foreign insurance offices desirous of transacting business in Japan, but that there has been much difficulty in granting them because of the failure of the applicants to comply with the exact provisions of Japanese law. The officials of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, who have to deal with such applications, are said to have made every effort to instruct the applicants as to the proper procedure to be pursued, but the success attending their endeavours has not been so marked as to prevent appeals to the Foreign Ministers on the part of the applicants, and remonstrances addressed by the Foreign Office to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. There appears to be an impression among some of the foreign applicants that the official attitude is more or less influenced by a desire to drive them out of the insurance business in Japan altogether; but the officials declare that they fully understand it to be in the best interests of the country to encourage foreign insurance enterprise, since, in the matter of experience and solidity, the advantage is certainly on the foreign side. We ourselves do not for a moment doubt the good faith and helpful intention of the officials, but we really do not understand why there should be so much difficulty in complying with the form required by law. In many, we may almost say in the great majority of, cases it may be presumed that the applicants have recourse to duly qualified conveyancers to get their applications drafted, and there is consequently no apparent reason why serious errors should be made. It is hard to suppose that the fault is entirely on the foreign side, though unfortunately there is no possibility of denying that the suspicions referred to are entertained by some foreigners, and that a long time must still elapse before they are completely dispelled. What is to be hoped is that, in applying the new system, every care will be taken not to furnish grounds for fresh distrustfulness.

THE INDUSTRIAL BANK.

The first five issues of premium-bearing bonds by the Industrial Bank were not successful : it was found necessary to fill up the list of subscriptions by various expedients. The sixth attempt, however, produced a very different result, for, whereas the amount to be issued was only a million *yen*, the applications total 2,800,000 *yen*. According to the President, Mr. Takahashi, the Bank would have been glad to seize this favourable opportunity of placing a larger number of its bonds, but such action would have been illegal. Steps have now been taken, however, to remove that obstacle, and the directors will henceforth possess fuller discretionary power. The bonds are now quoted on exchange and received by the various banks as security for loans. Mr. Takahashi further says that the Industrial Bank and the Agricultural Bank have completed arrangements for cöoperation, and that the friction hitherto existing between them will be entirely removed in the future. He adds that the applications made to the Bank for accommodation greatly exceed the funds at its disposal.

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THE VENGEANCE OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

In a remarkable but somewhat apocryphal letter from a member of the Reform Party in Peking, which the *North China Daily News* publishes, it is declared, on the strength of verbatim statements made by one of the Palace Eunuchs, that the Empress Dowager, on January 24th, caused the Emperor to sign his abdication, and would have deposed him had not urgent remonstrances arrived, the first of them from Mr. Kin Lien-Shan, Manager of the Chinese Telgraphs in Shanghai. The Eunuch adds that the Empress was bitterly enraged against Kin; that she determined to have his head, and that there would be nothing left undone to compass her end. Kin fled to Macao, and the next thing heard was that the Viceroy Li, in obedience to instructions from Peking, had applied for his extradition on a charge of having defrauded the Shanghai Telegraph Administration of several tens of thousands of taels. The fugitive official may be guilty, but the sequence of events suggests disquieting suspicions. At all events, he is not thought guilty by foreigners in China, where he enjoys much favour as a leader of the reform movement. Of course, if a *primâ facie* case can be made out against him, the Macao Authorities will have no choice but to extradite him. Great efforts are being made in his behalf, however. On the slender plea that his supposed crime was committed in Shanghai, which is under foreign jurisdiction, the Portuguese authorities were induced to allow him the assistance of an English barrister, and an expert has been summoned from Hongkong to help him. Meanwhile, some idea of the feeling excited by his case may be gathered from the following extraordinary and most indecorous paragraph which appears in the *China Mail*, to the great discredit of that usually sober journal:—

That gruesome old ghoul, that iniquitous old female, the Empress Dowager, is up to her bloodthirsty games again, and is, despite repeated warnings, bent upon exterminating the Reform Party in China. If Great Britain, the dominant power in the Far East, permits Mr. Kin Lien Shan to be ruthlessly butchered, all the Farm can say is that we have lost that proud privilege of righting wrongs that has been associated with the word Englishman from time immemorial. We have heard enough of Palace intrigues at Peking. Won't somebody be so kind as to get up a counterplot to depose and deport the Chinese Delilah? 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.

MONEY AND INFORMATION.

Lord Salisbury's recent remarks in the House of Lords have not passed unnoticed in Japan. His lordship said, in effect, that Great Britain had been taken by surprise with regard to the Boers' warlike preparations because her officials had not been in a position to purchase information. With all her immense wealth, England grants such small sums for purposes of secret service that she is placed at a great disadvantage compared with other Powers. In this particular case the result has been an expenditure of millions of pounds, the loss of hundreds of valuable lives, and a serious shock to the nation's peace of mind. The *Jiji Shimpo* notes these facts, and warns the Government of this country not to commit a similar error. If information is needed, it must be paid for, as Lord Salisbury truly said, and without information what can be accomplished?

ANOTHER ROMANCER.

We are sorry to observe that Mr. John Foster Fraser, who spent a short time in Japan in the course of his round-the-world bicycle trip, has been obliged to employ the resources of romance in order to manufacture articles about this country. In a recent number of *Cassell's Family Magazine* Mr. Fraser says:—

The Japanese constable is a most irritating little animal. First he is so insignificantly little and he looks so ridiculous, with no chest, in his little French uniform, and he struts so preposterously and swings his little sword, and in the villages he makes all the folks bow as he goes by, that really I often—out of pure malice of heart—wanted to lift him up by the scruff of the neck and pitch him into an adjoining pond. You hear a great deal about Japanese politeness. That is quite right if you leave out of count the policeman. He thinks it his duty to be rude to foreigners. He wants to see your passport at every street corner, even if you only halt to buy a bun. He marches into your room at an hotel with his hat on, and he only rarely gives the usual salutation. Without invitation he helps himself to any food lying about. As you do not know Japanese and he does not know English, you talk by the means of a conversation book. He will pitch the passport loose across the room instead of returning it to its envelope. His whole manner is perky, conceited, and aggressive. He is not nice.

We are unwilling to deal harshly with Mr. Fraser, but the only possible comment on his account of the Japanese policeman is that it is a tissue of libels. There are six emphatic falsehoods in Mr. Fraser's short paragraph. The Japanese policeman does not "make all the folks bow as he goes by." He does not "want to see your passport at every street corner." He does not "without invitation help himself to any food lying about your room at an hotel." He does not "pitch the passport loose across the room instead of returning it to its envelope." His whole manner "is not perky, conceited, and aggressive." All these assertions are the exact opposite of the truth. We do not think it would be possible to find a more polite and obliging individual than the Japanese policeman invariably shows himself in his dealings with foreigners. We have known him ever since he came into existence more than a quarter of a century ago, and never once, not even once, have we observed him make any approach to the conduct of which Mr. Fraser accuses him. The epithets deservedly applicable to his behaviour are "helpful, kindly, and deferential." We are not speaking of his manner of arresting inebriated or riotous liberty men. As to that part of his career we frankly confess ourselves without any direct experience. What we speak of is his behaviour under the circumstances alluded to by Mr. John Foster Fraser, and we declare that the writer in *Cassell's* could not have penned a falser or a crueller libel. It is really too bad that a flying tourist, merely for the sake of making piquant and saleable copy, should slander a class of Japanese officials who merit the praise and gratitude of foreigners. What right has Mr. John Foster Fraser to publish a tissue of smartly phrased falsehoods which can only have the effect of injuring the relations between foreigners residing in Japan and the people of the country, and which depict the Japanese policeman in the falsest possible light? This manner of manufacturing copy is simply fraudulent. No other term properly describes it.

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.

In connexion with the subject of the effective spirit of saving in Japan, the *Kokumin Shimbun* publishes the following comparative table showing the figures relating to post-office savings banks in various countries:—

Year.	Country.	Percentage of Depositors.	Average amount per Depositor.
1898	Belgium	22.77	144 Yen
1897	England	18 99	158 Yen
1897	Holland	12.54	79 Yen
1895	Italy	9·73	62 Yen
1896	Sweden	9 02	59 Yen
1897	France	7·51	113 Yen
1899	Japan	2 93	17 Yen

The system of post-office savings banks was inaugurated in Japan in 1875, in England in 1861, in Belgium in 1865, in Holland in 1876, in Sweden in 1883, and in France in 1881. Japan certainly makes a poor showing in this list. That the amount of deposit per head should be comparatively small would not be surprising, but it is disheartening to find that only 293 persons are depositors out of every ten thousand of the population, whereas the smallest number in any of the European countries employing the system is 751.

DEATH OF COUNTESS HIJIKATA.

We regret to announce the death of Countess Hijikata, which took place on the 15th instant at 5 p.m. The deceased lady was in her sixty-third year. Her illness had not been long, but its hopeless nature was recognised from the first. During Count Hijikata's long tenure of office as Minister of the Imperial Household, the Countess discharged her social duties with hospitality and assiduity that were the subject of general comment. Her death is referred to in feeling terms by the leading Tokyo journals.

The remains of Countess Hijikata were interred at Somei on the afternoon of the 20th instant. A desire having been publicly expressed that the obsequies should be as free as possible from ostentation, the number of floral tributes was not remarkably large, but very handsome bouquets were sent by their Imperial Highnesses Princes Komatsu, Arisugawa, and Fushimi. Among those who followed the bier were Marquis Ito, Marquis Saigo, Viscount Aoki, Count Inouye, Prince Konoye, Prince Tokugawa, Admiral Yamamoto, Viscount Tani, Mr. Shibusawa, Mr. Hoshi, the Representatives of Russia, America, and Italy, the Ladies of the Imperial Household, and many other notables.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

Amount received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, on account of the Lord Mayor's fund for the widows and orphans of the officers and men of Her Majesty's forces who may lose their lives from the war in South Africa.

Sums previously acknowledged.	£60.10 0
" " .....Yen 11 996 75	
R. Masujima.....	100 00
Bishop Fyson	50.00
M. Engert	25 00
Old Sailor	20.00
Girls High School, per Maydie E. Cahusac.....	10 55
	Yen 12.202.30
	£60.10.0

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JAPANESE FINANCE.

In a speech recently delivered at an entertainment to welcome some returning officials of the Finance Department and bid farewell to some others departing for Europe and America, Mr. Sakatani made some interesting statements. He explained that the amount to be raised this year, under the *post-bellum* programme, is 32 million *yen*. Of that total, 10 millions will be furnished by the Deposits Bureau, and 6½ million will come from the Bank of Formosa. Thus there will remain only 15½ millions to be provided, and as considerable sums have to be carried over from last year's appropriations, on account of unfinished works, no difficulty is anticipated in financing the remainder by recourse to the domestic market. The money will be applied chiefly to railway construction and to the building and equipping of the Iron Foundry.

Concerning the currency, Mr. Sakatani, considered that the system was now established on a solid basis. Since the adoption of gold monometallism the quantity of the precious metals in Japan had undoubtedly become larger, owing to the fact that gold was drawn hither from China and Korea. Against a volume of 200 million *yen* of convertible notes, the Treasury held a hard-money reserve of 100 millions, which was more than ample for all purposes. The South-African war and exceptional tradal conditions had recently caused an exodus of specie, but that was a temporary incident which need not cause any uneasiness.

FUNERAL OF MRS. IWASAKI.

The funeral of Mrs. Iwasaki took place on the 18th instant in very unfavourable weather, rain falling incessantly and the temperature being unseasonably low. The attendance was nevertheless enormous. The line of vehicles must have extended nearly two miles, and in spite of climatic deterrents the streets through which the cortege passed were lined thickly with spectators. Baron Iwasaki Yanosuke, nephew of the deceased, and Baron Iwasaki Hisaya, her grandson, were the chief mourners, and among those that followed the bier were Marquis Saigo, Mr. Okuma Hidemaro (representing Count Okuma), Count Itagaki, Count Matsukata, Viscount Tani, Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, Mr. Soma, Mr. Amenomiya, Mr. Kato, Mr. Takahashi, Mr. R. Irwin, Mr. S. Dun, Mr. Howard, Mr. Kirkwood, Mr. J. Conder, Messrs. T.B. and A. Glover, Captain J. M. James, Mr. W. B. Mason, Captain Brinkley, and many other residents of the capital, official and private. The procession started from the house of Baron Iwasaki Hisaya precisely at the appointed hour and reached the family vault at Somei a little before three o'clock. Admirable arrangements had been made, and owing to the spaciousness of the grounds surrounding the vault and the perfect organization, the great crowd of vehicles passed, one by one, to their appointed places without the slightest hitch, while the mourners repaired to large edifices erected for the purposes of the ceremony. The service was chaunted by about fifty Buddhist priests, the principal of whom pronounced a warm and sympathetic funeral oration in memory of the deceased lady, whose noble character had won universal esteem.

FORMOSA.

Baron Kodama, Governor-General of Formosa, seems to be satisfied with the progress of events in that island. Speaking to a representative of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, he said that five years had elapsed since Japan acquired Formosa and two since he became Governor. It was now possible to assert that the perennial disturbers of the peace had been completely quelled in the Taipeh and Gilan districts, though they still gave same trouble elsewhere. The great difficulty experienced by the Japanese had been to distinguish between rebels and peaceful subjects. The former, by a clever system of terrorism, induced the latter to protect and conceal them, so that the police were much perplexed. Naturally it had been supposed at the outset that the bandits would chiefly have their retreats in out-of-the-way places. But experience had shown that such was by no means the case. They frequented the districts where opportunities of plunder were most available, and respectable people gave them asylum for the sake of escaping their extortions. The literati had been prominent offenders. Retaining always a conviction that Japan's tenure of Formosa would be only temporary, and that everything calculated to embarrass her was patriotic, they did not hesitate to encourage the bandits and assist in concealing them. The Governor-General is persuaded, however, that the political views of the literati have undergone a radical change. They see now that Japan has come to stay, and that their interest lies in assisting to secure public peace and good order. Thus the prospects have greatly improved.

Mr. Soyeda, President of the Bank of Formosa, says that the Japanese do not show the spirit of enterprise very strongly in the matter of going abroad in quest of fortune. Formosa is only now beginning to attract men of the better classes, and they do not come provided with capital at all adequate for entering into competition with the Chinese or the foreign residents of the island. The number of foreign residents is comparatively small, but the business done by them is on a large scale; altogether above the heads of the Japanese. It must be confessed, however, that the state of affairs represented by Mr. Soyeda himself is not calculated to encourage immigrants. He says that the rate of interest charged by the Japanese for loans to each other is not lower than 60 per cent. annually, and is sometimes as high as 120 per cent., whereas the Chinese lend to each other at rates varying from 5 per cent. to 12 per cent. Apparently usury of the most extreme kind is the order of the day among the Japanese. Yet, after all, what Mr. Soyeda describes is only a replica of the state of affairs in Tokyo, where the Japanese Shylock exacts his sixty per cent. without flinching, and will take his pound of flesh into the bargain. The Bank of Formosa gives accommodation at 3 *sen* daily (10.95 per cent.), but other banks charge 8 *sen* (29.20 per cent.). House rent, too, is enormously high where Japanese are concerned. The usual rate is a *yen* per month for a space of one mat. Hence, for a little house measuring 15ft. by 25ft. one has to pay 30 *yen* monthly. The scale of living is proportionately extravagant among the Japanese, whereas the Chinese not only live economically but also are not subjected to any high charges for rent, since they own their own houses. Under such circumstances it is difficult to understand how there can be any prospect of successful business competition with the Chinese.

The bidding for the camphor monopoly in Formosa is expected to be very keen. In spite of somewhat onerous conditions —namely, 100,000 *yen* to be lodged as guarantee money, and security to be given to the extent of 1,800,000 *yen*, there are already 25 applicants in the field, including many eminent foreign firms; as Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, Messrs. Otto Reimers and Company, &c. Among the Japanese we find the names of the Mitsui firm, the Okura firm, the Sumitomo firm, the Daito firm, the Takata firm, and many others. The competition turns on the figure at which the camphor is offered for sale in the market. The firm which undertakes to sell it at the lowest price will obtain the concession. It is nevertheless expected that large profits will accrue to the successful monopolist.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The increased import duties levied under the Revised Treaties do not appear to have checked the incoming of foreign goods. They were not, of course, intended to have any such effect, but many people feared that such a heavy addition to taxation must work injuriously. Last year, owing probably to large importations made in 1898 in anticipation of the operation of the new tariff, exports showed signs of growing to something like equality with imports, and people who still afflict themselves about "the balance of trade" began to recover their equanimity. But this season the old tendency to preponderance on the side of imports is asserting itself very strongly. During the first half of the present month, the exports from Yokohama and Kobe were 6,335,122 *yen*, and the imports 11,961,886 *yen*, there being thus an excess of 5,626,764 *yen* on the side of imports. The customs returns show that the outflow of specie during the 15 days was 1,764,853 *yen*, but it is stated that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has just exchanged notes to the value of some five million *yen* at the Bank of Japan and that a corresponding exit of gold will be soon witnessed. The imports include 4,730,000 *yen* worth of raw cotton, a large part of which will doubtless be worked up into yarn for export, but that fact does not appear to give much consolation to Japanese economists.

THE LATE MR. J. A. FRASER.

The news of the death of Mr. John Alexander Fraser, at Ealing, England, on the 15th inst., will occasion deep sorrow among a very wide circle of the foreign community of Yokohama. To few men is it given to win such a deep hold upon the affections of his fellow-men as Mr. Fraser won during his long residence in Japan, and to his widow and young family in England much sympathy will be extended in their great loss.

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THE GREAT HUNT.

The great hunting expedition, which is to take place round the base of Fuji-yama on the 1st and 2nd April, is said to have had its origin in kerosene oil. It is a curious connexion of ideas, but the explanation is simple. A certain Mr. Suwabe Ichinosuke discovered in the Fuji district indications of a kerosene well. He communicated the fact to Mr. Kimura Tadaichi, of Tokyo, who proceeded to the place, and, in the course of investigations, was so struck by the scenery and by what he heard about the prospects of finding game, that he recalled the celebrated *battues* of Yoritomo seven hundred years ago, and conceived the project of organizing something similar to-day. He put up 1,500 *yen* for the inevitable *undo-bi* (promotion expenses), and secured the hearty cöoperation of that ardent sportsman, Mr. Tomoji, of the House of Representatives, as well as that of Messrs. Haseba Junko, Ayai Takeo, and other prominent men. The public seems to have been caught by the project. It is said that subscriptions are pouring in, and that all the railways will give tickets at reduced rates. We read, also, that the archers of Fuji-gori in Shizuoka Prefecture have organized a band of 20 bow-men, who will compete with the carriers of guns. It is to be hoped that no human being will be mistaken for big game, but the affair appears to be assuming dimensions which had no parallel in the days of the Minamoto sportsmen.

A CURIOUS CHARGE.

In its issue of March 16th, the following accusation is preferred by the *Japan Herald* against this journal:—

The really pitiful extremities to which the editor of the *Mail* is reduced in his frantic desire to score against us, may be gauged from the fact that he does not hesitate to falsify a quotation from the *Herald*, in order to make it appear that we have been guilty of a grammatical slip, of which he alone is the unscrupulous author. The *Herald* originally wrote: * * * "The recent *success* of the British troops is apparently due to the glorious virtues of Her Majesty, though partially, no doubt, *it* may be, etc.," a perfectly correct construction. This, the *Mail*, in its dire distress, changes in this manner: "They represented the *Jiji Shimpo* as saying that the recent successes of the British troops '*are* apparently due to the glorious virtues of Her Majesty, though partially, no doubt, it (*sic*) may be attributed to the perfection of the plans adopted by the commanders in the field.'" A poor enough expedient, certainly, but of some interest in this connection, as unmistakeably revealing his inability to answer categorically the arguments of our correspondents, or the charges against himself.

If the *Japan Herald* turns to its issue of the 14th instant, it will find there the following:—

"We hear, the writer continues, that the Queen of England naturally pays great attention to the war, and (the following is a literal translation of the *Jiji's* high-flown style) *the recent successes of the British troops are apparently due to the glorious virtues of Her Majesty, though partially, no doubt, it may be attributed* to the perfection of the plans adopted by the Commanders in the field."

Our quotation, therefore, was absolutely correct. The *Japan Herald's* accussations that we are the "unscrupulous author" of its own blunders; that we have been driven to a "pitiful extremity," a "poor expedient," and so forth are amusingly false. Why does not the editor examine his columns before charging others with wilfully misquoting them? It is very entertaining, but we are prepared for such proceedings on the part of a newspaper which openly confesses that it sees nothing contrary to the canons of honest journalism in publishing in its correspondence column letters concocted in its own office over different *noms de plume* on the same subject in the same issue, and in subsequently allowing this plural correspondent to make use of the editorial columns and personate the editor as champion of the correspondents. Such a hi-presto dodge is quite unique—a member of a newspaper's staff transforms himself into a many-voiced public, writes letters to himself over various fictitious signatures, gets them inserted as communications coming from outsiders, and then, entering the editorial chair, makes use of the editorial "we" to defend his own correspondence. We believe that the history of newspaper enterprise might be searched in vain for a more bare-faced confession of journalistic fraud.

KOREA.

The conditions upon which the Korean Government has agreed to grant a concession of the Unsan Gold Mine to Mr. Pritchard Morgan are said to be three:—First, that mining operations shall be carried on for one year conjointly by the English concessionaire and the Koreans; secondly, that after that period the privilege shall be limited to the Englishman; and thirdly, that even after the conclusion of a year, Koreans shall be employed to work the mine. If the agreement secured on Mr. Morgan's behalf be of the nature here set forth, we do not see why there should have been so much hesitation in granting it. The English concessionaire would doubtless have been willing to accept such conditions from the outset.

The Fusan complication is rumoured to have been settled, Japan recalling two police officers and fining them, and the Fusan Consulate addressing a warning to the restaurant where the incident occurred. We need scarcely say that these terms are not viewed favourably by critics who, on the faith of stories coming from the Japanese side only, claim that the whole fault rested with the Russians. It is understood that Russia asked to have the two police officers dismissed and the restaurant closed. If so, she has been content with much less than she wanted.

It is stated that agents of Messrs. Holme, Ringer and Company in Nagasaki have proceeded to Masampo, with the intention of trying to purchase land there from its Japanese holders, in order to re-sell it to Russia. This design is denounced in very strong terms by a vernacular contemporary, but we do not detect its iniquity. If the Japanese that have purchased the land want to sell it, why should not the Russians buy it? We are reminded of the folks who rail against Mr. Chamberlain because a firm with which his brother is connected sold ammunition to the Boers before the South African war broke out. If that was wrong, then Messrs. Krupp and Company ought not to sell guns to China, and still less should England build war-vessels for Russia.

A telegram to the *Jiji Shimpo* from Söul announces that, on the 16th instant, three Russian war-vessels entered the harbour at Chemulpo, and on the 17th the Admiral in Command proceeded to Söul with a guard of marines, for the purpose of having audience of the Emperor.

THE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

The Committee entrusted with the duty of making arrangements in Tokyo for the commemoration of the Prince Imperial's wedding has decided that no subscription less than 1 *yen* shall be received. Persons subscribing 500 *yen* or upwards will be honorary members of committee; 100 *yen* or upwards will constitute a title to special membership, and 10 *yen* will make an ordinary member. The 1 *yen* limit will exclude a great many willing contributors.

It is expected that the marriage of the Crown Prince will take place on the 9th of May. No definite programme seems to have been elaborated as yet with regard to the nature of the celebration or the method that will be adopted by the people to commemorate it. The only statement as yet circulated is that there will be a grand ball at the Palace on the third day after the wedding.

For some time opinion was divided between a place of public entertainment (*Kokaido*) and an art museum as the better monument in commemoration of the wedding of the Prince Imperial. It has been finally decided, however, that the latter project is the more advisable, and the approval of the Imperial Household Department seems to have been obtained. An association calling itself *Togu-gokeiji Hoshuku-kai* has been formed with Baron Senge, Governor of Tokyo, and Mr. Masuda, Mayor of the city, at its head. Its offices are to be in the Tokyo Municipal Building, and due notice will doubtless be given as to the proper method of forwarding subscriptions. The present plan is to erect a museum covering an area of 300 *tsubo* (a quarter of an acre) at a cost of 350,000 *yen*, but the programme will be increased if a larger sum is forthcoming. Nothing is said as to the manner of furnishing the museum, though that part of the undertaking will be far the more difficult. We should like to know, also, in connexion with this matter, what is to be the fate of the fine pile of buildings formerly occupied by the Engineering College. Years ago they were handed over to the Household Department for the purpose of making an Imperial Museum, but nothing has been done in the way of carrying out that aim. Could not these buildings be brought into the present scheme?

THE QUEEN'S THANKS.

The following letter has been sent to us for publication:—

SIR,—Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs has been commanded by my gracious Sovereign Her Majesty the Queen to convey to you her thanks for your kind message of congratulation on the occasion of the recent victory of Her Majesty's forces in South Africa, and I have accordingly much pleasure in acquainting you with Her Majesty's appreciation of your cordial sympathy.

I take this opportunity to offer you the assurance of my high consideration.

ERNEST SATOW,
H B.M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

SHOSUKE KODAMA,
Member of the House of Peers of the Imperial Diet.

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CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

We have been in the habit of looking with surprise and pleasure at the rapid development of Japan's foreign trade, but the record in China's case begins to be worthy of scarcely less admiration. In the Report just published by the Imperial Maritime Customs, we find it stated that the trade during 1899 was "characterised by an astonishing development," and that "merchants, both foreign and native, made handsome profits in almost every branch." The total trade reached the great figure of 460,533,288 Tls., being an increase of 91,916,805 Tls. as compared with the figure for 1898, and being more than double of the figure for 1890. In short, the trade grew by over a hundred per cent. in ten years. The customs revenue, of course, increased proportionately, reaching an aggregate of 26,661,460 Tls., or 4,158,063 Tls. more than the sum collected in 1898. That result is specially fortunate at the present juncture, when China has to devote such large sums to the payment of interest and sinking fund on account of her foreign debt.

We observe that the import duties collected represent only 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, on the average. Some prominence is given to the fact, doubtless in view of the attempts the Chinese Government is now making to obtain a revision of the tariff. The proposals put forward for that purpose do not extend to any nominal increase of duties, but merely contemplate arrangements such as shall secure the levying of the five per cent. fixed by the treaties. If the change be effected, it will make a considerable difference in the income derived by China, for whereas she now collects only 6,356,623 Tls. on an import trade of 228,955,688 Tls., she would collect 11,447,794 Tls. were the rate 5 per cent.

It is not probable that Chinese statesmen give themselves much concern about that ancient bugbear, the balance of trade. If they did, they would have cause for distress, since the country's imports, last year, aggregated 264¾ million Tls., whereas the exports totalled only 195¾ millions, the excess on the side of imports being 69 millions. Indeed, if we add up the figures for China's foreign trade during the 13-year period, 1887 to 1899, we find that whereas imports totalled 2,099 millions of Tls., exports aggregated only 1,603 millions. Not once during the whole of that period was the "balance of trade" in China's favour, and it would appear that she must have parted with specie to the value of 496 millions of Taels in 13 years. But she does not appear to have been at all inconvenienced by the performance, not having any gold monometallic standard to embarrass her.

Much of the increased prosperity shown by the above figures is attributed by the Report to the development of means of communication. We quote:—

> The internal trade of the country was also unusually brisk, and the important changes which will be brought about by the extension of railways have already been proved. Newchwang and Tientsin have promptly responded to the stimulus of better means of communication, and the trade at those ports has leapt forward, although the former suffered from a severe outbreak of plague. It is found that immediately trains begin to run, districts through which there was comparatively little traffic, such as between Paoting and Peking, suddenly commence to hum with life and activity, and there springs up a flourishing trade which was formerly undreamt of and impossible for want of cheap transport. The Russian line has been completed as far north as Moukden, and the extraordinary richness of Manchuria will soon become evident. The Lu-Han Railway, from Peking to Hankow, makes steady progress. Within six months it is expected that trains will be running as far south as Chingting. The difficulties in the southern section, where extensive tunnelling is required, make construction slower there, but rails have been laid for 40 kilomètres northwards from Hankow, the track is now being made as far as Sinyang—to which place it is hoped to run trains within two years,—and the whole line of 1,200 kilomètres is to be completed in five years, including the difficult engineering feat of bridging the Yellow River. The line between Taku, Tientsin, and Peking continues to advance in prosperity, and the extension beyond Shanhaikwan towards Newchwang is being rapidly pushed forward. Yingkon, the real port of Newchwang, will shortly be connected by rail with the capital. Difficulties regarding the question of control are hampering the concessionaires of various other lines, but it is to be hoped these will soon be satisfactorily arranged, as there is no longer any doubt that the effect of cheap transport will lead to an enormous development of China's trade.

Elsewhere the writer says:—

> It is true that the trade, when the possibilities are considered, is of small dimensions; but the future is distinctly bright, if the results to be expected from the coming railways are calculated. The Chinese, from highest to lowest, are traders by instinct and are prompt to take advantage of every opportunity of profit. To form an idea of what future prospects are it is fair to make a comparison with India. The areas of the two Empires are almost identical and their products very similar. But China has a larger, a more industrious, and more intelligent population; while, on the whole, the country is probably more fertile and possesses greater mineral resources. In the former country trade is assisted by good roads, railways, and lightness or absence of taxation; in the latter, at present, it is hampered by directly opposite conditions. The result is that the exports from India are worth three times the exports from China. With equal opportunities, which the building of railways and opening of mines will bring about, this discrepancy should disappear. The year 1899 has shown in a striking manner what an advance is made when circumstances are propitious.

The growth of Japan's trade with China is very satisfactory. In 1892, it totalled 14,756,034 Tls.; in 1899, the figure was 53,147,889 Tls. It is true that the total for 1899 includes the trade with Formosa, of which the value was 5,149,656 Tls.; but if we make that reduction, the trade with Japan proper in 1899 still represents 47,998,633 Tls., or more than three times the amount in 1892. We take from the Tables the figures relating to imports of Japanese manufactured goods, which are highly suggestive:—

MANUFACTURED GOODS IMPORTED FROM JAPAN TO CHINA.

	1898.		1899.	
	Quantity.	Value. Tls.	Quantity.	Value. Tls.
Shirtings...	5,732	14,170	8 630	19,292
T-Cloths...	103,663	198,447	242 652	446,726
Drills	1,065	2,632	9 577	26,384
Sheetings..	6,601	15,210	31,820	84,409
Handkerchiefs ...	doz. 17,745	7,967	doz. 21,739	9,949
Towels ...	191,945	78,975	209 062	96,802
Cotton Flannel..	pieces. 56,835	79 301	pieces. 176,676	272,633
Cotton Cloth ...	151,329	103 716	181,016	135.055
Cotton Crape ...	44,462	36,270	73 069	66,285
Cotton Yarns ...	piculs. 485,244	10,383,716	piculs. 779,700	16,901,045

Indian yarns still sell in larger quantities than Japanese, but the latter appear to be rapidly catching them up. Thus we find that the imports of Indian yarns for 1898 and 1899, respectively, were 1,399,930 piculs (value 26,832,302 Tls.) and 1,906,426 piculs (value 36,371,170 Tls.); an increase of 26 per cent. in quantity against 60 per cent. in Japan's case. There are no figures relating to yarns spun in China, but the Report thinks it "probable that the local mills will gradually get the better of their foreign rivals." That is an important consideration for Japan. And there is one obvious reason for the prediction in the fact that "the yarn made from Chinese cotton is much whiter than the Indian yarn and obtains better prices," so that the Japanese are obliged to import raw cotton from China to mix with Indian.

THE LAST WATCH.

(An incident of the battle of Graspan.)

Major Plumbe of the Royal Marine Light Infantry had a pet terrier dog who followed him through the fiercest fire imaginable, and who was found, six hours after the fight, guarding his master's dead body.—

"Goodbye, my dearest dog, my faithful Tip"
He faltered—as in accents low and kind,
And swimming eye, and pale and trembling lip
Before he left—he gave one look behind.

"Goodbye, goodbye, old dog," he breathed again.
"For where I go,—old friend, you must not come."
And with these words, he strode across the plain
Dreaming his last sad dreams of Love and Home.

Mid cannon's roar, and rifles' deaf'ning crack.
One has but little thought of woe or weal;
But once Tip's Master gave a quick glance back,
And smiled, to see Tip trotting at his heel.

The Kopje's stormed, fierce raged that dreadful fight.
They gain the top at last with British yell!
With one last piercing cry for "Queen and Right,"
One prayer—one thought—one groan—
Tip's master fell!

The battle's o'er;—while there beneath the skies,
The hero's life blood stains the dark earth red.
In Death's grim agony Tip's master lies;—
But trusty Tip is watching by his head.

Ah! loving faithful Tip! He licks the hair
That clotted lies upon the noble brow;
And raises on those features once so fair,
A wan faint smile in that dark hour of woe.

He feebly strokes Tip's round and silky head;
The effort's great;—and with a last low groan,
The Hero murmurs—as he sinks back dead,
"I thank Thee, God—I do not die alone."

The hours drag on, and midst the broken cries
Are mingled raging wind and beating rain.
Yet, when at length Dawn glimmered in the skies,
The terrier still stood guard beside the slain!

E. M. D'A.

An Australian cyclist, Mr. A. Richardson, has just completed one of the longest and probably the most difficult bicycle rides in the world, a journey round Australia, 11,000 miles. He travelled about 100 miles a day.

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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

There are now six foreign medical practitioners in Tokyo who have received Japanese diplomas.

It is announced that the Italian Consul in Yokohama will in future be charged with the care of Roumanian interests in Japan.

Prince Tokugawa, the last of the *Shōguns*, was present at a dinner given by His Imperial Highness Prince Arisugawa on the 17th instant to His Royal Highness Prince Waldemar of Denmark.

The Bank of Japan has raised its rate of interest by .2 per cent. all round, and has also announced its intention of charging interest on over-drafts although they may be cleared before the evening of the day on which they are made.

A collision took place at Aichi on the 20th instant, between a train on the Kansei Railway and a number of empty carriages standing in the station. Nine persons were severely injured, and there were several minor hurts.

A statement is circulating in Tokyo that a fire occurred last month in the workshops of Lord Armstrong and Company, and that, in consequence, the completion of the armament of the *Asahi* will be delayed. We have not heard of this event from other sources.

News has been received by telegraph that the Russian Authorities in Vladivostock have decided to impose a tax of 1,000 *yen* annually on every warehouse for storing tea. The intelligence is somewhat vaguely transmitted, but it apparently admits of no other construction.

The Osaka arsenal has just completed the building of a 27-cent. Canet gun. It is to be tried on the 22nd instant, in the presence of Marquis Oyama and Viscount Katsura. The Arsenal has also constructed a rifled mortar of similar calibre. These are the largest pieces hitherto turned out at Osaka.

The line-of-battle ship *Shikishima* left Colombo for Japan on the 19th instant, and is expected to reach this country by the 4th or 5th of April. The torpedo-catcher *Usugumo* is also reported to have left Malta on the same day, and the *Niji* was expected to arrive there about the 22nd or 23rd.

It is expected that the Hawaiian Authorities will very soon remove the embargo imposed upon food stuffs imported from Japan. The embargo applies generally to food stuffs coming from any Oriental port, but Japan is likely to be excepted, as she has succeeded in stamping out the Pest.

The *Riusei Maru*, belonging to the Futayama Shokai, went ashore off the Shantung Promontory on the 15th instant, while on a voyage from Yokkaichi to Wei-hai-wei *viâ* Kobe and Moji, with a cargo of cement and sundries. A British man-of-war from Wei-hai-wei came to her assistance, and she reached her destination on the 18th.

The project of a free library in Tokyo, started by Messrs. Greene, Soper, Honda, Fukuoka, White, Sano, Lloyd and others, seems to have taken definite shape. A meeting has been held, and all the preliminaries are understood to have been arranged. The capital fund is to be two hundred thousand *yen*.

A terrible accident is reported from Kure Dockyard. During a gale of wind on the 14th instant, a tall iron chimney, which had just been erected and was receiving a coat of paint, collapsed, and, falling on the roof of No. 5 workshop, caused the death of 9 men, the severe injury of 2, and the slight injury of several. Twelve men who were engaged in painting the chimneys seem to have escaped unhurt.

It is observed that foreigners have not submitted for the approval of the Educational Department any readers for use in Japanese schools. Formerly the Department would not have been at liberty to accept works thus presented, but that restriction was withdrawn in October last. Very likely the fact of its withdrawal has escaped general attention; otherwise we imagine that some enterprising foreigner would have tried his hand at work of such a promising character.

We stated in a recent issue that, according to rumour, the arrest of a Formosan bandit chief had been effected by Japanese police in the interior of Fuhkien, and we expressed incredulity that anything of the kind should have occurred. It now appears that the man was apprehended by the Chinese local authorities at Japanese request, and that he was handed over to the Japanese in deference to comity, since the two Empires have not concluded any extradition treaty.

A strike is reported among the students in the *Otani Gakurin* of the Eastern Hongwan-ji. It appears that, owing to some complication, 32 students were expelled at the beginning of this month. The others took umbrage at this proceeding, and, on the 14th instant, some 300 absented themselves, leaving only about a score of fifth-year students to continue the work of the school. It should be mentioned, perhaps, that this is a divinity school.

It is stated that the question of compensation for losses incurred in connexion with the recent sanitary measures in Hawaii will be settled by striking an average value for the property destroyed, the aggregate value of each block of ten houses being divided by 10 to obtain the value of a single house. There should not be anything to complain about in such an arrangement. The Hawaiian Authorities, it is said, had long been anxious to clear away the quarter of the town which they took this opportunity of destroying.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* is convinced of the sincerity of the Czar's desire to preserve peace, but our contemporary finds difficulty in reconciling that desire with the steps that Russia is taking to increase her military forces in the Far East, and with the tone of some of the Russian journals. The latter have of late written as though a conflict between their country and Japan were inevitable, and it can not be said that a conviction of the necessity of fighting is consistent with a resolve to keep the peace.

In consequence of the death of Baron Yamada, President of the Board of Audit, some changes in the personnel of local governors are said to be imminent. Mr. Utsumi Tadakatsu, now Governor of Kyoto, will be appointed to succeed Baron Yamada, and will be succeeded in the governorship of Kyoto by Mr. Takasaki Chikaakira, Governor of Miyagi. Mr. Nomura Masaaki, Governor of Gifu, goes to Miyagi, and Mr. Tanaka Takamichi, Police Inspector, becomes Governor of Gifu.

Judge Takano has appealed to the Court of Cassation against the judgment recently rendered by the Tokyo Court of Appeal. It appears that the latter judgment did not cover the main question, namely, the liability of the Minister of Finance to re-imburse Judge Takano's salary after his removal from office by an order of the Governor-General of Formosa. The judgment was only what is called *chiukan hanketsu*, that is to say, a ruling on a collateral point of law. If perseverance really has any reward, some measure of success ought to attend Judge Takano's efforts.

The ceremony of granting certificates of graduation to pupils of the Tokyo Marine College took place on the 17th instant, Prince Arisugawa presiding. Nineteen certificates were handed to students of navigation and thirteen to students of engineering. This college was originally founded by the late Mr. Iwasaki Yataro for the purpose of educating men to serve in the Mitsu Bishi fleet. It is now in the hands of the Communications Department. Since 1896 its dimensions have proved insufficient, and ground is being prepared at Etchiujima for an edifice on a larger scale.

Good work has already been done by the Society formed some time ago in Japan, calling itself *Zenrin Yakusho-in*, and having for its object the translation and circulation in China of books calculated to promote progress and to further friendly relations between the two empires. It has translated a history of the Restoration in Japan, a history of national literature, a record of the organization of the Japanese police system and other works, and has also succeeded in obtaining copyright from a number of Taotai in the large cities of southern and central China. Stores are to be opened for the sale of the books first in Shanghai and afterwards in other places.

Mr. "Miyake Setsurei" does not endorse the sarcasm indulged in by a writer in the *Nippon* with reference to the reception that should be given to the bones of Buddha, which are soon to come from Siam. Apparently he would have them welcomed with all pomp and ceremony. That is how the great majority of Japanese Buddhists feel, we imagine. A liberal allowance of religious emotionalism is required in order to become enthusiastic about apocryphal fragments of a Saint's corpse; but we can imagine how Christians would behave under circumstances analogous with those of these Siamese relics.

We mentioned in a previous issue that a project is on foot to start a free library in Tokyo, and that a number of prominent missionaries and Japanese philanthropists are connected with the scheme. There is also a movement for organizing a circulating library. The promoters are Mr. Makoshi Kyohei (of the Yebisu Beer Company), Mr. Kuroda Tsunahiko, Mr. Igarashi Kosho, and others. Their idea is to take for model such institutions as

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those of Smith and Mudie, and to have officers in all the principal towns and former foreign settlements. The charge for borrowing a book would be 25 *sen* a month, or 50 *sen* in special cases. We doubt whether the scheme is not premature. Certainly the foreign supporters would not be numerous.

The effective desire of wealth is considered to be discouragingly deficient in Japan, says the *Kokumin Shimbun*. Doubtless one reason is that, owing to the low standard of living, the incentive to economy is not powerful. Recent statistics show that the number of depositors in the post-office savings banks is 1,234,900; or an average of 9.732 per cent of the population. The total amount deposited at the time of compiling the statistics—December, 1898—was 21,868,557 *yen*, being an average of 48.4 *sen* per head of population; or of 2.42 *yen* per family of 5 persons. This is certainly not a brilliant showing. The people of Shinano Prefecture head the list; Tokyo comes second, and Kumamoto is the worst of all.

It is insisted by the *Jiji Shimpo* that the only wise and practical course for Tokyo to take is to raise a municipal loan for purposes of city improvement. According to the present fiscal regulations, the aggregate sum obtainable by taxation is half a million *yen* annually. A moiety of this amount goes to pay interest and sinking fund on the money borrowed for constructing the water-works, and other liabilities reduce the remainder so that only 147,000 *yen* is available for improvements. Obviously an interminable time would be required to complete the work on that basis. The best plan, therefore, is to float a loan of two million *yen*, and devote the yearly income to interest and amortization. Such is the *Jiji's* advice. But what can be accomplished with two million *yen*?

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a strong article advocating Government assistance for projects connected with the construction of railways in China by Japanese experts. It is pointed out that one of the chief conditions exacted by foreign powers when they obtain spheres of influence in China is that, in the event of recourse being had to foreign capital for the building of railways in the district concerned, material shall be purchased and experts procured from the country that has secured the "sphere." Unless Japan gives practical effect of a similar nature to her title in Fuhkien, she will certainly be left behind in the race. Our contemporary is persuaded that she ought to have the building of all the roads connecting the main line with the principal ports, as Amoy, Fuchow, and so on.

It is journalistically stated that the vehement discussions which took place in the committee entrusted with the duty of revising the Criminal Code have at length been brought to a conclusion, and that the draft of the revised code is now ready for submission to the Diet. There were hopes that it would have been submitted during the 14th session, but the Committee found it impossible to complete the draft in time. The Code of Criminal Procedure has now to be revised. We observe with regret that an opinion is said to prevail in judicial circles against allowing counsel at preliminary investigations. There is strong reason to believe that much injustice is wrought under the present system, and that publicity of procedure from the outset, as well as the employment of counsel, are the best and only correctives.

The Minister of State for Education has issued an instruction for the guidance of the faculties of all schools, public and private, of the middle and junior grades. The matter in question is the method of enforcing the law recently enacted against the use of tobacco by youths under the age of twenty. Count Kabayama is of opinion that needless trouble and friction would be caused by attempting to discriminate between lads of under or over twenty, and that as a youth of more than twenty in very seldom found in a middle or primary school, the best plan will be to forbid the use of tobacco altogether in such institutions. His Excellency adds that the drinking of *sake* and the frequenting of *yose-seki* (penny-theatres) must also be interdicted, but further instructions will be issued with regard to these points.

There are 5,645 telephones established in Tokyo, and there are 5,641 applications waiting to be satisfied. It is a constant subject of complaint and astonishment that the Authorities can not contrive to meet the wishes of applicants with some semblance of expedition. Among the 5,641 persons now waiting to be provided with telephonic facilities, 1,700 will be supplied during the course of the present year; 2,200 may expect to get their machines by the end of 1901, and the remainder, some 1,800, will have to wait until 1902. It is a most extraordinary showing. Eight years have elapsed, if we remember rightly, since a telephonic exchange was established in Tokyo, and yet it has not been found possible to furnish telephones to more than 6,000 persons.

A great deal is said and written about the value of North-China markets to Japanese cotton manufacturers, but the returns of the Imperial Maritime Customs—just received—for the last quarter of 1899, do not show much evidence that Japan's trade is expanding in these districts. We take out some figures:—

IMPORTS OF JAPANESE COTTON YARNS.

	1896. Piculs.	1897. Piculs.	1898 Piculs.	1899. Piculs.
Newchwang ...	180	8,520	5,697	8,626
Tientsin.....	0	0	0	0
Chefoo	8,847	19,770	58,164	10,617

These figures are certainly not particularly encouraging. The record for Indian yarns is as follows:—

IMPORTS OF INDIAN COTTON YARNS.

	1896. Piculs.	1897. Piculs.	1898. Piculs.	1899. Piculs.
Newchwang ...	29,766	52,778	60,121	53,094
Tientsin.....	62,304	30,582	50,275	30,585
Chefoo	32,383	10,849	7,970	2,770

In Newchwang alone does the market for Indian yarns show any sign of improvement. Turning to yarns manufactured in China, we have the following:—

IMPORTS OF YARNS MANUFACTURED IN CHINA

	1896 Piculs.	1897. Piculs.	1898. Piculs.	1899 Piculs.
Newchwang.....	0	3,501	5,202	4,875
Tientsin	0	0	0	0
Chefoo	30	1,266	3,836	45

The complications connected with the Yokohama fore-shore reclamation scheme do not seem to have yet terminated. It was arranged between the Yokohama party, who applied first for the concession, and the Oyamada party, who obtained it, that the latter should give the former 25,000 *tsubo* of the reclaimed land, but that only 10,000 *tsubo* should actually be in land, the other 15,000 *tsubo* being commuted for a payment of 15,000 *yen*. The money fell due on the 15th instant, but it is stated that the Oyamada folks were not ready to pay it, and that they have obtained an extension of time by getting a bank to endorse their promissory note. That part of the matter was easy enough to arrange, but the great difficulty is that nothing definite can yet be done about the land, for owing to irregularities connected with the Oyamada application, permission to commence the work is witheld. The *Asahi Shimbun*, from which we take these details, says that the fore-shore affair made its debut as a scandal and its exit seems likely to be of the same character.

Some Japanese military authorities have been lamenting the defective physique of their countrymen. Lieut.-General Kawamura says that it is necessary to provide a specially short, light rifle for the troops, since they can not carry or use one of ordinary dimensions. Colonel Yokoi remarks that there is a striking difference between the sea-coast population of the country and the inhabitants of the cities. The Seven Islands of Izu appear to furnish the best men Japan has. Recruiting statistics show that 33.4 per cent. of the islanders attain a stature of 5ft. 2ins. and upwards, whereas the figure for the denizens of the Nihonbashi district of Tokyo is only 14.2. The Kyobashi district is a little better, owing to the presence of a number of mechanics. In the capital the best men physically are those connected with horses, and next to them come the boatmen. Worst of all are the students of middle-school grade or higher. Their physique is inferior even to that of actors and professional musicians or story-tellers. That is a very grave fact. It shows that the nation's scholastic efforts are over-taxing its strength.

It is stated that the President of the United States has given his assent to the new Currency Bill. We have no intelligence as to whether any or all the proposed amendments were included in the Bill before it emerged from the hands of the Senate, but the point is not of paramount importance, for the main amendment, which was obviously intended to soothe the bimetallists, could not have produced any practical effect. The amendment declared that the provisions of the Bill were not intended to place any obstacle in the path of accomplishing international bimetallism, provided that concurrent action on the part of the leading commercial nations of the world could be secured, and provided that a ratio could be found insuring permanence of relative value between gold and silver. Neither of these conditions seems likely to be satisfied in the near or the distant future, so that the amendment becomes a meaningless sop. It is claimed by those in charge of the Bill that its provisions would not in any way interfere with the legal tender quality of the standard silver dollar, but the friends of silver were anxious, at the date of last detailed advices, to have a clause inserted, specifically declaring that no interference was intended. It is probable that they have succeeded. People will be at liberty to use either the 412.5 grains silver dollar or the 25.8

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grains gold dollar in making payments, but there is no concealing the fact that the effect of the Bill is to turn America's feet definitely into the route of gold monometallism.

The German Admiral in command on the Far Eastern Station was received in audience by the Emperor on the 20th instant at 10.30 a.m., Count Leyden introducing him.

The eminent Buddhist prelate, Mr. Shaku Soyen, Chief Abbot of the temple Yengaku-ji at Kamakura, which is the principal place of worship of the *Rinzai-shu*, a branch of the *Zen* Sect, goes to America by invitation next July, and will lecture at Harvard University on the Great Vehicle. He enjoys the reputation of being gifted with remarkable eloquence, but how much of that quality can survive the ordeal of translation into a foreign tongue we dare not anticipate. There is nothing more lame or halting than one of these lectures where each of an orator's periods is repeated by an assistant speaking in a different language.

The old agitation in favour of changing the time of the Diet's session seems to have been revived, and the Liberals are said to be advocating the change. When the Diet is convened at the fall of the year, it loses at least a fortnight of its allotted three months in consequence of having to adjourn over the 1st of January. Evidently its working days would be more numerous if it assembled at some other season. But the public will naturally ask, are more working days required? The Diet makes so little use of the days already available that to increase them would be apparently superfluous. Last session, the House of Representatives not only confined itself to committee work day after day, but also reduced its hours to a minimum when it did assemble for debating purposes.

It is understood to be denied by the Naval Department that Japan agreed to transfer to the British Government certain guns ordered from Lord Armstrong and Company for her use. The telegrams have been very explicit on this point, but the Japanese Naval Authorities have no knowledge of the matter, and without their knowledge such an incident can scarcely have occurred. It is possible, they say, that the Company made some arrangements to suit its own convenience or the exigencies of the moment, but they were not arrangements of the definite character indicated by the telegrams, nor will they have the effect of delaying the completion of the armaments for Japanese vessels. There is, indeed, some difficulty in understanding how the transfer could have been effected, since guns destined for Japan must have been cast with an inscription to that effect, and could not have been taken over in that condition by the British Government.

The air continues to be full of rumours about political agitation in the sense of a reconstruction of the Cabinet. We shall not ask our readers to peruse the various reports circulated. When they are boiled down, the solid residuum in every case is an aspiration on the part of the Liberals to obtain two or three portfolios for their leaders. They are represented as entertaining various projects. Assuming that Marquis Yamagata will not consent—and the outcome of applying to him is pithily compared to asking an image of Buddha for a share of its lotus pedestal—, then Marquis Saigo is to be applied to. Failing Marquis Saigo, then Count Matsukata, and so on. It seems to be recognised as hopeless for any of the existing parties to approach Marquis Ito, though that is the dearest wish of all alike.

A *mousseline-de-laine* trust has been formed in Osaka, and is now in full operation. It was suggested by the fact that, owing to competition among sellers in the domestic market, the price obtained for the staple in Japan was 3 or 4 *sen* per yard less than the price ruling in Europe. Eight Osaka dealers and one from Yokohama combined. They put up a sum of 5,000 *yen* each, and went to work on an agreement that all their stocks should pass through the hands of the trust, and be sold at prices fixed by the latter, the profits being divided one-half *per capita* and one-half in proportion to the quantity of the goods. The value of the staple handled by the trust since the beginning of March, when it came into existence, is said to have been from 2,300,000 *yen* to 2,400,000. It is now proposed to invite the cō-operation of Tokyo dealers.

There are, says the *Jiji Shimpo*, over 1,600 banking institutions in Japan at present, with a total capital of 327,000,000 *yen*, being an average of 180,000 *yen* per Bank. Viewed superficially, that may seem to be a convenient state of affairs, but in reality it represents a dangerous abuse. The mushroom growth of these petty banks is not prompted by any desire to do genuine banking business. Their chief purpose is to borrow money. It is found in practice that a bank can obtain money on much easier terms than a private individual can, and the discovery has induced speculators to organize so-called "banking institutions," which are without solid foundations, lead a hand-to-mouth existence, and tend to undermine credit rather than to strengthen it. Our contemporary considers that great fault is to be found with the supervision exercised by the Finance Department. In fact, as a general rule, it considers that the Government's method of enforcing laws is lax and perfunctory. The laws themselves are good enough, but the fashion of putting them into operation does not produce commensurate results.

Judges Baba, Nakanokoji, and Kasaka, who were despatched last year on a tour of judicial inspection in America and England, have now returned to Japan. They are said to report that judicial procedure in the places visited by them differs greatly from that of Japan. They do not say very much about the United States. What appears to have struck them most forcibly during their three months' sojourn in that country was the fact that men occupying seats on the bench sometimes practise as advocates. Such a custom is obviously open to abuses, but the American people have absolute confidence in the integrity of their judges, and no suspicion of corrupt practices seems to occur to them. With regard to England, four months spent there showed the travellers that the Japanese Bench has no conception of the rapidity with which the British tribunals work. Sometimes a magistrate disposes of as many as 40 or 50 minor cases in a day, and yet the public is disposed to complain of want of expedition. It appears to be thought impossible that the occupants of the bench can err, however rapidly they work. The travellers have come back convinced that great room for improvement exists in Japan.

The Russo-Chinese School at Sapporo has been suddenly closed under somewhat peculiar circumstances. The School was started in 1895, and after a time became fairly prosperous. Twenty students have already graduated from it, and a hundred were studying there at the time of its closing. On the 15th instant, a formal ceremony of closure was held, when the principal, Mr. Nakano Jiro, made a remarkable speech. Having read aloud the Imperial Rescript of 1895, announcing the retrocession of Liaotung, and having explained that the establishment of the school dated from that event, he proceeded to speak of injurious rumours circulated with the object of showing that the founders of the institution did not really seek to promote educational facilities, but were mainly actuated by mercenary motives: in other words, that they had abused their position to obtain large grants of land in Hokkaido. He frankly admitted that grants of land had been obtai ned, just as they were obtainable by any Japanese subject desiring to undertake works of reclamation. But he denied altogether that there had been any mercenary motives. The whole profit obtained from the land had been devoted, he said, to the support of the school, for which purpose the directors had expended eighty thousand *yen*. So long as these injurious rumours were confined to irresponsible sources, no notice had been taken of them; but when the Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, Baron Sonoda, credited and repeated the stories, the directors felt that their only course was to close the school. He assured his audience, however, that arrangements had been made so as prevent the students from suffering any inconvenience.

LAW CONCERNING CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.

The following is a brief translation from the *Official Gazette* of a law for granting special allowances to persons engaged in the prevention of contagious diseases or treatment of patients suffering from such diseases:—

Art. I.—In case any officer of rank not above that of *Hannin* is attacked by a contagious disease and suffers death in consequence, while engaged in enforcing the preventive measures or giving treatment in connection with the malady, he shall be entitled to special allowances according to the provisions of this law.

Art. II.—Special allowances shall be of four kinds, as enumerated below:—

1. **For medical treatment.**
2. **For subsistence.**
3. **For funerals.**
4. **For the support of the family of the deceased.**

Art. III.—Officials attacked by the malady shall be granted expenses for medical treatment, and, when they have recovered, special allowances for subsistence, while, in the case of their death, funeral expenses shall be allowed their family.

Art. V.—Expenses for medical treatment shall not exceed 3 *yen* a day; allowances for subsistence shall be one half the amount to be granted to the deceased's family; the funeral expenses shall correspond in amount to one month's salary of the deceased.

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AN ACCUSATION AGAINST FRANCE.

A GREAT deal of rancour has been stirred up in England by the writing of a section of the French press in connexion with the South-African war, but we were not prepared for a rejoinder so intemperate and, we think, unreasonable as that which appears in a recent number of the leading Hongkong journal. In the course of an editorial article which betrays considerable irritation, our contemporary says :—

We have all from time to time been made aware of certain mysterious telegrams arriving in China, which have professed to report some dire disaster as having been undergone by British arms in Africa. By the British community these have been treated with contempt which in each case has been justified by subsequent information. It is only recently that the time, source, and intention of these lying telegrams has (sic) become manifest, and circumstances have seemed to indicate that those that have been made public indicate but a small portion of the whole which have been concocted in Paris and carefully sent to the French Legation in Peking, where they have by underground channels found their way to the Tsungli Yamen. From the Tsungli Yamen in turn they have been carefully sent to the provinces, with the suggestion that as England was hopelessly defeated in Africa there was no further need to pay any attention to her requests, and the time was come when an end could be made to all Englishmen in China.

The writer goes on to say that to these rumours of British disasters and to the consequent contempt inspired for England are due the recent outrages in Shantung, of which British missionaries were the first victims; the beating of a missionary in the capital of Yunnan; the murderous attack upon the Burmah Boundary Commission, and the troubles that Mr. PRITCHARD MORGAN experienced in connexion with his mining enterprises in Korea. It is really startling to find that a newspaper of standing places credit in such a monstrous canard. That false rumours about affairs in South Africa have been circulated in Paris, as they have also in Berlin, St. Petersburg, and even New York, can not be denied. That kind of thing happens at all times of exciting public incidents. But in truth a man must be deliriously suspicious to imagine that the Authorities in Paris would concoct mendacious news and telegraph it to the French Legation in Peking, and that the Legation would convey it by underground channels to the Tsung-li Yamen. To entertain such a suspicion seems to us only one degree better than the suspected crime. We in Japan have had daily opportunity of examining the telegrams forwarded from Paris to French officials in the Far East. We know that they have been invariably accurate, unbiassed, and free from sensational exaggeration, and we have to express gratitude for the receipt of such valuable information at a time of keen interest and anxiety. Happily there are not many Englishmen so silly as to believe a story of the kind that has deluded the Hongkong journal, and there are still fewer, we trust, capable of persuading themselves that the officials of the French Legation in Peking could be guilty of conduct so contemptible.

Not the least striking part of our colonial contemporary's article is an expression of naïve inability to understand why the French people should harbour any feelings of umbrage towards England. The French in Hongkong, we imagine, would point to this very article as a not insufficient reason. And has our contemporary forgotten the Dreyfus case? Has it also forgotten the Fashoda incident? The intemperate and contemptuous criticism of which France was the object for month after month at the hands of the leading English journals in connexion with Dreyfus must have created a feeling of bitter resentment, to which the Fashoda incident contributed not a little. Really we must expect that if we sit in self-righteous judgment upon our neighbours, they will sometimes resent our censorship.

THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF THE SOUTH-AFRICAN STRUGGLE.

IN connexion with correspondence recently published in these columns, we have been asked to make as clear and succinct a statement as possible of the rights and wrongs of the South-African war, so as to assist the foreign and Japanese public in the Far East to form a judgment. We need scarcely say that the subject is one of which we have no special knowledge. The best we could do, therefore, would be to prepare a *résumé* of arguments marshalled by others, and we confess that with the story of the struggle written before our eyes in letters of blood, we have not confidence in our ability to be impartial. But there has just come into our hands a copy of the *Montreal Weekly Witness*, containing an article by the Hon. JOHN S. SEYMOUR, late United States Commissioner of Patents, and Legal Representative before the State Department of the Americans in the Transvaal. This article, being from the pen of an American citizen, that is to say, a man removed beyond the reach of the passions which naturally sway the minds of Englishmen at such a crisis of their country's career, seems worthy of trust, and we therefore reproduce it this morning on another page. By way of supplement we add the following from the *Christian Guardian*, showing how Canadian Christians view the question :—

Frank Leslie's *Popular Monthly* for February has a well illustrated article on "The Fighting Boers," which will repay perusal. A couple of extracts will be found of special interest.

"One of the secrets of the Great Trek was a determination on the part of the Boers to establish a system of slavery, which in British territory is forbidden. The treatment of the blacks by the Boers is a tragic story of injustice and cruelty. In Johannesburg and Pretoria to-day a black man is not permitted to walk on the sidewalk; he must keep to the middle of the street, with the oxen and the horses. If sent on an errand, which makes it necessary for him to enter a building, he must crouch as he hurries from the gutter to the store or stairway to which he is bound.

"One day, in my office in Johannesburg, the door was pushed open by a Kaffir, prone on the floor, dragging himself by his elbows. Thinking he was wounded, I rose to assist him. He grinned, and handed me a letter. It was from a government official, and the Kaffir was merely an apprentice messenger delivering a public document. I made him get up and take a chair while I answered the message. When I gave him the note he slunk away, trembling, and much mystified. Afterwards I spoke to the Boer official about the episode. He protested that I had done very wrong. 'I always kick them as they go out,' he explained; 'then they know who is the superior.'

"Another law prohibits Kaffirs from whistling or singing in the streets; and as the spirit of the the black man, however much he is oppressed, finds expression in melody, this statute is constantly violated; and for their musical indiscretion Kaffirs are dragged in great numbers to jail, and beaten mercilessly *en route*. The Boers explain that this law was passed to suppress the exasperating independence and jubilant bravado of the blacks, and to instruct them in the ways of true humanity."

"The present conflict in Africa is not a mere quarrel concerning the rights of a few thousand aliens. That condition is, of course, involved, but the fundamental issue is, whether the world is large enough to permit an ignorant band of indolent vagrant hunters to hoard vast and fruitful lands which they will not develop. A law of nations and of evolution is at test—the survival of the fittest. There is no room in all the earth, the British say, for hermit states, and the nation that buries its talent shall lose it.

"Shall Africa become a new empire for the spread of modern civilization, or shall a few thousand half-savage plainsmen be permitted to arrest the march of humanity? That is the question Britain is attempting to answer with her guns. It is not a seizing of Naboth's vineyard. It is a war against fanatic semi-barbarians, ruled by an autocrat determined to crush out in South Africa every modern principle of freedom."

INJUDICIOUS BOASTING.

By the light of our latest telegrams the utterances of Dr. Leyds in Berlin at the end of January read curiously :—

Dr. Leyds, who came to Berlin in order to be present at the diplomatic dinner given by Prince Hohenlohe on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday, was received by Count von Bulow on Saturday morning.

In connexion with his visit to Berlin the *Lokalanseiger* publishes an interview with Dr Leyds. The agent of the Transvaal Government denied that his visit, which would extend over a few days, had any political objects. He had come to Berlin to attend the Chancellor's dinner and for no other purpose. The war would go on. All that was said about attempts to bring about interference was pure invention. The Transvaal had no need to appeal to any one; the war was going on splendidly, and would, he hoped, continue to do so. Questioned as to possible conditions of peace, Dr. Leyds expressed the opinion that England would have to restore to the Republics a considerable portion of the territory she had formerly taken from them. A guarantee would have to be given that the Cape Dutch who have joined the forces of the Republics should not have one hair of their heads touched. As a matter of course the two Republics would have to be recognized as completely independent. The suggestion that England would strain every nerve before accepting such terms was met by the retort that such troops as the Militia would not be able to effect much where the Regulars had failed.

Replying to criticisms on the Boer generalship, Dr. Leyds declared that Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking were merely so many prisons for the English troops, who so long as they were not formally captured had to live on their own provisions instead of consuming those of the Boers. As regards other points in the conduct of the campaign, the Boers were following their own tactics, which were adapted to the nature of the country and would lead to further successes.

General regret will be felt at the news that Lieut. David J. Keswick, of the 12th Lancers, the second son of Mr. Wm Keswick, M.P., of Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co., was killed in the recent fighting in the Free State at the age of 24, having had several narrow escapes previously. His older brother, Mr. Henry Keswick, is now on his way to South Africa—*N.C. Daily News.*

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THE CHILDREN'S CONCERT.

The Tonic Sol-fa concert and miscellaneous entertainment given at the Public Hall on Tuesday evening as a benefit to Mrs. E. S. Patton by her pupils will probably prove the last of a most enjoyable series. It was therefore pleasing to see the splendid support accorded the veteran instructress, as well as to notice that the high standard set up in previous years was not in any way lowered. The number of voices in the choir was sadly diminished, but the work which the little band accomplished was of considerable merit and well deserved the applause evoked. The pianoforte selections were also very good. Miss C. Schwabe was as amazingly precocious as ever, her solo from Ascher's "Les Gouttes d'eau" being rendered in the manner of a pianist twice her age. We have not space to go into details of every item, but room must be found for a few appreciatory words of the clever dancing of Master Colin Hutchison. His Highland Fling was given with great verve and had to be repeated. In the second part Mr. S. H. Somerton sang Kipling's "Absent Minded Beggar" to Sir Arthur Sullivan's setting. It pleased the audience immensely. Immediately after this, eight of Mrs. Patton's advanced pupils entered and took their places for the "Bellamy Lancers"—a most amusing burlesque, being veritably a dance "Looking Backward." The item was loudly applauded. The third and, to many the prettiest, part opened with a Minuet de la Cour by Miss M. Fox and Master M. Apcar, Miss D. Dunlop, and Master C. Hutchison, dressed in the pretty costumes of the Georgian period, with 28 other young ladies as a background. This was an exceptionally pleasing diversion. Miss Evelyn Gillet's song and dance "So Shy," was another pretty item that the audience wished to have repeated. A clever left-handed piece on two pianos by Miss N. Schwabe and Miss A. Diack evoked much applause. Then followed a capital selection of Indian Club swinging by Misses S. and A. Favre-Brandt, W. Mitchell, E. Gillett, D. Dinsdale, M. Hoskyn, R. Stornebrink, and C. Schwabe. Part of this had to be repeated, the graceful movements of the little ladies being most pleasing to watch. A midget dressed in the uniform of Uncle Sam's army, Master M. Apcar, then gave a stirring rendering of "The Leader of de Company B," and was recalled for his effort. As a grand *finale* 32 young ladies went through the pretty evolutions of a Wreath Dance arranged by their instructress. This also drew forth a generous outburst of applause. During the evening Mrs. Patton was presented with several very beautiful floral offerings by the members of her dancing classes, and of the Choral Society, who also acknowledged, in a similar manner, the kind assistance given by Miss N. Schwabe as accompanist to the choir.

After the presentations, Mrs. Patton thanked the audience for the honour they had done the Children's Concert by according it such a full attendance on the occasion of her benefit, and then announced that to her great regret the concert of that evening would be the last, as, owing to the great diminution of members, there appeared to be no alternative but to disband the Society of which she had been the President and Musical Directress since the year 1890. It had been a matter of some difficulty last year to give the annual concert with only twenty-three members, many of whom had only recently joined; and almost immediately afterwards no fewer than ten had left, with two exceptions, to go either to England or America. Thus the number was reduced to only thirteen, and it would have been impossible to give the concert of that evening had it not been supplemented by a variety entertainment. And as notice has been received of seven more of the senior members leaving Yokohama during the present year, the Society will virtually cease to exist. Up to the present time, even when things were at their very worst, and the component parts of the choir had changed again and again, with ever-diminishing numbers, there had always been a residuum of trained voices to support new and inexperienced members, but now all these were leaving, and there were none to replace them. A Juvenile Tonic Sol-fa choir differed from other children's choirs in that it necessitated a previous musical training, for instead of members being admitted for their good voices and a facility for singing by ear only, admission to even an elementary choir could only be gained by certificates involving on an average two seasons of steady musical study in many different branches, and if parents could not see the advantage of such a musical foundation for their childrens' education, it was not Mrs. Patton's place to force it upon them. This was the tenth occasion on which she had shown the public what could be done by Tonic Sol-fa, if the materials were given her, but without the children of course nothing could be done. During the whole of last season not a single pupil had offered for a class to qualify them for admission to the choir, and although this season by dint of some trouble on the part of parents who wished their children to learn, a class of eleven out of the whole community was got together, they were all children not exceeding eight years of age, and many much younger, and it would be a long time before they could fill the places of the retiring members, and, in the meantime, the back-bone of the Society was gone. While deploring the necessity for disbanding the Society, Mrs. Patton dwelt with satisfaction upon the fact that during its existence more than a hundred young people had passed through it with musical credentials that would gain them admission to any Musical Society or Choir in any part of the world, and what they had gained as children they could never lose in after-life. With regard to her educational work in Yokohama since the year 1889, when she arrived a perfect stranger with only one letter of introduction, Mrs. Patton was content to leave the verdict to the parents who had entrusted their children to her for a musical education. And with regard to the teaching of dancing, although that was usually considered derogatory to a music teacher, Mrs. Patton held a different opinion, as it had always been her aim to elevate dancing to the level of music, by insisting upon her pupils adopting the most refined style only, making her instruction in the one art act beneficially upon the other; with what success she would leave to the judgment of those present that evening. It was impossible to say how many more years of teaching lay before her at her age, but she could assure her supporters that so long as she had health and strength for her work, she would always do her best, as heretofore. Perhaps in the course of ten years' educational work of many and various kinds, her energetic temperament, combined with an over-blunt sincerity of speech, may have had the effect of making some few enemies, but if so, she was sure they were far out-numbered by the many friends who had given her their support that night, to whom she tendered personally her most grateful thanks, as well as those of the Juvenile Choral Society for the patronage they had always given it, and for the kindness with which they had ever regarded the children's efforts to please them.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

1—Pianoforte Duet.—(in unison on 3 pianos) Marche Militaire "Parade Review."
Misses N. Schwabe, and M. Stornebrink, M. and C. Merriman, A. and F. Diack.

2—Vocal Duet.—"Spring, Gentle Spring."
Soprano—Miss A. Favre-Brandt.
Alto—Miss C. Schwabe.

3—Two-part Song.—(unaccompanied)—"The Message of the Rose."—Arranged by Mrs. Patton.
Sopranos—Misses E. Gillett, W. Mitchell, F. Diack, R. Stornebrink, & A. Favre-Brandt.
Altos—Misses G. Booth, S. Favre-Brandt, C. Merriman, and C. Schwabe.

4—Piano-forte Solo.—"Les Gouttes D'eau."—Miss C. Schwabe. [Ascher.

5—Vocal Galop.—(in two parts) "Le Fin du Bal."—Arranged by Mrs. Patton.
By the members of the Juvenile Tonic Sol-fa Choral Society.

6—Highland Fling.—(in character).
By Special Request,
Master Colin Hutchison.

7—Chorus in Union.—"The Toy Band."
(with Instrumental Accompaniment.)
By the members of the Juvenile Tonic Sol-fa Choral Society.

PART II.

8—By special request, Mr. S. H. Somerton has kindly consented to sing, for the first time in Yokohama, Sir Arthur Sullivan's musical setting of "The Absent-minded Beggar."

9—The Bellamy Lancers.—(A novelty never before produced in Yokohama.)
By 8 of Mrs. Patton's Advanced Pupils.

PART III.

10—Minuet de la Cour.—(By special request).
By Miss M. Fox, and Master M. Apcar, Miss D. Dunlop, and Master C. Hutchison in character, and 28 pupils of Mrs. Patton's combined classes.

11—Song and Dance.—"So Shy" (in character).
Miss Evelyn Gillett.

12—Left-handed Piece on 2 pianos.—"Comme Gentil" Sydney Smith (first time).
Miss N. Schwabe and Miss A. Diack.

13—Exhibition of Indian Clubs (first time).
Misses S. and A. Favre-Brandt, W. Mitchell, E. Gillett, D. Dinsdale, M. Hoskyn, R. Stornebrink, and C. Schwabe.

14—Song.—"The Leader of de Company B" (in character.)
Master M. Apcar.

15—Finale.—Wreath Dance.
By 32 pupils of Mrs. Patton's combined classes.

CONCERT.

A concert was given on Monday evening in the vestibule of the Public Hall in aid of the orphans of the Convent of the Soeurs de la Communauté du St. Enfant Jesus, 83, Bluff, an institution which, on account of its unostentatious usefulness, deserves the support of charitably disposed persons of all classes and sects. A pleasant little programme had been arranged, the ladies who took part in the musical selections being chiefly pupils of Miss Orth. They all acquitted themselves creditably. Miss Lloyd Thomas and Mrs. Herb both sang nicely, and the violin and 'cello solos of Mr. O. Fehling and Mr. E. C. Davis were also most acceptable items. Mr. G. G. Brady kindly gave a recitation, "Mr. Montpelier's Recitation," in his own inimitable style. Programme:—

PART I.

1.—Ouverture (2 Pianos)..."Dame Blanche" Boieldieu.
Miss Erna Grosser, Misses Sophie and Adele Favre Brandt, and Miss Orth.

2.—Vocal Solo....."From out Thine Eyes" Franz Reis.
Miss Lloyd Thomas.

3.—Piano Solo..."Impromptu" .....T. Schubert.
Miss Ch. Carst.

4.—Cello Solo....."Romanze"....G. Golterman.
Mr. E. C. Davis.

5.—Recitation..."Mr. Montpelier's Recitation."
Mr. G. G. Brady.

PART II.

1.—Symphonie in A Minor (2 Pianos) "Andante" —"Allegro".....Mendelssohn.
Mrs. Strauss, Misses Orth, Carst, and Tripler.

2.—Vocal Solo..."Perche Piangi".....Gounod.
Mrs. F. C. Herb.

3.—Piano Solo... "Impromptu".....Chopin.
Miss Orth.

4.—Violin Solo....."Berceuse".....Simon.
Mr. O. Fehling.

5.—Two Pianos..."Tannhäuser".....Wagner.
Misses Meier, Eldridge, Morse, and Orth.

THE JAPAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The members of the last conference chose Aoyama, Tokyo, as the place to convene the 17th Annual Conference. By Tuesday evening nearly all the Ministers were present and assigned to their respective places of entertainment. All the representatives of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society have arrived, and are holding their sessions in the Girls' School.

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The first conference meeting was held on Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. The missionary sermon was delivered by Rev. Hirata. The service was well attended, and much missionary spirit was manifested.

The second meeting was convened at 9 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday in Goucher Hall. Rev. J. Soper, D.D., administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, assisted by the presiding elders of the conference.

The organization of the conference was taken up at 10 o'clock a.m. Rev. J. Soper, the secretary of the 16th Conference, called the roll. Fifty-one members responded to their names. As there was no bishop present to preside, it was necessary that a presiding officer should be supplied either by an appointment of the bishop in charge, or, if the bishop fails to make an appointment the Conference elects one of its members to be president. Since the Rev. G. F. Draper had been requested by Bishop Cranston to preside, he was conducted to the chair by the Rev. J. Soper amid hearty applause. The following officers were elected:—Secretaries, C. W. Hewitt, and K. Nakada; Assistant Secretaries, R. P. Alexander and K. Shiratori; Statistical Secretaries, W. S. Worden, M.D., and Iinuma; Treasurer, W. S. Worden; Conference reporters, A. M. Brooks and T. Namae.

The time fixed for receiving fraternal delegates from other churches is from 10.30 to 11 o'clock, a.m.

K. Shiratori and K. Naruse were requested to convey the sympathy of the conference to Rev. Z. Kawano of Kawagowa.

The reports from two districts were given, Hakodate by Rev. J. W. Wadman, P.E., and Nagoya by Rev. S. Ogata, P.E. Their reports were accepted and the character of the pastors of the districts were passed.

The Anniversary of the Home Missionary and the Church Extension Societies met in Goucher Hall at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The reports were exceedingly interesting and showed active work and good results. The Home Missionary Society has expended about 400 *yen* in executing its work. This had been collected from the church members alone. The Church Extension Society assists poor congregations to provide houses of worship by granting loans without interest for a term of years.—*Communicated.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom).

PIETY AND BIGOTRY.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In to-day's issue of your valuable paper you give a letter of President Kruger's as a sample of the bigotry characteristic of that old energetic politician. But instead of simply stating your judgment, you prefer to say that Oom Paul's "letters have about them a ring of the celebrated despatches of the Kaiser's grandfather, the Emperor William." I think, however, that there can be no comparison between the pious modesty with which the victorious King announced his successes to his Queen, and utterances like those quoted by you from Kruger's letters. In order to convince you of that, I have taken the trouble of copying all despatches from the French battlefields that contain any allusion to God or divine interference. You will see from the enclosed slips that there are six passages of this nature: two despatched after the first victories at Weissenburg and Woerth, two in connection with the conclusion of an armistice and peace, and two more on special occasions in the midst of the operations. They are all so moderate in tone that I can hardly understand how anyone who is not an Atheist could find fault with these exclamations on religious grounds. For the sake of illustration, I take the liberty of translating one or two: "God be praised for this first glorious deed of our arms" or (after the unexpected capture of the Emperor who seven weeks previously had demanded a humiliating letter of apology):—"What a turn of events through God's guidance." Still more creditable for the glorious victor is his deep emotion at the end of hostilities, while a phrase like "Thanks to God," added to the news of the occupation of Orleans without bloodshed, is, perhaps, of little importance.

I am almost certain, Mr. Editor, that it would not have occurred to you to place Kruger's letter on the same level with "the celebrated despatches," if you had refreshed your memory about the latter; and, therefore, I have not thought it amiss to lay the accompanying abstracts before you.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully, H.H.

August 4th, 1870.

An die Königin Augusta, Berlin:—Unter Fritzen's Augen heute einen glänzenden, aber blutigen Sieg erfochten durch Stürmung von Weissenburg und der dahinter liegenden Geisberges. Unser V. und XI. Corps und II. Bayerischer Armee-Corps fochten. Feind in Flucht, 500 unverwunderte Gefangene, eine Kanone, und das Zeltlager in unsern Händen. Divisions-General Douay todt, von uns General von Kirchback leicht gestreift. Mein Regiment und 58er starke Verluste. Gott sei gepriesen für diese erste glorreiche Waffenthat. Er helfe werter!

WILHELM.

Woerth, August 6th, 1870.

Welches Glück dieser neue grosse Sieg durch Fritz. Preise Gott für seine Gnade! Gewonnen einige 30 Geschütze, 2 Adler, 6 Mitrailleusen, 4,000 Gefangene. MacMahon war verstärkt aus der Hauptarmee. Es solle Victoria geschossen werden.

WILHELM.

Sedan, 2 Sept., 1870.

Die Capitulation, wodurch die ganze Armee in Sedan kriegsgefangen, ist soeben mit dem General Wimpffen geschlossen, der an Stelle des verwundeten Marschall MacMahon das Commando führte.

Der Kaiser hat nur sich selbst mir übergeben, da er der Commando nicht führte und Alles der Regentschaft in Paris überlässt.

Seinen Aufenthalt werde Ich bestimmen, nachdem Ich ihn gesprochen habe in einem Rendezvous, das sofort stattfindet.

Welch eine Wendung durch Gotter Führung.

WILHELM.

Versailles, 5 Dec., 1870.

Orleans ist noch in dieser Nacht besetzt worden, also ohne Sturm, Gott sei gedankt!

WILHELM.

Versailles, 29 Januar, 1871.

Gestern Abend ist ein dreiwöchentlicher Waffenstillstand unterzeichnet worden, Linie und Mobile werden Kriegsgefangen und in Paris interniert. Garde nationale sédentaire übernimmt die Aufrechterhaltung der Ordnung. Wir besetzen alle Forts. Paris bleibt verniert und darf sich verpfleyen, wenn die Waffen ausgeliefert siud.

Eine Constituante wird nach Bordeaux in 14 Tagen berufen. Die Armeen in freien Felde behalten ihre resp. Landstrecken besetzt mit Neutralitäts-zonen zwischen sich.

Das ist der erste segensvolle Lohn für den Patriotismus, den Heldenmuth und die schweren Opfer. Ich danke Gott für diese neue Gnade; möge der Friede bald folgen.

WILHELM.

Versailles, 26 Februar, 1871.

Mit tief bewegtem Herzen, mit Dankbarkeit gegen Gotter Gnade zeige ich Dir an, dass so eben die Friedenspraeliminarien unterzeichnet sind. Nun ist noch die Einwilligung der National-Versammlung in Bordeaux abzuwarten.

WILHELM.

A fire occurred on the N.Y.K. *Otaru Maru*, on Friday afternoon about 2 p.m. The fire was extinguished at 4 p.m. by the Harbour Police Brigade. It occurred in No. 1 hold and goods to the value of 5,000 *yen* were destroyed.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Yangtse Valley and Beyond, by Mrs. J. F. Bishop (Isabella L. Bird), F.R.G.S., London, John Murray; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd.

In many ways Mrs. Bishop is the most remarkable woman of the time. As an intrepid traveller, an accomplished geographer, and a keen observer of men and things she has few equals, while from a strictly literary point of view her work has, ever since the publication of "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan," shown a steady advance, until we have in the book under notice a perfect model of what a book of travels ought to be. Mrs. Bishop's two volumes on Korea seemed to indicate the high-water level of her achievements as a traveller and writer; and yet the present work—the record of a journey undertaken for recreation and not with the object of book-writing—is fully up to that standard. Indeed, being more fortunate with her camera in China than in the Hermit Kingdom, "The Yangtze Valley and Beyond" has the advantage of numerous artistic photographic reproductions, which, after all, often tell their story at a glance more vividly than pages of description.

Mrs. Bishop's journey began at Shanghai, and we have an interesting and candid account of "The Model Settlement" and its inhabitants. Hangchow, Hankow, and Ichang next receive adequate treatment, politically, commercially, and socially. Making the passage of the Upper Yangtze with its magnificent gorges—familiar to English readers in Mr. Little's graphic pages—in a native boat, she then struck inland from a point on the great river between Ichang and passing out of Chinese territory, entered the wild, but hospitable, region peopled by the semi-independent Mantze on the western border of Szechuen. Thence she found her way back *vid* Chengtu to the Yangtze, down which she returned to Shanghai. The volume describing this remarkable journey is a bulky one of 550 pages. We cannot quote, however great the temptation. One must go to the book itself to realise the wonder-land, comparatively so near to us, and yet shut out by a world of prejudice on the part of the people,—much more difficult to overcome than its physical barriers, extraordinary as these undoubtedly are. A strong anti-foreign feeling assailed Mrs. Bishop wherever she set foot in China proper. Her escort consisted of only a Chinese servant and a few chair coolies; nevertheless, howling mobs followed her in the larger cities to the inns, which they attempted to invade, and more than once she narrowly escaped with life. It is pleasant to record that a very different experience awaited the adventurous traveller on ascending the valley of the Siao Ho, a western branch of the Min, and reaching the mountainous borderland lying between China proper and Tibet. Though not traversed for the first time by the foot of the foreigner, we think this is the first detailed account of that remote portion of China ever published. There, too, Mrs. Bishop was in her element. As she says: "Climbing the Peh-teo-shan spur by a long series of rocky, broken zigzags, cut on its side through a hazel wood, and reaching an altitude of about 9270 feet in advance of my men, I felt the joy of a 'born traveller' as I watched the mules with their picturesque Mantze muleteer, the eleven men no longer staggering under burdens, but jumping, laughing, and singing. . . . The two soldiers in their rags, and myself the worst ragamuffin of all." There were many such Elysian moments in this grand "Beyond." Among the many characteristics of Mantze life noted by Mrs. Bishop, none is more interesting than the position of woman, who stands on a perfect equality with man, and shares his interests and amusements everywhere.

We cannot take leave of this fascinating volume without touching on the inevitable question of the future of China. Mrs. Bishop is no believer in its "break-up," if the great European Powers will only help to sustain the

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authority of the central Government and thereby prevent local risings and possible disintegrations. Any other policy, including that of the much talked-of "spheres of influence" would result in disaster. "Commercial and industrial energy is not decaying; the vast fleets of junks are not rotting in harbours and reaches; industry, thrift, resourcefulness, and the complete organisation of labour and commerce, meet the traveller at every turn. Mercantile credit stands high, contracts are kept, labour is docile, teachable, and intelligent, its earnings are secure, and, on the whole, law and order prevail."

The "Hongkong Daily Press" Chronicle and Directory for 1900; Daily Press Office, Hongkong. Yokohama: Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

THIS useful publication shows an increase in bulk, due to the appearance for the first time of the Regulations for Foreign Companies in Japan, Harbour Regulations for Japan, the Treaty between Russia and Siam, 1899, and the Treaty between Russia and Great Britain regarding their respective spheres of influence in China. To the Directory proper are added Tsin-tau, occupying four pages; Wei-hai-wei, over three pages; Port Arthur, two pages; Peitaiho, two pages; also Talienwan; three new ports in Korea, Yochow, and Santu (Funingfu), as well as a description of and directory for the East Coast of Sumatra. There is an increase of 2,500 names to the alpabetical list and an entirely new postal guide of 32 pages. The growth of this useful book of reference indicates strikingly the progress made by European communities in the Far East. It was started in 1863, when it gave 3,008 names; in 1870 it had 4,510; in 1880, 8,204; in 1890, 15,520, while this year its alphabetical list contains 18,563 names. The information regarding Japan, as far as we have tested it, is reliable—much more so than some of the local publications of the kind, which are marked by anything but accuracy—and altogether the book is an entire credit to the office which issues it.

INEQUALITY OF TRADE.

Although a detailed trade return for March is not yet forthcoming, the figures for imports and exports from the 1st to the 15th instant are said to have reached 6,335,122 *yen* and 1,196,886 *yen* respectively, the former exceeding the latter by 5,626,764 *yen*. As to specie the figures for the two items amounted to 1,812,471 and 47,613 *yen* respectively, the excess in exports being 1,764,853 *yen*. It is to be understood, however, that these calculations refer only to the two ports, Yokohama and Kobe, and in the case of the latter prominent staples only were taken into account. The above figures, together with the totals for January and February, indicate an excess in imports to the extent of 22,875,188 *yen*, and an excess of 8,159 207 *yen* in the export of specie. Such a phenomenon has scarcely been experienced, and cannot but be regarded, remarks a vernacular paper, as an unmistakable sign of the unsatisfactory state of the country's commerce.

This inequality of trade seems to have affected the money market throughout the empire. The Bank of Japan is supposed to be the first to suffer from the exodus of 8 million *yen* of specie. Its specie reserve, which had aggregated 109 millions of *yen* approximately in the beginning of the year, has now fallen to 102 millions. Should trade continue in its present channel for any length of time a still further decrease of its reserves will be inevitable. The money market is at present quiet, but, the tea and silk season being at hand, the demand for loans is likely to increase shortly, and bankers will be freely called upon. The Bank of Japan will find it necessary to increase the scale of interest as a means of preventing exodus of specie, simultaneously with the adoption of measures for the raising of a domestic loan. The increase of interest is now under contemplation by some of the influential banks in Tokyo and Osaka.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK.

At a general meeting of shareholders recently held in Yokohama, Mr. Soma, President of the Specie Bank, said he considered it an honour to be able to address the 40th general meeting of shareholders and to submit for their approval a statement of accounts for the latter half of 1899, marking the close of the first period originally fixed for the Bank's operations. The trade of Japan at the beginning of the period under review was dull, but by August or September the trade in raw silk textiles suddenly revived with the increasing prosperity of markets in Europe and America, while there was an extraordinary demand for raw cotton. The price of rice began now to rise, and all branches of trade steadily improved. The money market seemed to have undergone a complete change, when, in consequence of the outbreak of war between England and the Transvaal, the rates of interest rose considerably in London, and the pernicious effects of this were felt all over the world. In Japan the necessity of caution was recognised by the Nippon Ginko and other prominent banks, and in November the rate of interest was raised. The measure, however, could hardly check the demand for loans, which continued to increase until the end of the year. Turning to the foreign trade he might observe that although exports had reached 215 million *yen* approximately in consequence of brisk sales of silk, yarns, copper, and rice, and of a remarkable decrease in imports of various descriptions, yet an extraordinary increase in raw cotton, which seemed to have aggregated 225 millions of *yen*, had produced an excess of imports over exports by upwards of 5 millions. As for specie and bullion the exports and imports for the whole year amounted to 11,170 000 and 20,160,000 *yen* respectively, the latter exceeding the former by almost 9 millions; but when they come to compare the respective figures for the latter half of the year, they would find that there was an increase of about 6 millions in exports. Reviewing the general condition of the money markets abroad it would be remembered that the rate of discount adopted by the Bank of England, which did not exceed 3 per cent. at the beginning of the year under review, was raised to 6 per cent. at the close of the year, while the general market rate rose from a minimum of 2.2 per cent, to a maximum of 7 per cent. This extraordinary rise was of course attributable to the war and the uneasiness created among capitalists. Simultaneously the production of gold in the Transvaal almost if not entirely ceased; the National Banks of various countries in Europe raised their rate of interest in order to counteract the policy of England in absorbing all available specie; the inauguration by the Indian Government of a peculiar gold standard contributed to the demand for the yellow metal; and all these circumstances, together with the tightening of the money market in America, brought about the abnormal appreciation of interest in England remarked on. Yet apart from these considerations there seemed to have existed a more general cause of appreciation, and that was no other than the recent development of commerce and industry. This remark, however, was not only applicable to England, but also to all the countries of Europe. It was true that the appreciation of interest had brought about a corresponding depreciation in the value of bonds and shares, so much so that in America panic was caused in the share market. Nevertheless, such phenomena must all be regarded as partial, and not general in character, the commerce and industry in Europe and America having on the whole made steady progress. It was also true that India had increased the export of cotton to Japan, As for China, the trade seemed to have been normal. With regard to exchange rates to Europe and America he might mention that in spite of the general rise in interest in the west and the frequency of remittances resulting from an excess in imports, the scale had fallen to a certain extent; bills payable in London at sight being discounted at from 2s. 1⅛d. to 2s. ⅝d. and those for Shanghai at rates varying from 78¼, to 77¼ *taels*, while the quotations of silver bullion in London stood at 26 13/16d. as a minimum rate and 27 1/16d. as a maximum, and underwent no serious fluctuations. Transactions in silk, extending over the whole season, had to be settled before the close of the year, and accordingly the remittances dealt with by the bank on account of exports were suddenly increased, while those relating to imports did not, owing to large importations of raw cotton, fall short of the amount recorded for previous years. These and other facts had enabled the bank to make steady progress in its business, and to secure most satisfactory results. A word about the declaration of special dividends. Looking back, it might be perceived that, although the Bank had not yet been very long in existence, it had frequently fallen into serious embarrassment on account of extraordinary fluctuations and unexpected failures experienced in connection with trade, so that at one time its existence was threatened. In April, 1883, a resolution was passed calling for radical reform, and, liberal protection being afforded by Government, the President succeeded in saving the bank from complete ruin. Since then the foundations of the bank had been strengthened with years, and its business was steadily and satisfactorily conducted. They now found it highly prosperous in the twentieth year after its organization. The bank had not only devoted its energies at all times to increasing its reserve funds, but, whenever it had occasion to realize a large amount of profit, set aside a portion of the same to supply as far as possible the value of public bonds in its possession.

The last half-year's profits being ample, he considered it expedient to appropriate some three million *yen* for special dividends. He had to congratulate them upon the success the bank hadsecured during the first period originally fixed for its operations; at the same time bearing in mind that the bank's responsibility in regard to the State as well as to trade would be incalculably greater in future. The bank's capital now amounted to 24 million *yen*, nearly double the original amount of 13 millions, and if calls for the 1st period on the third issue new shares were completed the total paid up capital would reach 18 millions. Such being the case, he might venture to state that it would perhaps be difficult to maintain the present rate of dividends in future with respect to the increased capital. No accurate forecast could be made, but he must ask them to bear in mind those circumstances. Lastly, the third issue new shares decided upon at a special general meeting in September last were all accepted by shareholders actually on the list on the 30th December. The matter of converting the bank's out-office into branches, as well as establishing a new branch at Newchang, having been sanctioned by the Minister of Finance at the end of last year, the nomenclature was changed from the 1st of January this year. Business was opened at Newchang from the 4th of the same month.

POST OFFICE BANK REGULATIONS.

The regulations for deposits in postage stamps have been published in the *Official Gazette*, and came into operation from the 16th instant. They consist of the following five articles:—

Art. I.—By "deposits in postage stamps" are to be understood such amounts of money as are saved and deposited with Post Office banks by means of postage stamps.

Art. II.—The amount of deposit in postage stamps must not exceed one *yen* per monthor each individual.

Art. III.—Any person desirous of making a deposit in postage stamps shall affix or paste the stamps on the form provided for the purpose, and present the same at any Post Office Savings Bank or Agency.

[Note.—Any person who is already provided with a passbook for postal deposits is required to forward the same with the paper referred to].

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Art. IV.—In case any person is found to have made deposits beyond the limit specified in Article II., the amount of excess shall be returned to him in postage stamps.

Art. V.—Forms for affixing postage stamps may be obtained at the various Post and Telegraph Offices, Post Offices, and Postal agencies, where deposits are received.

NOTIFICATION OF THE NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

The Naval Department recently issued a notice to the effect that as torpedoes and mines are to be placed as mentioned below, on account of the forthcoming grand naval manœuvres, the passage or anchorage of ships, and fishing operations, should be suspended for 18 days from the 29th March to the 15th April in the case of Sections specified in Paragraphs from 1 to 7, and for 29 days from the 29th March to the 26th April in the case of other sections. With regard to places mentioned in Paragraph 7, however, no objection will be raised to the passage of ships.

SECTIONS WHERE MINES AND TORPEDOES ARE TO BE PLACED.

I.—Mouth of Tokyo Bay.
1. For a distance of 1,200 yards from Hatayamasaki on the line connecting that place with the third naval fort.

II.—Mouth of Yokosuka Bay.
1. A line west of the northern end of Natsushima, ½ N.W.W.
2. A line north-west from the northern end of Natsushima.
3. A line south-west from the north-western end of Hohajima.

The area of the sea surrounded by the above three lines. A red buoy will be placed at each point of connection between the 3rd and the 1st and 2nd lines.

III.—Entrance of Omura Habour in Hizen.
1. Lines connected by the following buoys:—
Innermost buoy—west by ¾ N.W.W. from the surveying post on Kompira Hill lying east by ¾ E.S.E. from the signal at Kogozaki.
Central buoy—west by ¾ N.W.W. from the surveying post on Kompira Hill lying east by ¾ south-east from the signal post at Kogozaki.
Outermost buoy—east by ¼ north-east from the Banshozaki; east by south from Shirose.
2. A line drawn south by ¾ E.S.E., from the Innermost Buoy.
3. A line drawn to the south-east of the Outermost Buoy.

IV.—Entrance of Asaumi Harbour in Tsushima.
1. A point 400 metres south-east of the centre of a line between the Uran promontory and Hitoyezaki.
2. A point 400 metres north-west of the centre of a line between Uran promontory and Hitoyezaki.
3. A point 400 metres south-east of Hitoyezaki.
4. A point 400 metres north-west of Hitoyesaki.

The area of sea contained by lines connecting the above four points.

V.—The mouth of Kurose port in Asaumi, Tsushima.
1. The channel between Myobanjima and Hentajima.

VI.—Kasho Strait in Nagasaki Port.
1. A line connecting Onnajima with Umenoki promontory in Kashato.
2. A line connecting Onnajima with a sign post at Tozo.
3. A line drawn direct north from the Tozo post.

The area of sea contained by the above three lines.

VII.—Kasho Strait at the entrance of Nagasaki harbour.
1. Aqueduct between Onnajima and Fukabori-mura.

VIII.—Nasami Strait in Hiroshima Bay.
1. A line connecting the two western ends of Shokokujin-jima and Onasami-jima.
2. A line connecting the eastern end of Shokokujin-jima with the western end of Nishi Nomi-jima.
3. A line drawn directly south of the eastern extremity of Onasami.

The area of sea contained by the above three lines.

IX.—Hayase Strait in Hiroshima harbour.
1. A line drawn directly south of the south-eastern extremity of East Nomi-shima.
2. A line drawn to the east and west, intercepting a space of 1 nautical mile and 8 chains directly to the south of the south-eastern extremity of East Nomi-shima.

The area of sea contained by these two lines.

AN APPEAL.

In the conflagration at Furo cho last Friday morning, which consumed the Gospel Society Hall, the Yokohama Blind School was burned out for the second time within eight months. Since the fire of August last the school had found temporary quarters in this Hall. Now its books and other belongings have been lost again. To replace them and keep up the usual running expenses, hiring and furnishing a house, etc., makes the burden so heavy that it is found necessary to appeal to the generosity of the community which has so kindly aided, at other times, this effort for the enlightenment of so afflicted a class.

The school is a Christian institution, but unsectarian. Efficient teachers have been engaged, and if permanent quarters are obtained the work of the school will be increasingly successful.

Contributions may be sent to Mrs. Mira E. Draper, No. 222-B Bluff, or Mrs. C. W. Van Petten, No. 221 Bluff.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, March 3rd:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid-up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,362,908
Amount of convertible notes issued	209,454,511
Government deposits	60,698,509
General deposits	4,121,024
Exchange liability	17,712
Total	319,654,664

CR.	
Discount notes	58,272,604
Foreign discount notes	11,118,024
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,022,290
Exchange liability	1,906,501
Government bonds	55,617,911
Property	2,007,968
Bullion and Specie	100,710,364
Total	319,654,664

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	209,866,256
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	96,573,792
Silver	4,000,000
Total	100,573,792
Securities:—	
Government bonds	24,299,255
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,936,881
Commercial notes	51,056,328
Total	109,292,464

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	1,582,172
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	52,891
Government deposits	—	1,360,035
General deposits	—	2,726,733

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Singapore papers praise the performance of "The Geisha" by the Dallas Opera Company.

The Governor of Formosa reports to the Home Department that one new case of plague occurred on the 16th inst. at Taipeh, and six new cases and one death on the 17th inst. at Tainan.

The Committee in charge of the Charity Hospital in Negishi wish to thank the Amateur Theatrical Company for the gift of *yen* forty-three and 56 *sen* (43.56), received by them in aid of the funds of the hospital.

The crews of the Japanese otter-hunting ships *Kato*, *Junten*, and *No. 1 Tsushima* left Shinagawa for the north on the 17th inst. The usual complement has hitherto been 20 men per ship, but this year the crew is increased to 30 men.

Mr. Winston Churchill's first novel "Savrola," has been tolerably well reviewed. The young war correspondent has depicted the political intrigues and revolution in the imaginary Republic of Laurania, throwing in lots of fighting, epigrams and political maxims, the latter evidently gathered from his experience in England. The book was mainly written in 1897.

The will of the late Philip D. Armour, Jr., disposes of property valued at $8,000,000, $6,800,000 in personal property and the remainder in real estate. One-third of the estate is left to the widow, May E. Armour, and two-thirds is given in trust to three executors for the two surviving sons of the testator, Leslie and Philip D.

From the *Kobe Herald* we learn that the following telegrams have passed between the Irishmen of Kobe and Lord Roberts:—

Kobe, March 18.

"Kobe Irishmen congratulations Saint Patrick's Day."

"Bloemfontein, March 18, 3.40 p.m.

I appreciate very much your kind message. Roberts."

Mr. Milton Rathbun, a New York business man of considerable means, on Feb. 26th concluded a thirty-five-day fast, undertaken with the hope of improving his health. He subsisted during the entire period on water, and his weight fell away from 207 to 164 pounds. He took food only when he began to weaken and there was danger of his health giving away. During the entire period he lost but one day from business.

The stories from Cape Nome, remarks the *San Francisco Chronicle*, show that the history of the Klondike rush will be repeated, with the prospect of more suffering than attended the early arrivals at Dawson. The Nome district and the districts north of it will probably give a few miners large fortunes, but thousands who have had no experience in mining will spend more in their search for treasure than they will ever get from the gulches and beaches along Behring Sea.

Colonel Jouaust, President of the Dreyfus Court-Martial, who, is believed to have voted, for the acquittal of Dreyfus, has been placed on the Retired list. An interviewer asked him whether, now that he was released from his military oath, he would satisfy public curiosity, stating how he recorded his vote. "No," he replied, "and I wish to be entirely forgotten. Let me enjoy tranquillity in the remaining years of my life. My only wish is to devote myself to bicycling and gardening."

Industrial activity and the increase in wages in the United Kingdom have recently attracted hordes of Continental labour. In January alone, about 4,000 emigrants arrived, a large increase on the average. The *Globe* remarks:—"When the present wave of industrial prosperity is succeeded by a wave of adversity, we shall have

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on our hands a multitude of foreigners, eagerly competing for the bread which ought by right to nourish the native-born. We have no legislative machinery for sifting out pauper aliens, and returning them to their native country, as they have in the United States."

AMERICAN NOTES.

The Senate Committee on Commerce has authorized a favourable report upon Senator Gallinger's bill providing for the appointment of a commission to make an investigation of the trade relations between the United States and China and Japan, as recommended by the President in his last annual message.

Under a plan prepared in 1898 by the International Geodetic Association, which went into effect on January 1 of the current year, a systematic study is to be made of the variation of latitude. The plan proposed involves the maintenance of four stations or observatories on the parallel of latitude thirty-nine degrees, eight minutes, and ten seconds, and the places chosen for observations are all within 500 feet of this line. They are as follows: Mizusawa, Japan; Carloforte, Italy; Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Ukiah, California. The plan involves the making of observations on the same stars at each of the stations, and thus reducing the errors to a minimum.—New York *Evening Post*.

Mr. Henry C. Ide, who will be one of the new Philippine Commissioners, is one of the leading lawyers of Vermont and 56 years old. In 1891 he was appointed commissioner on behalf of the United States to act with the commissioners from England and Germany to settle the land troubles in Samoa. Upon his arrival there he was chosen chairman of the Commission, and rendered valuable service for over a year. His appointment as Chief Justice of Samoa came primarily from the German Government. It was then sent to the British Government for approval and finally to the United States Government. The German Government was pleased with Mr. Ide's previous labours in Samoa and recognized his work in this way.

Mr. H. C. Frick has brought a suit against the Carnegie Steel Company to secure the share he claims in the profits and stock of the concern. It appears from the papers in the suit that the net profits of the company in 1899 were $21,000,000, and that the profits this year would be $40,000 000; that Mr. Carnegie's 58 per cent. interest in the company was worth supporting shore batteries, mines, and torpedoes would be included. Taking into consideration the guns at Corregidor, El Fraile, and other forts at the entrance of the bay and those at Manila and Cavite, and the torpedoes and mines in the bay and entrance to it, was contended by counsel for Admiral Dewey that the enemy's force was superior to the vessels of the United States. The Government insisted that the statute failed to provide for the contingency of co-operation of the land batteries with the fleet destroyed, and the court is powerless to supply the omission. It is understood that the counsel for Admiral Dewey will take an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. Under the present decision Admiral Dewey is personally entitled to $9,570.

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, the inventor of the "Keeley cure for the liquor habit," died in Los Angeles, Cal., on Feb. 21. Dr. Keeley was 68 years of age. He leaves a widow, but no children. The estate is valued at $1,000,000.

The United States Court of Claims rendered an opinion on the claim of Admiral Dewey, his officers and men for naval bounty under section 4,635 of the revised statutes, for the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, May 1, 1898, the court holding that the claimants have a right to recover $100 for each person on board the enemy's ships. This decision is upon the basis that the Admiral's command was superior to the Spanish fleet, excluding the shore batteries, the torpedoes and the mines in Manila bay. Admiral Dewey's claim was for $200 for each man belonging to the enemy's fleet, including the supporting shore batteries, mines, and torpedoes. The principal question involved in the case was whether, in determining the enemy's force, the $157 950,000. The property is valued by Mr. Carnegie at $500,000,000. "What a monstrous and wicked lie the plea for the protection of our infant industries appears to be in the light of these revelations!" says the New York *Times* (Dem).

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRANSVAAL.

(By the Hon. John S. Seymour, Late United States Commissioner of Patents, and Legal Representative before the State Department of the Americans in the Transvaal.)

To state what the Transvaal war is about, it is necessary to clear away sundry misapprehensions. Mr. F. V. Engelenberg, editor of the Pretoria *Volksstem*, in a recent article in the *North American Review*, states that were it not for the gold industry the Boers would be enjoying the rest and peace which they have longed for and deserved; that it was an agitation in behalf of the native negro population which drove the Boer beyond the boundaries of Cape Colony in 1836; that the Uitlander question is only a mask for a financiers' plot or a piece of exchange jobbery; that, as it has steadily kept pace with the gold output, it was caused by the gold interest; that the Transvaal is to the present gold seekers and to most of the Uitlanders only a temporary land of exile, which they endure only for the sake of gold; that from the earliest days of the gold fields they knew that the South African Republic was an oligarchy, and that the dynamite monopoly existed; that the agitation against them is unfair, and kept up by men who refuse to listen to the voice of righteousness or be guided by any noble impulse.

Mr. Bourke Cochran, in a letter to President McKinley, on Aug. 24, 1899, seems to assert in substance that the cause of the unrest is the claim of England to control, at the point of the bayonet, the electoral franchise in the Transvaal, a country which he calls admittedly independent.

All defences of the Boers that have come to my notice suppress facts and distort the history of the Transvaal. That country is represented as being a compact, self-governed republic of sturdy people who, for the love of liberty, left the Cape Colony for Natal and the Orange Free State, and, when this place came under the control of the British, moved farther on across the Vaal river, there to set up their own republic beyond the claims of British sovereignty; that they despised the rich deposits of gold, and would much prefer they had never been found in their country; that those who seek it are intruders, if not criminal trespassers, and that they have encroached more and more upon the natural rights of the Boers in the Transvaal, until they now demand that the country shall be practically surrendered to them by such unwarrantable extension of the franchise as would give them practical control of it without delay.

In order to form a just opinion, it is necessary to know the facts. The Boers were not oppressed in the Cape Colony, nor were they dissatisfied with their state. They were not treated differently from other whites. They did not leave in 1835 in order to found a republic based on freedom, but because of the British abolition of slavery throughout the colonies by the act of Aug. 7, 1833, although, with the British respect for vested rights, compensation was made to slave owners. The Boers were slave holders in Cape Colony, and resented this as an invasion of their rights, and for this reason left Cape Colony and went north to Natal and the Orange Free State, and, when British influence extended thither and broke up the serfdom to which they there subjected the natives, they again moved north to the present Transvaal for the same reason.

But in all these migrations they never went outside the British domains, which in those days nominally extended to the twenty-fifth parallel of latitude, within which the Boer State, as then planted, was situated. Whenever in contract with the British they derived recognition of their semi independence from them, it was always on the condition that slavery should not be tolerated, either in its manifest form or in any form of apprenticeship, the practical equivalent of slavery when imposed upon native races.

To-day, the reason why there is no negro slavery in the Transvaal is because in the various conventions with Great Britain, from the Sand River in 1852 to the London Convention of 1884, there was contained a direct prohibition of it. The Boers have always oppressed the natives, have had frequent wars with them, and have inflicted brutal injustice upon them. Once in the temporary absence of the great Livingstone a band of Boers sacked his village and carried the natives off into slavery.

John Martineau said:—The native African races were, in their estimation, Canaanities, and they, as the chosen people, might go forth, the Bible in one hand and an ox whip in the other, to extirpate them or to employ them as hewers of wood or drawers of water, . . . and from that time to this the Act of Emancipation has been looked upon by a large section of the Dutch population as a wrong done to them for which there was no justification.

This Boer dulness to the sense of justice is traditional with them. Another manifestation of it was the selfish, narrow despotism with which Holland had treated the Cape Dutch, prohibiting them from trading on their own account, compelling them to sell their produce to the Dutch East India Company at a fixed price, and subjecting them to the caprice of the home government.

The annexation of the Transvaal to the British colonial domain in 1877 was not accomplished by force, but grew out of the treatment of the natives, against which the Boers were but poorly equipped successfully to contend. The payment of taxes had ceased, salaries were in arrears, the interest on the public debt was unpaid, there was no public credit, the authority of law was frequently challenged by armed bands, the treacherous murder of friendly natives, men and women, is set forth with such detail and on such evidence as renders belief in these atrocities imperative, and at the same time shows the want of will, if not the want of power, in the existing Boer Government to stop it.

Forty square miles of country had been overrun by the natives, and every house burned just before the annexation. There was much reason to believe that Cetewayo, who had most of his forces on the borders, would have swept the country up to Pretoria itself, had it not been taken over by the British.

Whether at first the Boers honestly acquiesced in the annexation or whether only the more conservative and property-owning class were favourable to it, is difficult to make out. There was open acquiescence in it by many who secretly protested against it; there was intrigue and subterfuge; there was finally war against the British in 1881, and defeat for the handful of British soldiers; and under the Gladstone Government, by the Convention of Pretoria in that year, the Transvaal was granted a measure of independence, subject to imperial control as regards foreign relations and certain domestic matters, its relations with native tribes, both within and without, and the payment of the public debt.

The commission appointed on the part of Her Majesty's Government to settle the terms of peace with the Boers had various meetings with the representatives of the Boers, among whom was Mr. Kruger himself. At the conference of May 10, 1881, at Newcastle, the question of the equality of treatment among the white inhabitants of the Transvaal was the occasion of a direct assurance by Mr. Kruger that before annexation British subjects had complete freedom of trade throughout the Transvaal, and were on the same footing as the burghers; that there was not the slightest difference; that there would be no objection to that continuing; that there would be equal protection for everybody and equal privileges, and that there was and would be no difference as regards burgher (elector's) rights. That this promise was made is also shown by Mr. Kruger's denial that it had been broken and his assertion to a representative of the London *Times* on Sept. 28 last that he had always been ready to treat the new immigrants on an equality with the old burghers, but they always refused.

This distinct pledge of equality voluntarily given by Mr. Kruger when taking part in the settlement of the terms of peace in 1881 was repeated by Mr. Gladstone on the floor of the House of Commons, as being the foundation on which the grant of qualified independence was made. It became, therefore, as the true consideration in a deed, not necessary to be expressed, but subsisting in fact, or else the whole grant might fall to the ground or might be avoided.

The revision of the treaty in 1884, was a hasty work, and furnished ground for controversy; but the British Government, in the day and time of it, steadfastly refused to regard the

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new convention as an agreement between two equal contracting parties, and as a result refused to admit any proposal for arbitration, and refused to renounce suzerainty.

Nor are the unfranchised a body of intruders, or careless of their obligations to the country, or of their duties as citizens, nor have many the intention to return to their own country after making a fortune.

The origin of the conference that revised the treaty, in 1884, was a letter from the Boer Government, asking Her Majesty's Government (Mr. Chamberlain says these are the exact words) —'Not the abolition of the suzerainty, but some restriction of the extent of the suzerainty' A subsequent attempt to submit to Lord Derby a treaty, in the introduction of which the Boers claimed to be an independent state, was refused consideration, and returned to them.

The Boers have not been altogether indifferent to the gold, which, though discovered in 1886, on the Witwatersrand, was yet known to be in the country by more or less clear indications years before. The Boer finances were in a desperate situation, and in 1886 Mr. Kruger declared his intention of encouraging the mining industry. He sent experts to examine the Rand and proclaimed it a gold field in his report. In September of that year he marked off a township, appointed a mining commissioner, and held a sale of building sites which brought in £13,000 sterling. This was the founding of Johannesberg. In January following the government held other sales which realized £40,000 sterling. A public proclamation was made inviting immigration. Those who responded came, therefore, by express invitation, derived their titles by public government sales or through purchases of a private character of lands from Boer residents and burghers, sanctioned by public law, and in the clearest manner it is established not only that equality was promised them, but that the right to equal terms inheres in the facts.

Johannesburg had the experience of new mining towns—promotions, speculation, fanciful claims, extraordinary expansion of values, and the inevitable collapse; but from 1890 onward gold mining was taken up by a different class. It was prosecuted on scientific lines by capital conservatively invested, and rights became fixed there as elsewhere in settled communities. The increase of immigration in this case was not a surprise to the Boers, but was clearly foreseen, invited, and provided for. Then there followed the elaborate restrictions upon the rights of these inhabitants, until in place of guaranteed equality of treatment there has been fabricated the most inequitable scheme of inequality that is anywhere known in the world.

Inhabitants not of Boer origin, no matter how able, intelligent, or patriotic, nor what their fixed interests in the country may be, could not obtain the franchise within fourteen years. None can obtain it unless he has a considerable property qualification, is registered from the time he came there, has renounced his allegiance to his own country two years before he is to receive the right to vote in the Transvaal, is a member of a Protestant church, and has taken an oath of allegiance that is repellant to him. But the Kruger regime provides for the full franchise for Boer boys at the age of sixteen, without a property qualification. Another singular modification of the system has hitherto passed without notice. All qualifications can be waived by a mere vote of the burghers, and a body of electors taken in by the back stairs without possessing any of the qualifications, as though the door were left open to swamp in number the most intelligent whites by introducing arbitrarily a great number by Boer selection.

But the franchise is not the real question involved in this dispute. It has been sought by the unenfranchised as a means of redressing grievances, and not as an end in itself. Had the Boers governed well, there would have been no demand for the franchise, and yet, everywhere, fairness demands for civilized man the right to participate in the government of the country in which he casts his lot, and where his household gods have been set up, as soon as time has proved his intention. No inhabitant of the Transvaal asks for the franchise without renouncing his allegiance to his own country, without having resided in the Transvaal for five years, without swearing allegiance to that country, or without complying with the property qualification. These terms are more strict than are required of Boers when settling in the State of New York, or in any New England State, or in the United States, or in England.

Nor by this just extension of the franchise was the country to be delivered over to their control. It was entirely acceptable to them that their representation should be by districts of much greater population that the rural regions where the Boers predominate, as a result of which the Uitlander representatives in the first Raad could in no case be more than six in a chamber consisting of twenty-four members. The means, therefore, for the redress of their grievances by their own efforts would be the slow work of convincing an adverse majority of the inherent fairness of their claims. The proposal involved no danger to the independence of the country.

The cause of the present unrest in the Transvaal lies back of the franchise. It is in the incapacity of the Boers for self-government, their want of recognition of the rights of man, their hostile and mischievous legislation in things that concern fundamental rights, in their blindness to those obligations upon every civilized state to embody justice and equity in all their institutions, and to make possible in the hearts of men the allegiance which cannot be imposed upon them by mere law. In the words of Mr. Balfour, "An oligarchy is in power there, aggravated by corruption."

Monopolies subsist there. The alien law is grievous; the press law is an instrument for poisoning or suppressing public opinion; there is an illicit liquor traffic, dangerous in a high degree where the majority are native blacks; there are educational disadvantages, legal and sanitary maladministration, an incompetent police, uncertainty in the law, and dependence of the courts on the caprice and will of the government.

In the shifty Boer diplomacy that has been the amazement of the world for the last few months, nothing is more confusing than the proposals which President Kruger has brought forward. All may be characterized as professing to give what they in reality withold. An interview with Mr. Kruger, published on Sept. 15, represents him as saying:—

"I have tried all along to place the aliens in the Transvaal on the same footing politically as the burghers. . . . . I have wanted to let them have the same political rigts, but they would not avail themselves of this. Roughly, there are more than 50,000 aliens who have been more than seven years, and who have registered, thus being eligible to the franchise, yet of the British subjects who have availed themselves of it, the chief part have been the Africanders and not not English-born. This," he says, "shows that the British in the Transvaal do not want the franchise."

But the franchise to which the 50,000 are eligible is not the full burgher right to vote, but only for members of the second Raad—a mere talking chamber cunningly devised by Mr. Kruger to give the unenfranchised the semblance of their just right, while at the same time he withholds the reality.

The wrong which strikes home is the existence of a fort at Johannesburg, commanding not the entrance into the country, but its places of business and its largest population. This is armed with rapid-fire guns of the best class, and is kept absolutely secret from the unenfranchised, who are themselves forbidden to carry arms in their own defence. It is manned by Boers, commands the town, and could in a half hour sweep the entire population out of existence. This fort was built almost wholly out of taxes unjustly levied upon the very industry which its guns command. The votes for it were taken in a body in which the unenfranchised had no representation. It commands in great part the very 50,000 that Mr. Kruger speaks of as registered and entitled to the suffrage, if they would only take it. There are no Boers to speak of in Johannesburg. The contracts for the erection of this fort were given out long before the Jameson raid, and its proposed construction was one of the causes that led to that event.

Our own Declaration of Independence condemned George III. because he refused to pass laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

"He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

"He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

"He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries."

The Boer police is on a level with the despotism that controls it. It has committed numberless atrocities, and when brought to book in court, juries have rendered farcical verdicts. Our Declaration of Independence dealt with a similar situation and condemned the king for protecting his forces in any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states.

"For imposing taxes on us without our consent.

"For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of trial by jury.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Had the Boer ruled wisely, or if not wisely, had he with an approach to equity foreborne to establish inequality between great classes, there would have been no unrest in the Transvaal. Even now should the intoxication of success in the preliminary conflict of arms be succeeded by the sobering and severer lessons inevitable in the latter stages, and, instructed by these stern teachers, should the Boer grant equality of right to all civilized men within his borders, peace would be possible, and it might be that a measure of self-government would still be entrusted to the Transvaal.

Had this been done on the petition of its disaffected and outraged inhabitants, all threat to the independence of the Transvaal would have been impossible. As in Switzerland the French, Germans, and Italians enjoy absolute equality and, diverse as they are in origin and traditions, have achieved a unity of spirit in behalf of their institutions which is the marvel and admiration of the world, so in the Transvaal diversity rightly recognized would have been and might still be a source of strength and safety under the fostering care of just government.

President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, has a heavy responsibility for this war. The proclamation issued by him on Oct. 14, three days after the outbreak of hostilities, contains grave untruth. He speaks of the injustice done his kith and kin, when the fact is that it is his kith and kin who are doing the injustice to others. He speaks of the annexation conspiracy, when the historical fact is that the Orange Free State has enjoyed independence by the grant and proclamation of Great Britain ever since 1854 without encroachment. In the Orange Free State Uitlander and Boers enjoy the same rights, and give thus a standing refutation to those who claim that the same equality of rights would be mischievous in the Transvaal.

The proclamation of President Steyn is a masterpiece in *suggestio falsi* as well as in *suppressio veri* and will deprive him of the confidence of mankind in the sincerity of his pretended efforts to avert war. There is justification for the charge that he is the Iago of the tragedy, and is blinded to the claim of justice by his inordinate ambition to be prominent in a great South African republic, if republic that may be called which would bring his race into power by denying equal rights to the other whites in the manner in which the Transvaal has maintained the Boer supremacy.

But there is another reason why Americans should cordially oppose the unjust Boers, and as cordially support the claims of Great Britain.

There were in the Transvaal over 3,000 American citizens, more than 1,000 of whom are of military age, and most of whom are qualified to be electors under any fair naturalization laws. They have resided in the Transvaal for from three to thirteen years, are identified with its interests, and are fitted to take part in its political life. They have observed strict neutrality in all the agitation preceding hostilities, and so long as they remained in the Transvaal they were obedient to the law; they have sought only by the just presentation of their case in discussion and in the lawful cultivation of public opinion to obtain that improvement of their situation which ought to be freely accorded civilized men in every part of the earth. It is not a crime to go to any country in the intelligent and enlightened prosecution of self-interest in the proper way, in obedience to law, and with a willingness to assume all the obligations of citizenship. Yet American citizens have suffered from the same injustice that other Uitlanders have suffered from, in the redress of which Great Britain is engaged in a war of unknown and illimitable extent.

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They have laid their petition for the redress of grievances before the government of Pretoria along with other Uitlanders in the same situation, only to have the petition ignored. They have presented to the government at Washington their request that a representation be made direct to the government at Pretoria looking to the voluntary grant of the reforms sought by the Uitlanders in the matter of the franchise, of fair taxation, of the repeal of the press law, of the alien expulsion law; that they might be granted the right to hold public meetings, the right to be free from the threat of force by the overhanging fort at Johannesburg, and the enactment of laws looking to the equality of status between all civilised inhabitants resident in the country five years, to the end that the deep-seated unrest might be allayed and the cause of irritation between different races of the population removed.

The claim of these American citizens for the restoration in the Transvaal of fair conditions is a claim so just, and therefore so forceful, that a way will be found to convey to the government at Pretoria their wish, or else the removal of these grievances by a war unjustly declared by the Transvaal will be the second deep obligation to Great Britain which this country has incurred in two years.

But, apart from this, England's uniform protection for her subjects in distant parts of the world challenges our admiration. She once expended £13,000,000 in a war with Abyssinia for the sake of one missionary.

The present war was declared by the Transvaal under circumstances which compel the belief that all the negotiation which has been agitating diplomacy and the peace of the world for the last six months was idle, and that war was inevitable from the start. The unenfranchised could not accept permanent inferiority; the Boers never intended to grant the promised equality. The war began by the invasion of British colonial territory, and not by the aggressive act of Great Britain. The outbreak of hostilities found Great Britain unprepared for war, and therefore not open to the charge of having brought it on; and back of this was the claim of Great Britain merely for equal rights to all civilized men with the solemn assurance that no attack on the independence of the Transvaal was made or threatened or intended. In a just view of the case, however much we may incline toward the weaker state, the intelligent sympathy of mankind must go to the side of right, and not the fanatical race whose call upon the Almighty is in behalf of oppression, corruption, and injustice.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, March 16.

Cronje and the bulk of the prisoners have sailed for St. Helena.

General Warren's Division after embarking has landed again at Durban.

President Steyn has proclaimed Kroonstadt as the capital of the Orange Free State.

Lord Salisbury's reply has evoked bitter resentment in Pretoria, but has been received calmly on the continent of Europe.

The forces of Clement at Norval's Pont, of Gatacre at Bethulie, and Brabant at Aliwal North are joining hands. The Boers occupy several strong entrenched positions with guns at the junction of the Drakensberg and Biggarsberg ranges.

Lord Roberts received a tremendous ovation in Bloemfontein.

Mr. Delcassé, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Senate, said that after Great Britain's public reply to President Kruger's telegram the Powers could not intervene.

Mr. Balfour, speaking in the Commons, said that Lord Salisbury had thanked America for the friendly tone of the communications in which President McKinley had said that he should be glad to aid in any friendly manner in restoring peace, but that Lord Salisbury had stated that the Government did not propose to accept the intervention of any Power. This statement was received with loud and prolonged cheering.

Shanghai, March 17.

Gatacre has crossed the Orange River and occupied Bethulie.

Pole-Carew, with 2,000 of the Guards, two guns, and a few mounted infantry, has left Bloemfontein to join Gatacre and Clements. Pole-Carew has passed Bethany unopposed.

Brabant and Clements have crossed the Orange River and established themselves on the southern bank.

The Mayor of Simondstown, in presenting an address to the Naval Brigade thanking them for the services rendered by them at Ladysmith, referred to the presence at the ceremony of several Malay priests who were desirous of testifying their devotion to the Queen and country.

Sir F. Carrington and staff have sailed to take command of the Rhodesian field force to prevent the Boers from trekking northward.

Shanghai, March 18.

Pole-Carew has arrived at Springfontein, therefore Bloemfontein is practically in railway communication with Cape Town.

Gatacre's scouts have entered Springfontein and his column is advancing.

It is estimated that three-quarters of the Free Staters are returning to their farms.

The rebels are flocking in to surrender at Barkley East, Ladygrey and Herschel.

Shanghai, March 18.

Pole-Carew has reached Norval's Pont.

Gatacre's scouts have seized two engines and 40 trucks and a quantity of ammunition, with several prisoners.

Lord Dundonald has reconnoitred the Free State border, and found the Boers in force at Van Reenen's, Tintwa, and De Beers passes.

Shanghai, March 19.

Reuter's agent writes from Lobatsi, under date of the 12th inst., that the railway and telegraph have been taken at Pitsani, 25 miles north of Mafeking, and that the relief of the place is expected at any moment.

Disorderly scenes occurred in Dublin in connection with the inaugural procession. The Lord Mayor's carriage was stoned and the windows were broken owing to his proposing an address of welcome to the Queen. The police restrained the crowd with difficulty.

Shanghai, March 19.

The departure of the transports with the Free Staters for St. Helena has been countermanded. It is probable that the Transvaalers will go instead. Violent quarelling between the Free State and Transvaal prisoners is incessant.

Shanghai, March 20.

The fighting is constant and severe at Mafeking. The British and the Boer trenches are in the closest proximity. Both sides are using dynamite and hand grenades freely. Various reports indicate that the besiegers have been reinforced.

The constitution of Methuen's force is unknown. It is believed to consist largely of Colonial horsemen from Kimberley. Methuen reached Warrenton on the 15th in time to prevent the bridge from being completely destroyed and to secure a pont on the Vaal River.

General Sir Wm. Stephen Alexander Lockhart, G.C.B., K.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief in India, has died at Calcutta.

Shanghai, March 20.

General White has arrived at Cape Town in a state of ill-health. He sails for England on Wednesday.

Mr. St. John Brodrick, replying in the House of Commons to a question regarding rumours emanating from America that an anarchical outbreak is apprehended in China, said that the Government will continue to take the necessary steps to protect British interests.

Sir M. Hicks Beach states that the total applications for the war loan were 335½ million pounds sterling.

Kitchener has occupied Prieska, the Transvaalers escaping across the river. Thirty-three prisoners, 200 stands of arms, and some supplies and explosives were captured.

President Steyn threatens to shoot as a traitor any burgher undertaking not to fight us.

The plague is raging in Calcutta and Patna.

Shanghai, March 21.

Sir Alfred Milner, accompanied by his military and private secretaries, has left Capetown by special train. His destination is secret.

France and Germany are manifesting anxiety in consequence of the recurrence of Transvaal threats to explode the mines at Johannesburg. It is thought that this may lead to joint representations to Kruger.

British cavalry from Bloemfontein and Springfontein are endeavouring to intercept Olivier's commando, which is retreating from Aliwal North on Kroonstad.

Mr. Wyndham, speaking in the House of Commons, said that it is understood that Mr. Chamberlain intends to issue a proclamation dealing with the question of the wanton destruction of property by the Boers.

The Boers yesterday exploded the railway bridge between Bloemfontein and Brandfort.

Lord Kitchener has arrived at Prieska.

Shanghai, March 22.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Agra Bank, it was resolved to go into voluntary liquidation.

There was desultory firing throughout Sunday across the Vaal river at Warrenton. The enemy concentrated his attention and forces on the task of guarding the pont. On the arrival of a British battery the enemy retired to Christiana.

The rebels around Prieska have begun to surrender.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France in Tokyo.)

Saigon, March 16.

Lord Roberts has entered Bloemfontein, and has hoisted the British flag over the palace abandoned by Steyn. Everything is calm. The mayor went to meet Lord Roberts and handed him the keys of the administrative bureaux.

Saigon, March 17.

The French Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Delcassé, in answer to a question addressed to him in the Senate, said that, England having publicly refused the independence of the Transvaal, intervention

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by the Powers had become impossible. He added that France remained attached to her traditions of generosity, but that she had to consider her interests, and that she would applaud and second the initiative of other Powers.

Saigon, March 19.

Roberts telegraphs that numbers of Boers are giving up their arms. Communications are re-established between Bloemfontien and Norval's Pont.

Saigon, March 20.

The High Council of War assembled this morning. The President of the Republic, the President of the Council of Ministers, and the Ministers of War and the Navy were present.

The English are consolidating their positions in the Orange Free State. The Boers continue their retreat towards the north.

Saigon, March 22.

Skirmishes have taken place on the banks of the Vaal river at Warrenton.

The number of deaths from plague in Bengal during last week was 4,725.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Jiji Shimpo")

Söul, March 19.

The borrowing of 300,000 *yen* from the Russian Government has been abandoned and three millions will be borrowed instead.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Nichi Nichi Shimbun.")

Söul, March 16.

It is stated that Russia has obtained from Korea the privilege of cutting timber in several districts for the purposes of the Siberian Railway, and that the Korean Household Department, last night, received a sum of 300,000 *yen* for the concession. There is also a rumour that a Russian subject is to be employed in the capacity of Adviser to the Household Department.

Söul, March 19.

H.E. Mr. Alexieff, Governor of the Liaotung Peninsula, arrived in Söul on the 17th instant, and will have audience of the Emperor to-day.

The statement that the Korean Government is about to borrow 300,000 *yen* from the Russian Government is only an idle rumour.

[The Convention between Russia and Japan pledges each Power not to give pecuniary assistance to Korea.—Ed. *J.M.*]

Söul, March 20.

The mining concession has been definitely granted to Mr. Pritchard Morgan for a term of 25 years, 25 per cent. of the output to be paid to the Korean Government.

Söul, March 21.

The projectors of the Söul-Fusan Railway were received in audience by the Emperor to-day.

THE GREAT ASSAULTS ON LADYSMITH.

A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

London, Feb. 24.

Few more brilliant stories have been written than the three-column account in the *Standard* from Ladysmith of the terrific assault upon that camp by the Boers on January 6th. Many of the details told by the *Standard* correspondent are intensely interesting. First of all, he gives a lucid explanation of the mysterious way in which the Boers managed to get so close before they were discovered.

"At 7 o'clock on Friday night," he writes, "500 picked Boers rode from the laager behind Bulwana, and, fording the river, came to a kopje south of Caesar's Camp. They then bivouacked until 1 o'clock in the morning, when they crept cautiously along the ravine and across Fourie's Spruit. Avoiding our pickets and patrols, one section moved up the ravine to the eastern shoulder and climbed silently up the slope in the fold of the hill. Another company moved along the boulder-strewn ascent toward the plateau on the south. Three or four thousand were in reserve among the kopjes and broken ground. They were ready to assist the storming parties and to occupy the hills in force as soon as their comrades secured a footing.

In the attack upon Caesar's Camp, one party of 50 Boers, seeking to make good their retreat, were overtaken by the Border Mounted Rifles and escaped for the moment by declaring that they were the town guard. This trick was, however, becoming too stale and every man was shot down as he came into the open. The Boers, as I have repeatedly said, appear to think that the white flag is a legitimate weapon of offence and may be used as a cloak for any treachery. A Boer officer, with a dozen armed followers, advanced up the hill with a white flag and shouted that they were coming to surrender; when called upon to drop their weapons they made it clear that their intention was not to surrender, but one of treachery. When, after many hours of fierce fighting, the Boers were almost repulsed from Caesar's Camp, a storm came to aid them in their dire extremity. The volleying musketry of hail and the moan of thunder added a dreadful note to the cannonade and sheets of flooding rain turned the spruits into raging torrents and the plains into lakes. To see 50 yards through this blinding shower was impossible. Seizing the moment, the Boers pushed forward another force from behind Bulwana. But they did not get beyond the kopje east of Caesar's Camp, where our Naval gun threw a few shells into their midst. The storming party made a dash down the hill-side, hoping to find protection in the storm. Many were shot in their flight, while others flung themselves into the river and were swept out of sight This rush brought the fight at Caesar's Camp to a close amid a fusillade that almost drowned the thunder."

But it was at Wagon Hill where the most dramatic features of the assault occurred. Of this, the correspondent says:—

"Col. Edwards was leading his men into position to the east of Wagon Hill, when a bullet struck him in the shoulder. Though robbed of their leader at a critical moment, the Light Horse never wavered. Creeping forward to points that seemed least exposed to the devastating fire from the front of the hill, they fought manfully, often within 20 and even 10 yards of their enemy. This duel went on four hours without any manifest sign of advantage on either side, though men were falling on every hand. Major Bowen called for volunteers among the 60th Rifles. Only half-a-dozen came forward, and with this handful of gallant heroes the brave officer dashed at a strong position held by the enemy. Not a man lived to tell the story of their valour. Lieutenant Todd, with 25 men, made another gallant charge. Thus the fight wavered through the long and anxious hours of the morning. At noon the Devons came to the rescue. The Gordons, having no officer, were again falling back, but rallied to the call of Major Miller-Walnutt, whose gigantic figure was soon at the head of a desperate charge. The enemy left the emplacement, and, rushing up the western ascent, took cover among the rocks. Their presence here was not less dangerous, and another effort was made to dislodge them. A subaltern was in charge of a working party of Sappers, Lieutenant Digby Jones, a youth of 22, who had already won fame by the destruction of the howitzer on Surprise Hill. When the enemy first appeared on the crest of Wagon Hill, Lieuten. Digby Jones engaged the storming party in a sangar on the west front. Driven from that position, he had been conspicuous throughout the engagement for acts of heroism that attracted the notice of Colonel Hamilton, who had decided to recommend him for the Victoria Cross. Collecting a mixed company of Sappers, Rifles, and Highlanders, he led them against the new position held by the enemy. As they dashed up the narrow path, the Boers, never imagining that men could display such reckless courage, called upon them to throw up their hands. Bullet and bayonet convinced them of their error, and the position was ours.

But fate was holding the shears over the head of an heroic life. An hour or two afterwards, when we had at a great sacrifice reconquered the western limit of the hill, Lieutenant Digby Jones was in the gun emplacement with Major Miller-Walnutt and one or two men. The enemy had been driven back, yet maintained a searching fire, and, having received strong reinforcements, was preparing for another advance. Suddenly, three or four great dark shadows were cast over the parapet, in which there were no loopholes. Von Wyk, leader of the Harrismith Commando, Field Cornet de Villiers, and another brave Boer, were making their last desperate charge. Major Miller-Walnutt shot his man, and fell himself from a bullet aimed at the back of his head. A corporal of the Sappers slew de Villiers, whose bandolier was almost filled with explosive bullets. Lieutenant Digby Jones, running out of the emplacement, shot the Commandant, von Wyk, before he himself ended a short hero's career with a Mauser bullet in the throat. His young and brave comrade, Lieutenant Dennis, fell a moment afterward while going to the aid of the wounded.

The hard-fought fight was nearly over. Our men were again on the summit of the hill, and the Hotchkiss gun of the Natal Naval Volunteers was no longer in jeopardy. But there remained a small and gallant band of Boers, who either would not or could not retire. They were hidden among some rocks about 30 yards from the brow of the hill. Their fire was deadly in its searching accuracy. One man alone is credited with having shot no fewer than five officers.

Colonel Hamilton asked Colonel Parke whether anything could be done to remove them. 'A charge,' suggested the Commander of the Devons. The order was given and the three companies went forward with a cheer across the open shot-swept ground. Lieutenant Field led his company first, then came Captain Lafone, and upon his heels Lieutenant Masterson. The enemy did not wait to receive the cold steel, but threw themselves over the hill in headlong flight, trusting to speed and the flooding sheet of rain.

Lieutenant Masterson, having to return with a message, tumbled into a sangar with ten wounds upon his body. Captain Lafone and Lieutenant Field fell victims to a cross-fire while the Boers were in flight.

The battle was over. For sixteen hours it had raged and the very heavens had been shaken with the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry. Ladysmith had not fallen. The enemy had been repulsed on every side, and the tale of their dead, east, west, south, and north, was heavy beyond anything that they had suffered in Natal. Night drew a sable cloak over the slain and we waited anxiously till dawn, to count the dead, and to rescue the wounded.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 464.

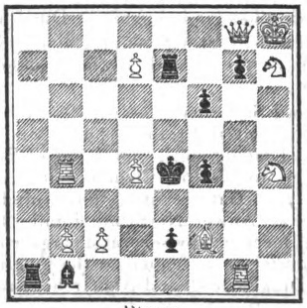
Key move Q to Q 2.

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 466.

By A. F. McKenzie.

Black.



White.

White mates in two moves.

Game No. 573.

Queen's Gambit Declined.

White—Schlechter.		Black—Wolf.	
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1 P Q4	P Q4	9 Castles	Q B2
2 P QB4	P K3	10 P QKt3	Castles
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	11 B Kt2	KR Ksq
4 Kt B3	B K2	12 QR Bsq	B Kt2
5 P K3	PQ Kt3	13 Q K2	QR Bsq
6 PxP	PxP	14 KR Qsq	K Bsq
7 B Kt5ch	P B3	15 Q B2	P KR3
8 B Q3	QKt Q2	16 Kt K5	KtxKt

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17	PxKt	QxP	27	B B3	Q B3
18	B B5	QR Q sq	28	R Q sq	Q Bsq
19	KtxP	Q Ktsq	29	B R5	R Q4
20	KtxKt	BxKt	30	QxPch	K Q3
21	BxB	PxB	31	QxPch	Q K3
22	B Q7	R K4	32	Q Q8ch	K B4
23	Q R7	K K2	33	Q B8ch	Q Q3
24	B Kt4	P KR4	34	RxRch	PxR
25	RxR	QxR	35	P Kt4ch	Resigns
26	BxRP	QQ4			

GAME No. 574.

A FINE "BLACKBURNE."

The following game, from Mr. Blackburne's "Games of Chess," is, says *The Westminster Gazette*, interesting from the fact that on this occasion originated the beautiful variation of leaving a Rook *en prise* for the attack. Tschigorin is very fond of this variation, and played it successfully on various occasions, notably at the Hastings Tournament against Pillsbury:

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White.—Blackburne. Black—Anderssen.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	22 PxP	K PxP
2 P K B4	B B4	23 B R2	R Q2
3 Kt K B3	P Q3	24 B Kt4	Q Q sq
4 Kt B3	Kt K B3	25 KtxKt	BxKt
5 B B4	P Q R3	26 Q B5	Kt K sq
6 P Q3	Kt B3	27 K K2	R B3
7 P Q R3	B K Kt5	28 O R7	P B4
8 P R3	BxKt	29 B Q2	P Kt4
9 QxB	Kt Q5	30 RxR	QxR
10 Q Kt3	Q K2	31 R K Bsq	Q Q3
11 K Q sq	P B3	32 Q Kt8	R K2
12 PxP	PxP	33 RxP	K Q sq
13 R B sq	R K Ktsq	34 R B8	K Q2
14 B K Kt5	Castles	35 B Q B4	Q Q Kt3
15 P Q Kt4	B R2	36 Q Q5 ch	K B2
16 P Q R4	QxP	37 Q R8 '	K Q2
17 B Q2	Q K2	38 B Kt3	Kt B3
18 R QKtsq	P K Kt 4	39 B R4 ch	K K3
19 Q B2	R Kt3	40 Q B8 ch	Kt Q2
20 P Kt4	P R3	41 BxKt ch	RxB
21 Kt K2	P Kt4	42 Q K8 ch	Resigns

Mr. Blackburne says that the variation commencing with 10 Q to Kt 3 occurred to him on the spur of the moment, and took Professor Anderssen by surprise. He did not venture upon Kt takes P ch and Kt takes R, as he naturally assumed Mr. Blackburne had sprung upon him a variation well considered beforehand. The capture of the Rook, however, is not an unalloyed pleasure either, as Black is subjected to a most violent attack, in which White can temporarily disregard the absence of the Queen's Rook. Black had a good enough game afterwards; but he compromised it with the advance of the K Kt and Q Kt Pawns, and White manœuvred very skilfully against his formidable opponent. The latter part of the game, commencing with 28 Q to R 7, is well worth careful study. He cleverly pinned Black's Kt at K sq, drew off Black's Queen from the defence by threatening 36 B to Kt 5 ch, and brought his Bishop into play by force after 37 Q to R 8. The game was then easily won.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 1	M. Mar. 26
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 2	M. Mar. 26
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 3	Th. Mar. 29
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Weimar	Sa. Mar. 31
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 4	Tu. April 3
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	——	Tu. April 3
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Th. April 5
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	W. April 11
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. April 14

1 Left Hongkong on the 17th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 20th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 13th inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. Mar. 23
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Koenig Albert	Sa. Mar. 24
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Tu. Mar. 27
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. Mar. 28
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Annam	F. Mar. 30
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. Mar. 31
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. April 4
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. April 4
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Sa. April 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th April 12
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. April 17

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tameke, 16th Mar.,—Yokkaichi, 15th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 16th March,—Shanghai via ports, 10th March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Nishihara, 16th March,—Yokkaichi, 15th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 17th March,—Muroran, 14th March, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 17th Marc.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 27th Feb., Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Lady Foicey, British steamer, 2,046, J. Cook, 17th March,—San Francisco via San Diego, 13th Feb., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,762, C. H. Butler, 17th March,—Tacoma, Wash., 21st Feb., Mails and General —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Koe ig Albert, German steamer, 6,590, O. Cuepers, 17th March,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 16th March, Mails & General. —H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, F. Davies, 18th March,—Kobe, 16th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,109, N Nielsen, 19th March,—Shimonoseki, 16th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 19th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 18th March, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 19th March,—Hongkong via Moji and Kobe, 18th March, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kawachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,781, J. S. Thompson, 19th March,—Antwerp and London via ports, and Kobe, 18th March,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, M. Hamada, 19th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, 14th Mar., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 20th March,—Kobe, 18th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 20th March,—Yokkaichi, 19th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, K. Higo, 20th March,—Kobe, 18th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Barfleur (14), British battleship, 10,500, Capt. G. J. S. Warrender, 20th March,—Nagasaki via Kobe.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Nishihara, 20th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Annam, French steamer, 2,331, Poydenot, 21st March,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 20th March, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Kawahara, 21st March,—Hakodate, 18th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 21st March,—Nagasaki, 17th March, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 21st March,—Otaru via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 22nd Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st March, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Futami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, James Thom, 16th Mar.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,748, W. Thompsen, 16th March,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tonkin, French steamer, 2,008, A. Vaquier, 16th March,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 16th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, J. Miyagi, 16th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,360, J. Jones, 17th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Nishihara, 17th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Yoshizawa, 17th March,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 18th March,—Otaru via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pathan, British steamer, 1,762, C. H. Butler, 18th March,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 19th March,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S. S. Co.

Queen Louise, British steamer, 2,170, Frame, 19th March,—Kobe, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 2,488, Vyvyan, 19th March,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Lady Foicey, British steamer, 2,046, Cook, 20th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Glaucus, British steamer, 3,350, J. Barwise, 20th March,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, W. A. Evans, 20th March,—Portland, Or., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, Fred. Davies, 20th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 20th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 20th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, K. Higo, 20th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 21st Mar.,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 21st March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, S. Nishimura, 21st March,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, M. Nishihara, 21st Mar.,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 21st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 21st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,109, N. Nielson, 21st March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Kaisha.

Java, British steamer, 2,733, G. W. Gordon, 21st March,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 22nd March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

EXPECTED.

Per German steamer *Weimar*, from Bremem via ports:—Mr. J. R. Mudie, Mr. H. C. Norman, Dr. C. Kalnin, and Dr. Adolf Imhoff, in cabin.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Major-General Katsuda, Major Sahaku, Mrs. Switzer and child, Miss Giese, Mr. K. Kawakami, Mr. S. Sadachi, Mr. R. Sano, Mr. J. Henningsen, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Popping, in cabin; Mr. Peter Dutkiwiok, Mr. Hong Ming Quai, Mr. Bense, and Mr. Imamura, in second class; German 4, Chinese 4, and Japanese 28, in steerage.

Per German steamer *Koenig Albert*, from Bremen via ports:—Mr. F. Balden, Mr. R. Becker, Mr. Lother V. Wiedenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Friedenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Morrison, Prof. Koebel, Dr. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Lawton, Mr. Culvert, Mr. Ham, Lieut. Harding, Mrs. Fruett, Mr. Nors, Mr. Vehling, Mr. S. Balden, Mr. C. Schramm, Mr. W. A. Chamberlain, Mr. Chang Tang, Mr. Wo Tang, and Mr. Alberson's family, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. A. C. Barnard, Mrs. A. C. Barnard, Mr. W. S. Ennis, Miss A. Giles, Miss W. Giles, Mr. B. Guggenheim, Mr. E. Hutchinson, Mr. C. F. Marwedel, Mr. C. L. Pierson, Mrs. C. L. Pierson, Mr. F. B. Reece, Mr. H. G. Simon, Prof. G. F. Wright, Mr. F. B. Wright, Mr. J. D. York, and Mrs. J. D. York, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. E. G. Ackermann, Mr. J.

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Green, and Mr. C. A. Roberts, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. W. B. Vanderlip, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Rev. Robt. Coltman, Mrs. Robt. Coltman, Mrs. E. H. Conger, Miss Laura Conger, Miss Mattie Dutton, Mr. J. S. Fearon, Mr. A. T. Hellyer, Mr. F. Hellyer, Mrs. F. Hellyer, Mr. C. M. Hutchings, Miss Cecile E. Payen, Miss Mary Pierce, Mr. J. D. Trawick, Mr. M. Warner, and Mrs. M. S. Woodward and daughter in cabin. For Hongkong:—Miss K. V. Adams, Mr. C. C. Carpenter, Mrs. C. C. Carpenter and daughter, Mr. A. M. Henry, Miss Edith F. Henry, Miss F. S. Henry, Mr. Wm. B. Jones, Miss A. J. Kennon, Mrs. M. A. Koehler, Mr. H. Lachlan, Mr. Roger Lyons, Mrs. Jas. H. MacRae and two children, Mr. C. Maillot, Mr. C. H. Moller, Mr. J. W. Morrison, Mrs. J. M. Morrison, Miss L. A. Owen, Mr. A. Von Pustau, Mrs. A. Von Pustau, Mr. Fung Nam Pak, Mr. Chas. D. Sias, Mrs. Chas. D. Sias, Mr. A. Simon, Miss Smith, Lieut. M. M. Taylor, Mr. J. Williams, Mrs. J. Williams, Miss M. Williams, and Rev. S. T. Williams, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. E. P. W. Skrimshire, Mrs. E. P. W. Shrimshire, Mr. A. Fleet, Mr. E. B. Townsend, Mr. W. D. Townsend, Mr. W. Brent, Mr. J. W. Crowe, Mr. J. Marshall, Mr. Forshaw, Mrs. F. Parsons, Master Parsons, Miss Parsons, Mr. M. Headley, and Mr. A. E. Castle, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Miss T. Tani, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Rev. Dr. Downie, Mrs. Downie, Miss Downie, Mrs. Dr. Breed, Mrs. Wee How, Mr. Ch. Pettit, Miss J. K. Chapin, Mrs. Hedland and child, Miss Adams, Rev. W. C. Owen, Miss Crawford, Mrs. Jew Shee, Dr. Noble, Dr. Hedland, Miss S. Evans, Mr. A. A. Morgan, Mr. N. Baker, Rev. and Mrs. Mandell, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Findlay, Miss C. Easton, Rev. L. Semple, Miss R. H. Elwin, Miss E. L. Elwin, and Miss Denton, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kawachi Maru*, from London via ports:—Mrs. Van Renesse, Mr. Chadwick, and Mr. James Aitken, in cabin; one Japanese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Annam*, from Marseilles via ports:—Dr. Mecre and daughter, Mr. Carus, Mr. Mourrier, Mr. Hilles, Miss Lafon, Mr. Lo, Mr. Jacobsen, Mr. Schulke, Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, Mr. Ernest Puissant, Mr. and Mrs. de la Tour, Mrs. Crombie, Mr. W. Tallers, Mrs. Murray, child and amah, Mr. Eugene Bourrois, and 2 Chinese, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. J. Bruce and maid, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Shun, Mr. L. Barley, Col. A. H. Turner, C.B., Mr. K. H. Browne, Mr. G. B. Denbigh, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. J. W. Copman, Miss Copman, Mr. F. Pack, Mr. Christian, Mr. H. Stock, Mr. J. Briggs, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Evans, Mr. F. H. Tanner, and Mr. C. K. Joy, in cabin; Mr. J. Heffron, Mr. Weckstrom, and 1 Chinese, in second class. In Transit:—Rev. and Mrs. T. W. Pearce, Mrs. Le Gonedic de Poulon, Mr. P. E. Booth, Mr. A. G. Loderiguz, Bishop J. N. Thorburn, Miss Steere, Rev. and Mrs. C. R. Wood and child, Mr. Vanburen, Miss Batchelor, Mr. A. J. Currie, Mr. R. C. Philips, Mrs. Rohle and son, Mrs. E. S. Crittenden, Miss E. A. Stoddard, Mr. P. A. Chance, Col. Browne, Mr. G. B. Allen, and Mr. and Mrs. Hawood, in cabin; 1 in second class; 357 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Prof. A. Agassiz, Mrs. Dr. Bigler, Mr. James Cruikshank, Mr. Nelson S. Clark, Dr. H. L. Canright, Mrs. H. L. Canright, Master Canright, Master Canright, Miss Canright, Mr. Yee Chuen Chai, Mr. Lee Chu, Mrs. J. S. Davison, Mr. F. Fujita, Miss L. D. Greene, Mrs. Geo. C. Hulberton, 2 children and maid, Mrs. S. D. Hepburn, Captain H. C. Haines, U.S.M.C., Mr. O G. Leslie, Miss Irene F. Mann and maid, Mr. C. R. Morling, Mr. O. Matsuoka, Dr. A. G. Mayer, Lt.-Com. J. A. Norris, U.S.N., Mrs. J. A. Norris, Albertus Pieters, Mrs. Albertus Pieters and infant, Miss R. W. Pieters, Miss D. H. Pieters, Miss E. Pieters, Mr. Baptist Runge, Mr. H. Ramseger, Rev. J. N. B. Smith, Mrs. J. N. B. Smith and infant, Miss R. B. Smith, Miss M. E. Smith, Master J. N. Smith, Miss Mary L. Smith, Master J. J. Smith, Master Francis Smith, Master E. M. Smith, Rev. W. E. Soothill, Mrs. W. E. Soothill, Mr. F. P. Sharp, Mrs. F. P. Sharp, Mr. C. Saito, Mr. S. Sugiyama, Mr. C. Schlutze, Mr. J. Tullock, Miss C. Thomson, and Mrs. V. Turnpaugh, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Tonkin*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Chausson, Mr. Raol Jamin, Mr. E. Stucken, Mr. Ph. R. Goedkoop, Mr. P. Sorhagen, Mr. C. Watanabe, Mr. D. Shimogo, Mr. N. Isawa, Mr. M. Ishizumi, Mr. Sing Un, Mr. Foung Cook, Mr. Ting Wa Un, Mrs. M. Arnaud, Miss S. Culty, Mr. Matsuura, Mr. Thevenon, Mr. F. Schoene, Mr. Koreyuki Aso, Mr. Young, Mr. Ho, Mr. Choy, and Mr. Ham Kam, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss A. P. Adams and maid, Mr. L. H. Abel, Mrs. L. H. Abel and child, Mr. M. Barker, Mrs. Dr. Breed, Miss J. W. Chapin, Mr. A. E. Castle, Miss Crawford, Rev. Dr. Downie, Mrs. Downie, Miss Downie, Miss M. T. Danton and maid, Miss Sala Evans, Miss L. M. Elwin, Miss E. L. Elwin, Mr. R. W. Everest, Miss C. Easton, Rev. W. H. Findlay, Mrs. W. H. Findlay, Mr. A. Fischer, Mr. J. Goldschmidt, Mr. M. Hoadley, Mr. A. Holmblad, Rev. Dr. Hedland, Mrs. Hedland and infant, Mrs. Wee How, Mr. Francis H. Lawe, Dr. J. Jones, Mr. H. A. Morgan, Rev. W. A. Mansell, Mrs. W. A. Mansell, Dr. Noble, Rev. W. C. Owen, Mrs. Geo. L. Otis and maid, Miss Otis, Mr. Chas. Pettit, Mr. W. A. Svaddstrun, Miss Katherine Scudder, Rev. Souple, Miss Jew Shee, Miss Anna de F. Thompson, and Mr. A. L. Young, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Fava*, for London via ports:—Mr. J. W. Crowe, and Mr. J. Marshall, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sado Maru*, for London via ports:—Major Y. Matsuishi, Major J. Arida, Major N. Kurida, Capt. M. Kawamura, Capt. K. Hishida, Capt. J. Haraguchi, Lieut. T. Shidzuma, Lieut. S. Kanematsu, Mr. K. Ishiwatari, Mrs. Wylie, Miss D. Wylie, and Miss Byron, in cabin; Mr. P. S. Philips, Miss Smith, Mr. K. Watanabe, Mr. N. Sawada, Dr. K. Ohnishi, and Mr. S. Yokoyama, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Futami Maru*, for Melbourne via ports:—Baron Kuroki, Miss Constance A. Dening, Miss L. Dening, Mr. W. B. Taylor, Mr. B. F. Naldwyn, Capt. R. L. Merriman, Capt. J. G. Ahier, Mr. Watson, and Mr. R. Singleton, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. G. Ackerman, Miss K. V. Adams, Mrs. E. H. Conger, Miss Laura Conger, Mr. C. C. Carpenter, Mrs. C. C. Carpenter and daughter, Rev. R. Coltman, Mrs. R. Coltman, Miss Mattie Dutton, Mr. Ennis, Dr. S. Eldridge, Mr. J. S. Fearon, Mr. Jas. Green, Mr. F. Hellyer, Mrs. F. Hellyer, Mr. Arthur T. Hellyer, Mr. C. M. Hutchings, Miss F. S. Henry, Miss Edith Henry, Mr. Wm. B. Jones, Miss A. J. Kennon, Mrs. M. A. Koehler, Mr. H. Lachlan, Mrs. Jas. H. MacRae and two children, Mr. J. W. Morrison, Mrs. J. W. Morrison, Mr. C. H. Moller, Mr. C. Maillot, Mr. G. H. Middleton, Miss J. A. Owens, Mr. A. von Pustau, Mrs. A. von Pustau, Miss Cecile E. Payen, Miss Mary Pierce, Mr. R. Platt, Mr. Fung Nam Pax, Mr. Blanche Platt, Mr. C. A. Roberts, Mr. B. Roth, Mr. Chas. D. Sias, Mrs. Chas. D. Sias, Mr. C. B. Stedman, Mrs. C. B. Stedman, Miss Smith. Mr. Kwon Su Sing, Mr. J. D. Trawick, Lieut. M. M. Taylor, Mr. W. B. Vanderlip, Rev. S. T. Williams, Mrs. M. S. Woodward and daughter, Mr. M. Warner, Mr. J. Williams, Mrs. J. Williams, and Miss M. Williams, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. C. R. Ashton, Mrs. C. Ewens and amah, Mr. R. Singleton, Mr. L. Albenberg, Mrs. L. Faries and child, Mr. and Mrs. Kalep, Mr. Klatte, and Dr. G. Kanski, in cabin; 9 Chinese and child, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Com. T. Atikawa, I.J.N., Com. R. Uchita, Lieut. M. M. Taylor, U.S.N., Mr. E. Sulman, Mrs. A. Mikhailoff, Mr. W. Brent, Mrs. Taka Takahashi, and Mrs. Nao Takahashi and 2 children; Mr. C. Eloanger, Mr. S. Mohara, and Mr. Wong Chun Sing, in second class.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is still inactivity, and quotations in the absence of business are nominal. Bombaycott on is rather lower.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$3.00 to 3.30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 4.00
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches.	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.68 to 0.78
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	PER PIECE. 9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.80

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	335.00 to 345.00
Nos 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350 00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400 00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$28.50
Indian Broach	28.00
Chinese	27.00

METALS.

The market is exceedingly firm but nothing is doing among the rather heavy stocks.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.50 to 7 00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanized Iron sheets	13 00 to 14.50
Wire Nails, assorted	8 50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 18 inch)	7.50 to 7.90

KEROSENE.

Market steady.

American	$3.15 to 3.10
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

Market steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.10 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.11 to 6.25
Brown Daitong	4 40 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market has been quiet for the last day or two. Holders are strong, on account of the better tone on the home side, and when the present reduced stock of good silks is replenished a further movement will probably be witnessed.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,200 to 1,210
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,210 to 1,230
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,140 to 1,150
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,160 to 1,170
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	1,120 to 1,130
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,140
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,130
Re-reels—No. 2	1,110
Re-reels—No. 3	1,090
Kakedas—Extra	1,160
Kakedas—No. 1	None
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,090
Kakedas—No 2	None
Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

A small trade owing to smallness and poorness of stocks. Quotations are more or less nominal in the absence of business.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	$180 to 190
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 170
Noshi—Oshu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	140 to 145
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	130 to 135
Noshi—Bushu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	135
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 165
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 155
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	53

TEA.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	Nominal
Finest	Nominal
Fine	Nominal
Good Medium	Nominal
Medium	Nominal
Good Common	Nominal
Common	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 22.

Silver from London and sterling quotations from China come unaltered. Rates locally are

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firmer for private paper, closing for the mail per steamer *Empress of Japan* as under.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 1/4
— — 4 months' sight	2 0 1/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 1 1/16
— — 6 months' sight	2 0 1 1/16
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	254 1/8
— Private 4 months' sight	259
— Private 6 months' sight	260
America—Bank Bills on demand	49 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	50 1/8
Germany—Bank sight	207
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74
— Private 10 days' sight	74 3/4
India—Bank sight	151 1/4
— Private 30 days' sight	153 1/8
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/16 to 3/4

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, March 22.

Breweries can be placed at *yen* 145. Engine and Iron Works are wanted at *yen* 212.50 per April. Grand Hotels are steady at *yen* 235. Club Hotels are obtainable at *yen* 85. Oriental Hotels changed hands to-day at *yen* 150. Founders' shares are wanted at *yen* 450. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 75. Helms were sold at par ex dividend. Laundries can be had at par.

Debentures—Breweries are steady at *yen* 110. V. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108. Offers are wanted for Nagasaki Hotels first issue. Laundries have sellers at par.

International Cottons were purchased from Shanghai at Taels. 70.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, l.d., $50	212.50 B.
Japan Brewery Co., l.d. *yen* 50	147.50 Sa.
Grand Hotel, l.d., $100	235 Sa.
Club Hotel, l.d., $100	85 S.
Oriental Hotel, l.d., $100	150 Sa
Oriental Hotel, l.d. (Pdrs.), $108	450 B.
Nagasaki Hotel l.d., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, l.d., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., l.d., $10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., l.d., $100	75 B
Helm Bros., $50	50 Sa. ex div
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., $50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., l.d. 7% Deb., $100	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 S.
Brett & Co., l.d. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, l.d. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, l.d. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.—Buyers, Sa.—Sales, St.—Steady N.—Nominal, W.—Weak E.—Enquiries

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

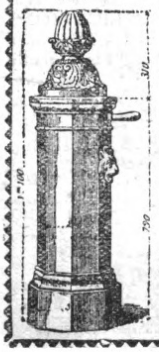
LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 22.

Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 85. Oriental Hotels, Kobe, have buyers at *yen* 150. Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 145. Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 80. Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 212.50 for April delivery. Helm Bros. can be had at par. Laundries can be had par.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	210 Buyers.
Grand Hotel	235 Steady.
Club Hotel	85 Buyers.
Oriental Hotel	150 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co.	80 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co.	145 Buyers.

969



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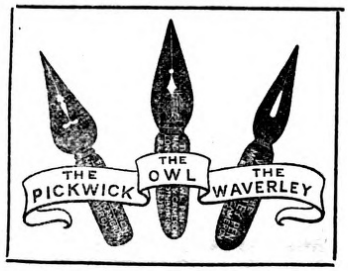

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL" must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST, 1900.

BIRTHS.

On the 25th instant, at No. 112-A, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of ROBERT WADDELL BORTHWICK, of a Daughter.

March 27th, at 52, Tsukiji, Tokyo, the wife of the Rev. WILLIAM PENGELLEY BUNCOMBE, of a daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Yokohama Choral Society's Concert on Wednesday was an artistic success.

TROUBLE seems to be looming up in Korea over Russia's demands at Masampho.

THE Yokohama Rowing season opens this afternoon with a procession by the members of the Y.A.R.C.

FIRE broke out on the 25th inst., at Hakata station on the Kiushiu railway and one engine was destroyed.

LADY WHITE, wife of General Sir George White, has been invested by the Queen with the Order of the Crown of India.

PROF. WRIGHTS' lecture on Greenland and glaciers at the Yokohama Literary Society last week was greatly appreciated.

THE news from South Africa is mainly concerned with skitmishes this week. General Joubert has succumbed to a stomach complaint.

THE annual meeting of the Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce was held on Wednesday. A most interesting report was presented and fully discussed.

A MAN was killed on Wednesday at the railway crossing at Uchidacho by the 11.30 o'clock down train from Tokyo. Nothing on his person gave any clue as to his identity.

IT will interest chess players to hear that Herr Emanuel Lasker has graduated as doctor of philosophy at the Erlangen University. A dissertation on a mathematical subject gave him his degree.

THE new twin-screw first class cruiser *Argonaut* is to be commissioned in April to relieve the *Undaunted* on this station. The *Argonaut* is of 11,000 tons and has 18,000 I.H.P. She is designed as a very fast cruiser of about 23 knots an hour.

THE dream of the angler of once more fishing for salmon in the Thames is rapidly approaching the day of realisation. In a trout hatchery on the tributary Colne, near Uxbridge, a number of young salmon have hatched out, and are said to be doing well, and 25,000 trout eggs have just been put down in a private hatchery at Staines.

THE mail brings confirmation of the news of the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. H. R. Mair in Chicago, on the 28th Feb. Mr Mair left Japan but a few weeks ago to take charge of the Chicago office of Messrs. Hunt & Co., and his sudden cutting-off in the very spring-time of life will bring sorrow to many in Japan as well as to his family in the old country.

THE daughter of Yamamoto Kichinosuke, living at Horaicho Ichome, Yokohama, was robbed of a watch on Wednesday afternoon in Motomachi while watching a passing procession. She immediately reported the matter to the Police at Kotobukicho and the would-be robber dropped the watch through a window of the Police Station the same night.

ONE of the most extraordinary features of the South African war is noted in the fact that while President Steyn of the Orange Free State is in arms against Great Britain his wife is residing at Aberdeen, Scotland, with relatives. It was also stated just before war was declared that President Steyn transferred all of his private fortune to the care of a London banker and the statement has never been challenged.

MR. PERCIVAL LOWELL, the American astronomer, well-known for his observations at Flagstaff, Arizona, and his views on the planet Mars, and in Japan for his epigrams and sublime self-sufficiency, has gone to Europe to observe the Solar eclipse in May. His telescope and camera are probably the finest ever used the purpose. Mr. A E. Douglass, his colleague, will observe the eclipse in Georgia, United States.

A FIRE broke out in the goods shed, Kata Machi Station, Osaka, on the Kansai Railway, on Sunday, and destroyed the shed, which measured 80 *ken* by 4 *ken*, and four goods vans. A strong wind was blowing at the time and the goods in the shed were totally destroyed. The loss of goods alone is estimated at 200,000 *yen*. The fire occurred through the wetting of lime in the building and the ignition of kerosene stored near it.

ACTING Secretary Meiklejohn has sent to the House of Representatives a statement of expenditures by the War Department covering the military operations in the Philippines, including outstanding liabilities, from May 1st, 1898, to November 1st, 1899. The total is given at $48,928,060, the principal items being: Quartermaster's department, $25,715 901, of which $17,136,894 is for army transportation; subsistence department, $8,950,000; medical department, $1,206,137; pay department, $10,833,134; ordnance department, $1,866,239.

AT the last meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, the Acting Secretary (Mr. F. Henderson) read a letter from Mr. W. F. Wenyon, dated 14th Feb., 1900, referring to the rapid progress now being made with the Tariff revision in China and suggesting that the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce approach Her Imperial Majesty's Government through the Associated Chambers of Commerce in England with a view to securing that the proposed new Tariff for China should be submitted before acceptance to the Chambers of Commerce at Hongkong and Shanghai.

THE Bishop of Moosonee, Dr. Newnham, believes that he has authentic news to communicate of Herr Andrée. Writing to Mr. H. K. Crees, of Ilminster, from Fort Churchill, Hudson's Bay, on October 1, the Bishop says that two Eskimo, coming from the Far North, have reported that two white men "had come down from the sky in a balloon," the remains of which the tellers of the story had seen, and that they had been murdered on reaching the earth. Dr. Newnham gives credit to the narrative, but says that he has not time to make full inquiry.

GENERAL the Marquis de Gallifet, French Minister of War, has been very critically ill, with a severe attack of pleurisy. The General's illness was greatly aggravated by feebleness, which is the result of years of suffering, induced by the fact that since the Franco-Prussian war he has had to be contented with a silver covering for a part of his abdomen. Though after the terrible wounds he received at the battle of Sedan his life was saved by a remarkable surgical operation, he never regained robust health. For more than a quarter of a century he has been a physical wreck, yet by sheer force of will held his place in the army and remained a leader in France's eventful history of the last three decades.

MR. ANDREW COATS, whose death is announced at the age of eighty-five, was the last of the four brothers who built up the great business of Messrs. J. and P. Coats. Their father, James Coats, commenced his business life as a Paisley weaver, and, being an enterprising man, he, in 1826, set up in his own garden a small factory for the making of thread. From such humble beginnings the business has now grown into perhaps the largest manufacturing concern in the world, its capitalised value being to-day nearly thirty millions sterling. Andrew Coats went to America in 1856 to extend the business, and when he returned in 1880 three-fourths of the firm's operations were represented by its United States trade.

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THE WAR.

Monday, March 26.

Evidently the Transvaalers are very anxious to prevent the British from crossing the Vaal at Warrenton. The reason is obvious: once the Vaal is crossed, the invasion of the Transvaal itself from the West becomes comparatively feasible. Indeed, Mafeking would probably be one of the best bases for an army marching to the attack of Pretoria, since the distance is only 160 miles and there are no serious obstacles until the neighbourhood of the Transvaal capital is reached. There is probably a strong Boer force on the north of the Vaal near Warrenton. The corps sent northward from Maggersfontein by Cronje when he himself retired towards Bloemfontein is doubtless assembled on the Vaal with Christiana for headquarters. Methuen will therefore defer his march northward until he has a fully sufficient body of troops under his command, and we shall ultimately hear, in all probability, that, after relieving Mafeking—if he arrives in time to do so, which now looks very problematical—he will turn eastward against Pretoria. Lord Roberts may be expected to undertake the duty of marching direct towards Winburg and Kroonstad, but the task will be very difficult, for 25 miles beyond Brandford the country becomes mountainous and well suited to the Boers' style of fighting. If however, Roberts has a sufficiently large force, he can turn the enemy's right flank on the Winburg line of defences. But Kroonstad can not be reached from any direction without forcing hilly positions which the Boers will have had plenty of time to entrench thoroughly. In that respect Steyn has well chosen his new capital. From Kopje Alleen on the south of Kroonstad to Gats Rand on the north of Potchefstroom, including the crossing of the Vaal, many a bloody fight may have to be fought. It is for that reason that we look to see a flanking movement on a large scale undertaken from the Vryburg-Mafeking line, and the same forecast is probably inducing the Boers to oppose the passage of the Vaal at Warrenton with the utmost obstinacy. Granting, even, that Methuen effects the crossing of the river without much delay, his progress to Mafeking along a line of railway within easy striking distance of the Transvaal border would be a very hazardous operation, unless he prefaces it by dealing some crushing blows to the Boers at Christiana and other positions in the south-western quarter of the Transvaal. In some respects the work before him resembles that which he had to undertake on his first advance to relieve Kimberley. Many excellent defensive positions are available for the Boers between Kimberley and Mafeking. The passage of the Vaal; the hilly march from Taungs to Moeding; the crossing of the Maritsana and its network of tributaries at Rietfontein—all these operations may be rendered very arduous. It would be perilous were Methuen to commence his northward movement with less than thirty thousand men, and, as a considerable force must be left in Kimberley, it is easy to understand the delay now taking place. It is not impossible that the column which fought at Driefontein may have been intended ultimately to cöoperate with Methuen by marching against Christiana, but we suspect rather that its object was to open the road to Winburg.

As to the rumour that Gatacre has met with a serious reverse near Bethulie, news showing it to be false will probably have been received before this is in print. Several days have passed since Gatacre entered Bethulie, and in the meanwhile Springfontein, Smithfield, and Rouxville have been occupied. The three last lie northward of Bethulie, and it is out of the question, we think, that Olivier can have remained in the neighbourhood of Bethulie. Besides, his head-quarters were at Aliwal North, not Bethulie, and his natural line of retreat would be *viâ* Rouxville, Smithfield, De Wet's Dorp, and Thaba N'chu, leaving Bethulie far to the West.

It will be seen that, as we foresaw, French has moved from Bloemfontein to Thaba N'chu, which lies at the crossing of the roads that lead to Winburg on the north, Ladybrand on the east, and De Wet's Dorp on the South. If Olivier has not yet passed Thaba N'chu, his retreat upon Winburg and Kroonstad is probably intercepted. But it is possible that he chose a still more easterly line of march, from Rouxville to Wepener and thence to Ladybrand; that is to say, the road leading along the border of Basuto Land. French will probably push on to Ladybrand, unless his scouts get into touch with Olivier in the neighbourhood of Thaba N'chu.

No explanation is yet forthcoming of the singular telegram that Kruger and Steyn have issued conflicting proclamations. That an announcement from Milner of the annexation of the Free State has elicited a counter-announcement from the two Presidents seems more likely; yet that, too, is scarcely credible. The British are not yet in possession of the Free State, and we can not conceive that Milner would declare the annexation of territory not fully occupied. We are disposed to think that the story is untrue, and that no such proclamations have been issued.

Olivier, in his retreat from Aliwal North, seems to have taken the extreme easterly road along the borders of Basuto Land. Probably he marched from Rouxville to Zastren, thence to Wepener, and thence to Ladybrand. This last place is due east of Bloemfontein, at a distance of about 80 miles, and Thaba Nchu, which French has reached with the cavalry division, is mid-way between the two. Winburg is doubtless Olivier's base of supplies, and his position with French on his flank is decidedly dangerous. However, the district within the quadrilateral having at its four corners (counting from west round by east) Thaba Nchu, Ladybrand, Ficksburg, and Winburg, is hilly and difficult. French will not find it easy to operate there. The movement we should expect from Roberts is the march of a strong column from Kimberley *viâ* Boshof and Bull Fontein, debouching direct upon the Winburg Road, and turning the positions of the Boers at Brandfort on the Modder and of Olivier at Ladybrand. Transport, however, must present a tremendous obstacle to movements of that kind. Meanwhile it looks as though the Boers had already commenced a system of guerilla warfare. If so, Roberts' plan will doubtless be to strike direct at their capital towns.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Wednesday, Mar. 28.

Tokyo newspapers again show some disquiet with reference to Russo-Japanese relations. Telegrams are said to have been received indicating that Russia has preferred a demand for a lease of land at Masampo or at some other convenient position; that the proposition is advanced by Admiral Hildebrand, and that a formidable display of Naval force is employed to support it. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has an article which, without making any definite allusion to this subject, is evidently connected with it. A comparison is drawn between the methods of Europeans and Japanese in dealing with Chinese and Koreans, the writer's conclusion being that the Japanese allow themselves to be deluded by the smiles and tears of their neighbours, whereas the European diplomatist pays no attention whatever to such displays of emotion, but insists on getting what he wants whatever the reluctance shown by the other side. In short, the *Nichi Nichi's* view is that a Japanese official would be better qualified for dealing with the Chinese or the Koreans if common ties of literature and of traditions did not dispose him to treat them with a degree of consideration and credence which they do not receive from an Occidental diplomatist. The *Nippon* discusses the same subject in a more direct manner. It contrasts Russia's doings in the Far East with her sayings at the Hague Conference, and is evidently disposed to classify the latter as *oni no nembutsu* (demon's prayers). It inquires, with a show of naïvete, what need Russia can have of a special port in Korean waters, since there are plenty of good harbours, all available for her ships in time of peace, between Vladivostock and Port Arthur. It calls attention to her proceedings at Chol-yeng-to and now at Masampo, and altogether it discusses the situation in a tone which is not pacific.

Friday, March 30.

The leading Japanese newspapers all write about Korean complications. They show some excitement, but, on the whole, treat the affair more moderately than is their wont. The *Nippon*, of course, takes a strong line. It declines to believe that recent meetings of Cabinet Ministers were for any purpose other than to discuss the Korean situation, and it shows even a disposition to connect the naval manœuvres with Russia's doings in the peninsula. The *Kokumin* and the *Yomiuri* are concerned chiefly about the fact that the public is not more fully informed. Both point to England's method of publishing Blue Books and answering questions in Parliament, and both agree that though diplomatic honey manufactured in glass hives may sometimes be of inferior quality, the general approval thus secured for the process is invaluable. The *Asahi* considers that Russia has shown herself arbitrary and overbearing with reference to the Masampo affair, but it is careful to distinguish between the lawful and the unlawful aspects of the case. Korea's treaties confer on foreigners the privilege of owning land in and around the settlements, within fixed limits. If Russia's proposals do not exceed those limits, no objection can be raised though her manner of advancing them be a little peremptory. Great interest attaches to England's attitude. England has sacrificed many of her interests in

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various parts of the world for the purpose of placating foreign Powers and preventing them from interfering with her prosecution of the war in South Africa. It may be that she will adopt a similar policy with regard to this Korean problem. But when she gave up Port Hamilton, she obtained Russia's assurances that there should be no encroachment thereafter upon Korean territory, and if she pleases, she can now insist on having those assurances carried out. (The *Asahi* does not state the facts quite accurately. Russia certainly gave assurances, but they were given to China not to England direct). The *Chugai Shogyo* departs from its usually well balanced tone and displays considerable excitement. It finds that menacing clouds are rolling up on the political horizon, and is greatly dissatisfied to perceive, as it thinks it has perceived, that Japan is adopting an attitude of retreat. At first, it says, Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Representative in Soul, took a strong tone, and M. Pablov showed himself correspondingly yielding, while the Korean Government, on its part, replied to Russia's demands in a clear and conclusive manner. But now Mr. Hayashi has suddenly become as gentle as he was formerly resolute and the evil results are apparent in Russia's aggressiveness and Korea's vacillation. The *Jiji Shimpo* is conspicuously moderate. It finds that the matter is simply one of a coaling station, and it seems to hint that the best solution is for Japan to obtain some counter-concession so as to preserve the balance. The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* preserves silence.

It will be observed that the vernacular press is, to a great extent, groping in the dark. None of the journals seems to know clearly what Russia has asked for or what answer Korea has given. The only telegraphic news relating to the Soul Government's attitude indicates that Korea is disposed to follow Japan's lead, and is therefore waiting until her neighbour declares herself. It may be taken for granted, however, that Russia has undoubtedly asked for a coaling-station site outside the limits of the Settlement at Masampo. Some say that she has supplemented her application by a corollary in the sense that a site on an island near Fusan will suit her as well as Masampo, but as to that there is some uncertainty. It must be confessed that international affairs since the Hague Conference have furnished a curious commentary on the purpose for which that august body was convened.

THE CRIMINAL CODE.

Saturday, March 24.

The amendments embodied in the new draft of the Criminal Code which will be submitted for the approval of the Diet next session have been the subject of much discussion. The *Nippon* evidently proposes to give a detailed digest of them and it will doubtless prove of considerable interest to our readers. The first and most important alteration is that the classification of offences is reduced from three to two. Instead of major and minor crimes and delicts, there are to be only major and minor crimes. This, of course, has the effect of giving larger discretionary power to the judge. For example, a woman driven desperate by poverty, ties her child on her back and throws herself into a river. The child is drowned and the mother saved. According to the Code as it stands, this unhappy woman, who deserves sympathy rather than punishment, can not escape with a lighter sentence than 12 years' imprisonment with hard labour. But the amended Code would enable the judge to dismiss her with an admonition. On the other hand, the limits of punishment are now the same for a petty larceny and a burglary. A man that steals an old towel may be sentenced to any term of imprisonment from 2 months to 4 years, and the same is true of a house-breaker who gets away with big plunder. That defect would be altered by the revised Code. Then again, the Code does not contain any provisions with reference to crimes committed by, or against, foreign imperial or royal personages in Japan, or crimes committed by diplomatic or consular officials. The revisions deal with this subject. They deny extraterritorial rights to foreign imperial or royal personages in Japan; guarantee such rights to diplomatic personages, and make them a matter of reciprocity in the case of consular personages. For example, a criminal like Tsuda Sanzo would not be liable to any punishment greater than that prescribed for a murderous assault on a common individual.

Another important change proposed by the revisors is to invest judges with competence to postpone for two years or less the execution of all sentences not exceeding six months' imprisonment. This reform is based on the facts, first, that whatever precautions may be adopted as to separate cells and so forth, imprisonment exercises a distinctly demoralizing effect, the result being that persons who have once undergone punishment are proportionately likely to commit fresh crimes; secondly, that the prejudice against prisoners who have served their time being very strong among the general public, they find it almost impossible to procure employment, and are thus driven to repeat their violations of the law. The revisors suggest, therefore, that a man found guilty of an offence not entailing more than six months' imprisonment, should have a probationary period to show his repentance by good conduct, and that his sentence should be remitted if his behaviour justifies such leniency.

Crimes of treason have also been revised. The present law is very severe in that respect. It bears the marks of the alarm into which the country was thrown by the Satsuma rebellion of 1877. It condemns promoters and accessories alike to death, and it includes unachieved crimes in the same category with achieved. Under the revised code the crime of treason would not exist in the eyes of the law unless some form of military organization were employed by the conspirators. All other cases would be treated as mere breaches of the peace, and a clear distinction will be drawn between crimes contemplated and crimes committed.

Tuesday, March 27.

Continuing its analysis of the amendments proposed in the Criminal Code, the *Chiuo* points out that the scope of the law for protecting officials against insult and obstruction in the discharge of their duties is to be largely extended. In the present Code the officials mentioned are *kwanri* only; that is to say, officials of the Central Government. But the revised code will include local officials, members of the Diet, and even policemen. A most interesting innovation is that protection against insult is to be granted to corporate bodies, namely, Departments of State and the Houses of the Diet. The operation of such a provision will be strange in practice. People will have to consider carefully before they accuse a Department of being useless or corrupt, and before they inveigh against the Houses of the Diet, as has been the fashion lately. Another important change is that the law against bribery is extended from officials of the Central Government, who are alone indicated in the existing Code, to local officials and members of the Diet. The penalty also is to be increased, its superior limit becoming 3 years' imprisonment with hard labour, instead of 1 year's major imprisonment as at present.

Persons who give bribes are to be held equally guilty with those that receive them, but will escape punishment by voluntary confession; a provision intended to facilitate the obtaining of proof.

The section relating to numerous offences (*susai guhatsu*) has undergone revision. According to the present Code, the most serious of several offenses is taken as the basis for determining a penalty, and the Court has power to increase the punishment by one degree—*i.e.*, one-fourth—in consideration of other crimes simultaneously charged. The revision proposes that the punishment may be doubled in extreme cases.

With regard to second offenses, the present law enacts that a crime committed at any time after the passing of sentence by a Court of first instance, shall be treated as a repeated offense. The revised Code postpones the time until the actual enforcement of the sentence passed by the first tribunal. It will follow that crimes committed during the probationary period allowed by the revised Code would not rank as second offenses.

The law of assault and battery also is extended in its scope. Any injury however slight done to the person (*shintai shogai*) will be classable as assault, and punishable with imprisonment. But apparently the revisors have not thought it necessary to include menaces in the category of assaults. It will still be possible for a man to shake his fist in another's face, or make other demonstrations of physical violence, provided that he does not carry them into actual practice. That is a grave defect in the Code, we think.

Wednesday, March 28.

One of the points which gave rise to much discussion was whether the punishment for adultery should remain as it is, or whether it would not be better to eliminate the clauses relating to it, and to trust to the penalty of divorce and social outlawing. Evidently revision in that sense would confer practical immunity on men, for Japanese law does not confer the right of divorce on a wife because of the criminal conduct of her husband. The revisors therefore decided against removing the clauses, but, on the other hand, they came to the conclusion that extenuating circumstances should not be admitted as a plea in justification of an assault committed by a husband who discovers the flagrant delict. We necessarily curtail the accounts given of the debate on this unsavoury subject.

A distinctly commendable amendment

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relates to imprisonment in default of payment of a fine. At present one day's imprisonment is inflicted per one *yen* from the date when the sentence takes effect. The new idea is that a man's ability to pay a fine should be considered beforehand, and that if his assets warrant distraint, that method of collecting the fine should be resorted to, instead of putting the State to the expense of supporting the defaulter in prison. If, on the other hand, it is found that no assets are forthcoming, then punishment by fine should not be resorted to.

The superior limit of the penalty for fraud and theft is also to be increased, if the revisions be accepted, from 4 years to 10 years' imprisonment. Considering the wide range of crime covered by these terms "fraud and theft" (*sagi setto*) it appears inadequate that the range of penalty should be as narrow as it is at present, namely, 2 months to 4 years.

It appears that there was much discussionas to the propriety of preserving the distinction between man-slaughter(*kosatsu*) and wilful murder (*bosatsu*), but the Committee finally decided on retaining it. They increased the penalty for producing abortion, but excluded attempted suicide from the list of penal offences. They also devoted considerable attention to the subject of offences committed by minors, the result of their deliberations being that a child under 10 should not be held accountable from a criminal point of view, and that between the ages of 10 and 14, the treatment of an offender should depend on his capacity to understand the nature of his act.

MICHAEL DAVITT.

It would be an excellent thing if a great many of the Irish Nationalists followed the example of Michael Davitt and betook themselves to the Transvaal. The South African Republic offers a sufficiently wide field for their seditious agitation, and not only would the United Kingdom be happier for their absence, but the welfare of their own country also would be materially promoted. England treats these professional agitators on the principle that is scientifically followed with regard to noxious gases. The latter are rendered innocuous by ample dilution with atmospheric air, and the former lose their virulence by being suffered to froth and fume in the open. Michael Davitt we believe to be an honourable though greatly misguided gentleman. The passage of others to the Boer ranks would be much more welcome. But perhaps the precedent may prove attractive. If so, the South-African War will not be without its blessings.

PROFESSOR WRIGHT.

Professor Wright is to lecture in the Educational Society's Hall on the 31st instant at 2 p.m. He lectured at the Young Men's Association on the afternoon of the 28th, but, according to accounts published by vernacular journals, the lecture was not very successful. The learned Professor, at the outset of his address, spoke so much about Christianity that his audience gradually thinned, and finally became so small that he concluded the lecture without touching upon scientific questions.

THE CAMPHOR MONOPOLY.

We have now an explanation of the reason why Mr. Yokoyama Magoichiro did not obtain the camphor concession in Formosa, and why it fell to Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, though their bid was not so favourable. Mr. Yokoyama abandoned the field. He put in his tender and then quitted Formosa, so that the day went against him by default. The privilege to be competed for was the right of selling in foreign markets all the camphor —from 3 million to 5 million catties— produced in Formosa, which was to be purchased from the Japanese authorities at an average of 90 *yen* per picul— namely, 95 *yen* for first-class camphor and 85 *yen* for second class—, and the successful tenderer was to be the one that undertook to dispose of the camphor at the lowest rates in Hongkong and London. Three conditions had to be satisfied; first, a deposit of 1,800,000 *yen* worth (face value) of public securities; secondly, a deposit of 100,000 *yen* in cash or marketable securities; and thirdly, an engagement not to sell the whole of the camphor to one person. Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company's tender is said to have been that they would place the camphor on the Hongkong market at 102.378 *yen* and 94.323 *yen*, for first-class and second-class respectively, and on the London market at 107.843 *yen* and 99.702 *yen*, whereas Mr. Yokoyama offered to do the work some five *yen* more cheaply. The suggestion is that Mr. Yokoyama discovered, in good time, that the terms he offered would involve a loss. The area of the camphor forests in Formosa is said to be 2,920,000 acres.

Telegrams from Taipeh announce that Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company have secured the contract for the camphor monopoly in Formosa. It is difficult to understand exactly what has been the course of the proceedings. According to the intelligence published in Tokyo, Mr. Yokoyama Magoichiro's tender seemed at one moment to offer the best terms, but whereas he named 102 *yen* per picul as the average price at which the camphor would be furnished to the Government, Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company indicated 102 *yen* as the price of semi-refined camphor and 94 *yen* as the price of the crude vegetable. After mature consideration, therefore, the Governor decided to give the concession to Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company. These are the broad facts, but there is also a fringe of rumour. As to Mr. Yokoyama, for example, it is alleged that he acted without full reference to the numerous merchants whom he represented, and that they are extremely dissatisfied with his method of procedure. As to Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company, the story is that, in answer to a proposal from Kobe foreign merchants to form a syndicate, Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company's Yokohama agent declared that his firm did not think it worth while to bid for the concession; that his reply discouraged the Kobe men, and that his final action took them entirely by surprise so that they are now vehemently remonstrating. We venture, on our own authority, to pronounce the latter tale quite unfounded. The Kobe foreign merchants are not likely to have showed themselves so inept. If they thought the concession valuable, they would not have been deterred by Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company's indifference, and most assuredly the latter's agent would never have adopted the underhand course attributed to him. The circulation of such a story by vernacular newspapers warns us that the reports of corruption and crooked dealing constantly ventilated by them must be largely discounted.

Tokyo journals state that the reason why Mr. Yokoyama withdrew his tender for the Camphor Monopoly was an apprehension that the enterprise threatened to assume overwhelming proportions. The successful tenderer has not only to lodge security to the extent of 1,800,000 *yen* and guarantee money amounting to 100,000 *yen*, but also must be prepared to take over, at any moment, camphor to the value of 1½ million *yen*, now lying in the Government's warehouses. In short, a capital of nearly 3½ million *yen* is required immediately, and Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company are the only firm who showed themselves ready to face this lively music without "turning a hair." Another difficulty is that the security has to take the form of Formosan Loan Bonds, and no one seems quite sure whether these bonds—which have not yet been put on the market—will be a paying or a losing speculation. Altogether it is a big enterprise and the big folks have got it. "Unto him that hath." Mr. Yokoyama, however, continues to be abused. It is now alleged that the foreigners whom he represented—Messrs. Morse and Kahn—were not consulted before he decided to "step down"; that they are very irate, and that they intend to sue him for compensation—a most unlikely story. Our contemporaries add that the Government of Formosa buys the crude camphor at 35 *yen* per picul from the natives, and will now sell it for 85 *yen*, thus clearing a profit of 50 *yen*. The foreign markets are pretty well supplied at the moment, but their stocks will soon be exhausted, and the concessionaires have a fine prospect before them. At the rate of 5 million catties per annum, there is a supply for 8 years in sight in Formosa, and it can be made perpetual by planting. The camphor tree requires 50 years to mature. America's plantations will have to grow for 37 years longer before they begin to yield.

FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS IN CHINA.

The Foreign Settlements in China are now presenting a curious object to the Peking Government. They may be said to be the nurseries of sedition. There is obviously some rebellious organization in China at present. We have no means of knowing what its dimensions are. It may be formidable or it may be contemptible. As to its existence, however, no doubt can be entertained. This organization has addressed more than one circular letter to foreign newspapers published in the Settlements as well as in the adjacent colonies, and the document, though outspokenly seditious, has been published verbatim by the journals receiving it. Further, some of the leaders of the seditious movement have found asylum within the limits of the Foreign Settlements, and the Chinese Authorities are powerless to effect their arrest without consular warrants which can not be obtained. Thus, in a word, the Settlements and the adjacent colonies not only offer a safe refuge

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to Chinese subjects plotting against the Chinese Government, but also supply public organs for the ventilation of the plotters' ideas. It happens that we are all in sympathy with the plotters. The ends they have in view would greatly benefit their country. They are, in fact, endeavouring to obtain the practical recognition of principles which Occidental peoples endorse heartily and have long advocated as essential to China's well-being. But in the eyes of Chinese officialdom, they are simply rebels; radical, pestilential agitators whose apprehension and punishment are most desirable in the interests of public peace. The Chinese Government, therefore, must find in the events of the time a new reason for regretting that foreign intercourse was ever forced upon the country. We daresay, also, that at seasons like the present the rulers of the Middle Kingdom wish heartily that neither a Confucius nor a Mencius had existed. For Confucius constructively, and Mencius in the least equivocal terms, laid down the doctrine that a monarch's only title to hold power is based on his usefulness to his subjects, and that these have an inalienable right to depose him so soon as his acts and enactments are seen to inure to public injury. There must be thousands upon thousands of devout Confucianists in China who are fully persuaded that to join a movement for the overthrow of the Empress Dowager would be in accordance with the highest moral laws, and it can not be imagined that this conception is weakened by the epithets which certain foreign local journals apply to the Imperial lady.

A COMMENT ON CHRISTIANITY.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* has a remarkable article on the subject of Christianity; an article which steers a middle course, with much cleverness, between condemnation and approval. The writer sets out by asserting that the want of religious principles is beginning to be very keenly felt in Japan, and that many eyes are consequently turning towards Christianity. But he then proceeds to attack the methods of Christian propagandism in this country, and to suggest that, unless they are changed, the foreign faith has no prospect of gaining a strong footing. Briefly summed up, his contention is that Japanese Christianity is in a dependent condition. Buddhism owed its prosperity in the past chiefly to the patronage of the Court and the nobility, and its present attempts to obtain State recognition are therefore a natural outcome of its history and traditions. Christianity, on the contrary, claims to be free, having no connexion with the powers that be, and not relying on them in any way. Yet there is no element of independence about Japanese Christianity. It depends entirely on the foreign missionary societies. Without the aid they give to it, it could not stand for a moment. The churches are built, the schools endowed, with foreign money, and in consequence of that condition of dependence the Christian communities are obliged to bow to the dictation of men who are often narrow-minded, bigoted and intolerant. Until Christianity can assert its freedom, the writer in the *Mainichi* has no hope of its success in Japan.

KOREA.

The operation of surveying the Söul-Fusan line has commenced, and will be finished, it is expected, by the end of August. In the meanwhile, some arrangements will be effected, we presume, for obtaining the necessary capital—15 million *yen*.

The Korean Government is said to have requested the Japanese not to increase the number of post-offices in Korea. Probably our readers remember that the post-office service of Korea is under Japanese management. Korea, apparently, does not desire progress under such circumstances.

A telegram published by the *Asahi* says that Russia has applied to Korea for the lease of a considerable area of land about a *ri* outside the limits of the foreign settlement at Masampo, and has accompanied the application with a statement that if the land can not be given, the island of Ka-tök-to should be substituted. Ka-tök—or Ka-dök—is an island of considerable size, situated a little to the west of Fusan and to the north-east of Quelpart. Of course, if Russia is really seeking to obtain a territorial concession from Korea outside the limits of the settlements, she can not be said to be observing the terms of her convention with Japan.

Tokyo journals says that the expenses incurred by Mr. Pritchard Morgan in obtaining the concession of the Uensan gold mine have been very heavy. He spent about 200,000 *yen* upon the officials in Söul, beside distributing large sums among the local officials in the district. The staff engaged is also very costly—a chief engineer at thirty thousand *yen* annually; an assistant engineer at 750 *yen* per month; 120 Japanese miners at 30 *yen* monthly, and about 200 Chinese at stiff daily wages. We read, however, that he is not at all discouraged by these expensive preliminaries, and that he expects to make a fine thing out of the enterprise. The mine has long been regarded as one of the richest in Korea.

According to a Tokyo contemporary, the number of Chinese settlers in Korea is about 3,500; namely, 1,500 in Söul; 1,500 in Chemulpo, and some 500 elsewhere. Yet they manage to do a larger part of the country's foreign trade in imports than the Japanese. These figures are given.

	Exports. To Japan. Yen.	To China. Yen.
1897	1,638,000	357,000
1898	1,379,000	1,097,000
	Imports. By Japanese Merchants. Yen.	By Chinese Merchants. Yen.
1897	1,785,000	1,921,000
1898	4,389,000	4,389,000

It will be observed that even in exports the Chinese are overtaking the Japanese.

Korea seems to be in a somewhat restless condition. She is understood to have refused the application of the Japanese Naval Department for permission to establish wireless telegraphic stations on the islands round her coasts, and rumours, apparently trustworthy, indicate that she is anxious to remove her service of posts from Japanese hands. Concerning wireless telegraphy, her reply is said to have been of the stereotyped form, namely, that, as she intended to establish stations on her own account, she did not wish to entrust the business to anyone else. But of course she has not the smallest intention of establishing such stations, at all events within any period that can be now foreseen. The two acts taken in conjunction would appear to indicate a disposition to shake off Japanese connexion, and the inference is that Japan's influence is not supreme at present in Söul, or that some hostile adviser has intervened. As to the reports about a loan from the Russian Government, we do not consider them worthy of credence, seeing that the Russo-Japanese Convention forbids either of the contracting parties to give financial assistance to Korea.

A ceremony in commemoration of the death of Kim Okkyun is to be held at the temple Shinjo-ji, in the Komei suburb of Tokyo on the 28th instant. It appears that Kim's head is buried there. The story, as told by the *Jiji Shimpo*, is curious. After Kim's assassination in Shanghai, his corpse was placed in a coffin which bore the inscription, "The arch traitor and lawless Kim Okkyun," and by order of the Viceroy Li, the coffin was placed on board the Chinese war-ship *Soko*—now in Japan's possession—and forwarded to Chemulpo. The Korean Government ordered that the body should be subjected to sextuple dismemberment and the parts exposed. A Japanese merchant in Söul, who had been a great friend of the unfortunate reformer, bribed the soldiers who had charge of the head, and despatched it secretly to Kai Gunji, Kim's great partisan and supporter in Tokyo. Complaints were made by Korea, and Mr. Kai had to undergo several police examinations. Finally, seeing imminent danger that a search of his house would be ordered, he decided that the head must be interred. The first idea was to bury it in the Aoyama cemetery, but ultimately the temple Shinjo-ji was chosen as more secluded and less likely to be suspected. Then followed the war with China, and the time has now come, in the opinion of Kim's friends, to disclose the truth about his head. So there will be a public ceremony on the 28th instant and a large attendance is expected.

The minor journals of Tokyo write in very emphatic terms about Russia's doings in Korea. They are themselves quite persuaded that Japan must show a firm front and they represent the Government as not less resolute. One writer alleges that the Japanese nation is an unit in this matter. There are differences of opinion, he says, as to whether the general foreign policy of the country should be positive or negative, and as to whether her armaments should be increased or diminished. But even among the advocates of a negative policy and small armaments, not a man is to be found who advocates Japan's self-effacement in Korea. All are agreed that she must assert the influence and maintain the position she has acquired there. Therefore the Government may be assured that it has the nation at its back, and if, under such circumstances, it fails to satisfy the country's expectations, the consequences will be on the head of the Ministry alone.

If one considers this sort of language quietly, it is nothing more or less than in-

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citing to a breach of the peace. Were it addressed to a body of politicians within a State with reference to some special purpose pursued by them, we should call it seditious. But international relations are governed by a special code of morality, or immorality; and the press knows how to take advantage of the fact. Newspapers have nearly succeeded in converting public opinion into an instrument on which they can play in any key they please. They have made the world emotional, and we seem to be coming to a time when a few pressmen will have it in their power to set in motion a wave of passion more destructive than an invasion of Huns or Saracens.

CEMETERIES IN TOKYO.

A very curious subject is discussed by the *Fiji Shimpo*. It is that Tokyo threatens to become a city of the dead. In former times, there was a restriction on the length of time during which a grave might be monopolized by the same corpse. If 20 or 30 years elapsed without the friends or relatives of the deceased bestowing any care on the tomb, it became a *muyen no haka* (neglected grave), and might be used for interring some one else. Of course, so long as the sepulchre received loving tendance, it continued to be perpetually consecrated to the memory of the person buried there. A great number of graves became available for second sepultures under that system, and the city managed to dispose of its dead without inconvenience. But in 1873, the Government issued a notification forbidding the use of old graves for fresh burials and fixing nine places as cemeteries where interments might be made without cremation. The remains of cremated bodies—a mere handful of ashes—might always be buried within the precincts of the city, but where cremation was not practised, a suburban cemetery had to be used. The Shin Sect of Buddhists have always been eminently practical in the matter of sepulture. They invariably cremate, and a small portion of the calcined ashes, enclosed in an urn, is sent to the Sect's principal temple in Kyoto for permanent preservation. Even the Japanese, however, have not become universally reconciled to cremation. Great numbers still prefer to bury their dead in coffins. The result is that all the available space in the suburbs is being rapidly absorbed, as the following table shows :—

Name of Cemetery.	Area already appropriated for graves. *tsubo.*	Area remaining available. *tsubo.*
Aoyama.....	36.224	825
Tateyama	1.683	1 003
Fukagawa.....	953	704
Yanaka	19,029	0
Somei	9,911	2,215
Zoshigaya	1,223	2,628
Kameido	472	983
Hashiba	554	?
Hanezawa.....	?	1,780

The cost of land at present is 6 *yen* per *tsubo* in first-class positions; 3 *yen* in second-class; 1.50 *yen* in third-class, and 0.60 *yen* in fourth-class. It is also laid down that not more than 16 *tsubo* shall be allotted for a first-class grave, 8 for a second-class, and 4 for a third-class; but these limits are often exceeded. The average death rate for the past three years in Tokyo has been 30,598, and if each burial required one half of a *tsubo* (a space 6ft. × 3ft.), it is obvious that in the course of a century the city would be completely surrounded by cemeteries. Evidently the matter is worthy of serious consideration. We may mention that the section of the Aoyama cemetery set aside for foreign use is now virtually filled. The remaining space is not sufficient for more than two or three graves. Last autumn the price of a plot was doubled in view of the narrowing accommodation: from 13.30 *yen* it became 26.60 *yen*.

THE GOLD STANDARD BILL.

As we expected, the Senate of the United States did not object to insert the amendment proposed by the Committee on the Gold Standard Bill, in the sense that the Act is not intended to place any obstacles in the way of accomplishing international bimetallism by the concurrent action of the leading commercial nations. But the Senate did emphatically refuse to endorse Mr. Chandler's amendment authorizing the President to appoint commissioners to any international conference in the interest of bimetallism. In short, the Senate's attitude towards silver may be said to have been deferentially distant. There was no intention of tabooing the white metal, but neither was there any intention of doing anything to promote its rehabilitation. It appears, none the less, that there are 28 senators who would approve the free and unlimited coinage of silver. But there are 47 who seem to think that the white metal's day is over. This Bill will not fail to drive another nail into the silver coffin. Its gist is that the gold dollar receives positive recognition as the standard unit of value in American currency, and that a redemption fund is provided for keeping all forms of United States money at parity. We have not lost our faith in silver, but we rejoice that America has at length emerged from the financial uncertainty of the past few years.

THE LAW AGAINST THE USE OF TOBACCO BY MINORS.

We recently quoted from vernacular contemporaries a statement that the Minister of Education proposed to issue an Instruction with reference to the manner of enforcing the Anti-tobacco Law in schools of elementary or middle grade. The Instruction has now appeared. It is to the effect that all students in such schools, without reference to age, should be forbidden to use tobacco in any form. The Law says that no youth of less than 20 years shall use tobacco; the Minister says that, whether a youth has or has not attained the age of 20, he must not smoke so long as he is at an officially recognised school of middle grade or lower. In short, the Minister goes beyond the Law, for the sake of facilitating its enforcement. Evidently it would have been possible for the Educational Department to interdict the use of tobacco by students in officially recognised schools, without waiting for the passage of any law by the Diet, and, as a matter of fact, smoking has always been prohibited at Primary Schools, we believe. But before extending the principle to Middle Schools, the Minister waited apparently to have it legally adopted.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

It is wisely pointed out by the *Kokumin Shimbun* that economists trouble themselves in vain who draw gloomy inferences from the course of the country's foreign commerce, and would have some official measures adopted for correcting the balance of trade. Trade finds its own level. If people want to buy at one time, they want to sell at another, and instead of building theories upon the total figures shown in the customs returns, the only intelligent plan is to analyse the figures, and thus discover whether they really represent an ultimate outflow of specie. For example, it is sufficiently alarming to learn that during the first two months of the current yeor, imports exceeded exports by twenty-three million *yen*, and specie left the country to the amount of 8 millions. But when the facts are examined more closely, it is found that they are not so unfavourable. The *Kokumin* divides the imports into articles for consumption and articles for manufacture. It includes rice and beans in the latter, which is a method of classification we do not understand. Be that as it may, however, the figures are these :—

IMPORT OF ARTICLES FOR CONSUMPTION, DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

1900	20,619,506 Yen.
1899	9,206,584 Yen.
Difference.....	11,412,922 Yen.

IMPORT OF ARTICLES FOR MANUFACTURE, DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.

1900	25,603,629 Yen.
1899	14,909,572 Yen.
Difference.....	10,694,057 Yen.

If we assume that the excess of imports in the latter category will ultimately have the effect of augmenting exports to more than a corresponding amount—a fair assumption—, all grounds for uneasiness disappear. Besides, the barley crop this spring promises to be exceptionally fine, and as silk sold well last year, there are no stocks of any magnitude on hand, and a good season may be expected. Much depends, of course, on the rice crop. If it is plentiful, a factor powerful to redress the balance of trade is at once called into operation.

GUIDES.

The Governor of Kanagawa has issued a body of regulations for the control of guides. They are to form an association to which no person may be admitted without due precautions, and they are to be subject to fine or detention if they misbehave themselves. The fine is small —50 *sen* to 1.90 *yen*—and the detention is for a very limited period—1 day to 10 days—, but it is not beyond the range of possibility that the Governor may effect some improvement by the system, the prime idea of which is to place a responsible body of men between the travelling public and the rabble of guides. We have not, for our own part, much faith in official attempts to bring the conduct of guides within the range of any moral code. The remedy lies with the people employing them and with the hotel-keepers, especially the latter. The hotel-keepers can easily discover the true character of the guides frequenting their premises, and if they resolutely refused to countenance any one unworthy of confidence, there would soon be an improvement. Why should not the pro-

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moters of the new Kyoto Hotel make this a special feature of their programme? Kyoto, above all the cities of Japan, is the place where tourists will be most likely to look for guides, and they would find a great inducement to visit a hotel where they could be sure of obtaining honest guides.

LAND TENURE.

The *Official Gazette* promulgates the modifications passed by the Diet with reference to the law of superficies. According to the Civil Code, all land-tenure of unfixed period, existing at the time of the operation of the Code, would be regarded as indeterminate superficies, and as such would be subject to limitation by order of a Court of law, the limits being 20 years and 50 years. There are, however, many farmers in Japan who would suffer seriously from the working of this arrangement. They are men that have been in occupation from generation to generation on the understanding of perpetual tenure, and have come to regard themselves as owners of the surface of the land tilled by them; land which, in many instances, owes its arable properties entirely to their labour. To protect such persons against injustice, the Diet passed an amendment of the Code in the sense that these titles should remain undisturbed for fifty years, and that, at the expiration of that period, the owner could not resume the land without paying fair compensation to the tenant, while the tenant, on his side, would be entitled to secure the fee simple on payment of a reasonable price, it being further provided that such action on the part of either owner or tenant must be taken within the course of a year from the expiration of the 50-year period. This amendment has now received Imperial sanction and been duly promulgated.

Another provision promulgated with regard to land-tenure is that all lands occupied prior to the operation of the Code, for purposes of factory building or the growing of trees or bamboos, shall be regarded as held under the title of superficies.

VISCOUNT AOKI.

In his speech at the recent meeting of the Japan Trading Association, Viscount Aoki took for his subject the necessity of developing the country's industries. There had been great progress, he admitted, during the past ten years, but he wanted to see much more. He wanted to see the whole suburbs of Tokyo bristling with tall factory chimnies. Japan's sales to China illustrated his meaning. With the exception of cotton yarns they were insignificant. One of the great obstacles to development was division of capital and of labour. Everything was on a petty scale. There was as yet no effective idea of employing capital economically. Combination and cöoperation were the great needs of the time. In this respect the nation did not seem to have advanced far beyond the conceptions and customs of the age of Hideyoshi.

Mr. Okura Kihachiro, who was among the audience, remarked that other obstacles existed to the development of industry, namely, vexatious rules and regulations, and official obstruction. The Viscount replied that such obstacles could always be removed by proper representations.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

We attach no credence to the statement conveyed by telegram from London that the Powers are consulting for joint action towards China in consequence of the unsettled state of affairs around Tientsin. Japan would certainly have been approached had any such consultation been in progress, but we cannot discover that she has received any intimation. Meanwhile, although there was much cause for uneasiness a short time ago with reference to possible disturbances in the Tientsin district, things seem to have quieted down somewhat, and if the Powers did not think it necessary to intervene a fortnight ago, there is no apparent reason why they should abandon their attitude of reserve now.

GERMANS AND THE WAR.

We have published two letters from Germans in Natal, protesting against the idea that they are hostile to the British, and showing, on the contrary, that many of them are serving in the local British forces. In connexion with this subject, London journals reproduce an extract from a letter published in the *Standard*. The writer is a German merchant who has been established in Japan for a quarter of a century. He says:—"Please rest assured that all sensible German business men are desirous of a speedy victory for the British arms. We are not so ungrateful as to forget the services that England has rendered to the trade of all nations in the Far East."

THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

The Oriental S.S. Company (*Toyo Kisen Kaisha*) has just held its half-yearly regular meeting, when the following accounts were passed:—

	Yen.
Profits for the half-year	168,733
Brought over from previous account	8,211
Total	176,944
To Legal Reserve	8,440
Dividend (10 per cent. per annum)	162,500
Carried to next account	6,004
Total	176,944

This company is certainly to be congratulated on being able to pay a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. The subsidy, of course, has much to do with that result.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

The Welcome Society (*Kihin-kori*) has taken a thoughtful step. Experience shows that the American troops returning from the Philippines at the time of their relief, look forward with much pleasure to visiting Japan, and devote the brief period of their stay here to travelling about and sight-seeing. The Welcome Society has therefore consulted the six principal railway companies as to the feasibility of issuing excursion tickets to the soldiers at a reduction of 20 per cent., and the Companies having agreed, an intimation of the fact has been made to Head Quarters in Manila.

A Nagasaki paper states that a Lieutenant from the German cruiser *Irene* was recently fined twenty *yen* by the local District Court for contravening the regulations regarding sketching at the port.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

H.I.H. Prince Kanin arrived safely in Marseilles on the 24th instant.

The line-of-battle ship *Asaki* had her public trials on the 23rd instant, with most successful results. She is now at Southampton.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has bought out the Kyoritsu Kisen Kaisha, whose steamers ply between Atsuta and Yokkaichi in Owari Bay.

A new political magazine called the *Migi* (Right) is to be published from April 1st. The editors are said to be Messrs. Iwata and Uyeno.

Baron Iwasaki Hisaya, in deference to a wish entertained by his late grandmother, has presented a sum of ten thousand *yen* to the Tokyo Orphanage.

The heavy rain and strong wind on the 24th instant caused a flood in the Sekigahara district, the result being a temporary interruption of the service of trains on the Tokaido railway.

A large beer-brewing association has been formed at Nagasaki by foreigners and Japanese in combination. It has a capital of half a million *yen*, and its head quarters are to be at Isahaya.

A telegram from Bombay says that the cotton-spinning industry is in an unhappy condition. Twenty mills have stopped working altogether, and several of the others have reduced their hours.

The Asiatic Society (*Ajia Kyokai*), of which Viscount Enomoto is President, has been amalgamated with the East Asian Literary Union (*Tōa Dōbun-Kai*), under the presidency of Prince Konoye.

The United States Government has sent an expert to conduct investigations into the origin of the Plague, in conjunction with Dr. Kitasato. This step has been taken in consequence of the appearance of the disease in the Philippines.

The four districts, Hongo, Kanda, Nihon-bashi, and Kyo-bashi, being now fully supplied from the new Water Works of Tokyo, the removal of the old wooden pipes has been commenced, and will be finished, it is said, by the 30th of June.

The losses suffered by 3,670 Japanese subjects in connexion with the sanitary measures of the Hawaiian Authorities are said to have been 620,000 *yen*, and the losses of the Chinese residents are believed to have been two or three times as large. Hawaii, therefore, has a very heavy account against her.

Asama-yama showed great activity on the 25th instant. It emitted loud rumblings and volumes of smoke three times within brief intervals, namely, at 3.30 a.m., at 4 a.m., and at 7 a.m. Showers of ashes were carried to a great distance, and it is thought that the earthquake felt in Tokyo at the same time was due to the activity of the volcano.

It is stated that another trust has been organized. This time foreign firms are the promoters. All kinds of iron are to be controlled, and it is believed that there will be no difficulty in bringing the whole of the Japanese dealers into the ring. Certainly the fashion is running to trusts.

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Cō-operative associations on the part of consumers would seem to be a necessary rejoinder.

Lady Nakayama, whose condition was so critical for a long time, and who was raised to the Second Class of the First Official Grade when her illness assumed a dangerous complexion, seems to have entirely recovered. She has visited the Emperor and Empress, and has distributed the usual tokens of gratitude to her friends.

A certain Mr. Urabe Jiutaro, Lieutenant of Gendarmes, has made quite a sensation by the wholesale character of his forgeries, falsifications and defalcations. He has forged public documents and private documents and has purloined large sums of money. A sentence of 7 years' imprisonment with hard labour has been pronounced on him by court martial.

The Bank of Formosa held its first general meeting in Tokyo on the 24th instant. The following accounts were passed:—

	YEN.
Gross Profits	207,475
Expenses	203,926
Net Profit	3,549
Reserve against Losses	300
Reserve for equalizing dividends	100
To net account	3,149

News from Yunnan is to the effect that much excitement has been caused by the British soldiers' attack on a Chinese fort, when over 80 of the garrison were killed. It would appear from the statements now circulated that the British soldiers were not directed by officers, but that the affair was the result of ill-feeling between them and the Chinese. That version, however, is difficult to credit. The facts must soon be known.

A noted leader of the Formosan insurgents, Kan Taishi by name (according to Japanese pronunciation) has been arrested at Amoy, where he was living in disguise. He had been "wanted" for about a year, during the course of which he killed a Japanese constable and a Chinese detective who endeavoured to apprehend him. His final arrest was not unattended by bloodshed, for the Chinese detective who assisted in tracing him met his death subsequently at the hands of Kan's confederates.

There has been much talk lately about the deterioration of Japanese morals. The *Asahi* extends the complaint to Japanese brains. It says that there is no real intellectual activity anywhere except, perhaps, in military and naval circles. For a time, appearances suggested that something bright would be effected in the line of medical research, but that hope has been disappointed. The remedy suggested by our contemporary is foreign travel. Contact with the busy mind of the Occident is the best way, it thinks, to sharpen Japanese wits.

The condition of the great actor Danjuro is not satisfactory. He does not progress towards recovery as rapidly as was reported two or three days ago. The exact nature of his ailment is not stated, but the general impression is that he has been attacked by influenza. Doctors Baelz and Hashimoto are in attendance, so he is in the best hands. The effect of his sudden illness was to cause an immense loss to all the restaurants connected with the theatre. So soon as the news went abroad that Danjuro's part in the play would be taken by his understudy, the public turned its back on the theatre.

The earthquake in Fukui Prefecture on the 22nd instant seems to have been very severe. Between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. there were seven shocks. The second is said to have been the most destructive. Six people were injured, one severely; two houses were overthrown, fifty-eight injured, and there were several breakages of embankments and land-slips. The exact locality was Imatate. It is said that the earthquake was heralded by a tremendous detonation.

The purchase of the Kyoritsu Kisen Kaisha by the Osaka Kisen Kaisha is said to have become an accomplished fact, the sum paid by the former being 150,000 *yen*. The steamers of the Kyoritsu Kaisha have been plying in the Bay of Owari Evidently the competition has proved too much for the company. It has to wind up its affairs, and the directors expect to be able to return to the shareholders 26 or 27 *yen* on each 50-*yen* share.

The kerosene wells discovered in the provinces of Tokachi and Iburi in Hokkaido are said to be very promising. During his recent visit to the northern island, Mr. Okura Kihachiro convinced himself, by personal inspection, that the wells can be worked successfully. He considered it wise, however, to despatch competent experts whose report will be awaited before any definite step is taken towards developing the wells. In the hands of the Okura firm, the enterprise will assume large dimensions.

The little island of Kozu, which forms one of the Seven Islands of Izu, seems to be in a state of great tribulation. Last year 340 houses were destroyed by fire out of the 417 in which the population of 1,928 persons were living. The Emperor gave a sum of 500 *yen* for the relief of the sufferers, and the Tokyo municipality contributed 1,500 *yen*, but those sums were soon expended, and, as the people lost many of their boats and nearly all their farming gear, their distress is very sharp. They have sent a deputation to Tokyo to seek further assistance.

Mr. Sone, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, has been telling the tea-men that their manner of employing the subsidy granted to them by the Treasury is not calculated to encourage a continuation of the assistance. The amount of the grant is 70,000 *yen* annually, and it is to continue for 7 years dating from 1897. The reason for giving the subsidy was that, Japanese tea-men being threatened with dangerous competition on the part of India and Ceylon, the Government thought it well to assist them in endeavouring to extend their markets. But three years' experience indicates that they have not applied the money to any really useful purpose.

It is stated that a hundred Japanese subjects residing in Vancouver, applied for permission to go to South Africa with the intention of fighting on the British side. Being refused on the ground of their foreign origin, they took out papers of British nationality. Fifty of them are said to have served with the colours in their own country. We reproduce the story as it is going the rounds of the vernacular press, but though there may be some truth in the assertion that an application was made, it is obvious that the assumption of British nationality at a moment's notice is a *canard*; nothing of the kind could be done.

News is published of a strike at the Sado Mine, the property of the Mitsu Bishi Company. The men are understood to complain that whereas munificent rewards have been given to the officers in charge, no increase of wages has been made to the miners; and further, that their ration of rice having been reduced, they find themselves insufficiently fed. Six hundred of them threaten to cease work on these grounds, but the execution of their intention has been deferred in consequence of assurances given to them by the overseer. The well-known generosity of the Mitsu Bishi Company to all serving under them makes it difficult to believe that the Sado miners have any real grievance.

The Liberals have issued a manifesto in which they claim credit for passing a number of useful measures last session. They have not yet accomplished their full purpose, they say, but they look to achieve it next session, and meanwhile they think that the country's domestic affairs may be considered to be in a satisfactory condition. As to foreign affairs, they consider that a country's foreign politics should be directed by the united strength of the nation at large, and should not be a subject for party interference. Therefore in the last session they limited themselves to asking questions, and did not introduce any resolution or engage in any debate.

Mr. Morita, of the Foreign Office in Tokyo, has returned from attending the Contagious Diseases Prevention Conference in Brussels, and has given an account of the proceedings to a vernacular contemporary. The subject is so unsavoury that we refrain from publishing details. The gist of the matter is that the Conference could not come to any decision with regard to the main question—that of licensing or forbidding the social evil. All the delegates except the American and the English were in favour of licensing, but the opposition of the two representatives of Anglo-Saxondom was so vehement that the Conference deemed it wiser not to carry the matter to the vote. Thus the resolutions adopted did not extend beyond recommending improved means of prevention.

Another trust has been formed in Osaka. It includes the dealers in sheet glass. They believe that they can easily obtain command of the whole trade, since the stock handled annually does not exceed twenty thousand or thirty thousand boxes. One difficulty presents itself, however; namely, that seven or eight thousand boxes are in the hands of foreign dealers in Kobe, who may be indisposed to join the combination. The promoters of the trust think that if the foreigners attempt to undersell them, an effectual remedy will lie in refusing to deal with any one that stands aloof. Probably that device will be successful, but it is evident that if foreign merchants can afford to undersell the trust, then no necessity

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exists for the latter's formation. The unhappy consumer looks on, meanwhile, in consternation. Owing to the operation of causes which may be natural, the cost of living has doubled in Japan during the past 20 years, and now the situation is to be rendered still more intolerable by artificial factors.

The *Jiji* and the *Nichi Nichi* combine to urge the advisability of increasing official salaries. Diplomatic officials especially are in an evil plight. Men who are sent abroad as Ministers receive, in addition to their regular pay, service allowances (*kimpo*) varying from nine thousand to twenty-two thousand *yen* annually, and Secretaries of Legation get from seven to twelve thousand. These allowances, though much smaller than those of foreign officials similarly circumstanced, are still a great help. But Foreign-office officials in Japan have nothing beyond their paltry salaries, and are consequently quite unable to entertain or to go into society. The *Jiji* thinks that they should receive twice as much as they have at present, but if that he difficult, an increase of 50 per cent at any rate should be granted.

Titles of nobility have always been treated with extreme contempt by the *Jiji Shimpo*. That fact fits rather clumsily into the context of an article now published by our contemporary, in which it finds fault with the Government for not granting more numerous and more honourable patents of nobility to private individuals. A very few barons have been created among mercantile magnates, but the *Jiji* considers that the title of Baron does not amount to a distinction, being generally regarded as altogether insignificant. It would have the Government distribute titles with a free hand and accept large subscriptions for public purposes from the grantees. We do not understand this bizarre article. Possibly its intention is to bring the whole institution of nobility into ridicule.

The *Jiji Shimpo* writes strongly in favour of increasing the salaries of officials. It says that, in view of the great appreciation of commodities in recent years, the emoluments of officials are now quite inadequate, especially in the upper ranks. A Minister of State can not possibly live on six thousand *yen* a year. It is true that his stipend is supplemented by a grant from the Imperial Household, but in spite of that assistance he can not avoid making debts unless he is a man of private means. The elder statesmen of the *Meiji* era have managed, in the course of long years, to amass fortunes which render them more or less independent, but the young men, without anything beyond their pay, must either run into debt or refuse high appointments. One result is that only the dregs of the people —*urinokori no hakidame* (unsaleable remnants of the ash-heap) is the pithy expression used by our contemporary — continue in the Government service. All the clever men betake themselves to other walks of life.

The temple at Yeko-in, where the great wrestling matches take place in the spring of every year, is the burial place of all whose corpses are not claimed by friends or relatives. It may be said that the temple was erected over the bodies of 108,000 citizens of Tokyo who lost their lives in the terrible conflagration of the *Meireki* era (1655-57). Its cemetery received an addition of twenty-five thousand corpses after the *Ansei* earthquake (1855), so that it is indeed a place of sad associations. There is no endowment. The priests used to obtain means of support by the *takuhatsu* process; that is to say, going from door to door, beating a wooden gong, and begging alms. But that resource is forbidden by the *Meiji* Government, and the circumstances of Yeko-in have now become much embarrassed. We read that a project is on foot to undertake an extensive scheme of repairs for which public subscriptions will be widely sought. Such a scheme is surely deserving of official aid, to say nothing of private charity. Very likely the estimate of lives lost in the two great calamities is exaggerated, but even if the accepted totals be divided by two, the quotient is sufficiently terrible.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has made arrangements which will greatly facilitate the shipping of goods from Tokyo for foreign countries. Hitherto the rule has been that all goods intended for shipment at Yokohama must be delivered at the Company's offices in Tokyo four days before the date fixed for the vessel's departure. That interval will henceforth be shortened to three days. Moreover, it is understood that the company will charge itself with the duty not only of carrying the goods from Tokyo, and putting them on board in Yokohama, but also with that of passing them through the customs. It will, in short, do shipping agents' work as well as that of over-sea transport, and the charge for these various services will be only 1 *yen* per ton of miscellaneous cargo. Further, the barges employed for carrying goods from Tokyo will be, as far as possible, of the kind known as *daruma-bune* (i.e., decked boats of foreign build), the *gorki-bune* (open boats of Japanese build) being employed only for packages of great weight or of a dangerous character. Where special consular certificates have to be obtained for cargo going to the United States, the shippers will be charged the actual out-of-pocket expenses, in addition to the above rate of 1 *yen* per ton. We take these facts from a Tokyo contemporary.

The Japanese Government, not content with working through its Consul in Hawaii, has addressed a very strong remonstrance to the Government in Washington, through Mr. Komura, with reference to the indiscriminate embargo imposed on imports from Japan by the Hawaiian Authorities. Without attempting to make any distinctions, the Hawaiian Administration ordered that entry should be refused to all goods coming from Eastern ports, and it speedily resulted that the Japanese community found itself embarrassed for daily necessaries of life. The Foreign Office in Tokyo does not raise any question whatever about goods justly subject to exclusion on the ground of danger of contagion. Its complaint is that no discrimination whatever was exercised, and that articles against which no sanitary objections could be properly raised, were included in the veto. Since this step was adopted by Tokyo the Hawaiian Government has instituted a much more rational system. It now divides imports into three classes; first, those that do not present any danger on medical grounds; secondly, those that are dangerous in respect of their wrappings; and thirdly, those that are dangerous in themselves. If that classification be intelligently applied, there will be no further grounds of protest. But it must be confessed that the Hawaiian Authorities, in their treatment of this matter, have shown more panic than discretion.

There has been quite a complicated disturbance at the First High School in Tokyo. The boarders, disgusted with the provisions supplied by the purveyors, conceived the idea of protesting in a novel fashion. They formed a "big-eaters club," and essayed to punish the purveyors by eating enormous quantities of food. Under the circumstances, relations became strained—and probably other things also —, so that, on the 14th instant, some dispute arising during dinner, the students began to play projectiles with the utensils, and in the course of a rain of something like a hundred cups and platters, one of the waiters sustained injuries that necessitated his retirement to hospital. A charge of assault and battery would have been laid before the tribunals of law had not the faculty of the school succeeded in temporarily smoothing matters over. But the students were implacable. They came to their meals provided with bread of their own buying and declined to eat anything set before them by the purveyors. Finally, the latter's services were dispensed with, a result which they greatly resented on the ground of unfairness. Thirty of them, encountering two of the students' ringleaders outside the compound, proceeded to wreak vengeance on the lads. But the latter escaped into the school, obtained reinforcements, sallied out against their foes, and would have put them ignominiously to flight had not a posse of carpenters and plasterers joined the fray. In the sequel the police had to be summoned. Such is the journalistic account. It will probably be found to be much exaggerated.

"*LIFE & LETTERS OF EDWARD BICKERSTETH.*" *

A biography is in one sense melancholy reading: it renews feelings of sorrow which time had softened. The better the biography, the sadder its effect upon a reader who had the privilege of its subject's acquaintance. We have experienced this vividly in perusing the "Life and Letters of Bishop Bickersteth;" compiled and published by his brother, the Rev. S. Bickersteth, Vicar of Lewisham. That is, perhaps, the best tribute we can pay to the work: it brings us once more into fellow-ship with this intensely earnest, zealous Christian, whose eleven years of work in Japan exercised an influence, probably indelible, upon the history of the country's moral progress. Edward Bickersteth's type is not the outcome of education, example, or observation. *Non fit sed nascitur.* It is singular to observe how such men are irresistibly drawn to the work of gospel propagandism in strange lands. Bickersteth's career started with large promise. He acquitted himself admirably at school, obtained a first class at Cambridge, was elected to a fellowship at Pembroke, and might have reasonably reckoned on a happy, pro-

* London: Sampson Low, Marston and Company. Yokohama: Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

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sperous, and even brilliant career in his own country. He nevertheless became imbued from the outset with the idea of a mission to India, and through his enthusiastic efforts there was ultimately organized the celebrated "Cambridge Mission" to Delhi. Five years of work in India, strenuous and unremitting work, sowed the seeds of a malady that ultimately killed him. Returning to England on leave, he made vain efforts to completely recover his health and finally accepted the living of Framlingham in Suffolk. It was a post which ought to have satisfied a man of only thirty-two—a parish with a population of 3,000 in a charming district, with a stipend of £1,350. But Bickersteth never had a moment's full contentment. His heart yearned perpetually for the toilsome life in India, the exile from home, the unremitting labour, the exhausting climate, and the comfortless existence. He would have gone back to Delhi to brave a fate that menaced him only too clearly had he not been invited to accept the Bishopric of South Tokyo. If there be such a thing as destiny its hand seems to be discernible in this case.

From the first he appears to have proposed to himself the purpose of preaching by acts rather than by speech. His object was to live so that by his example men might be drawn to the Cross. There have been and there are many such men in Japan. Pulpit eloquence or power of exegesis may be given to them or denied to them, but they breathe around them an atmosphere of truth and charity which can not fail to influence many for good. Edward Bickersteth certainly fulfilled that ideal. He was gifted, too, with a keen, luminous intellect which he devoted perpetually and exclusively to the object of his life, the saving of souls. It is interesting to learn, as one does constructively, from the many clever and beautiful letters of his contained in this biography, how possible it is for a man of the highest moral endowments to banish from his mind almost every thought unconnected with religion and the saving of souls. There is certainly no other subject that will endure the same unswerving concentration. One is disposed to imagine that there may be such a thing as the abuse even of Christianity, and that excessive absorption in it may produce narrowness. But there was not anything of that kind in Edward Bickersteth. The genial, sympathetic side of his nature remained always fresh and receptive. It presents itself to us under many aspects in this biography.

Of course, one of the features of the work is that it furnishes, incidentally, a valuable chapter of the history of missionary enterprise in Japan. Bishop Bickersteth quickly discerned the peculiar conditions to be dealt with in Tokyo. "There is," he wrote to his father, the Bishop of Exeter, "the most curious difference between the people of this country and India. Here foreigners can only suggest and guide; in India they rule; so that even by missionaries, not to say Bishops, continual care has to be taken not to offend Japanese susceptibilities. They have not yet realized this in Salisbury Square, and send out pages of regulations for native churches. In one case, where a missionary unwisely took them in his hand and said that this was the plan agreed upon for their organization in England, the whole thing was promptly rejected with the offer of monetary help which was attached to its acceptance. Wiser men are bringing them to much the same point by suggestion and guidance." We should like to feel assured that his perception was equally accurate in other directions, but the wish seems to have coloured his judgment when, in conjunction with Bishop Williams, he wrote to the Bishops of the Anglican Communion, "here the hope almost reaches certainty that it is the divine purpose to grant to adequate efforts on the part of the Church a new Christian nation." We hesitate to speak in the opposite sense, but we are constrained to admit that the signs do not yet seem to point as Bishop Bickersteth read them fourteen years ago. He took the right road, however, when he organized the *Nippon Sei Kōkwai*, on an independent basis, and he did well to raise his voice against the prejudice that leads some people to condemn the educational form of missionary work:—"Any plan which directs the forces which they (the educational departments of Japan) control in right channels, is worthy of consideration. Among such plans I unhesitatingly count the acceptance by sincere and consistent men and women of educational posts under the Government. Let them count the cost beforehand—in Japan probable loneliness, the uncertainty of tenure, and the limitation (which must be loyally adhered to) which obliges them not to teach doctrinal Christianity during school hours. Still if, notwithstanding all these disadvantages, they are prepared to throw themselves enthusiastically on the one hand into the work of secular education, and on the other into the opportunities, indirect though they be, of making known the truth which these posts afford, then I believe such eductionalists are to be counted among real and effective allies of the regular missionary staff. * * * Some English Churchmen, I gather, are suspicious of this mode of work, as if in it the claims of truth were subordinated to those of secular science. This fear is groundless, provided the teacher is possessed by a sincere and earnest desire for the salvation of those under his charge." He is genuinely appreciative of the work done by social influence also. He calls the late Mrs. Kirkes' house "a centre of manifold influence for highest good among the upper classes, which could be set moving by no other means, and by one else in like manner, so far as I am aware." These words we read with special satisfaction. Very few foreigners know, or can know, the impression Mrs. Kirkes produced among the Japanese. Were the knowledge better disseminated, she would have found more faithful imitators.

We should like to repeat the outlines of the story of how Bishop Bickersteth carried out his idea of community missions in Japan, and how he succeeded in attracting to Tokyo several university graduates who are now working patiently and zealously in Japan. But for these and many other points of interest we must refer our readers to the book itself.

The Yokohama Agent of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, on Thursday received telegraphic advice from the London Office that at the approaching meeting of shareholders of this Bank the Directors will recommend a dividend for the half year ended 31st December last at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum free of Income Tax, placing £25,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £525,000, writing £10,000 off Premises Account, and carrying forward £13,250.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

In the *Shakai Zasshi* Dr. Katō Hiroyuki writes on the difficulties attending social reform. These he treats under three headings.

I. Reform is difficult because it is impossible to decide accurately as to what direction it should take. In other branches of knowledge theories may be tested by experiments and the results produced by certain causes made quite clear. But there can be no experimenting with society as a whole. History, ethnology, and anthropology all contribute something to our knowledge of the various stages through which society passes on its way to a higher plane, but none of these branches of knowledge give us the reason for things happening as they do. They tell as that feudalism is a stage through which all nations have to pass. But of the why and wherefore of this they tell us nothing. The rise and fall of empires are recorded, but the real causes of these events remain obscure. We may well ask what has kept China together during a period of nearly 5,000 years? Its rulers have changed, but the nation has held together. What are the social laws that have insured this end? It is not easy to answer such a question. Those who aim at consolidating empires are working in the dark and may be compared to Chinese quacks trying this and that remedy with little idea as to the effects likely to be produced.

II. Reform of society is difficult because the would-be reformers are part of the body they wish to reform, and are in a large measure subject to conditions which to a great extent preclude reform. Men will not adopt theories even that militate against comfort-giving beliefs. As Huxley remarked, the Darwinian theory of evolution was totally condemned without a hearing by a large number of scholars, because it seemed to them to detract from the dignity of the human race. If people are thus obstinate about theories, they are still more obdurate when asked to change the practices to which they are accustomed.

III. There is a method of improving society which, could it be followed, would no doubt yield good results. Nature obtains strong types by allowing the weak to die off. Throughout her dominions, where she is not interfered with by man, the fittest survive. But man considers it his duty as a moral being to keep the diseased alive as long as possible. Moreover, his laws sanction the production of diseased offspring. Crime and disease are allowed to reproduce themselves at will. No Government dreams of interfering, and thus, however much grand talk there may be about the reform of society, the difficulty of effecting anything tangible and permanent is insuperable, and it is just as well to recognise this.

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The *Shakai Zasshi* publishes the following statistics bearing on insanity in Japan. They are taken from the 1898 report of the Sugamo Lunatic Asylum. The total inmates numbered 399; 327 of whom were *heimin* and 52 *shisoku*, the pedigree of 20 being uncertain. There were 12 women among the above. Divided according to religion, the numbers were 16 Shintoists, 356 Buddhists, 3 Christians, and 24 who be-

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longed to no sect. Among cases of violent madness there were 55 married, and 62 single, persons. Among inmates whose lunacy was traced to drink there were 24 married and only one single. The cases of lunacy proceeding from melancholia stood at 5 married and 3 unmarried.

* * *

The *Tenchijin* has an article on the various types of female beauty in Japan. After quoting a few very pointless verses which profess to give the difference between Osaka, Kyōtō, and Tōkyō beauties, the essayist states it to be his conviction that the present race of Japanese is the result of intermarriages between Koreans, Malays, and Ainos. But careful analysis has shown a marked difference in the female countenance according to districts. There are three distinct types. (1) There is that of the Chūgoku and the Hokuriku; (2) that of Kyūshū, Shikoku, and Kinai; (3) and that of Tosan, Kwantō, and Tōhoku. That these types are recognised by people generally is shown by the phrases in everyday use to describe various casts of countenance. For example, the beautiful women of Chūgoku and Kinai are spoken of as having *Kuge-kawo* (Court-nobles faces) or *Tenjin-gawo* (the faces of goddesses or fairies). But there are those who fail to appreciate the long square faces of the Chūgoku women, and they have embodied their sentiment in the term sometimes applied to them *o-hira no nagaimo* (like a yam in a shallow bowl). This type of countenance is very noticeable in Korea among all classes of people. Its distinctive features are crooked eyebrows and enlarged cheeks, and a certain ovalness of shape. This face in Japanese is described as *urisane-gao*. Length of face used always to be an essential quality in female beauty. It is quite clear that this type of countenance came from Korea. It was for many centuries the only recognised classical type. The great painters in the Tokugawa era in representing goddesses followed no other model. Extreme slimness of figure and whiteness of skin were always considered essential to female beauty. (2) According to Chinese history the Kyūshū and Shikoku women have invariably been distinguished for plumpness. They are compared to eggs and the coin called *koban*. Their faces are described as bright, gay, and attractive. Thick eyebrows, double edges to the eyelids, very black eyeballs are prominent features of this class of beauty. (3) This type is to a large extent the result of the blending of the two described above. But as far as Tōkyō belles are concerned, a peculiar shape of eye, called *ichō-me* (an eye like the seed of the Ginkgo biloba) is indispensable to beauty. It has to be borne in mind that under the old Bakufu it was the practice of the Edo *samurai* to marry Kyōtō women; hence the proverb *Azuma otoko ni Kyō onna*. Among Azuma women there were in the Gempei age few known as beauties with the exception of Oiso-no-tora and one or two more. This was owing to the fact that at that time Azuma had developed no distinct type. This development may be said to have begun after the fall of the Kamakura Government. Comparing type 1 with type 3, in length of nose and thinness of lip the Chūgoku women excel, but in eyes and eyebrows they are inferior to the Azuma belles. It will be remembered that in the poem which celebrates the beauty of a daughter of a well-known Edo merchant the very title of the poem draws attention to the superiority of her eyes. The title is *Itoya no musume wa me de korosu*. (The daughter of the Ito business-house kills with her eyes). These Tōkyō female eyes are said to glitter like varnish and their value to a woman is considered to be practically priceless, as the popular expression *me sen ryō* indicates. As regards the future, we may expect to see type 1 gradually extinguished by types 2 and 3. Such are the conclusions reached by the essayist, whose remarks we have greatly curtailed.

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A full report of Mr. Shimada Saburō's address on "History" delivered at the 10th Anniversary of the Historical Society a few weeks ago appears in the *Shigaku Zasshi*. The main purport of the speech can be briefly stated. Mr. Shimada contends that no absolutely trust-worthy history can be written in ages when there is no freedom of speech allowed. It is a recognised fact that most of the Japanese history that has come down to us has been cooked. It was supposed to be one of the duties of a loyal servant to suppress and hide as far as possible the faults and weaknesses of his master. Each family that came into power dictated what was to be written and what suppressed. Another characteristic of ancient history is the entire absence of details bearing on the lives of the people. The impression one gets in perusing Japanese annals is that history exists for the benefit of the Government. Facts bearing on the industries, the agriculture and the commerce of our ancestors are extremely hard to obtain. The Tokugawa historians cared for none of these things. Then the practice which we borrowed from China of using historical materials for the purpose of teaching morals has led to a great many abuses. Facts have been twisted to suit the purposes of the moralist. Then it is only recently that we have fully realised that in order to explain fully the course of events in one's own country it is necessary to know what has taken place in other countries. To understand the foreign policy of Spain and Portugal at the beginning of the Tokugawa era helps one immensely in interpreting the action of the early Shōguns. To come to more recent times, it was only the other day that we were told by the British Minister of a fact that most historians have entirely overlooked, namely, that at one time at the beginning of the *Meiji* era France was within an inch of siding with the Bakufu against England. Had that taken place, there is no saying what might have followed. The situation was fraught with danger to Japan's independence as an Eastern state. It is thus seen that no thorough understanding of the internal affairs of a country is possible without a knowledge of those foreign affairs that are intimately connected with them. It is only in recent times that we have been in possession of the requisite materials and the requisite liberty for compiling full and reliable history.

* * *

The editor of the *Taiyō* publishes some remarks of Count Okuma made at an interview with the Count bearing on the tastes and peculiarities of several of Japan's leading statesmen. No statesman, said Count Okuma, has spent so much money and time over landscape gardening as I. I have been thirty years at it and still there is plenty of room for improvement. Neither Count Inoue nor Marquis Itō has any such garden. Marquis Yamagata has a fairly good house in Kyōto, but has done next to nothing in the way of making a garden, for which there is little room. It is the way with Chōshū men to amuse themselves with verse-making and other learned pursuits. They are fond of small rooms, 6 or 8 mats, which they fill with all kinds of rare specimens of art. Count Itō, though a Chōshū man, seems to have inherited none of their tastes. Of the attachment to Cha-no-yu ceremonies, and floral arrangement he has none. In house building the Chōshū people are far ahead of the Satsuma folk. The ideas of the latter are very primitive and even their best town houses would pass for country houses in Chōshū. Marquis Itō seems to have inherited something from both provinces. He is careless as to execution. He will build a house in half the time that most people take over it, but it is always lacking in finish. What Marquis Itō takes a month over will occupy Count Inoue for three years. The latter displays great taste in all he undertakes. Count Okuma went on to speak of Marquis Ito's disagreement with Kido and Okubo and concluded by expressing the opinion that physically and mentally Marquis Itō shows signs of age, notwithstanding a certain kind of activity displayed by him.

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In the *Kyōiku Kōhō* appears Mr. Katō Takaaki's address entitled *Eikoku Jinshi* (人士) *no Kifu* (The Ways of an English Gentleman) as delivered at the Kyōiku Club some weeks ago. We give a brief epitome of the opinions expressed by Mr. Katō on this occasion. Mr. Katō has an exceptionally good knowledge of the English language and is thoroughly conversant with Occidental usages, and his position as Japan's representative for some years in London gave him many opportunities of studying English life. These are the conclusions he reached:—(1) The English are an order-loving, law-abiding people. (2) They hold truth and justice in high esteem. (3) Character goes for everything among the English. People are judged more by their manners than by their dress. Some Japanese suppose that a certain roughness of manner is part of foreign ways. Nothing could be further from the truth as far as England is concerned. The term gentleman in England has a meaning which no one attaches to our word *shinshi*, which is applied frequently to persons whose conduct is highly vulgar. (4) The English are a business-loving people, who think highly of positions of trust in all ranks of life. There is the greatest contrast in this particular to what we see in Japan, where the sense of responsibility among all classes is very weak. (5) There is in England a readiness to combine efforts in business undertakings of magnitude, such as is lacking here. Of course, the scarcity of money in Japan may be one reason for the discrepancy. (6) The English are a hard-working people. From early years there is displayed an intense earnestness in the race of life. Competition of course renders this necessary, but people delight in work in a way that is unknown in Japan. (7) There is an absence of useless ceremony in England. When people meet they do not go through a tenth of the forms required by Japanese etiquette,

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but feelings of respect for others and real friendship are far more prevalent in England than in Japan. In Japan we are polite to people we know, but extremely impolite to the public generally. In a crowd in England there is far more consideration for women and children than there would be in Japan. (8) In England the spirit of honesty is very strong. The people as a whole may be said to be subject to a code of honour which is strictly observed. In this country it seems the rule to expect people to be dishonest. Hence in the Criminal Code there are laws bearing on a great variety of dishonest transactions. Among them there is one referring to the appropriation of government money, as though the appearance of rogues among officials were anticipated. In England people trust each other so much that on arrival at a railway station a man has only to go and claim his luggage and it is handed over to him. This system would never work in Japan. Thieving would be universal, but English railways have been conducted without any system of checks for several decades, and there is no talk of change. One dishonest act in England ruins a man for life, and few are those who for the sake of a few shillings care to run such a serious risk. (9) There is one quality of the English which seems to me very enviable. It is the practical way in which they settle matters. They place little confidence in academical discussion of business matters. Here we can never do anything without constructing a number of theories bearing on it and making endless rules. The English arrive at an understanding among themselves as to what should be done, and set about it with promptness. With them public opinion rules the day, and everything has to bow to public convenience and utility. (10) The English can teach us a lesson in letter writing. Most of their business is transacted by means of letters. But the practice of letter-writing adds much pleasure to their lives. Even their women describe their journeys with great vividness and minuteness. This practice is little known in this country, where there seems to be a great aversion to letter writing. To come to what I consider English defects, among them the most conspicuous perhaps is self-admiration. They have an idea that they are the first nation in the world in every respect. Their army they have hitherto considered to be equal to any possessed by their rivals. They are now finding out their mistake. . . . In my opinion there is much that we may learn from the English. Some say that, having entered the comity of Western nations, we do not need to sit at the feet of any of these nations, that we have a position of our own which we must carefully maintain. But is this actually so? Is it not more true to say that the position has still to be made?

* * *

A writer in the *Nihonjin* contends that the early development of Japanese young men and women is to be regarded as a weakness, as it implies early decay of mental and physical powers. In the opinion of the writer we are quoting it has been caused by the absence of suitable amusements for the young in Japan. In the West boys are kept young by their interest in games and sport of all kinds, but here a young lad is found playing chess or checkers in a most serious fashion, his one aim being to be like his elders as soon as possible. Then school teachers have in times past attached little importance to recreations calculated to keep students young.

* * *

Judging from his own confessions in the *Tōkyō Dokuritsu Zasshi* Mr. Uchimura, the editor of that magazine, must be a very difficult man to get on with. Under the heading of "Intercourse with" Foreigners," he tells us that while in Niigata he was at war with no less than 11 missionaries at one time, and that subsequently when he became editor of the *Yorodzu Chōhō* he was engaged day after day in attacking his foreign contemporaries, but that as a result of all his campaigns he has not made a single foreign friend. Hence he has given foreigners up in despair as an impracticable class of people. Mr. Uchimura regards a Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs with pity, as a man who has assigned to him an impossible task. The typical Japanese, Mr. Uchimura thinks, has no inclination to qualify himself to compete with foreigners on equal terms. He is content to accept a subordinate position. Hence it is that any minister who tries to win a place for his country in the counsels of western countries finds that when put to the test his fellow-countrymen do not come up to the mark.

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The *Tenchijin* publishes a full report of Prince Konoye's speech at the Kwazoku Kai-Kan, entitled, "My Observations in Europe, America and China," delivered some weeks ago, which has already been briefly commented on in these columns. This is what the Prince has to say about the Japanese in Hawaii and elsewhere:—The Japanese employed there are very numerous, but they are entirely without political influence or representation. The treatment they receive from their employers differs little from that enjoyed by horses or oxen. A few have tried to settle on their earnings and become owners of land, but their capital is insufficient. It is true to say that our nationals are slaves to the white man in Hawaii. . . . Passing on to San Francisco, I found 3,000 Japanese settled there. It is said that there are some 5,000 in the whole of California. But most of these are very low class. There are some 40 or 50 gentlemen connected with Japanese steamship companies and Japanese banks, and the usual consular officers, but beyond this the Japanese community is pretty well made up of penniless students, labourers and loafers. Most of the students there have an idea that they can while earning a living qualify themselves to become great merchants like Iwasaki or even ministers of state. They are to be seen cleaning windows and doing other menial work, but they do not as a rule give satisfaction to their employers and are constantly changing masters. . . . . I visited Cliff House, the great swimming place. At the entrance I found the following notice, "No Japanese allowed to swim here." Asking the reason of this I was told that some time ago a Japanese bathing there when beneath the water seized a lady's foot, and that she reported the matter to the Committee who made the above rule. . . . There are a large number of Japanese prostitutes in San Francisco. There has been a great deal of unwise agitation over this subject, in which Japanese have done their country's cause more harm than good. The Japanese newspaper in San Francisco even went so far as to propose a raid on the Japanese prostitute quarter of the town. Since there are hundreds and thousands of prostitutes belonging to other nationalities in the city there is no occasion for taking steps to make Japanese prostitutes so conspicuous. In New York on the whole I found fewer low class Japanese, and in England, in addition to being fewer than those in America, the Japanese are more select, and I heard nothing damaging to their reputation. In Germany Japanese residents consist of students only. In Constantinople I found a Japanese merchant doing a good business. In Eastern ports like Singapore, Hongkong and Shanghai our people are getting to be very numerous and our better classes are well represented. This is a very hopeful sign.

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Dr. Ariga announces in the *Gwaikō Jihō* the publication of a new work on International Law by Dr. Thomas Alfred Walker and also several translations of foreign works on the same subject.

A book entitled *Kinsei tokuiku Shiden*, A History of Modern Moral Education, has just been published by the Kaihatsusha, Mitoshiro-chō, Kanda, Tōkyō, of which Mr. Adachi Ritsuyen is the author. This is by far the largest work of the kind that has appeared for some time. It gives a most exhaustive account of all the systems of morality prevalent in Japan in the Tokugawa era. And it contains lives of all Japan's great moral teachers, having no less than 66 biographies in addition to minute histories of ethical theories.

Under the title of *Tansei Keisaigaku* the late Mr. Garst's writings on the "Single Tax" have been collected and published in Japanese by Mr. Kuribara Ryōichi.

* * *

A writer in the *Sekai no Nihon* tries to show that gold is the controlling power in all international relations. The facts of history are all twisted so as to serve the purpose of the theory elaborated. We are informed that England's struggle with France at the beginning of the century was all for money*; that Germany manages to keep Russia from molesting her by lending her money; that the alliance of France and Russia is based on financial considerations, Russia being anxious to float her loans in France at advantageous rates; that the Greco-Turkey war was terminated on account of pecuniary considerations; that gold is the real cause of the Transvaal war, and that even America and Russia will eventually be brought together by America supplying the capital that Russia so much needs. The gist of the article goes to show that the whole world is corrupt and that there is no such thing as fighting for principles or in the defence of indubitable rights that have been violated. The writer has put on some very pessimistic spectacles, but this kind of article finds great favour with a certain class of Japanese readers, who complacently contrast all this Occidental sordidity with their own uniform integrity.

* The writer is perhaps not aware that the Peninsular War alone cost England more than £100,000,000, money that still forms part of her national debt. And England derived no pecuniary benefit from that war.—(Writer of the *Summary*.)

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We have to announce the issue of the following new magazines.

The *Gengogaku Zasshi*, a monthly, published its first number on February 15th. It is issued by the Fuzambō, Kanda, Tōkyō. Its object is to aid the study of language by publishing specimens of all kinds of literature. It also prints papers prepared by the members of the University Gengogaku Kenkyūkai. Being purely philological, it is said that it supplies a long-felt want.

The *Kokon Bungaku* (Ancient and Modern Literature) dates from February 3rd last. It is a monthly, and sells at 20 *sen* a copy. It seems to be of conservative tendency and to be chiefly expository in character. The first number contains verses of various kinds, and in future numbers it is announced that questions on literary subjects will be fully answered.

The *Dai Nippon*, a new monthly, selling at 15 *sen* per copy, in the matter of get up is a very superior publication. It has a few pages printed in English. Dr. Matsumoto Kumpei is the editor, and the magazine is issued by the Nichi-bei Shōkōkai. A publication bearing the same name, now defunct, was noticed by us several months ago. The present magazine aims at being thoroughly up to date and is well supplied with matter. If it succeeds in keeping up to the level of the first number it ought to take a high rank among monthlies. It discusses commerce, industry, finance, literature, and other subjects.

The *Jichi Kikwan* (Local Government Organ) discusses municipal affairs generally. It proceeds from a small office in Iidamachi, Kōjimachi-Ku, Tōkyō. It prints legal decisions on municipal affairs and aims at acquainting its readers with existing laws and the mode of administering them. Dr. Ume is said to be connected with this publication, which sells at 10 *sen* a copy.

The *Himeyuri*, like the *Nihon Fujin*, of which Miss Shimoda Utako is editress, discusses questions connected with female education and women's home life.

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Professor Nishimura Shigeki contributes a very long article to the *Taiyō* on the everlasting question of orthographic reform. He is dead against any change. He enumerates all the advantages to be gained by the use of the characters and requests the agitators for reform to cease arguing and to endeavour to demonstrate to the public the practicability of their schemes by composing and printing either in *Kana* or Romaji the following classes of composition (1) An Imperial edict. (2) Laws. (3) Terse, classical sayings such as were uttered by Confucius and Mencius. (4) Argumentative articles such as shall prove convincing to the readers (5) Discussion of subtle points in philosophy. (6) Exact statements on any branch of science, such as chemistry (7) Epitaphs. If they can succeed in making themselves intelligible and in satisfying the public, then Chinese characters will disappear of themselves. But how will they get over the difficulty of homonyms? And what is to become of all our old literature? Is it to be rewritten in the new style? No; says Mr. Nishimura; the reform proposed is too sweeping. But what it is possible to effect that we should do at once. Ideographs should be divided into those in general use for everyday purposes and those only employed in the discussion of special subjects, that is into technical ideographs and non-technical ideographs. The latter only should be used in elementary schools. Then, in the case of ideographs that contain a large number of strokes, substitutes should be found for them or abbreviations adopted. In teaching handwriting, only the *gyōsho* form of character should be used. *Hiragana* should only be written in one form. Japanese words in preference to Chinese should be employed as much as possible. The Education Department should decide on the words to be used in text-books, and the adoption of these books in all elementary schools should be compulsory. All laws, government orders, and the like should be written in the language adopted for school text-books. In order to effect this change new text-books and an exhaustive dictionary should be compiled. As regards the Chinese used for special subjects, I am not in favour of interfering with the liberty of those engaged in teaching these subjects, says Mr. Nishimura. It is in general education that the pressure of the present system is felt, and this pressure can be relieved effectually by the adoption of the above plan.

THE LATE MR. CONSUL-GENERAL JOHN F. GOWEY.

FUNERAL CEREMONY.

The preliminary services in connection with the funeral of the late American Consul-General, Mr. J. F. Gowey, were held on Saturday afternoon at the Union Church, Yokohama. The remains have been embalmed, and are being kept at the American Naval Hospital preparatory to being taken to the United States. The final service and interment will take place at Olympia, Washington.

The weather on Saturday afternoon was of the most dismal description, the rain pelting down shortly before the commencement of the service, but as there was no formal *cortège* the inconvenience was not greatly felt. The attendance at the Church was extremely large, many officials and members of the diplomatic corps in Tokyo, the Consular body, the City and Prefectural magnates, and military and naval men helping to swell the very representative gathering of Yokohama residents. There was also a strong body of Masons present, but, though the deceased was a prominent member of the Craft, they did not assist officially in the mournful ceremony. The chief mourners were Mrs. Gowey and her son, Mr. F. M. Gowey, who arrived from Korea two or three days ago. At the top of the aisle sat the members of the United States Legation and Consular staffs, a number of American naval and military officers and British naval officers, in uniform; Japanese officials and officers also in uniform; and the officials of the various Legations and Consulates in ceremonial dress. The coffin, which was placed in front of the organ, was covered with the American flag, and with a great number of wreaths and crosses from friends and public bodies. Above the organ were placed the American and Japanese national flags. The service was conducted in accordance with the ritual of the American Episcopal Church, which is practically identical with that of the Church of England. Bishop McKim and the Rev. George Wallace were the officiating clergy. The hymns used were Newman's beautiful "Lead, kindly Light," and "O Paradise," and Mr. J. T. Griffin, who presided at the organ, played the Dead March from "Saul" at the close of the service. The funeral arrangements were made by Mr. Holgate.

Among those present were: The United States Minister, Hon. A. E. Buck; the British Minister, Sir E. Satow; the Russian Minister, Baron Rosen; the Italian Minister, Count Orfini; Mr. Li Sheng Toh, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of H.I.M. the Emperor of China, Mr. L. Ching Kow, Secretary of Legation, Mr. Tseng Hai, Interpreter; Mr. Tsou Chung Ching, Chinese Consul-General at Yokohama, and Mr. Shen Tseng Sung, Secretary; the Secretary of the Korean Legation, Mr. Pak Yong Wha; the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires, Senor de Freitas; Mr. Hobart-Hampden, H.B.M. Vice-Consul; Mr J. McLean, United States Acting Consul; Mr. G. H. Scidmore, United States Deputy Consul; Dr. Ritter, Swiss Consul; Mr. Ratare, French Consul; Mr. T. Wassilieff, Russian Vice-Consul; Chevalier Cassati, Italian Consulate; Mr. Coates, German Consul General, Mr. Hagen, Vice-Consul, and Dr. Ohrt; the Chevalier de Wapenaert, Belgian Consul; Mr. J. de Reuss, Dutch Consul; Mr. J. H. Jewett, Danish Consul; the Chilian Consul; the Brazilian Consul; Mr. Jeblitscka, Austrian Consul; Mr. C. D. Moss; Mr. E. A. Griffiths, late British Consul at Tainan; H.E. Governor Asada, of Kanagawa Prefecture, and Kencho officials; Judge Nagamo Tokiichiro, and Judge Nakamura of the Tokyo Chiho Saibansho; Mr. Watanabe Nobu, President of the Chiho Saibansho, Chief Procurator Kosaka, and Procurator Tsutsumi; Mr. T. Kuroiwa, Inspector General of Police, Kanagawa Ken; Mr. Aoki, Director of Posts and Telegraphs; Mr. Umeda, Mayor of Yokohama; Mr. Ikariyama, Superintendent, Kagacho Police Station; Mr. S. Tojo, Chief of Yokohama Taxation Office; Mr. S. Saito, Director of the Revenue Bureau; Rear-Admiral Mori, I.J.N., Director of the Harbour Office; Commander S. Amano, I.J.N., Assistant Harbour Master; Mr. Kanetake Ooura, Prefect of Police; Mr. Akiyama, Mr. E. Yamada; and Mr. Mayeda, President of the Tokyo Chiho Saibansho; Inspector Kashiwabara Seiichiro, of Tokyo; Mr. Ozawa; and other prominent Japanese; the Marquis Nembrini de Gonzaga, Naval officers from the U.S.S. *Oregon* and *Albatross* and the German cruiser *Hertha*, &c.

The following resolution has been passed by the Executive Committee of the American Asiatic Society:—

The executive committee of the American Asiatic Association of Japan, desiring to give some expression of the consideration and esteem in which the late Consul General, the Honourable John F. Gowey, was held, hereby resolves:—

That we, expressing the sentiment of all those who were associated with him in this community, mourn most deeply the loss of one so highly respected and trusted as a public officer, a counsellor, and a friend.

That we are mindful of the noble example, the just, upright, loyal, true, and genial qualities which characterized him in all his relations with his fellow men.

That we shall long cherish his memory on account of these and other virtues he freely, though modestly, manifested among us during his comparatively short residence here.

That our sympathy is hereby extended to the family and relatives of the deceased, trusting that God will give them all needed comfort.

That we recognize in the sad circumstance of his death the ruling of a mysterious Providence, but we bow in humble submission to the acts of an infinite wisdom.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, that they be published in the local and State of Washington papers, and recorded upon our minutes.

James R. Morse,
President.

Geo. H. Scidmore,
Acting Secretary and Treasurer.

Dated, Yokohama, March 14th, 1900.

Sympathetic references to the late Mr. Consul-General Gowey were made by the Rev. E. C. Irwine in the course of his sermon at the morning service of the congregation of Christ Church on Sunday.

The British steamer *Energia*, which went ashore in the Obrea Channel and was floated in January last, has since been repaired at the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard. The vessel on March 25th sailed for Hongkong.

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YOKOHAMA FOREIGN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce was held on Thursday afternoon at Keil's Building. Mr. W. F. Mitchell presided over a fairly large attendance.

THE REPORT.

The following report was submitted to the meeting:—

REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA FOREIGN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FOR THE YEAR 1899.

The Meeting is called in accordance with Rule 15, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee with a statement of Accounts, to elect a Committee for the ensuing year, and for general purposes.

Minutes of the last meeting have been circulated among the Members for approval.

Since the last general meeting of the Chamber, Treaty revision has become an accomplished fact. The Central Government have given Foreigners an assurance that under their jurisdiction Foreign Trade and Interests will be protected.

The change was ushered in by very friendly overtures on the part of the Local Officials, who have shown a desire to extend their courteous consideration to any points relating to the new order of things which may not be very clear. These advances have been very much appreciated on the part of the Community.

Arbitration.—The proposal submitted to the Japanese Chambers of Commerce in Tokyo and Yokohama has not resulted in a favourable termination, both bodies having declined to come to an agreement on the subject, on the ground that a Foreign Chamber of Commerce is not an Institution recognised by the Government. Your Committee regard this decision as a misfortune, because a mutual system of settling disputes such as obtains in other Countries would undoubtedly tend to the development of trade and deter litigation.

A Form of Contract for the Import trade, submitted at the last general meeting, has also been refused as unacceptable to Japanese Merchants, and the proposal has been dropped.

Certificates of Origin.—Representations were made to the Authorities before the new regulation came into force and a promise was given by them to treat the question in a liberal spirit, but so far the production of a Certificate of Origin has been strictly enforced and no excuse for delay admitted.

Importers are, in consequence, put to great inconvenience and loss. As a result of the Chamber having received several complaints, steps will be taken to again bring the matter before the Government.

Bonded Warehouses.—The attention of the Authorities has been called to the fact that goods unclaimed on arrival by consignees which are placed in the Customs Bonded Warehouses are delivered upon application to anybody who pays the Duty, without proof of Ownership. As this may lead to abuse and serious loss, it is hoped that some steps will be taken to remedy it.

Tiffin Hour.—A proposal has been circulated amongst Members of the Chamber suggesting that the time should commence from 12 30, instead of noon as heretofore, as, in view of the altered conditions of trade, it is desirable that the break in the middle of the day should be of shorter duration. This proposal has met with the approval of a majority, and it is hoped that an unanimous decision on the subject may be come to at this meeting, as well as the question of early closing on Saturday.

Mr. W. B. Walter.—The Committee wish to express their regret at this gentleman's impending departure from Japan, and to place on record their appreciation of the many services which he has rendered the Chamber during his long residence at this port, both as Chairman and in working on the Committee.

Secretary.—Mr. J. E. Beale has been appointed to fill the place of the late Mr. O. Keil.

From the Customs returns, the principal articles of the Export Trade show an increase of 27,092,780 yen over 1898. This is almost entirely due to the growth of the Silk trade, Raw Silk being responsible for an increase of over 20,000,000 yen, and Silk Manufactured Goods for nearly 5,000,000 yen. Copper export has increased to the extent of another million yen, the other items of export remaining practically about the same as in the previous year:

	1899. Yen.	1898. Yen.
Silk Piece goods	20,060,470	15,721,400
Waste Silk.....	3 153.450	2.171,700
Tea	5,407.200	5,389,400
Copper.....	4,226 880	3,203.000
Tobacco	28,780	18 600
Rice	57.140	17,300
Fish Oil	456.440	336 500

The Rice crop of 1898-99 was, as anticipated, a bumper one, and to some extent compensated for the poor harvest of the previous season.

The Import of this article was almost entirely stopped, as the native production was not only sufficient to meet the consumption, but allowed of an export of say 140.000 tons, besides carrying forward a surplus to the next year.

The crop of 1899-1900 is said to be a fair average of the previous 7 years, but a decrease of 16 ½ per cent. as compared with the preceding one.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—The season treated in this report is from the 1st of January to 31st Dec., 1899. The export figures for 1899 show an increase of 12 per cent in the quantity exported, and of no less than 15 per cent. in the total value, which, as declared at the Customs, amount to be about 10 to 15 per cent. larger than the previous one, more "seed" having been laid down for rearing than in any previous year, and, the weather having been all that could have been desired for the growth of mulberry trees, leaf was plentiful and cheap everywhere.

The following are the figures of Export for the past two years:—

	America Bales.	Europe Bales	Total Bales	Value Yen.	Average Value per Bale Yen.
1899...	36.893	20.754	57.647	62,617 720	1.009
1898...	28 717	18,641	47.358	42,047.400	887

Japanese direct exporters shipped during the past year 16,237 bales.

It is very much to be regretted that the complaints referred to in our last report as to irregularity in size, and want of cleanliness of the thread, still existed to a large extent during this season. The high prices ruling on the Yokohama market, which left Reelers a large profit, naturally hurried the production of Silk without paying the necessary attention to any improvement in quality. The practice of bringing inferior cocoons into the Shinshiu district and mixing them with better cocoons still exists, and many Filatures, which up to now had maintained an established reputation, have suffered in consequence.

It will be seen from the above figures, that, whilst the export to the United States of America shows an increase of 8,176 bales on the previous season, the export to Europe is only 2,113 bales larger than the year before. This is principally due to the extremely high prices ruling here during the latter part of the year, which obliged European consumption to favour Italian and Chinese Silks, these being materially cheaper than the product of Japan.

The year commenced with No. 1, Filatures, 13/15, 14-16, being quoted at yen 960 to yen 970, with an active market resulting from a large demand from home quarters; the unsold stock then amounting to only 8,934 piculs. The activity continued during February, March, and April, with a further marked advance in prices, these reaching in April yen 1,180 to yen, 1,190, for No. 1 Filature, and the unsold stock having been reduced to 877 piculs by the end of that month. The chief feature during this period was a strong demand for native looms, which absorbed large quantities of the already impoverished stock. The advance was further stimulated by heavy speculations on the native Silk Exchange, where business shortly after was temporarily suspended pending the settlement of the difficulties which had arisen between the different parties operating thereon. The month of May was devoid of special interest, very little business being done, and prices declining under the depressing influence of Japanese spinners, who, in anticipation of a large crop, looked forward to buying their cocoons at the lowest possible price. The market for new Silk opened in the first half of June at yen 1,040 for No. 1 Filature 13/15, 14/16, but, during the latter part of the month, prices advanced in consequence of a good demand, especially from Europe. Following the example of the Chinese, the Japanese dealers then made large forward contracts with Europeans, and it was reported that about 5,000 native bales had thus been contracted for delivery up to September and October. The first part of the month of July brought a heavy decline in prices, caused mainly by the desire of sellers to realise at once their profits; but during the latter part of this month the market became again very active everything offering in fine-sized Filatures being taken up at advancing prices. This activity continued during the month of August, but slackened, however, during the month of September, and caused a decline of yen 40 to yen 50. During the months October and November extraordinary activity reigned in this market; nearly everything available was bought up for Europe and America, and prices advanced by leap and bounds. By the end of November the market was entirely in the hands of Japanese speculators, foreign buyers being quite unable to do any legitimate business. At the Silk Exchange yen 1,400 and upward had been paid for No. 1 Filatures for January delivery, thus establishing an advance of yen 350 per picul on the opening prices of the season. This state of affairs continued up to the middle of December, when a slight reaction set in, and prices by the end of the month declined to yen 1,300, without, however, attracting much attention from buyers. The unsold stock then amounted to 6,820 piculs against 12,096 at the end of December, 1898.

Waste Silk.—At the beginning of 1899 the position of the market was as follows:—

Stock, 5,200 piculs against 8,000 piculs in 1898, *i.e.*, 2,800 less. Prices were:

Oshio Noshi	Yen 105/115
Joshio Noshi.....	65/70
Kikai Kibiso.....	80/90

Since then prices improved regularly with a very good demand, and the result is that this season ends with one of the smallest stocks ever seen, namely, 2,700 piculs, mostly inferior stuff.

The first arrivals came on the market earlier than usual and fetched comparatively higher prices, as from the beginning of this season there was a good demand which lasted till the end of November, and this in spite of the steady advance of prices. During December there was not much doing, but the year closed without any noticeable effect on the rates ruling. The year 1900 started with:—

	Yen.
Oshio Noshi.....	175/185
Joshio Noshi	130/140
Kiaki Kibizzos	160/175

This is equal to an advance of 80 per cent. on the prices ruling in January 1899.

During the year 1899 the export of Waste Silk was 32.532 piculs, as follow:—

	Piculs.	Composed of	Piculs.
Marseilles	18.200	Noshitos ...	11.895
Switzerland ...	5 934	Kibizzos ...	20,220
London	1.389	Pierced Cocoons ...	153
America	438	Sundries ...	264
Other parts ...	6.571		
Total	32.532	Total	32 532

Silk Piece Goods.—The trade for the year 1899 has been unprecedented, both as regards the quantity of material exported, and the sharp advance in prices, which have reached a hitherto unrecorded level.

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The activity with which 1898 closed was resumed early in the year, demand from both Europe and America being well sustained. Stocks were low, and in their anxiety to secure a share of the few suitable parcels on offer, buyers entered into keen competition, which drove prices up fully 10 per cent. within the first three weeks. A rise in exchange, coupled with a temporary withdrawal of French demand, then checked the upward movement, but before the month closed the increased activity of the New York market, supported by a local movement in Raw Silk, strengthened rates again, and February opened amid some excitement, competition developing into a scramble for the rapidly diminishing stock of first-grade material. With but little moderation, the strong demand was sustained throughout the month, trade being seriously curtailed by the insufficiency of supplies. To meet this deficiency to some extent the weavers resorted to various ill-advised practices by which their well-nigh exhausted stock of silk thread could be replenished, one of the most injurious devices consisting of the employment of Chinese Raw Silk for organzine purposes. In many instances warps were made up with alternate Japanese and Chinese threads, which naturally produced a streaky cloth, decidedly detrimental to the reputation of *Habutai* in the home markets. March saw no abatement in the enquiries for all lines of Silk Piece Goods, which were readily taken up at constantly increasing rates. With the advent of the "spring reeling" further supplies of thread were obtainable, and the weavers were better able to keep pace with the demand. Early in April, however, the heavy orders from the consuming markets could not be met quickly enough, competition again became very keen, and prices were affected accordingly, a rise of 10 per cent. being recorded within one week. The dangerously high level thus established was subject to some reaction, but the New York market appeared ready to follow the rise, and before the end of April prices were again on the upward track. French buyers seemed rather more cautious, and directly the American demand became less excited, prices drooped, the relapse developing appreciably towards the end of May. Early in June, however a smart revival again occurred, and rates responded to the pressure by bounding upward. European buyers led in the movement, and prices were strengthened by the fairly heavy contracts placed for forward delivery. The prospect of a large Silk crop had no adverse effect, the general anticipation being that the increased supply would be readily absorbed. The native dealers shared in the expectation that Silk would be dearer, and were at one time very chary about booking contracts. Early in July, however matters appeared fairly settled and considerable business was transacted for forward delivery, the most noteworthy feature being the strong demand for *Twills*, the supplies for which were practically controlled for four months in advance, *i.e.* to the 15th November. During the early days of July, supplies of plain material failed to keep pace with demand but the American buyers withdrew from the field and the European shippers had the market to themselves. The month closed without prices showing any weakening tendency, and as the anticipated decline (for which some of them had evidently been waiting), did not develope, the New York operators again entered the market and took up the lead in the renewed buying movement. August brought a relapse, which was accentuated by the disquieting complications which affected the European trade about the middle of the month. Buyers held off for a couple of weeks, but the opening of September saw a clearance in the French political horizon and a return of confidence on the local market. Prices soon recovered from their drooping tendency, although Raw Silk still suffered from the withdrawal of European support. Towards the middle of the month, reports of serious damage by floods in the province of Yechizen caused some anxiety locally, and rates were influenced by the fear that supplies would be affected thereby. Considerable damage undoubtedly resulted from the excessive rains, but (as usual) the reports were grossly exaggerated and had but little effect on the home markets. In October, however, another sharp buying movement set in, the Americans being the first to renew operations, in which the French soon joined. Prices again moved upward, notwithstanding the weakening tendency of Raw Silk. *Twills* were once more in great request, and hardened appreciably, especially towards the end of the month, which closed in considerable excitement. Prices were springing up wildly, denoting the presence of speculation rather than of steady trade, and the weavers fanned the flame by raising the alarm that the supplies of *Hamatsuktes*, etc., would not prove equal to the demand, although Raw Silk for export purposes was plentiful. At one time in October stocks of thread in Fukui had certainly reached a very low ebb, but the scarcity was tided over. Demand from both New York and Lyons continued steady for the first few days of November, the New York buyers being very ready to follow the upward movement in prices. About the middle of the month the French demand appreciably slackened, but American enquiry was well maintained, and the weavers again reported that their stocks of thread would not stand the strain much longer. Prices were driven up at an unhealthy pace, until several of the staple lines were in the neighbourhood of yen 13.00 per 100 *momme*. Here they stayed for a brief period, but before December came rates looked unsteady, and the last month of the year witnessed a decided downward movement. The dealers up-country gradually developed their annual desire to convert their stocks into cash before the year closed, but their efforts to unload were met by a very unresponsive attitude on the part of foreign buyers. The British-Boer embroglio soon completely shut off demand from Europe, the American market followed suit, and the efforts of the local dealers to encourage business by offering to make reasonable concessions in prices failed to tempt buyers. At first the natives boasted that they could afford to wait until the new year should bring a revival of demand, but the tightness of money, coupled with the cautious policy of the banks, soon created some anxiety, and as the tension intensified the stock holders became decidedly uncomfortable. An investigation showed that fully 50,000 pieces (almost exclusively of low grade material) were in stock, and unless some financial assistance were forthcoming many of the dealers would succumb to the pressure of the banks. Finally, an appeal was made to the Government, a deputation being sent to Tokyo to present a petition for a loan with which to tide over the end of the year, After some little delay, the required assistance was forthcoming, and the year closed on a quiet and unpromising market. The natives insisted that the New Year was bound to bring prosperity, and looked for a resumption of activity early in January, talking loudly about the probability of supplies being very low (especially during the winter months), and similar prognostications by which they hope to induce the foreigner to operate. The load of 50,000 pieces of defective material, however, is an unpleasantly realistic bugbear, and if the South African trouble is prolonged we shall doubtless see but little activity in *Habutai*, and a downward movement in prices. European quotations are fully 10 per cent. below those current locally, and although the Indian market is taking up some of the lower grade light-weights, the quantities thus absorbed are not sufficiently large to materially influence the situation. Certainly the scarcity of good quality will affect prices directly there is an indication of a returning demand from the home markets, but for the moment Europeans appear to have lost interest in *Habutai* and Americans have sufficient to meet their immediate requirements.

Briefly reviewed, therefore, the past year shows a period of excited activity for the first eleven months, during which prices advanced over 50 per cent., only to drop fully 10 per cent. during the month now closing. The total number of pieces exported shows an increase of 5 per cent. (say 400,000 pieces); local stocks are heavy, but almost exclusively of poor grade material, while demand from all quarters has fallen to a minimum, and the prospect is now promising.

The above *résume* refers principally to the light-weight grades of *Habutai* and *Twills* manufactured in the Yechizen and Kaga districts. The heavier weaves produced in Joshiu have not been subject to the same violent fluctuations, but have steadily advanced in value, and the year closes with practically exhausted stocks, and prices nominally steady at the highest point touched.

The regrettable lack of commercial integrity which is so frequently manifested in Japanese trade was made exceptionally apparent during the months of October and November, when heavy contracts for *Twills* fell due. The weavers could not withstand the temptation to sell the goods at current rates (and thus secure from 10 to 15 per cent.), rather than deliver them in execution of their engagements. Serious friction resulted between the foreign shippers and the local dealers, but the methods of attempting to obtain redress are of so lengthy and tedious a character that no definite steps appear to have been taken in the matter. Another point calling for comment is furnished by the report of a quantity of seriously-loaded or otherwise adulterated material having been shipped recently to the European market. This matter is being investigated by the native Guild, and it is to be hoped that a point so vital to the interests of the trade will receive the attention it merits.

Handkerchiefs.—The year has not been noteworthy in this line of industry. Probably the increased cost of material seriously effected the saleability of ordinary lines, and the total decrease in the quantity exported is over 184,000 dozen (say 16 per cent.). The shipments to the Continent show an advance on last year's records, but, with the exception of Australia, other consuming markets have appreciably fallen off. September, October, and November saw a fair amount of activity locally, but the other nine months of the year were normal, the only incident worth mention being the disastrous fire in Yokohama in August, which was reported to have destroyed some local stocks and temporarily disorganised some branches of the trade.

Tea.—The market was opened on the 26th April by the purchase of a few small parcels at yen 35 to yen 40 per picul. A steady business was done on this basis till the 5th May, when supplies began to come in freely and heavy buying commenced at gradually declining prices. The quality, both of leaf and cup, through the season, has been poor, especially the second and third pickings. Grades just above the standard were in strong demand throughout the season and realized relatively high prices. The trade with Canada has been dull and dragging, which may be accounted for by the large shipments of low grades at the end of the previous season in anticipation of a duty being placed on Teas by the Canadian Government last spring, but no tax was imposed. The trade in Japan Teas is apparently suffering in Canada from the competition of Ceylon and Indian growers. Ceylon Green Teas are now making their appearance in Canada and will be vigorously pushed, and the future of Japans in that market can only be regarded with apprehension.

Copper.—The high range of prices throughout 1899, together with the effect of large contracts entered into during 1898 for delivery in the following year, have greatly stimulated the copper production of Japan, resulting in an export of

1899.....21,135 Tons, against 1898.....16,300 Tons

Prices early in the year advanced from £60 to about £69 per ton, and later to £75/£76, but the diminution of consumption in Europe and America, consequent upon these extreme rates, caused a decline; and by the end of December values had fallen to £69/£70 per ton.

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Fish Oil.—The year under review opened with very small stocks, which were disposed of at high rates. Owing to a large Summer catch, which netted about 4,000 tons, prices declined to Y.5.50 per picul. Later, in consequence of good native consumption and a regular demand for export, values recovered again to Y.6.00, at which figure the remainder of the Summer catch was disposed of.

The October catch was very short, and, the Winter catch proving a complete failure, the small lot offering fetched up to Y.6.50.

The new year opens again with very insignificant stocks.

Tobacco.—The export of Tobacco has declined yearly, owing to the fact that merchants are obliged to send employés and money into the country to buy from farmers. This increases the price to about 30 per cent. on the upset price by the Government Monopoly Office, consequently Tobacco becomes too high by the time it reaches Europe, although a few qualities are desired owing to colour.

In consequence of high prices, European manufacturers have turned their attention to other growths and other markets, where they are able to buy superior qualities at low figures. It is, therefore, suggested that merchants should be allowed to purchase their requirements from the Monopoly Office direct, in which case the trade would no doubt revive.

The Monopoly Authorities having sent a commission to Europe and America, in order to ascertain how the monopoly is working there, possibly when they return some changes may be made, not only in Export, but also in Import, and it would be desirable in the interests of the public at large that merchants should be permitted to import for manufacturers the exact quality needed. At present two or three firms have been appointed agents for importing, which the manufacturers report is most unsatisfactory, as they are unable to procure the right quality at the lowest price.

IMPORTS.

Raw Cotton.—The past year has been noticeable for the steady growth in the importance of American Cotton, owing principally to the fact that it has been comparatively cheaper than Indian and China staples. The shipping arrangements from Bombay proved to be totally inadequate, and serious loss to those engaged in the trade resulted from the long delays caused by the failure of the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association to provide the necessary tonnage.

Cotton from the United States was also delayed in many cases, owing to the short supply of tonnage, due to the chartering by the U. S. Government of several Pacific liners.

The year opened with quotations at

Yen 20 00 for American Middling
,, 18.00 for Broach
,, 19.50 for China

from which time values steadily advanced until the end of August.

During July and August, fairly large quantities of New Crop Middling were contracted for at Y.18 50 to Y.19.50; but by the end of September the reports as to both the Indian and American crops began to be alarming, and an advance set in all round; until, at the close of the year, quotations stood at

Yen 25.50 for American Middling
,, 23.50 for Broach
,, 25 50 for China

with a rising tendency.

The total imports of Cotton into Yokohama during the year were 237,504 Piculs of all kinds.

The special landing place for Cotton at Yokohama has helped very considerably, to curtail the time occupied in handling cargo after discharge.

The Cotton Spinning Industry has had a more successful year than the previous one. The average rate of profit has been abou: yen 1.10 per spindle, while the reserve funds were also increased.

Towards the close, however, the position became unfavorable, owing to the non-delivery of considerable quantities of Cotton contracted for at the beginning of the season, coupled with a rapid and abnormal rise in price, a rise which has only been very partially met by the advance in the market for native spinnings.

Short time—in some cases actual stoppage—appears to be inevitable, as even if the Mills were able to obtain adequate supplies of raw material they could not afford to spin at the rates ruling for Yarns on the Osaka market.

Cotton Yarn.—The condition of the Import trade in Cotton Yarn has improved in some respects during the year. A rising market, with better clearances, has given a fair profit both to Importers and Dealers.

Yarns made from Egyptian cotton—both Plain and Gassed—still hold their own with consumers here; and a good average trade has been done in them.

Yarns made from American fibre have also received some benefit from various exceptional cause; but the outlook for the future predicts that Japan will depend on her own mills for this class of Yarn, and that the consumption of Lancashire spinning will further decrease.

Generally speaking, dealers have been cautious and have not overbought. But the prices which were reached at the end of Dec. 1899 (with the prospect of a further strong advance in the first few months of 1900) must restrict business—for Japan is not sufficiently wealthy to follow the abnormal values which a huge speculation in Europe and America may dictate.

Prices to the end of May remained fairly steady, and then a gentle advance commenced with a fair amount of business, although values here lagged behind the equivalent of prices current in Manchester. This state of things continued until August, when trade improved, and by the middle of September a large business had been done, American sorts sharing in the benefit as Japanese spinners were caught short of raw material and holders were thus able to clear off some old stocks of Lancashire spinnings. By this time (Sept.) speculators in Europe and America had got hold of Cotton, and nothing could be obtained in Yarn from Manchester but "long delivery" and "high prices."

This state of things existed until the close of the year when Gassed 2/80 (which stood at Yen 90 per picul on 1st January) were quoted at Yen 116 on 31st December, with every prospect of a further rise in the New Year.

The comparative total imports in piculs are as under:—

1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
48,529	100,395	92,044	113,046

Grey Shirtings.—The trade followed its usual course: heavy contracts for future delivery were made in the first quarter of the year, and smaller purchases of the same nature in the autumn The remainder of the year saw little else than hand-to-mouth dealings in stock lots.

Prices have advanced in sympathy with Yarns, although hardly to the same extent; and the year closed dull with a poor outlook, dealers professing their inability to pay present values.

The market here shows a tendency to leave ordinary cloth made from American staple in favour of finer fabrics woven from Egyptian fibre. These goods arrive under various names: Gassed Shirtings, Grey Cambrics, etc., and have become an important factor in the business of this port.

The comparative tolal import in pieces is as follows:—

1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
589,603	852,630	700,309	804 900

T-Cloths are defunct: the native looms now supply all that are required.

Indigo Shirtings.—Figures show a considerable falling off and the article seems to have become of lesser importance.

Indigo Blue Cambrics.—Imports show a decrease of 95,000 Pieces compared with 1898. It looks probable that these goods will disappear in another year or so from among the list of Imports.

White Shirtings.—These goods have continued in good demand, and the heavy stocks carried over from last year have now gone into consumption. Imports during 1899 are only less than the average of the preceding three years by 390,835 yds.

Cotton Prints.—Consumption of these is increasing, the deliveries being 53,000 pieces in excess of 1898.

Cotton Italians and Sateens. — Doubtless owing to the high cost of Union Italians, more demand was experienced for these goods, and deliveries show an increase of 22,000 Pcs. compared with the previous year. Fair contracts were entered into towards the close of the year for arrival during 1900. Buyers are paying more attention to the "Mercerised" cloths, and it looks as if these would usurp the place hitherto occupied by the common to medium Woollen Italians.

Turkey Reds.—Trade in these has again been disappointing. Deliveries are less by 7,000 pieces than in 1898. The year closed with heavy stocks, for which there was no demand. There appears to be a tendency on the part of the Japanese to substitute more costly fabrics for the purposes they formerly used Turkey Red.

Cotton Velvets —There has been a good demand during the twelve months, and the off take exceeds the previous year by 2,000 Pieces.

Imports have been on a much smaller scale, and the heavy Stocks brought forward from 1898 have been reduced to 8,400 Pieces.

Victoria Lawns.—A larger business has been transacted than in the previous year.

Flannels (Woollen).—There has been a great falling off in the trade in these, the Imports showing a decrease when compared with 1898 of 68,851 Pieces.

Printed Cotton Flannels continue to be favored very much by buyers, which accounts for the considerable falling off of imports in Woollen Flannels.

Here again the high home costs have doubtless checked business.

A good business continues in both Plain and Printed Cotton Flannels.

Black Woollen Italians.—Imports show a falling off of 20,000 Pieces as compared with the previous year, but deliveries show an increase of 8,230 Pieces. Business in these cloths has been restricted by the constant advances during the year in home costs.

Local values rose about 25 per cent during the twelve months, but at the close of the year were still considerably below the parity of Bradford cost.

Woollen Cloth.—The trade in this appears to have revived and the Imports for the year years were more than double that of the preceding year, and this notwithstanding higher tariff and considerably higher prices in Europe. Dealers turn their attention more to the better class of goods than the low Cloths that used to monopolize the trade, and fancy Coatings of all kinds would figure largely in the statistics if separate details were available for them. The year closed with small stocks, and buyers have since been freely contracting for the autumn demand at prices very much higher than last Season, in spite of the great advance in the raw material in the centres of production.

Mousselines.—Trade has been satisfactory throughout the year, and in spite of a rise in price of about 35 per cent, which has taken place during the period under review, the consumption has in no way diminished.

Remaining stocks at the beginning of the year and subsequent arrivals have found ready buyers, and supplies now on hand must be rather below the average. The native weaving establishments have so far favourably progressed, gradually increasing their production, and within a few years will probably hamper considerably foreign imports.

Blankets.—Business in the ordinary scarlet continues to decrease. The Japanese Mills now turn out large quantities of Scarlet and also all kinds of Fancy Blanket Rugs.

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COMPARISON OF DELIVERIES AND STOCKS.

	Average of annual deliveries for the eight years ending 1899.	Deliveries during 1899.	Difference.
Grey Shirtings. ...Pcs.	600,316	896,920	+296,604
Indigo Shirtings } Dyed Shirtings } ,, & Twills ..... }	97,652	33.998	— 63,654
Cotton Prints ..... ,,	184 988	265,534	+ 80,546
Cotton Italians & Sateens..... ,,	59.682	77.491	+ 17.809
Turkey Reds ..... ,,	103.095	74.011	— 29 084
Black Velvets ..... ,,	40.845	47,788	+ 6,943
Victoria Lawns ... ,,	79.256	89 462	+ 10,206
Flannel..... ,,	58,098	16 731	— 41,367
Italian Cloth ..... ,,	109 609	94 420	— 15,189
Mousselines..... ,,	370.611	370,580	— 31
Blankets.....Pairs	267,685	83.194	—184,491

	Stocks. 31/12/98	Stocks. 31/12/99	Difference.
Grey Shirtings.....Pcs.	271,970	123.370	—148,000
Indigo Shirtings Dyed Shirtings } ,, & Twills ..... }	13,410	10,046	— 3.364
Cotton Print ..... ,,	87,520	31,711	— 55.809
Cotton Italians & Sateens ..... ,,	40,660	4,850	— 35,810
Turkey Reds ..... ,,	69.200	68,969	— 231
Black Velvets ..... ,,	36,450	8,408	— 28,042
Victoria Lawns ... ,,	20,400	23,400	+ 3.000
Flannel..... ,,	25.420	19,698	— 5.722
Italian Cloth ..... ,,	62 760	38 290	— 24.740
Mousselines..... ,,	118.310	6.174	—112,136
Blankets.....Pairs	49 200	25.717	— 23 483

+=Increase ;—=Decrease in 1899 against 1898.

Metals.—Bar Iron. The excessive Imports during 1898 resulted in a much diminished trade during 1899, Imports being 50 per cent. less in quantity and 36 per cent. less in value; the greatest diminution occurred during the first six months. The closing months of the year saw greater activity, but stocks in native hands are still too large for the requirements of the country.

Pig Iron.—For the first time in many years a decrease is shown in the Import of Pig Iron, the figures for this district being about 5,700 tons against about 20,000 tons in 1898, while the figures for all Japan were :—

	Tons.	Value Yen.
1896	38.725	739 555
1897	43.295	934,010
1898	62,898	1.381,442
1899	27,028	965.543

During 1897 and 1898 quantities of Pig Iron were imported from America but did not meet with a ready sale owing to the prejudices of buyers. The stocks have, however, been cleared off, partly for consumption in Japan and partly by reshipment to the United States, where a profitable market was found in consequence of the rapid increase in values.

During the past year, Pig Iron has been imported from China, and the quality is said to compare favourably with English Iron while the cost is lower. The production of native Pig Iron has largely increased, and the industry has been a very profitable one for those concerned. The Imperial Steel Foundry will shortly be producing Pig Iron, and until their works are so far advanced as to require it for manufacturing finished materials Japan will be practically independent of imported Pig Iron.

Plates and Sheets.—The local Imports show an increase of about 40 per cent. in quantity on 1898, while the value is more than double.

Galvanized Flat and Corrugated Sheets.—Total Imports to Japan have increased by about 30 per cent. in quantity and about 65 per cent. in value.

The increased Import is not more than sufficient to keep pace with the increased requirements, but the high costs ruling during the past few months have made buyers pause and stocks have accumulated in native hands.

Wire Nails have been imported largely in excess of requirements, local imports being 164,980 kegs against 108,070, while total imports to Japan were about 389,000 kegs against about 240,000 kegs in 1898. The Tokyo factory, though not a financial success, continues in operation. Taking this production into consideration, the imports during 1899 have been about 50 per cent. over actual requirements and the year closes with few buyers and discouraging prices.

Tin Plates.—The weight of Imports during the year is about the same as in 1898 but the value is about 30 per cent. greater.

Kerosene.—Arrivals of all descriptions during the year show a considerable falling off. the figures being 2.458.080 cases against 3,020,991 cases in 1898. This diminution is due to large stocks which were imported in anticipation of the increase in duty.

Deliveries are very close to those of the previous year showing an advance of only 2,011 cases. The figures were as follow :

American	1,920,157
Russian	1,177 473
Total	2.797,630

American Oil shows an increase of 61,344 cases and Russian of 72,792 cases over the previous year. while Langkat, which contributed 132,125 cases to the total in 1898, has entirely disappeared from this market.

By taking into account the fact that the production of native Oil has considerably increased, it shows that the demand for Refined Oil in this country is still a growing one, in spite of the large increase in the use of the electric light in most of the principal cities of the empire.

Prices during the period under review showed a rising tendency, the lowest point for American being yen 2.19 and the highest 3.10; Russian Oil, lowest point yen 2,15, and the highest 3.05; Russian Tank Oil in bulk, lowest point 2.70, and the highest 2 40.

Japanese Oil in the Echigo District.—As the industry is carried on by private individuals as well as regularl constituted companies, it is somewhat difficult to obtain a reliable business record of the output. Up to 1898 the total quantity was estimated at 600,000 cases per annum, but since that date there has been a considerable augmentation, and it is now computed to have reached 1,500,000 cases.

The principal district for the sale of this Oil is Kwansai, or the South West of the Island, which is in direct communication, but as the production increases the Oil finds its way to other markets, notably Tokyo. It is expected that considerable developments will take place, and that the figures already cited will be much larger in the near future.

Brown Sugar.—The difficulties in Manila tended to make supplies from the Philippines erratic and small, and generally a higher range of prices ruled than during the previous season. The Takow Crop, favoured by absence of Import Duty, continues to find a ready market in Japan, and a large proportion of this Sugar is now of a much better grade than used to come here and which was formerly diverted to the North of China. The trade, as mentioned in last year's Report, continues to be principally in the hands of Chinese and Japanese, the latter buying direct from the foreign firms established in Formosa. Formosa has also supplied small quantities of a low grade White Sugar, handmade.

White Refined Sugar.—The import to Yokohama for the past year shows a heavy reduction on that of 1898, the difference, some 800,000 piculs, being partly due to the higher rates of import duty imposed since the first of January 1899, in anticipation of which large supplies were received in the latter part of 1898.

A considerable portion of the receipts have been of North German and Hungarian Beet Sugars. The Japanese refineries at Osaka and Tokyo have increased their output of late, which to some extent accounts for the lessened demand for imported refined.

In previous years regular shipments of Refined Sugar used to come here from a Refinery in Canada, but the new Tariff has effectually stopped these, as Canada, not having joined the Tariff Convention, has to pay the Statutory Rates on any of her goods, and the difference in the two rates on Sugar is yen 1.001 picul, or approximately 12 per cent.

America and Canada.—Trade with these countries, especially the former, shows a marked advance. Shipments from Pacific Coast ports are growing rapidly, as is evidenced by the fact that although seven regular lines of Steamers are now in operation shippers complain of a want of tonnage. This would doubtless be remedied by the S.S. Co.'s were there an equal demand for space on the outward voyage from China and Japan.

IMPORTS FOR ALL JAPAN.

The past twelve months have been remarkable for the rapid, continuous, and world-wide advance in the prices of the chief staples of commerce. These increased costs have not yet affected the value of imports to Japan to their full extent, owing to the system of forward contracts upon which the trade is so largely conducted, but still they form an appreciable factor in considering the values shown by the Customs, especially during the latter half of the year.

The increase in price having been continuous, it follows that every purchase resulted favourably for the buyer, and the past year must have given very satisfactory results to every Japanese dealer in imported goods.

The Foreign importer has shared in this prosperity, but only to a limited extent, owing to the preponderance of contracts in advance. The gain to him has come in the form of prompt clearances of all arrivals, the opportunity for enforcing the delivery of former contracts, and effecting the sale of old stocks. The advance in price was not followed to any extent in its earlier stages, but as the forward movement gained strength in European markets, Japanese buyers, encouraged by the profits they were reaping on earlier contracts, purchased very freely during the closing months of the year for arrivals in 1900.

The year's trade has therefore been satisfactory from an individual point of view, but the total figures reveal the fact that the backward tendency shown in the report for 1898 continues to be a feature of Japan's trade, and that in a year when commerce and industry in the principal countries of the world has been advancing by leaps and bounds, there is an actual falling off in the share carried on by Japan, even after taking into consideration the difference resulting from the diminished import of Rice.

In comparing the statistics of the Import trade for 1899 with those of previous years, it is necessary to bear in mind, not only the general advance in prices, but the changes brought about by the operation of the new tariff, which came into force on the first day of the year. Formerly, duty was levied on the cost of goods, but under the new system it is levied upon the cost laid down in Japan. Further, the quantities of all textiles are now entered by the square yard instead of the lineal yard.

These differences do not affect the statistics of the whole trade, as those goods coming in duty free, such as Raw Cotton, Wool, Rice, Beans, etc., are probably entered at the Customs on the same basis as in previous years. Taking these matters into consideration, and basing calculations upon those items where the difference can be accurately estimated, it seems reasonable to conclude that about 20,000,000 *yen* should be deducted from the total figure for 1896, in order to make a fair comparison with the previous year. The figures for the past eight years will therefore be :—

1892	71,324.776
1893	88,257.172
1894	117,481.995
1895	129,260,578
1896	171.674,474
1897	219.300.772
1898	277,270,723
1899	220,050,983

IMPORT OF FOOD STUFFS.

The chiefs decrease in the year's trade is to be found in this group of articles. Rice has decreased owing to abundant harvests at home; Sugar and Flour, partly owing to the increased tariffs, and partly owing to large imports in 1898, to avoid those tariffs. The actual consumption of both these articles is increasing.

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	1899. Yen.	1898. Yen.
Beans, Peas & Pulse	8,822,110	7,101,103
Flour	1,383 539	2,031,825
Rice	5,960 166	48,219,810
Sugar	17,516,038	28,389,035
Eggs	826,960	492.553
Salted Fish	1,212,896	609 736
	35,721,709	86,844,062
	1897. Yen.	1896. Yen.
Beans, Peas & Pulse	5,889 616	3,475.015
Flour	1,170.852	994,201
Rice	21,528.428	5,662,336
Sugar	19,799 090	13,711,737
Eggs	337.769	300,388
Salted Fish	495,907	231,035
	49,221,662	24,374.712

IMPORT OF MACHINERY AND RAILWAY MATERIAL

The decline in industrial enterprise, which really set in during 1896, but did not show in the returns of imports until 1898, is more evident in the following figures :—

	1899. Yen.	1898. Yen.
Railway Material ...	58.199	625.671
Rails	435.054	2,631,721
Locomotives and Rolling Stock ...	2,649.746	5.434.568
Machinery	4,892,194	8,520,669
Steam Engines and Boilers	327,144	697,173
Materials for Bridges and Buildings ...	285.841	1,908.561
	8,641,178	19,818,363
	1897. Yen.	1896. Yen.
Railway Materials ...	2,001,118	1,280,479
Rails	3.325,004	2.595.458
Locomotives and Rolling Stock ...	5,307,565	1,983 928
Machinery	12,291,037	6,206,272
Steam Engines and Boilers	1,232,062	822,694
Materials for Bridges and Buildings ...	not specified	not specified
	24.156,786	12,888,831

IMPORT OF MATERIALS FOR MANUFACTURES.

Much of the machinery imported in previous years came into operation this year and the result is shown in a larger import of Raw Materials. The diminishing imports of Cotton Yarn are, of course, partly accounted for by the competition of the native mills, which are also now largely engaged in manufacturing for export to China. Some of the increase shown in this group must also be ascribed to the measure of protection afforded by the new tariff, for instance, in the case of Woolens.

	1899. Yen.	1898. Yen.
Cotton	62,210,715	45,744.371
Wool...	4,324.426	1,642 819
Flax, Hemp, Jute, & China Grass ...	1,245.048	590,517
Indigo	2,903,829	2,270,814
Aniline Dyes	904.012	1,218,814
Logwood Extract ...	176,118	238,034
Phosphorous	216,124	298.252
Paraffine Wax ...	286,806	270 348
Chlorate of Potash..	418,883	632,059
Leather	1,067,090	1,767,090
Cotton Yarns	4,963,325	8,547,588
Woollen Yarns ...	593,337	785.192
Principal Metals ...	14,060,415	13,156,758
Caustic Soda	521,851	102,714
	93 891.979	77.585,398
	1897.	1896.
Cotton	43,620.213	32,573.351
Wool...	1,057,482	998,305
Flax, Hemps, Jute, & China Grass ...	654,791	708,161
Indigo	1,538.021	1,067,357
Aniline Dyes	931,197	1,139,929
Logwood Extract ...	279,934	349.440
Phosphorous	280,636	174,897
Paraffine	327,916	192,532
Chlorate	497,650	429,042
Leather	1,385,085	1 718,450
Cotton Yarns	9,625,258	11,372,001
Woollen Yarns ...	1,337.424	1,114 872
Principal Metals ...	11,273,547	9.983,890
Caustic Soda	229.593	85,263
	72,938,747	61,906,490

IMPORT OF TEXTILES.

The decrease in quantities under this group is much greater than is indicated by the values.

	1899 Yen.	1898. Yen.
Cotton Prints	1,438,245	1,176 789
„ Drills	42,196	105,787
„ Satins ...	949,745	1.645,229
„ Velvets ...	396,134	813 280
Grey Shirtings ...	3.575.190	4,382,509
Turkey Reds	416,966	433 894
All other Cottons . .	2,271,133	2,416.366
Blankets	229.035	480,313
Flannels	374 959	1.360,037
Italian Cloth	1,132.575	1,068,270
Mousseline de Laine	4.350,934	4,408.752
Woollen Cloth... ...	2,004,198	2,803,607
Partly Woollen Cloths	531,553	444.144
All other Woollens..	678,200	557,045
	18,391,063	22,096,022
	1897. Yen.	1896 Yen.
Cotton Prints	986.443	1,193,162
„ Drills	550 734	311,541
„ Satins	1,796,972	2,558.450
„ Velvets	677,050	1,001.352
Grey Shirtings ...	3,783.808	4,057,763
Turkey Reds	494 592	395,088
All other Cottons ...	1,220,924	2,103,200
Blankets	608 928	1 932.482
Flannels	1,187,655	1,997.244
Italian Cloth	1,815.581	2,813.096
Mousseline de Laine	3,835 880	6,498.162
Woollen Cloths ...	1,943.531	3,407.150
Partly Woollen Cloths	290.543	706.902
All other Woollens..	496,180	651,136
	19 788,821	29,626,728

IMPORT OF SUNDRIES.

The most noticeable items in this group are the large increase in oilcake for fertilising purposes; the decrease in Steam vessels, the continued imports of Tobacco and Alcohol, and the remarkable decline in watches.

	1899. Yen.	1898. Yen.
Alcohol	2,060,800	2,699 982
Cigarettes & Tobacco	5,846 000	6,628,205
Wines and Liquors..	611,673	1,398,331
Watches	237.716	2,960.211
Steam Vessels... ...	3,620,980	7,488.193
Paper (printing) ...	748.413	2,283.214
Glass (window)	1,256,576	669,806
Kerosene	7,918.148	7,552 879
Timber	536 601	328.380
Cement	79,250	273.821
Paints	354,780	368,003
Oil Cake	6,791,812	4,614,967
Hides	719,930	587,948
Dynamite	244,302	507.591
	31,026,981	38,361,531
	1897. Yen.	1896. Yen.
Alcohol	969 360	481,464
Cigarettes & Tobacco	1,579,797	843,340
Wines and Liquors..	843,966	790,112
Watches	1,901,813	1,897,480
Steam Vessels	8,232,648	1,724,496
Paper (printing) ...	856,957	723.437
Glass (window) ...	488,090	570,442
Kerosene	7,667.350	6,331,036
Timber	500,181	269 534
Cement	827,208	47,029
Paints	369.435	272,146
Oil Cakes	3.315.587	3,220,600
Hides	346 394	539 675
Dynamite	325.265	154.274
	28,224,051	17.865 065

The items mentioned in the above tables account for about 85 per cent. of the import trade, and the figures have been taken from monthly and annual returns of the foreign trade of the Empire, as compiled by the Department of Finance.

The stationary tendency of Japan's share in the commerce of the world is a matter well worth serious consideration. Probably there are several reasons, but the principal ones appear to be :

The inability of the nation to increase those productions suitable for export.

Tho unwillingness of the people to give privileges and benefits to foreigners, which, by encouraging the flow of capital to Japan, would enrich the country, indirectly pay for the excess of imports, and check that export of gold which threatens the stability of the country's finance.

It is true that the exports for 1899 show a satisfactory increase, when compared with 1898, but this is due to two accidental causes :

The large advance in prices, and

The consequent rushing forward of all available exports, for which the next year will have to suffer.

Taking these facts into consideration, it would appear probable that Japan has, for the time being, reached the limit of her exportable products, and as commerce is, in its first principles, a system of barter, the nation which has no exports will not obtain imports, unless it has something else to offer as an equivalent.

Speaking generally, the industries of Japan depend upon manual labour. The opportunities afforded by Foreign trade, the introduction of Railways, Steamships, etc., etc., appear to have absorbed the surplus workers, with the result that laborers have demanded and obtained an increasing rate of wages. At the same time, there is a tendency to carelessness and independence of the kind which results in the turning out of poor and unsatisfactory work, with an actual diminution in the product of the individual worker. As a consequence, the labour of Japan, while still cheap, according to Western ideas of remuneration, is not cheap when considered in relation to the output, and in many ways the cost for a given result is greater in Japan than in Europe or America.

The expensive nature of this reliance upon supposedly cheap labour, instead of upon the labour-saving inventions of the age, is easily illustrated. The cost of travelling from place to place in one of Japan's large cities is greater than either New York or London. The cost of transporting merchandise is greater than in Europe or America, and is further increased by the delays which often occur, and which result in cargo from Yokohama destined for points in Tokyo, less than 20 miles away, being over a week *en route*.

When the proportionate wealth of the people and their ability to pay these high charges is considered, the disadvantages under which Japan now labours in her competition with the world can easily be estimated. This competition is growing fast. The establishment of Spinning Mills in China is already progressing, and the imposition of even a small protective tariff would deprive Japan of her market for Yarns. The coal trade is threatened by the mining concessions recently granted by China to Europeans. The looms of the West are now producing mercerised cottons, nearly resembling silk while being more serviceable, and thus the piece silks produced in Japan will have a serious competitor unless the quality can be made more even and reliable than it is at present.

The future growth of Japan's trade depends largely upon the introduction of labour-saving appliances and machinery upon a large and extended scale, and this brings us to the second point namely, the unwillingness of the people to give privileges and benefits to foreigners; the apparent inability to recognize that capital cannot be introduced without allowing the owners to direct it, and to share liberally in the results; the necessity of showing in every way that the interests of such investors will be guarded and prompt redress given for any injuries.

The nation recognizes that something is lacking in order to enable them to maintain the progress of former years, and for sometime past have expressed their desire to welcome foreign capital. But there is no idea of making sacrifices in order to bring this about. So far, it is an idea of the individual, who sees direct personal gain to himself, as, for instance, the land-owner, who would like to dispose of his land at two or three times its proper value or the shareholder who would prefer a large market for his investments.

Any suggestion that foreign capital should reap more than an ordinary interest on its investment, or should be controlled by its own-

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ers, is looked upon as a direct injury to the country.

The establishment of any industry in Japan by foreigners, even though it pays the latter a good profit, is of far greater and more lasting benefit to the people as a whole; they receive the large disbursements of the capital, and gain at the same time a knowledge of Western methods at their very doors, affording practical object lessons in a far better way than those gained by their efforts to establish their own undertakings. It is impossible not to admire these efforts, often made in the face of difficulties arising from lack of money and experience, as well as the fact that the workmen are untrained.

In America, the growing cities vie with one another in their efforts to attract industries to their districts. Free land, free water, freedom from local taxes, for a period of years, are very general; oftentimes the assurance of a certain amount of City work, and occasionally the payment of an actual cash bonus are offered by communities which realize that Capital must have inducements, and that the local disbursements of any industry benefit the district as a whole, and in doing so, tend to the benefit of the individual.

Probably no country in the world has made more rapid and actual industrial progress, during the past 10 years, than Russia, and it has been accomplished by recognizing the fact that, if capital is desired, it must be treated liberally.

The duty on machinery has been specially remitted, French, German, and latterly American companies, have been give privileges and concessions, and have been further induced to establish their works in Russia, by the guarantee of a certain amount of Government work on favourable terms. The result is that Russia, which a few years ago was considered a purely agricultural country, is now rapidly coming to the front as a manufacturing country.

The principles are the same in both instances. The country or district, as a whole, makes the sacrifice and receives the reward. The capitalist is allowed to follow his own methods in his own way, and however large his profits may be, it is recognized that they do not detract from the distinctly greater benefits derived by the surrounding people from the establishment of large, well-managed and enterprising industries in their midst.

There will be no great flow of capital to Japan until these same broad and liberal principles are adopted, and the sooner the idea of great individual benefits for themselves without a corresponding reward to the foreign capitalist is exchanged for a more liberal attitude, the easier it will be for Japan to advance, commercially, politically, and socially.

We have only to look back 40 years to recognize the great progress made by Japan, and the fact that this has been largely accomplished on their own initiative, is a tribute to the energy and enterprise of the people, but in considering the advance already made, there is a tendency to overlook the fact that the recent ratio of progress in some Western countries has been even greater than that of Japan, and that advantage should be taken of the outside means for advancement, which are available.

Freights.—The Conference of Steamship Owners in the London and Continental trade has been maintained, and an advance of 5/- per ton established, Rates closing at 45/ for general cargo and 40/- per B Class. Waste Silk yen 25 per 40 cubic feet.

New York via Suez.—Rates throughout the year have been influenced by competition of the Pacific Lines, the highest point touched being 27/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet.

America and Canada via Pacific.—There has been keen competition for Cargo between the rival Companies, and rates by this route, which have never been lower, must have proved most unremunerative, Tea being 65/100c. per lb. and measurement Cargo $9 per ton of 40ft. to New York and Overland points.

IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1899.		Yen.	Total. Yen.
Jan.	United States	3.125.845	
„	Canada	13,681	3.139,526
Feb.	United States	2,011,636	
„	Canada	14,838	2,026,474
Mar.	United States	4,426,771	
„	Canada	10,388	4.257,159
April	United States	3.412,084	
„	Canada	2,032	3.414,116
May	United States	3.377,819	
„	Canada	54,855	3,432,674
June	United States	4,289.779	
„	Canada	22,164	4.311,943
July	United States	4,129.029	
„	Canada	19,254	4,148,283
Aug.	United States	2,832,732	
„	Canada	14,066	2,846,798
Sept.	United States	3.025,850	
„	Canada	4 000	3,029,850
Oct.	United States	1,968,915	
„	Canada	2,067	1,970,982
Nov.	United States	2,350,530	
„	Canada	18,220	2,368,750
Dec.	United States	3.444 905	
„	Canada	6,454	3.451,359
	Grand Total		38,397.914

1898.	Yen.
Total declared value of Imports from United States	40,001 097
Total declared value of Imports from Canada and other British America.	156,989
Total...	40,158,086

Railways.—Railways extension in Japan continues to be mostly on private lines, the total increased mi eage for the twelve months ending March 31st, 1899, the close of the Government financial year, being 467 miles 60 chains. In the following table the Government Railways include those in Hokkaido:—

	Total Mileage. Miles.	Chains	Increase over the preceding year. Miles	Chains.
Government Railways.	768	37	106	52
Private Railway...	...2,652	13	365	8
Total ...	...3.420	50	471	60

	Number of passengers.	Receipts from fares. Yen.
Government Railways...	31,590,764	7 722.425
Private Railways	67.471,125	11,929 364
	99.061,899	19.651,789

	Goods carried. Ton.	Receipts from freights. Yen.
Government Railways...	1,810,039	3.297,118
Private Railways	8,161,303	7,883,177
	9 971,342	11,180,295

Exchange.—Reviewing the year 1899, Exchange opened on the 4th January at T.T. 2/0⅝ and 4 m/s. credits 2/1½, rising almost at once to 2/0⅝ and 1/1⅝, at which they remained almost steady until March, then falling to 2/0½ and 2/0⅜ respectively.

In April rates rose to 2/0⅝ and 2/1, at which they remained practically without fluctuation until the latter part of August, when they fell to 2/0⅜ and 2/0¼, gradually drooping until the end of the year when 2/0¼ was touched for T.T.

The most important feature of the year was the large exodus of gold from this country to both British India and America.

During the Autumn a large silk business was done and the prices obtained had hitherto been unheard of.

The membership of the Chamber now totals 93 against 87 in the previous year.

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1899.

Receipts.		Yen.
To Balance for 1898		1.63
Members' Subscriptions for 1899	89 at Y. 35	3,115.00
Members' Subscriptions for Half-year	3 at Y. 20	60.00
Circulars sold :—		
To Members.....10,256 for	Y.1,894 50	
To non-Members 1,010 for	259.10	
		2,153.60
Annual Statistics sold		62 69
Sundry Publications sold		42 74
Survey Fee		15 00
Arbitration Fee		15 00
Waste Paper sold		2 50
N. Y. Cables		500 00
International Committee		317.33
		6,285.49
Balance, carried to New Account...		117.81
		6,403.30

Expenditure.	Yen.
Salary of Secretary and Staff	2,933.00
Rent	523.17
Printing Circulars, Statistics, Reports, &c.	823.23
Advertising, Subscription to Papers, &c.	326 71
Stationery	71.15
Collector's Commission	148 53
Fuel, P. O. Box, Postage and Petties and Street Gas, &c.	276 76
Fire Insurance	7 50
Furniture	330.15
Survey Fee	10.00
Arbitration Fee	30.00
Moving (Helm Bros.)	11 25
A. Weston	11.85
Keil's Estate (Settlement)	42 34
Keil's Estate (Award of Arbitrator)	99 75
N. Y. Cables	515 87
International Committee	242.04
	6,403 30

E. & O. E.

Examined and found correct, March 28th, 1900.

J. E. BEALE, Secretary.

P. C. POTTS,
W. G. MACVICAR, } Auditors.

Yokohama, March 28th, 1900.

The CHAIRMAN, in commenting on the report, referred to the paragraph calling attention to irregularity in size and want of cleanliness in silk filatures, which he said was a very unfortunate condition and one which would undoubtedly tell against the development of the export trade of Japan. Regarding the paragraph referring "to the regrettable lack of commercial integrity so frequently manifested in Japanese trade," he said special attention had been called to the matters in question in the hope that some steps might be taken by Japanese suppliers to prevent a recurrence of them, as not only did such a state of things seriously interfere with the operations of the export houses, but it would inevitably react upon the export of the article, which, instead of becoming an increasing one, as it had been hitherto, might probably decrease. With regard to tobacco, the trade in that article, as they would observe from the statistics, had very much fallen off, a fact which, as explained in the paragraph referring to it was due to the Government monopoly, and to the system which at present prevailed which was of such a character that it made it extremely difficult to deal in the article. Those firms which were interested hoped some steps would be taken whereby a means might be provided of buying direct from Government Agents instead of having to send buyers into the country to negotiate with the holders there. These were the principal points with regard to the export trade. After a few passing references to the report on the import trade, Mr. Mitchell referred to the table of fluctuations in currency, observing that the currency having now been placed on a gold basis, the variations in exchange had not been very violent. At the same time there had been a distinct drop between the beginning of 1899, (lowest and highest rates for January 2/0 13/16 and 2/0 15/16) and the end of the year (lowest and highest rates for December 2/0 7/16 and 2/0⅜),

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and since the latter date the course of exchange had unfortunately been still downward. Referring to the statement of accounts Mr. Mitchell called attention to the fact that in 1898 the Chamber commenced with a balance of *yen* 1.63, and they closed 1899 with a debit balance of *yen* 117 81. This deficiency properly speaking should not have come into the year 1899. Owing to the unfortunate decease of Mr. O. Keil the accounts were not found to be in perfect condition and some of the amounts which should have been debited to 1898 had come into 1899. The results of the year were better than the previous one although there was an apparent deficit.

On the motion of Mr. LINDSLEY, seconded by Mr. STROME the accounts were passed.

THE TIFFIN HOUR.

The CHAIRMAN then called attention to the paragraph in the report referring to the alteration of the tiffin hour. He said the Committee offered the proposal merely in the form of a suggestion for the consideration of the members of the Chamber. They suggested whether it was not advisable in view of the existing circumstances and the changing conditions of trade to alter the tiffin hour from 12 to 12.30. As a matter of course each member would be entitled to follow his own inclinations, but the Committee wished to gauge the general opinion on the desirability of the step. A circular sent round with the view of ascertaining the opinions of the members had resulted in 93 replies. Forty voted for 12.30 and for a Saturday half-holiday if possible. It was customary at present for some offices to close on Saturday's and others not to do so. He thought that in many instances the keeping open of offices on Saturday was not necessary; it was more a question of custom than anything else. To close them whenever practicable would be desirable in order to allow the juniors time for healthy recreation which they were sometimes denied. As he had said, 40 voted in favour of the change to 12.30, 26 were in favour of leaving the matter to the discretion of individual employers, and 11 were in favour of no change; the remainder expressed no opinion.

Mr. FLINT KILBY supported the proposal. He said in any business centre in the world a tiffin hour extending over two hours would be met with derision. When he first came here the time allotted was one hour. When people began to live on the Bluff it extended to an hour and a half, and now it had grown to two hours. It was very inconvenient if one could only count on seeing people up to 12 o'clock; it made business hours very short. He thought the Saturday half-holiday very desirable; juniors were entitled to look on Saturday as a half-holiday whenever it was practicable to let them have it. He would propose that the Chamber recommend the adoption of 12.30 as the recognised hour for tiffin, and also the observance of Saturday afternoon as a half-holiday whenever possible.

Mr. JAMES DODDS said he was quite in accord with the remarks made by Mr. Kilby, and he would second the proposal.

The motion was carried *nem con.*

SILK.

Mr. W. B. WALTER, referring to the paragraph in the report with regard to the mixed quality of silk, said this was such an important matter that it would almost appear desirable that the Chamber should take some further steps in the matter. He would suggest that the incoming Committee might perhaps address the different Japanese Chambers of Commerce or merchants in the silk districts drawing very strongly to their attention the necessity of improving the quality of the silk. More care and integrity would greatly improve the value of the export, and would also give greater confidence than now existed, and without which there was danger of a falling off in the trade. The custom of mixing was very objectionable.

The CHAIRMAN—This is merely a suggestion for the incoming Committee?

Mr. WALTER—Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be a useful matter to take up, as silk was one of the most important articles of export from Japan, and the better the quality reached the better were the chances of trade.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC MAIL ROUTE.

Referring to another matter, Mr. WALTER said he understood that the mail contract which existed between the British Government, the Canadian Government, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company came to an end some time next year. This contract had greatly improved the mail service, and had enabled them to get letters from Europe within from 25 to 30 days, whereas before 35 to 38 days was the usual time. The service had been highly appreciated in Japan, and it would be probably useful if some representations were made from that Chamber to the Postmaster General of England, and also the Government of Canada, setting forth the usefulness of the service and the extent to which the commercial community in Japan were indebted to it. The matter might be worth the attention of the Committee. The Committee had been kind enough to make mention of his name in the report. He thanked them most heartily, and assured them that after the long connection he had with the members of that Chamber it was with great regret that he saw the connection severed. He could only hope that he might have the pleasure of meeting members in Europe and renewing their long acquaintance (applause).

The CHAIRMAN said with regard to the mail contract they would all fully endorse Mr. Walter's remarks as to the great improvement in the delivery of mail matter. The distance in time between that country and America and Europe had been reduced by the reliable and regular service which had been established by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and he thought he could say that it would be a subject of great regret to all if it were to be discontinued (hear, hear).

Mr. FLINT KILBY spoke at some length on the question, but his remarks were not completely audible from the reporters' table. He was understood to lay stress on the regularity of the service and the fact of the Canadian Pacific being the shortest trans-Pacific to Europe. He pointed out that the other trans-Pacific mail lines were subsidised by their respective Governments and argued that it was to the interests of Great Britain and also of the commercial community of the Far East that the Canadian service should be efficiently supported. For passengers, for letters, and especially for parcels the Canadian route offered great advantages. It enabled samples of shipments from Europe to arrive practically 30 days before the goods arrived, which was a very great advantage. Mr. KILBY dwelt on the changes which had taken place in the Pacific trade during his own recollection. When he first came to Japan there was one steamer a month, which occupied 30 days in transit; now there were the services of the San Diego, Pacific Mail, Occidental and Oriental, Toyo Kisen Kaisha, Northern Pacific, and Nippon Yusen Kaisha lines, and numbers of outside steamers. The nature of the trade, too, had greatly changed. Twenty-seven years ago the cargo from the other side was practically *nil*. He thought the Canadian Pacific service might very advantageously be extended, and he would therefore propose that in view of the advantages of the quick trans-Pacific mail service *via* Vancouver it was desirable that the present mail contract between H.B.M.'s Government of Canada and the Canadian Pacific Railway be renewed, and that additional steamers should be added to the fleet in order to arrange for a fortnightly service throughout the year if possible, the continuance and extension of the service being of great importance to the well being of trade in the Far East.

Mr. LINDSLEY seconded the motion.

Mr. BUDD pointed out that there was some inconvenience attaching to the departure of the mail from London on Friday, as many things which were made up at the end of the week could not be forwarded. Was it not possible to make representations with a view to the selection of Friday night or Saturday morning? That would be very advantageous to Japan and North China.

Mr. LINDSLEY suggested that the matter might be met by representations to the C. P. R. headquarters.

Mr. BUDD, in reply to the Chairman, said he did not wish to submit a proposition. He merely made a suggestion to the Committee.

Mr. Flint Kilby's motion was then put and carried.

THE REPORT ADOPTED.

The report was then formally adopted on the proposition of Mr. HUTCHISON, seconded by Mr. BENT.

COMMITTEE.

The CHAIRMAN then introduced the next item of business—the election of a Committee for the ensuing year. He said the retiring Committee consisted of himself, Messrs. Kilby, Robison, Mollison, Holm, Middleton, Woolley, Dodds, and Budd. Mr. Robison and Mr. Mollison had left Japan, and Messrs. C. V. Sale and J. Kern had replaced them. Mr. Budd wished to withdraw, and he (the Chairman) must also retire, as he was leaving shortly. He thought it was very desirable that there should be someone to represent the banking interest, and he would suggest Mr. Baker.

Mr. BENT suggested Mr. Jackson.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Jackson had been asked on a previous occasion and had declined to act. Of course he (the Chairman) could not say whether he would do so now.

A ballot was taken and resulted as follow:—Mr. Flint Kilby, Mr. James Dodds, Mr. Alf. Woolley, Mr. H. J. Holm, Mr. Baker, Mr. Lindsley, Mr. C. V. Sale, Mr. J. D. Hutchison, Mr. Kern.

LEGAL ADVISERS

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that Messrs. Lowder and Akiyama had offered their services as legal advisers to the Chamber without payment of any retaining fee, and had offered to give advice on any matters of minor importance free of charge. Of course if any question demanding time and consideration arose a regular barrister's fee would be charged. Occasions might arise when the advice of a competent resident barrister would be necessary, and as the acceptance of the offer did not bind the Chamber to any expenditure he should be disposed to recommend closing with it. Messrs. Lowder and Akiyama, he might mention, had already given an opinion on one point without making any charge. He would propose that the Chamber retain Messrs. Lowder and Akiyama as legal advisers.

Mr. HOLM seconded and the motion was carried.

THE BANK CLEARING HOUSE.

Mr. HOLM referred to the closing of the Bank Clearing House at 2 o'clock, which he said was quite an unusual hour, and was exceedingly inconvenient, as it was almost impossible to pay in a cheque in the afternoon in time to go through the clearing house the same day. He would suggest that the foreign banks should see whether the hours during which the clearing house was open could not be extended a little.

The CHAIRMAN—Do you make that a proposal?

Mr. HOLM—I think it will be sufficient if it goes on the minutes.

COMPLIMENTARY.

Mr. FLINT KILBY proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, and expressed the hope that they would soon see him back among them.

Mr. DODDS seconded.

The CHAIRMAN suitably acknowledged the compliment, and acknowledged in warm terms the help which Mr. Flint Kilby had afforded him, and the interest he took in the affairs of the Chamber. He also proposed a vote of thanks to the Auditors, and to Mr. Sale for his very able report upon the import trade throughout Japan.

Mr. KILBY seconded and the motion was carried. The meeting then terminated.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom).

SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail"

Sir,—I have always admired the calm and unprejudiced spirit in which you have commented on current events here and abroad. In spite of your own statement that you have no confidence in your ability to be impartial in the matter of this South African War, one has a right to expect something much better in its defence that such a quotation as that from John S. Seymour, to say nothing of that from the *Christian Guardian* of Canada. I am surprised that you should suggest that the former could be an impartial witness when you yourself say he is the "Legal Representative before the State Department of the Americans in the Transvaal." In other words, he is a paid advocate, and undoubtedly, to judge by the communication you quote, he is trying hard to earn his salary. I have read his communication with great care and it is as unfair and one-sided a plea as he could well make. He simply perverts history all the way through; notably in his account of the great trek of 1835, the seizure of the Transvaal by the British in 1877, and the character of the Convention of 1884. If a man wants to know the facts in a great law case he will naturally look to the decision of the judge rather than to the plea set up by one of the lawyers in the case. The place to get the facts about the Boers and the British in South Africa is the standard histories of Geo. M. Theal and James Bryce and not advocate Seymour.

As for the quotation from the *Christian Guardian* the case is worse. It must be painful to Christian people to read such a passage. There is certainly not much of the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount about it. One part especially struck me: "One day in my office, in Johannesburg, the door was pushed open by a Kaffir, prone on the floor, dragging himself by his elbows. Thinking he was wounded, I rose to assist him. He grinned and handed me a letter. It was from a government official and the Kaffir was merely an apprentice messenger delivering a public document." I would really like to know, Sir, if you believe that. To me it seems that prejudice will hardly account for believing such "rot" as that—it calls for a credulity simply amazing. But the grossness of the passage from the *Christian Guardian* in which the Boers are referred to as "an ignorant band of vagrant hunters" and "a few thousand half civilized plainsmen" and "fanatic semi barbarians" is a very good illustration of that lack of a just, sympathetic, or charitable spirit which characterized the relations of the British to the Boers ever since they made a conquest of Cape Colony some hundred years since. Nothing can be said about the Boers that British are not gullible enough to believe.

It is doubtful, however, whether both prejudice and gullibility will suffice to account for the readiness with which the alleged great "South African Conspiracy" is seized upon as a fact, believed, and paraded before the world to blacken the Boer and justify the unrighteous war. There has been without doubt a great deal of conspiracy in connection with South Africa, but the only ones of which we have proof are those of the Chartered Company which resulted in the Jameson raid, and the conspiracy of the Uitlanders to assist Jameson to overthrow the Republic. It has now been proven by the Hawksley letters that Chamberlain was himself a party to this plot which culminated in an actual attack on a friendly State. British jingoes throughout the world were bitterly disappointed that the Jameson raid failed, and many openly expressed their feelings, but now we have these same people working themselves into a fine frenzy over an imaginary great South African Conspiracy among the Dutch.

This war is unnecessary. It can accomplish nothing which time and good-will would not have accomplished. It is wholly unjust. Even if the alleged wrongs of the Uitlanders were as bad as they are stated to have been—and what fair-minded person can doubt they are greatly exaggerated—they do not constitute a just cause for war. Commercial greed and official plotting on the part of the British, and intense distrust of the British Government and jealousy of the very semblance of liberty on the part of the Boers, is the real explanation of how this war arose. As to the causes they lie farther back.

I am sorry, Sir, that this war has to trust for its justification and defence to the *Christian Guardian*—with emphasis on the Christian—John A. Seymour, the paid advocate, and your recent correspondents "Canadian," and the writer who, with unconscious humour, signed himself "Fair Play." For my own part I can't understand why any Englishman should desire to justify the conduct of his country in a case like this. The more unrighteous the act the greater the anxiety and the more sophistical and the more specious does the reasoning of the doer become. That is the result of having a conscience. England is one of the rare countries whose people have a conscience and the day of reckoning will surely come when the frothy jingoes of 1899-1900 will take their place in the public memory along with the jingoes of 1776-1783, and the criminal aggression of Chamberlain and his tools which endangered, and possibly lost South Africa to the British Empire will be classed with that criminal aggression of George III. and Lord North which lost to her the American Colonies. It is impossible to believe that the conscience of England is at rest, and this is the rational explanation of the anxiety to assign a plausible reason for this unjustifiable attempt to destroy a brave little people, their nearest of blood kin in all Europe.

Yours truly, JUSTICE.

[Does our correspondent forget who began the war? Does he mean to say that England did? Does he think that England could have remained quiet when her territories were invaded by the Boers? He is wrong, if he will pardon us for saying so, when he asserts that the Hawksley letters prove Chamberlain to have been a party to any plot. A British Royal Commission, and more recently the House of Commons, have passed judgment on that matter.—Ed. *J. M.*]

CHORAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

In many respects the concert given by the Yokohama Choral Society in the Public Hall on Wednesday evening was a decided advance upon the opening performance of the season, and Mr. W. Karl Vincent, the conductor, is to be heartily congratulated on the result of his indefatigable industry and unwearying patience. Could he but strengthen the male portion of his choir by the addition of some half-score tenors and bass singers he would have little left to desire. But even with the scanty materials at hand he has achieved wonders, the *timbre* and tone as well as the training of the voices showing a marked advance upon the standard reached six months ago.

"The Ballad of Carmilhan" belongs to that series of pretty narrative poems which Longfellow strung together under the title of "Tales of a Wayside Inn." It deals with the legend of a ghostly spectre ship—a ship of the dead—called the "Carmilhan," which

> . . . haunts the Atlantic north and south,
> But mostly the mid sea,
> Where three great rocks lie bleak and bare
> Like furnace chimneys in the air,
> And are called the Chimneys Three.

The skipper of the *Valdemar*, then lying at anchor at Stralsund, by the Baltic, scoffs at the yarn and declares that should he meet the "Carmilhan"

> He would run her down, although he ran
> Right into Eternity.

The jolly sailor puts to sea and in the midst of the Atlantic is caught by a storm: when this is at its height the "Carmilhan" appears and close behind her the Chimneys Three. The vessel is doomed and only a cabin-boy lives to tell the tale.

Longfellow's poem has found a happy interpreter in Mr. A. D. Arnott. He has entered into the spirit of the eerie theme and produced a work, which, since its production at the Crystal Palace a few years ago, has steadily grown in public favour. Though not to be compared with the productions of the great masters of melody of the last century, the "Ballad of Carmilhan" comes well within the ranks of the second class. The cantata, in fact, is a good example of the modern romantic English school, and the composer appears to lean to the Schumanesque traditions rather than to those of Mendelssohn. To Mr. S. H. Somerton fell the work of the Narrator, and despite his recent severe cold, the singer did full justice to the music set for the baritone, particularly in "The jolly skipper;" "The lovely moon climbs up the sky;" and "All on board the Valdemar." Of the chorus work we have already spoken. The best, perhaps, after the opening, were the stanzas describing the approach of the storm and the shipwreck, while the closing chorus, telling of the saving of the Cabin-boy through the agency of the "Klaboterman," went exceedingly well. Particularly effective was the rendering of the descriptive passage, "There was a feeling of suspense"—a piece of realistic writing of high dramatic order. The effect upon the audience was quite creepy, for one almost felt the approach of the ship of doom.

Hearty thanks are due to Mrs. McIvor for her excellent service at the piano. The instrument at her disposal was sadly inadequate for a room so large as the Public Hall, and could scarcely be expected to adequately sustain such a work as this cantata, but she triumphed over these obstacles and brought out much of the beauty of the score.

The second part opened with a breezy chorus by *Goodhart*, "Earl Haldan's Daughter," which went very well, indeed; as did also King's "Sands o' Dee"; but of the smaller pieces those by Faning, "The Miller's Wooing" and "The Song of the Vikings" (both warm favourites at home) were the most acceptable as they were decidedly the more scholarly. Mrs. Payne's song, "Jong-Dieterich," *Georg Henschel*, was a very welcome contribution and was loudly applauded. The "Fantasie" arranged by Liszt for the pianoforte gave Mr. W. Karl Vincent another opportunity for displaying his versatility and wonderful command of the instrument, and the house clamoured for more. Mr. Somerton, not fatigued by his earlier exertions, also sang in excellent taste "Come now! for Vengeance haste I," an air from *Donisetti's* "Lucrezia Borgia.' Apart from the musical items was a recitation by Mr. G. G. Brady, "The Lifeboat," which was declaimed in capital style.

Altogether it was a most pleasant evening. A rather slim house assembled, but those present showed no lack of appreciation.

LAW CASE.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Tuesday the case of Mr. H. Watanabe, of Otaru, Hokkaido, against Mr. W. S. Stone, came on for hearing before Judge Fujise. Plaintiff was represented by Messrs. Matsunaga and Shigeno and defendant by Messrs. Akiyama and Inouye. According to plaintiff he entered into a contract with defendant for the supply of 300,000 railway sleepers to be delivered at Otaru and Muroran. It was agreed that 100,000 sleepers should be delivered in March and a similar number in April, 1899, 60,000 in May, and 40,000 in June. Defendant, however, failed to take delivery within the stipulated period, and plaintiff thereby incurred an extra outlay. The plaintiff claimed the return of a cheque for *yen* 4 000 deposited with defendant as security, and also payment of *yen* 1,828.66. The hearing was adjourned.

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IN AND AROUND BOSTON.

(WRITTEN FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Since my last the Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays have come and gone. The former, I presume, is observed more heartily and more generally here than anywhere else in the world, although it is now recognized in every American community at home and abroad.

It is interesting to note the relation in which the two holidays stand to each other. As a season of pure joyousness and care-free pleasure-making, Christmas unquestionably takes the lead; and this, from the nature of the case, makes it the favourite season of the young. As a family institution, including the young and old, and relating to family reunions, Thanks-giving, in New England, at least, is still far ahead of all other seasons. It was the writer's privilege to attend one of these characteristic family reunions when children and grand-children numbering over forty met in the old home-stead to join with the head of the house in the customary joys of the day. As to religious services, while they are now very generally held on both days, I am inclined to think that Christmas is the favourite in Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches, while Thanksgiving is observed more largely by other Protestant denominations.

What has impressed me most is the large amount of benevolent work done at both seasons. The Salvation Army fed thousands in Boston and New York, and doubtless in many other cities, and literally scores of societies vied with each other in making the time one of joy to the less prosperous part of society. The care shown by employers for their employes was simply wonderful. One firm, for example, gave a turkey to every employe young and old, numbering hundreds in all. More than one society started out with the purpose that no family in the city should go unremembered. The inmates of hospitals, asylums, and penal institutions of various kinds—none of them were forgotten.

Whatever may be the truth in regard to the Church, the gospel of good-will is certainly being preached widely in this community. For example, here is an extract from the report of one of many organizations. I omit the part referring to directly religious work and give only the philanthropic part of it:—

Employment secured for 426 persons.
7,879 garments given to the poor.
Pecuniary aid afforded to 1,335 families.
37,370 street car tickets and 3 820 harbour tickets distributed.
6,338 persons enjoyed a day's vacation or a visit in the country.
913 families remembered at Thanksgiving.

Who can estimate the happy influence of such work carried on as it is year after year?

I write this in Princeton, the highest town in Massachusetts. A few miles west of this and in plain sight in the town of Rutland is a State institution for the treatment of consumption. It was located where it is because of the elevation and the pure, dry air. The chief peculiarity in the treatment is that even through the cold winter the patients are most of the time without fire. They rise about 8 and have heat (52°) while at breakfast. Then the heat is drawn off and the windows opened till luncheon, which they take in warmed rooms after which the heat is again taken off. In the evening again for an hour a temperature of 52° is granted them and from 9 till 8 the next morning the windows are all open and the heat withdrawn.

They feed them well, three full meals and three lunches besides, and of course abundance of clothing is a necessity, but the main reliance is on the cold—and they claim remarkable results, over sixty per cent. of all the patients received.

This manner of living does not seem greatly different from that of an ordinary Japanese house. Might not some elevated spot be found with comparatively dry air where this method of treatment could be tried?

I see that the discussion of the "Century question" has reached even to Japan. It still rages here, though it shows signs of moderating. Viewed as a numerical problem the concensus of opinion coincides with that of the *Mail*. But when we go deeper and ask—"Have 1900 years elapsed since Christ was born?" a new element enters the discussion. The fact that our era was undoubtedly fixed four or five years too late makes it clear that more than 1900 years have fled since the Advent. While, therefore, we should regard this as the last year of the 19th century, it is unquestionably true that we have already entered upon the twentieth century since Our Lord was born.

The latest catalogues of the ten leading American Universities show their respective registration figures as follows: Harvard, 5250; Columbia, 3729; Michigan, 3346, Yale, 2688; Pennsylvania, 2651; Cornell, 2645; Wisconsin, 2025; Chicago, 1680; Princeton 1194, and Johns Hopkins, 632. Harvard also has the largest academic department with 1897 men, Cornell leads in scientific students with 795. Columbia's registration in medicine, graduate schools, and teachers' courses is greatest, having 767, 383, and 356 students respectively.

To many readers the greatest surprises in the above will be Columbia and Michigan. What the future of these institutions will be it would be hard to prophesy. So many of them have recently inaugurated young men as presidents that we may confidently look for great progress all along the line. Harvard's plan to welcome a large number of Cuban teachers to her summer schools is but one instance of this.

M. L. G.

LAW CONCERNING TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The following are the most important articles of this law:—

Art. I.—Public telegraphs and telephones shall be exclusively under the supervision and control of the Government.

Art. II.—Telegraphs or telephones of the nature specified below may be established as private undertakings in accordance with the provisions of the Imperial Ordinance:—

1. Wires for private use in a residence or compound.

2. Wires in connection with railways or other enterprises which require the exclusive use of telegraphs or telephones.

3. Wires provided in a City, District, Town, or Village for the management of its public affairs, or for securing communication between its public offices and those of an adjacent district, or for connecting such offices in a District or Town with the Central Authorities.

4. Wires for the exclusive use of a private individual for the transmission of telegraphic messages in connection with a Government telegraph office.

5. Wires for the exclusive use of a single individual or for professional purposes within a City, District, Town, or Village alone, or in conjunction with an adjacent district, or in places where means of telegraphic or telephonic communication exist, but where the method specified in Paragraph 4 is considered unsuitable.

Art. III.—The Minister of State concerned may cause the aforesaid telegraphs or telephones to be used for public messages, or for messages relating to military affairs of great importance.

Art. IV.—The Minister of State concerned may, if he deems it necessary for the public welfare, decide the limits of a message, or suspend or restrict messages.

Art. IX.—The Government reserves the right of using a portion of a railway station or station buildings for purposes of telegraphs or telephones. It may also issue orders, if deemed necessary, for the construction of new, or the alteration of old buildings.

Art. XI.—Articles exclusively employed in the transmission of telegraphic and or telephonic messages shall in no case be distrained. Neither shall taxes in any form be levied on them.

Art. XV.—Telegrams that cannot be delivered to the addressee shall be advertised, but in case the same are not claimed within 30 days from the date of such advertisement, they shall be destroyed.

Art. XVI.—The telegraphic authorities may, if they deem it necessary, demand the explanation of secret words or private marks in a telegram, and, in case the sender refuses to comply with the demand, the telegram will be rejected.

Art. XXVII.—Any person establishing telegraphic or telephonic communication without sanction, or failing to discontinue it within the period specified by the authorities after the withdrawal of such sanction, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 5 *yen* and not more than 100 *yen*, besides confiscation of the wire and apparatus used.

Art. XXIX.—Violation of Articles III. and IX. shall be punishable by a fine of not less than 5 *yen* or more than 500 *yen*.

Art. XXXI.—Any person encroaching upon the secrecy of messages dealt with at any telegraph or telephone office shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 month and not more than 1 year, together with a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*. If such offences are committed by persons in the service of telegraph or telephone offices, the penalty shall be aggravated by one degree.

Art. XXXII.—Any person attempting to evade by fraudulent means the charges or fees for telegraphic or telephonic messages shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 *yen*.

Art. XXXIII.—Any person transmitting a fraudulent telegram or telegrams with a view to making profit for himself or others, or inflicting injury upon others, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 month and not more than 5 years, and to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XXXV.—Any person who without substantial reason opens, damages, conceals, or throws away telegrams passing through the telegraph offices, or delivers the same to persons other than those to whom they are addressed, or any person who knowingly receives telegrams not addressed to him or obstructs their transmission or delivery, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term of nor less than 1 month or more than 2 years, in addition to a fine of not exceeding 20 *yen*.

Art.—XXXVI.—Any employe refusing to transmit messages or causing delay in their delivery without substantial reason, shall be liable to a fine of from 4 to 40 *yen*.

Art. XXXVII.—Any person damaging telegraph or telephone wires, or apparatus, or buildings, or obstructing the transmission of messages, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 month and not more than 5 years, in addition to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XXXVIII.—Any person obstructing the repairs or laying of telegraph or telephone wires, or impeding surveying or inspecting operations, shall be punishable by major imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 month or more than 2 years, and a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*.

Art. XL.—Any person anchoring a ship, or engaging in fishing or gathering sea-weeds, or taking sand within the limits allotted to submarine telegraph or telephone cables, or any person tieing a boat or raft to the signs indicating the number of these cables, or damaging such signs, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 5 or more than 100 *yen*.

Art. XLII.—In case offences specified in the foregoing articles are committed by the agents or employer of a juridical person, or by other persons concerned, in regard to the occupation or business of such juridical person, the penal provisions shall be applied to the juridical person. In cases, however, where sentences of imprisonment are provided, they shall be commuted to a fine not exceeding 300 *yen*. In the

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prosecution of juridical persons their representatives shall be regarded as defendants.

Art. XLVI.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of October in the 33rd year of *Meji* (1900).

Art. XLVII.—Any person who prior to the promulgation of this Law has obtained permission for the establishment of private telegraphic or telephonic communication in accordance with the Telegraphic Regulations, must apply for a fresh licence according to the provisions of the Ordinance.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, March 23.

Chamberlain has telegraphed to the Australian Governments that the War Office offers 114 commissions in the infantry and artillery to Australians.

Apparently some negotiations are proceeding. It is said that communications are passing between London and Pretoria. Milner's whereabouts is unknown. It is assumed that he is at Bloemfontein, where it is believed that parleying is also going on.

All the Powers have now answered the Boer appeal in the negative.

Gatacre and Brabant are sending flying columns in all directions. There is practically no opposition.

A temporary bridge is fast being built at Norvals Pont.

The British have occupied Rouxville and Smithfield.

Later.

Reuter learns that there have been no negotiations between London and Pretoria since Salisbury's reply to Kruger. The only correspondence refers to the treatment of the wounded and prisoners. The parleying at Bloemfontein refers purely to local matters.

Clements is marching towards Bloemfontein via Philippolis and Fauresmith.

A large Boer force from Mafeking is advancing against Lobatsi.

Shanghai, March 25.

Clery has recovered, and has assumed command of Lyttleton's Division, Lyttleton taking command of the Ladysmith Division.

Lord Kitchener is returning from Prieska to Bloemfontein.

Lord Roberts reports that the country to the southward of Bloemfontein is generally settling. The people are bringing in supplies. The movements of the troops in the Western districts are being attended with good results.

Shanghai, March 24.

Milner has arrived at Colesberg from the northward, and has proceeded to Stormberg.

The Times correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that Kruger has issued a proclamation annexing the Free State and that Steyn has issued a counter-proclamation declaring the Free State intact.

[Note.—The telegram reaches us in the above form, but we imagine that the words have been transposed by accident, and that the proclamation annexing the Free State has been issued by Milner and the counter-proclamation by Kruger and Steyn.—Ed. *J.M.*]

The Times correspondent wires under date of the 22nd that the date of the departure of the Mafeking column from Kimberley is still unfixed.

French has arrived at Thaba Nchu. Further artillery firing across the River at Warrenton took place on the 21st and 22nd inst. The British scouts approaching the river were met by a hot musketry fire and were unable to retire until darkness set in.

The rising in Griqualand seems to be collapsing.

The *Times* correspondent telegraphs from Buluwayo under date of the 19th that after a sharp artillery duel on the 16th, at 2,000 yards range, Plumer retired from Lobatsi under cover of the darkness to Crocodile Pools.

Later.

Roberts telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 24th that on the 23rd inst. Capt Lygon, of the Grenadier Guards, Captain Trotter, of the same Regiment, and Captain Codrington, of the Coldstreams, rode unescorted eight miles beyond the camp on the Modder River, and were fired on by the Boers. Captain Lygon was killed and the others were severely wounded.

General Woodgate has died of his wounds.

Shanghai, March 26.

Heavy rain at Warrenton has caused a flood of the Vaal river which may possibly delay operations there.

The Prince of Wales is to visit Paris for the Exhibition in April as the guest of the French Government.

Reuter's agent at Durban learns authentically that the Boer leaders, though knowing defeat to be inevitable, believe that they will be able to stand for six months, when they are convinced that foreign intervention will secure favourable terms for them. They rely on Germany and America. Wolmarans' deputation has gone to Europe with this object.

Four hundred Transvaalers have re-occupied Griquatown. A force has left Kimberley to expel them. It is reported that all the loyalists in Griquatown are imprisoned.

Clements has occupied Philippolis and read Roberts' proclamation to the assembled burghers, many of whom surrendered their arms and took oath not to participate farther in the War. The Landrost and sheriff were re-instated und erBritish authority.

Shanghai, March 27.

Field-Marshal Sir Donald Stewart is dead.

The checks encountered by both the relieving forces are causing much anxiety as to the fate of Mafeking. The latest news from that place is dated the 14th, when the Boers resumed activity after a week of comparative quiet.

The Times' correspondent telegraphs from Rouxville that Olivier with a strong force and 15 guns is moving on the north of Ladybrand.

The *Daily Chronicle's* correspondent, telegraphing from Bloemfontein, says that marauding bands of the enemy are raiding the farms of the disarmed burghers on the northward.

The Crown Prince of Japan landed at Marseilles on Saturday.

[Note.—This part of the message refers, of course, to H I H. Prince Kan-in, who is visiting the Paris Exhibition as his country's representative.—Ed. *J.M.*]

Later.

Wyndham states that 276 commissions are to be given to the colonies and 50 placed at the disposal of Roberts.

It is said that the Powers are arranging concerted action in consequence of the disturbed state of the country around Tientsin.

Shanghai, March 28.

The censorship is now very stringent. There is little news from the front, and practically nothing from Natal.

It is believed that Roberts will not advance until he is satisfied that his rear is secure. Meanwhile he is accumulating campaigning stores, notably boots and warm clothing.

French, with the Cavalry Division, has returned to Bloemfontein. He had no fighting, but numbers of burghers submitted.

The Channel Squadron is to remain in Dublin Bay throughout the Queen's stay in Ireland.

The fourth New Zealand contingent of 440 men has sailed.

The Imperial Australian Bushmen are rapidly organising, and will sail in the middle of April.

Shanghai, March 28.

Typhoid is raging among the prisoners on the transports at Simondstown.

Michael Davitt has arrived at Lourenzo Marques and is going to the Transvaal.

Reuters' correspondent telegraphing from Maseru on Monday, says that Col. Pilcher with a small force occupied, that morning, Ladybrand, driving in the Boer outposts. Large numbers of the enemy then attacked the British, who retreated after capturing the Landrost. The British casualties were three wounded; the Boers ten. It is believed that the Boers desire to hold the British in check while they save a convoy of wagons.

Shanghai, March 29.

It is officially announced that the total British casualties, including the sick, up to March 24, were over 19,000.

Lord Roberts is going to Cape Town to meet his wife. A forward movement is improbable for a month.

Colonel Clements has occupied Fauresmith and Jaggersfontein.

Sir Afred Milner is in Bloemfontein.

The Australian Prime Ministers have telegraphed jointly to Mr. Chamberlain that it is undesirable to conclude peace except on terms of absolute British supremacy in South Africa.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Lorenzo Marques that Joubert is dead.

Pilcherd's reconnaissance captured the Landrost of Ladybrand before retiring. A strong force of Boers, presumed to be Olivier's command, subsequently occupied strong positions in the neighbourhood. It is believed that their retreat towards Kroonstad has been intercepted and that a battle is imminent.

Later.

Joubert died of stomach complaint. Delarey is ill and Smuts commands the Transvaal forces.

Crowther, not Olivier, reoccupied Ladybrand. It is believed that Olivier is beyond pursuit.

The *Terrible* has sailed for China.

An official statement from St. Petersburg is to the effect that the Russian Squadron on the Korean coast has sailed for Port Arthur.

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Reuter telegraphs from Mafeking under date of the 16th that the investment is still relaxed, the enemy being concentrated on the north to oppose Plumer. There is sufficient food, but rations will shortly have to be reduced.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France in Tokyo.)

Saigon, March 23.

The morale of the Boers at Kroonstad is excellent. They await the battle with confidence. Kruger and Steyn are exhorting them to fight to the end for their liberty.

Only 1,000 men of the two Republics have been killed since the commencement of the war.

Saigon, March 24.

It is announced from Kimberley that several engagements have taken place near Warrenton.

The Boers have beaten the English in the neighbourhood of Lobatsi.

A rumour is current that Commander Olivier has beaten and captured General Gatacre near Bethulie.

Later.

The news of the capture of Gatacre by the Boers is not confirmed.

Saigon, March 26.

Baron Christiani has been pardoned and set at liberty.

[M. le Baron Christiani was condemned, in June, 1899, to four years' imprisonment in the sequel of the scandal on the Auteuil Race Course, when he assaulted the President of the Republic.—Ed. *J. M.*]

Saigon, March 27.

Mr. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade, speaking at a banquet, formally denied the evil intentions towards France which certain journals had attributed to England after the termination of the war in South Africa.

Saigon, March 28.

The Chamber of Deputies, by a vote of 285 to 239, has declared confidence in the Government in connection with a question relating to the recent troubles in Martinique. The ministerial journals consider that the situation of the Cabinet is consolidated for a long time.

The official inauguration of the Universal Exhibition will take place on the 14th April.

M. Morel, Vice-Governor of the Bank of France, has been named Governor of the Crédit Foncier of France in place of M. Labeyrie, who has been named President of the Court of Accounts, President Boulanger being removed.

Saigon, March 29.

The Chamber of Deputies has commenced the discussion of a project of law relating to a Colonial Army.

All the Boers from the south of the Orange Free State have succeeded in gaining the north and are concentrated at Kroonstad.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Jiji Shimpo.")

Söul, March 29.

The Russian representative yesterday had audience of the Emperor to press his previously preferred demands for a lease of land at Masampo.

Later.

A Russian squadron has been sent to Chemulpo apparently in connection with the demand for an island, but the facts, being kept secret by the Court, cannot be ascertained.

Later.

The Russian Representative and Minister Hayashi are negotiating. Minister Hayashi is to have a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs this afternoon. The affair seems likely to become a serious question.

Later.

Russia is not seeking to acquire an island, but is only endeavouring to procure a lease of land at Masampo.

Later.

The Russian Minister has informed the Japanese representative that Russia's action is not intended to impair the interests of Japan or to disturb the peace.

Later.

Three Russian ships are anchored at Chemulpo and four more have been sent for from Port Arthur to make a demonstration.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Nichi Nichi Shimbun.")

Söul, March 29.

The Russian Minister has preferred a demand for an area of land at Masampo, but for various reasons the Korean Government appears indisposed to concede the demand.

BNK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, March 24th :—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,366,672
Amount of convertible notes issued...	211,798,210
Government deposits	61,101,810
General deposits	3,320,642
Exchange liability	13,579
Total	321,600,923

Cr.	
Discount notes	61,643 942
Foreign discount notes	10,534 884
Loan to Government	22 000 000
General loans	67 575 593
Exchange liability	1,970 467
Government bonds	55,602,511
Property...	2,020 079
Bullion and Specie	100,251,445
Total	321,600 923

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	210,663,457
Bullion and Specie :—	
Gold	94,642,201
Silver	4,000,000
Total	98,642,201
Securities :—	
Government bonds	26 645,888
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,909 881
Commercial notes	51,456,487
Total	112,011,256

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show :—

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	1 921,591
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	446,697
Government deposits	403,309	—
General deposits	—	800,382

It appears that the Emperor has not yet definitely fixed the date of his visit to the naval manœuvres, but the 10th of April will probably be the time. Among the preparations for His Majesty's reception an electric illumination of the ships is mentioned.

CHESS.

All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 465.

R B4	R B6 dis. ch	R Q6, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
Q K3 ch	Q K6 must	
.....	R Kt4 dis ch	R Q4, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
Q Kt6 ch	Q K6	
	2 ———	3 ———
	Q B5	
.....	R Q4 ch	RxKt, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
Kt B7	Kt Q6 must	

Correct solution received from "East Anglia."

PROBLEM No. 467.

By N. Harrop.

"Best Three-er" *Football and Field* Tourney.

Black.

White.

White mates in three moves.

Game No. 575.

Intercolonial Telegraph Chess.

Appended is the game played at board 2 in the late match by wire between Sydney and Brisbane. Mr. Crane, the ex-champion of Australia, wins in good style. The notes are taken from *The Sydney Mail* :—

French Defence.

White—Mr. Boyce, Brisbane.		Black—Mr. W. Crane, Sydney.	
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1 P K4	P K3	18 R KB4	R R4
2 P Q4	P Q4	19 Kt B3	R B4
3 P K5(a)	P QB4	20 R Q4	R B-q(e)
4 P QB3	Kt QB3	21 R KB-q	B Kt4
5 Kt KB3(b)	Q Kt3	22 R K-q(f)	R B4(g)
6 P QKt3(c)	PxP	23 P QR4	B B3
7 PxP	B Kt5 ch	24 QR KB-q(h)	R KR4
8 B Q2	KtxQP	25 P KKt4	R R q
9 BxB	QxBch	26 Kt Q2(i)	K K2
10 QKt Q2	B Q2	27 KR KB4	B K-q
11 R QB q	Kt K2	28 P QKt4	R B7
12 B Q3	KtxKtch	29 QR KB2	R R6
13 QxKt	Kt K-3	30 Kt B3	RxR
14 Q K3	Q KB5(d)	31 KxR	P B3(j)
15 BxKt	QxQch	32 PxPch	PxP
16 PxQ	RPxB	33 P QK 5	P K4
17 Castles	B B3	34 R QK-4	P K5

and White resigned.

(a) Bad, as it enables Black to turn a defensive opening into an attack.

(b) 5—P to K B 4 is the only move to maintain the centre.

(c) This needlessly loses a Pawn.

(d) Forcing exchanges in view of his advantage for the end game. 14—Kt to B5 would have been strong, for White dare not Castle on account of Kt takes B and B to Kt 4.

(e) Better was P to B 3.

(f) If 22—P to K Kt 4—B takes R, 23—P takes R—B to K 7, &c.

(g) 22—R to R 4 was better.

(h) White might have improved his game here by 24—P to K Kt 4—R takes Kt, 25—K to Kt 2—R to B 4. 26—P takes R B to B 7 (ch), 27—K to Kt 3—Kt P takes P, and the game is about even.

(i) Weak. His game was 26—Kt to Kt 5—R to B 7, 27—P to R 3, with the better game.

(j) This move, which should have been played much earlier, forces the game.

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GAME No. 576.

CHESS IN RUSSIA.

A game which decided the first prize at Moscow in the late Congress, taken with notes from *St. James's Budget*:—

FRENCH DEFENCE.

White—Tschigorin. Black—Schiffers.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K3	22 K Kt2	P QR4(Kt Q3)
2 P Q4(a)	P Q4		
3 Px P(b)	PxP	23 P KR4	Kt at Kt B3
4 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	24 P B3	Kt Ktsq(d)
5 B Q3	B Q3	25 K R3	Q Q2
6 Castles	Castles	26 K K3	R Bach
7 B KKt5	B KKt5	27 K Kt2	Q Q2
8 QKt Q2	QKt Q2	28 P R4	P QKt4
9 P B3	P B3	29 PxP	PxP
10 Q B2	QB2	30 Q B4	P Kt5?(e)
11 QR K	QR K	31 PxP	PxP
12 P KR3	BxKt	32 Q Kt8	Kt at Kt B3
13 KtxB	P KR3	33 QxPch	K Ktsq
14 B Bsq(c)	B B5	34 Q Kt8	P Kt3(f)
15 Kt R4	BxB	35 KtxPch	K R2
16 QxB	RxR	36 P Kt5	Kt R4
17 RxR	R K	37 B Kt5	Q Q3(g)
18 RxRch	KKtxR	38 QxKt	Q Kt6ch
19 Q K3	QKt B3	39 K B-q	QxPch
20 Kt B5	K B-q	40 K K-q	
21 P KKt4	Kt Ktsq		

and Black resigned.

(a) We are very glad to see it. Tschigorin's move of 2—Q to K—2, although it has led to many interesting games, has not on the whole met with sufficient success to warrant its continuance, especially when, as in the present case, no doubt an opponent comes evidently prepared for the variation. Under such circumstances to persevere with one particular line of play would show an infirmity of mind rather than firmness of conviction.

(b) The best continuation. A strong player should not wish for anything better than a fair development with equal chances. If he is the better player he will win.

(c) Better than B takes Kt. The game of repeating the opponent's moves cannot long be continued with advantage. Obviously Black has already suffered, for White has two Bishops against his one, and Kt to R 4 followed by Kt to B 5 holds out good promise for the future.

(d) Though Black all along showed that a draw would be good enough for him, White without any apparent effort, but merely by the quiet force of sound play, has gained the ascendancy, and Black's repetition of moves now would only help White to futher develop his game.

(e) A mistake at last.

(f) Misfortunes never come singly; White threatened B to Kt 5 also P to Kt 5 (if K to B sq).

(g) It was a lost hope. It is easy to be seen that White can get away from the series of checks.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Weimar 1	M. April 2
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 2	Tu. April 3
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Yarra 3	Tu. April 3
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 4	Th. April 5
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. April 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 5	W. April 11
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. April 12
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. April 14
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Th April 19
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. April 23

1 Left Shanghai on the 29th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 15th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 26th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 24th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 23rd inst.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa, Mar. 31
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. April 4
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. April 4
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. April 4
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Weimar	Sa. April 7
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Sa, April 7
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th April 12
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Yarra	F. April 13
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. April 13
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. April 17
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	F. April 20

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, I. Miyagi, 23rd March,—Kobe, 21st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 23rd March,—Hakodate, 20th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 23rd March,—Shanghai via ports, 17th Mar., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 23 d March,—Yokkaichi, 22nd Mar., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heidelberg, German steamer, 2,145, Zachariae, 24th March,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 16th March, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 24th March,—Yokkaichi, 23rd March, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kenmore, British steamer, 2,412, Ellis, 24th March, —New York via ports, and Shanghai, 19th March, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 24th March,—Muroran, 22nd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 24th March,—Otaru via ports, 19th General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 24th March,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,168, H. Sakimoto, 25th March,—Kobe, 23rd March, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 26th March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 7th March, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Thyra, Norwegian steamer, 2,419, Edwardsen, 27th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 25th March, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, W. J. Ekstrand, 27th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 25th March. Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, W. Brady, 27th March,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Maria Valerie, Austrian steamer, 2,644, A. Fellner, 28th March,—Trieste via port, and Hongkong, 23rd Mar., Mails and General.—Browne & Co.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, Robt. Day, 28th March,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 27th March, General.—Butterfield and Swire.

Goodwin, British steamer, 2,832, Jackson, 28th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 26th March, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 27th March,—Kobe, 26th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 27th March,—Yokkaichi, 27th March, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 28th March,—Otaru via ports, 23rd March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Candia, British steamer, 4,195, W. H. Houghton, 29th March,—London via ports, and Kobe, 27th March, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 28th March,—Yokkaichi, 28th Mar., General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 29th March,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 28th March, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Adriatico, Austrian steamer, 2,583, E. M. Tarabochia, 29th March,—Batoum via Singapore, 15th March, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Benvorlich, British steamer, 2,164, W. Thomson, 29th March,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 29th March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 28th March, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Bingo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,677, R. Nivison, 29th March,—London via ports, and Kobe, 28th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Kawahara, 23rd Mar.,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 23rd March,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Valkyrien (10), Danish cruiser, 2,900, Prince Waldemar, 23rd March,—Kobe.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 23rd March,—Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Koenig Albert, German steamer, 6,590, O. Cueppers, 24th March,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Heiyen Kan (16), Japanese Gun-Vessel, 2,185, Com. T. Arikawa, 24th March,—Yokosuka.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 24th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 24th March,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 25th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, J. Miyagi, 25th March,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peru, German ship, 2,096, Ohling, 25th March,—Chemainus, B.C., Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 26th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Oda, 26th March,—Honcho, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 26th March,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 27th March,—Hongkong via ports. Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 27th March,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Heidelberg, German steamer, 2,145, Zachariae, 28th March,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kenmore, British steamer, 2,412, Ellis, 28th Mar., —Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 28th March,—Seattle, Washington, via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 28th March,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Kishi, 29th March,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. K. Kakai, Mr. and Mrs. Inoui and 3 children, Mr. O. Brooke, Mr. T. Furuya, and Mr. Ch. Hosokawa, in second class; 36 in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. G. H. Bayley, Mr. D. M. Crouse, Mrs. D. M. Crouse, Miss Crouse, Mr. R. F. Douglas, Mrs. R. F. Douglas, Mr. H. Fushiki, Mr. K. Fukui, Mr. Chas. Freeman, Mr. J. H. Fertig, Mrs. J. H. Fertig and child, Miss M. J. Patterson, Mr. H. M. Loud, Dr. O. C. Welbourne, Mr. C. J. Carruthers, Mrs. M. L. Gray, Mr. W. G. Hall, Dr. A. J. Clayton, Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Mr. John Hussey, Mrs. John Hussey, Mr. J. Kono, Miss E. E. Russell, Mr. Jiro Sakabe, Mr. A. Unger, Mrs. A. Unger, Mr. R. Gill, Mrs. R. Gill, Mr. Geo. Thomas, Mr. N. E. Gedge, Mrs. N. E. Gedge, Mr. John Kidwell, Mr. H. Satomi, Mr. S. Hirai, Mr. J. Niunoya, Mr. W. M. Carrier, Mr. W. A. Ramsay, Mr. Y. Takane, Mr. Roswell Skeel, Jr., and Mr. D. N. Hawley, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. R. H. Woolfall, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. W. B. Gillingham, and Mr. V. Petrovsky, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Mrs. E. V. Bookmiller, Miss Haide Groves, Mrs. W. W. Gilbert, Mrs. W. E. Gleason and child, Prof. M. de Lassomm, Mrs. M. de Lassomm, Miss G. de Lassomm, Mrs. M. Stanford, Miss Alice S. Warn, Miss S. L. Schwartz, Mr. H. L. Seymour, Mr. H. S. Tittle, Lord Henry Thynne and valet, Miss Cutter, Mr. J. W. Brown, and Mr. L. F. Grant, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Riojun Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Miss and Master Allen, Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Takamatsu, and Madame Reosnet, in cabin. For Seattle:—

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Mr. S. Konishi, in second; 1,096 Japanese, and 94 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kinshiu Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. H. Fuller, Mrs. Lyda M. Fuller, Miss M. E. Folger, and Master Fred. M. Fuller, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Rev. C. H. Tjader, Mrs. H. M. Tjader and baby, in cabin.

Per Austrian steamer *Maria Valerie*, from Hongkong:—H.E. General Leonidas von Popp, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. Grove, Mr. W. C. Fowler, Misses Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles, Mr. Kurino Kakukoro, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ah Lung, Rev. Bovil, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Goedkoop, Mrs. and Miss Mallet, in cabin; Mrs. Ho and amah, and Miss Chang, in second class; 15 Chinese on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Lieut. and Mrs. A. H. Leigh, Mr. R. Lowrey, Miss Ross, Mr. Finch, Mrs. Claydon, Lieut. W. C. Berlin, Lieut. G. B. Rodney, Mr. C. H. Crosse, Mr. H. Da Fonseca, Mr. E. Michael, Mr. V. N. Vingut, Miss James, Mr. and Mrs. Drake, Mr. M. Fleischer, Mr. J. J. Antrobus, Judge and Mrs. H. H. Williams, Mr. H. L. Williams, Miss Olive G. Williams, and Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Brown, in cabin; 2 in steerage. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Sims and child, Mr. R. W. Bell, Mr. J. C. Wilkinson, Rev. W. H. Grant, Miss Derriek, Mr. Aug. Karlsoon, Mr. T. Niedick, and Mr. T. Ching Tai, in cabin; 280 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Vadcouver, B.C.:—Mr. G. B. Allen, Miss H. Batchelor, Mr. L. E. Booth, Rev. Chs. Bishop, Colonel Brown, Mrs. E. S. Cruttenden, Mr. P. A. Chance, Mr. H. A. Currie, Mr. McKenzie Finlayson, Mr. L. D. Fiske, Mr. Sydney Haywood, Mrs. Sydney Haywood, Mr. E. Y. Judd, Mr. J. Kawamura, Mrs. Kohler and child, Rev. C. R. Pearce, Mrs. C. R. Pearce and child, Mr. J. Piau, Mr. R. C. Phillippo, Mdm. le Gonedec de Poulon, Mr. P. W. Richardson, Mrs. A. G. Rodriguez, Miss Rohrbaugh, Miss Steere, Miss Stoddard, Mr. Basil Scott, Bishop Thorburn, Mr. E. B. Townsend, Mr. J. W. Van Buren, Rev. C. R. Wood, Mrs. C. R. Wood and child, Mr. W. M. Woodworth, and Mr. J. Yamamoto, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Koenig Albert*, for Bremen via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Gysin, Miss M. Gysin, Miss E. Goerts, Mr. Ed. Hutchison, Mr. A. Groener, Mr. S. Komor, Mr. G. Erich, Mr. J. Kohn, Mr. W. D. Townsend, Mrs. Lawton, Mrs. V. de Heyde, Miss Rodewald, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Rodewald, Mr. J. A. Brandenburg and servant, Mr. A. Fleet, Miss C. M. Buckler, Mr. Wm. P. Daniels, Mr. Lawton, Mr. J. E. Harding, Mr. H. Bent, Mr. Wm. Sutter, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Aberson and child, Mr. R. von Schonberg-Domkowicz, Miss A. M. Perry and amah, Miss Nellie M. Hill, Mr. F. R. Daniel, Mr. A. B. Walford, Mr. and Mrs. F. Grosser and 2 children, Miss G. E. Gibson Craig, Mr. H. Russell, Mr. T. Postnicoff, Mr. Fr. Cromer, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. V. Ribeiro, Miss Remedios, Miss Broad, Misses Russell (2), Master George Russell, Miss Neville, Master Neville, Secretary R. Sachse and child, Mr. H. Debatty, Mr. K. Tsuruta, Mr. James Beaumont, and Miss E. R. Gillet, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. F. Bass, Mrs. J. F. Bass and infant, Mr. J. W. Brown, Mrs. E. V. Bookmiller, Mrs. Crombie, Miss Cutter, Mr. R. F. Douglas, Capt. E. D. Evans, Mrs. E. D. Evans, Mrs. L. F. Grant, Mrs. W. B. Gillingham, Mrs. W. E. Gleason and child, Mrs. W. W. Gilbert, Miss Haidee Groves, Mr. John Eidwell, Prof. M. de Lassom, Mrs. M. de Lassom, Miss G. de Lassom, Rear-Admiral M. Mori, Mr. V. Petroosky, Miss Edith E. Russell, Mr. C. H. Rosing, Mrs. M. Stanford, Miss S. L. Schwartz, Mr. H. L. Seymour, Lord Henry Thynne and valet, Mr. W. Taller, Mr. H. S. Little, Miss Alice S. Warn, and Mr. R. H. Woolfall, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Major T. Sakamoto, I.J.A., Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Adams, Mr. F. H. G. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Akira Yamamoto, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Tjoder, and Mr. W. G. Anderson, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw and Waste Silk, shipped per steamer *Koenig Albert*:—

	RAW.			WASTE.		
	Option	France	Italy	France		Italy
Siber Wolff & Co....	70	396	—	70	—	—
Nabholz & Co.	22	—	—	—	—	—
Sieber & Co.	129	—	—	—	—	—
Herbert Deut & Co...	—	—	7	—	—	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	—	—	39	—	46

Total—624 bales Raw Silk 155 bales Waste Silk.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empres of Japan*, for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.

	CANADA.	CHICAGO AND WEST.	NEW YORK & EAST.	PACIFIC COAST.	OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL PACKAGES.
Hongkong ...	660	—	14	161	36	871
Foochow.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shanghai ...	348	—	—	4	—	352
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yokohama ...	374	—	—	4	—	378
Total	1,382	—	14	169	36	1,601

SILK.

	NEW YORK.	BOSTON.	TOTAL BALES.
Hongkong and Canton	161	—	161
Shanghai	R. 551 / W. 10	—	561
Yokohama	623	37	660
Total	1,345	37	1,382

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Almost complete inactivity reigns, and prices are nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$3.00 to 3 30
Grey Shirtings—9lb, 31½ yds. 45 inches	3.30 to 4.00
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches.....	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches.	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches,	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½
WOOLLENS.	PER YARD.
Flannels	$045 to 0 65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0 68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches...	9.20 to 11 25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches.	0.90 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 0lb, 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.80
COTTON YARNS.	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190 00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	315.00 to 345.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350 00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400 00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	$28.50
Indian Broach	28.00
Chinese	27.00

METALS.

Nothing has been doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward ...	6.50 to 7.00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanized Iron sheets	$3 00 to 14 50
Wire Nails, assorted	8 50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅛ to 13 inch)	7.50 to 7 90

KEROSENE.

The market is less active, but prices are firm.

American	$3.15 to 3.10
Russian	3.00 to 3.05
Langkat	No stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.10 to 5.60
Brown Manila	5.11 to 6.25
Brown Taitong	4 40 to 5 50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6 80
White Java and Penang	6 90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9 50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Market quiet; prices nominally unchanged, but capable of still slight reductions.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,200 to 1,210
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,210 to 1,230
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,140 to 1,150
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,160 to 1,170
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	1,120 to 1,130
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No 1	1,140
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,120
Re-reels—No. 2	1,110
Re-reels—No. 3	1,090
Kakedas—Extra	1,160
Kakedas—No. 1	None
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,090
Kakedas—No 2 / Kakedas—No 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

No business doing for want of good quality. Prices nominally unchanged, but present stocks consist principally of rejections by shippers refused for export.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	$180 to 190
Noshi—Filatures, Good	160 to 170
Noshi—Oshu, Best / Noshi—Oshu, Good / Noshi—Oshu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshu, Best	140 to 145
Noshi—Shinshu, Good	130 to 135
Noshi—Bushu, Best / Noshi—Bushu, Good / Noshi—Bushu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshu, Good	135
Noshi—Joshu, Fair	125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	160 to 165
Kibiso—Filatures, Seconds	150 to 155
Kibiso—Joshu, Good	70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	53

TEA.

QUOTATIONS

Choicest / Choice / Finest / Fine / Good Medium / Medium / Good Common / Common	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, March 29.

Silver from London steady with discount ⅛ higher causing local rates of Exchange to continue as they were.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 29/32
— — Bills on demand	2/0½
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 15/32
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/32
Paris and Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	259
— Private 6 months' sight	260
America—Bank Bills on demand	49½
— Private 4 months' sight	50⅛
Germany—Bank sight	207
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74
— Private 10 days' sight	74½
India—Bank sight	151½
— Private 30 days' sight	153⅛
Bar Silver (London)	27⅛

MESSRS. BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, March 29.

Breweries can be placed at *yen* 145. Engine and Iron Works are wanted at *yen* 212.50 per April. Grand Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 235. Club Hotels are obtainable at *yen* 85. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 150. Langfeldts can be placed at *yen* 90. Helms are obtainable at par. Laundries have sellers at par.

Debentures—Breweries are steady at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108. Laundries have sellers at par. Offers for Nagasaki Hotels first issue are wanted.

Marusan Breweries changed hands to-day at *yen* 42.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, f.d., $50	212.50 B.
Japan Brewery Co., f.d. *yen* 50	147.50 Sa.
Grand Hotel, f.d., $100	235 B.
Club Hotel, f.d., $100	85 S.
Oriental Hotel, f.d., $100	150 B.
Oriental Hotel, f.d. (Wdrs.), $50	450 B.
Nagasaki Hotel f.d., *yen* 100	Nominal
North and Rae, f.d., $100	215 B.
Brett & Co., f.d., $10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., f.d., $100	90 Sa.
Helm Bros., $50	50 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., *yen* 50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., f.d. 7% Deb., $100	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7% Deb., $100	108 S.
Brett & Co., f.d. 7% Deb., $100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, f.d. 7% Deb., $100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, f.d. 7% Deb. $100	N.

N.B.—S. Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, N.=Nominal, W.=Weak E.=Enquiries.

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A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, March 29.

Langfeldts have buyers at *yen* 85. Club Hotels have buyers at *yen* 85. Oriental Hotels, Kobe, have buyers at *yen* 150 Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 145 Grand Hotels have buyers at *yen* 235. Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 212.50 for April delivery. Laundries can be had at par. Helm Bros. can be had at par.

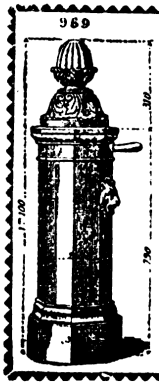
YEN.

Yokohama E & I. Works ...212.50 Buyers.
Grand Hotel .....235 Buyers.
Club Hotel..... 85 Buyers.
Oriental Hotel .....150 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co. ..... 85 Buyers.
Japan Brewery Co. .....145 Buyers.

Tokyo, March 28

Redemption Loan Bonds		93.70
War Loan Bonds		93.70
Tokyo City Loan Bonds		97.80
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200		430.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50		68.70
Specie Bank—paid up yen 200		294.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50		67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50		67.50
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100		106.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25		28.40
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50		7.30
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44		62.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 20.50		23.00
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	2...	126.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	2...	76.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	2...	53.60
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50		44.30
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	2...	58.60
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	2...	44.00
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50		87.40
Hokkaido Colliery Railway, 2nd issue—paid up yen 28		72.00
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50		79.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	2...	42.50
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50		30.50
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50		50.00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50		27.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50		22.40
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38		20.50
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25		28.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 25	2...	29.7.
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50		225.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 22.50		182.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50		65.4
Osaka Shosen Kaisha paid up yen 25		27.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new paid up yen 20		14.50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21		25.90
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23		23.00
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25		39.00
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20		32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60		53.50
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40		14.50
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50		802.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50		270.50
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50		140.50
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25		83.90
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5		8.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50		51.0.
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50		25.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50		89.20
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 30		68.20
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40		104.00
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50		39.60
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50		57.60
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40		78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50		43.50
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up yen 25		22.50
Tokio Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50		14.70
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50		43.00

* Ex dividend.



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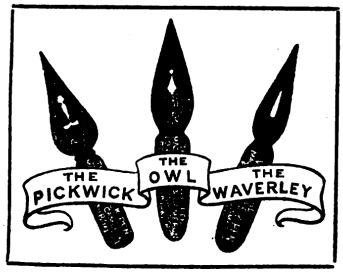

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH, 1900.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

CAMBRIDGE won the Varsity boat-race last Saturday by twenty lengths.

QUEEN VICTORIA had an enthusiastic welcome when entering Dublin this week.

ADMIRAL DEWEY has consented to stand for the Presidency of the United States.

THE Japanese Government has decided to station a second-class Consul at Masampo.

MOUNT ASAMA has been erupting again and residents in the neighbourhood are greatly frightened.

THE U.S. cruiser *Brooklyn* arrived here from Manila on Tuesday afternoon and exchanged the usual salutes.

MR. H. J. HOLM, of the firm of Illies & Co., has been elected Chairman of the International Committee of Yokohama.

THE Government has purchased silver weighing five thousand *kwamme* (41,666 lbs.) for purposes of subsidiary coinage.

THE *Tokyo Maru*, of the N. Y. K., has been wrecked in the gulf of Pechili while on a voyage form Chefoo to Tientsin.

REAR-ADMIRAL Bruce was received in audience by the Emperor of Japan on the 31st ultimo, and Captain C. L. Ottley, R.N., the Naval Attaché of H.B.M. Legation, was presented at the same time.

THE Danish cruiser *Valkyrien*, with Prince Waldemar, was to leave Nagasaki for Hongkong direct on the morning of the 5th inst.

ACCORDING to a recent Imperial edict, Li Hnng-chang, Viceroy of Canton, is to be held responsible if any trouble takes place in South China.

THE Boers have ambushed a British force near Bloemfontein Water-works and captured two batteries of artillery, besides killing a number of men.

TELEGRAMS from the Transvaal speak of the demoralization of the burghers, but that President Kruger will make one last fight before surrendering.

THE beautiful weather of the past few days has hurried forward the Spring, and the cherry groves in and around Yokohama are one mass of lovely bloom.

MR. CHIKAKAZU KUWADA, who recently resigned the post of Superintending Judge of the Yokohama Local Court has now established himself as a lawyer.

H.I.H. Prince the Wales, while on the way to Denmark, was shot at by a man at Brussels station. The man fired two shots but hurt nobody in the Prince's carriage

THE subscriptions to the British War Funds have been so liberal that the widow of every soldier killed in the war in South Africa will receive a pension of at least 10s. per week for life.

THE recent discovery of the tea-plant growing wild in Cambodia, says a French contemporary, encourages the hope that tea of as good quality as that of Ceylon can be grown there.

A FARMER named Seizo, aged 69, of Kitakatanomura, Kanagawa Ken, hanged himself in a barn on the farm, on Saturday morning last. It is believed that the deceased was insane at the time.

FOR 11 days from to-day, bicycle riders will be prohibited from riding in the Public Garden at Yokohama, owing to the large numbers of visitors flocking there to view the cherry blossoms.

SURRENDERS of Philippine insurgents have, says the *Manila Times*, been quickened by the American authorities giving a reward of $30 for every serviceable rifle delivered up by an insurgent on surrendering.

THE second section of the foreign-settlement land at Masampo has just been put up to public auction. Details as to the building have not yet been obtained. Masampo is said be one of the finest anchorages in the Far East.

THE Directors of the Yangtsze Insurance Association, Limited, have decided to recommend a dividend of 20%, equal to $12 per share, to shareholders, and to place $34,000 to credit of reserve fund, which will then amount to $550,000.

A PARLIAMENTARY return shows that the street-railway mileage in the United Kingdom increased during 1899 only 58 miles. Total gross receipts, however, were £319,476 larger than in 1898, and the number of passengers carried increased 66,334,705, or 9½ per cent.

A FIRE occurred in Kawasakicho Shichome, Kobe, on Monday night, resulting in the destruction of three houses and damage to sixteen more. The body of a man, who is believed to have originated the fire, was found among the *debris* after the flames were extinguished.

AN explosion of fire-damp took place on the 31st ultimo in a coal mine at Michine in Fukuoka Prefecture. There is some obscurity about the casualties. The Governor's first report spoke of a hundred persons missing, but his second telegram tells of only 3 killed and 1 wounded.

THE *China Mail* notes as an interesting fact that at a private farewell dinner given to Sir Thomas Jackson at the Hongkong Club the other day, the terms of residence in the East of the twenty-four gentlemen present aggregated 684 years, thus giving an average of 28 years per man. Not a bad showing that.

A JAPANESE named Tanaka Kingoro (42) accompanied by sixteen young girls and boys went out in a small fishing boat for a trip from Ota on the 3rd inst. At about 10 a.m. the boat was upset near Kanagawa fort, but the occupants were fortunately rescued by a boat lowered from a foreign sailing ship anchored near.

THE *Niroku Shimpo* states that the Government, having recognised the necessity of better means of telegraphic communication, contemplates establishing a number of receiving offices in the most important districts of Tokyo and Osaka. It is expected that the new arrangement will shortly be carried into effect.

THERE appears to be some difficulty about the Chiksan mine in Korea. Telegrams received in Tokyo say that the Söul Government has refused the Japanese Representative's application for the concession, on the hackneyed ground that the Household Department itself intends to work the mine. But a Japanese, Mr. Fukuzawa, is already working it, we have always understood.

THE Nagasaki Customs authorities have decided to reclaim the shore in front of the Chinese Consulate, to the extent of 4,000 *tsubo*, for the purpose of establishing a large warehouse for the storage of imported goods. Tenders for the reclamation will be called for at the beginning of April. It is estimated that the work will cost about 80,600 *yen*.

MANILA papers show that there is still a considerable amount of fighting in South Luzon. In some places the natives have besieged isolated American garrisons, inflicting some losses. A month ago a band of armed ladrones raided Santa Ana, a suburb of Manila, and carried off a lot of loot. Aguinaldo is reported to be skulking among the Igorotti villages of Luzon.

A PIETERMARITZBURG dispatch states that the Boer Treasury is commandeering gold to the value of £200,000 every month from the mines, and 15,000 "Kruger" sovereigns are coined monthly. For silver coins they are making imitation English florins, dated 1895 and 1896. The die used is imperfect, as the tail of the 9 is thick at the end. Two hundred pounds' worth of this money was put in circulation in Delagoa Bay last month.

THE report of the China Sugar Refining Co., Ld., for 1899 shows a net loss on the working of $38,099, which sum the General Agents, Messrs, Jardine, Matheson & Co., themselves pass to the credit of Profit and Loss Account, thus starting the account without a debit on the 1st of January. A final dividend of $5 a share, making $7 for the year, is to be paid out of the Equalisation of Dividends fund.

A TELEGRAM in *L'Avenir du Tonkin* says:—The Americans contemplate uniting by rail New York and Buenos Ayres. Some idea of this enormous line may be formed from the fact that its length will be at least 16,364 kilometres (10,000 miles). The total expense is estimated at 847 millions, exclusive of superstructural work and rolling-stock. This railway will cross Mexico, the Central American republics, Columbia, Equador, Peru and Bolivia, to terminate at Buenos Ayres.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Tuesday, April 3.

The public knew nothing about Methuen's having been sent with a body of mounted troops into the Barkly West district until the news came that he had been recalled. But it has been possible, ever since the Boers' intention became known of offering resolute resistance to the passage of the Vaal at Warrenton, that Lord Roberts would sends troops across the River in the neighbourhood of Barkly, and move against the right flank of the Boers at Fourteen Streams. At Warrenton the Vaal takes a sudden bend southward through a distance of 36 miles, running all the while in British territory. Eastward of Warrenton it begins to be the southern boundary of the Transvaal. If the Boers, who have their head-quarters at Christiana, 20 miles eastward of Warrenton on the banks of the Vaal, are bent upon holding Warrenton resolutely, they can scarcely be in sufficient force to guard the River as far south as Barkly, and an obvious plan for the British would be to effect a crossing somewhere in the neighbourhood of Barkly, if not at Barkly itself, where there is a pont. Barkly is only 20 miles from Kimberley. What inference should be based, therefore, on Methuen's recall from the former place? This we think:— Roberts at Warrenton has a problem to solve somewhat similar to Buller's problem at Colenso. The Majemanchu Hills, which lie on the north of the Vaal between Barkly West and Warrenton, offer fine defensive positions, which could scarcely be forced without considerable loss. Looking at the strategy hitherto pursued by Roberts, and considering, also, the plan which seems to offer greatest advantages, what we expect to hear is that he has sent a column across the Vaal at some point between Christiana and Bloemhof; that is to say, at a point on the east of Warrenton. The Boers at the latter place are in a very dangerous position, strategically speaking. The south-western corner of the Transvaal forms an acute-angled wedge held between the Orange Free State on the south and Cape Colony on the west. Warrenton is at the angle of the wedge. Hence, if a British column crosses the Vaal in the neighbourhood of Bloemhof, it immediately cuts the communications between Warrenton and Pretoria. The situation thus created for the Boers would be worse than the situation even for Cronje's command when French's cavalry rode across the Maggersfontein-Bloemfontein route. It is 75 miles from Warrenton to Bloemhof and the whole country on each side of the Vaal is an extensive plain until Bloemhof itself is reached, when a solitary eminence rises on the south of the Vaal. The only question is water-supply. Cavalry can not move quickly in a region without water and these plains on the south of the Vaal appear to be very deficient in that respect.

Thursday, April 5.

We can not but admire the Boers. Their recent ride from Ladybrand to Thaba Nchu, and their subsequent operations against Broadwood's column were really a very brilliant operation. Certainly it is only 30 miles from Ladybrand to Thaba Nchu, and a body of well-mounted men could easily do the distance in a night without exhausting their horses. But Broadwood's column also consisted entirely of mounted men, and the Boers must therefore have brought against him an overwhelming force or their enterprise would have been hazardous in the extreme. Moreover, Thaba Nchu is only 30 miles from Bloemfontein, so the Boers had to do quickly what they had come to do, or they might count on being confronted by a strong column from Bloemfontein. What they had come to do was to cut the Water-works, and they accomplished it. Of course, as they have been driven back, no serious mischief has been done, for the site of the intake having been recovered by the British, the work of repairs can not be very difficult. But it was a fine *coup* on the part of the Boers, look at it how we may. The capture of the guns and the baggage was probably an unanticipated incident: the Boers discovered the retiring convoy, and their knowledge of the country enabled them to repeat the manœuvre which they have often practised successfully against our men—so often, indeed, that no such ordinary explanation as neglect of proper scouting will account for these reiterated disasters. It is evident, we think, that, under certain topographical conditions, the Boers move with rapidity and manœuvre with cleverness such as render them incredibly dangerous whenever they are attacking an inferior force. The country in the neighbourhood of Thaba Nchu is eminently suited to their tactics. The Modder has its head waters in that region, and between its source near De Wet's Dorp and the point where it crosses the Bloemfontein-Brandfort road—15 miles north of Bloemfontein—it receives a number of tributaries, pouring their waters down through deep gullies. Crossing one of these the convoy was doubtless ambushed. The guns have been recovered and the Boers driven back, but they made a brilliant dash and accomplished a great deal of harm. The fact is that the Ladybrand region is particularly accessible to the Boers. It is within striking distance of the men massed in the Drakenburg range on and near Van Reenen's Pass. The railway brings them thence *viâ* Harrismith to Bethlehem, and from Bethelem they can proceed *viâ* Ficksburg to Ladybrand. A column pursuing them along that *route* would have Winburg on its left flank, and might easily be cut off. What would effectually consolidate the British position in the Free State would be the march of Buller's force from Natal across the passes, for an attack upon Kroonstad and Winburg, but it is not likely that Roberts will sanction any attempt of that kind until he is ready to make a forward movement himself.

THE GREAT HUNT.

The great hunting expedition to Fujiyama has ended in a fiasco. Thousands of sportsmen repaired to the scene, and the total bag was three deer and half-a-dozen hares. The caricaturists of Tokyo find in the incident splendid materials for their brush. The weather is said to have been execrable—rain, sleet and hail, while in Tokyo and Yokohama we were enjoying the genial warmth and sunshine of premature spring. But it would appear that the chief cause of failure was the unwillingness of the people of the vicinity to see the district denuded of game. They argued that a battue of such dimensions would inevitably kill or maim everything in the nature of boar, stag or hare, and they accordingly did some driving on their own account before the sportsmen got to work. Their argument was that animals will return to haunts from which they have been peacefully driven, whereas they can not return from the grave. The planners and promoters of the expedition are now the most unpopular men in the nation, and the innkeepers alone make merry.

THE RUSSO-KOREAN COMPLICATION.

Monday, April 2.

The vernacular press has almost ceased to write about the Masampo affair. One newspaper alludes to it incidentally as a mere postprandial discussion. In fact, there is an obvious disposition to treat the incident lightly, which is somewhat surprising, for the acquisition of a coaling station—in other words, of a naval station—by Russia on the southern coast of Korea must be regarded by all thoughtful persons as an event of capital importance. The only thing to be said is that Korea has not yet made the desired concession. If she chooses to stand firm, there is not the smallest chance of Russia's proceeding to extremities. Oriental Powers owe much of the encroachments they suffer to their own excessive timidity. No special inspiration of courage is needed to withstand aggressions which an independent Western State would not endure for one instant. If a great Occidental Power carried, even cap in hand, a proposal to another Power for a lease of territory whereon to establish a naval station, the latter Power would inevitably consider that it had been gravely insulted. Civilized international intercourse is not put to such uses. Korea, feeble and insignificant as her capacity for resistance may be, has only to say "no," and to persist in saying "no." Russia will not fire a shot in support of an application which has no basis other than her own convenience. Besides, the Korean Government has to remember that the malady of encroachment is contagious. Civilized States recognise it to be a malady, and endeavour to avert its first appearance. But their civilization does not extend to stamping it out when it has once asserted itself. We have seen a striking example in recent times. Germany fell a victim to the malady at Kiao-chou. Russia forthwith succumbed at Liaotung. Great Britain followed suit at Wei-hai-wei. France was stricken by the sickness in the south, and Italy is striving to be allowed to catch it at San-mun. History will repeat itself in Korea's case if she accedes to Russia's proposal. Japan will certainly come forward with a demand of her own—a *demand* in Japan's case, for although the first comer has to request, the second can plead a right based on the precedent established by the first. England will follow, and it is very likely that Germany will bring up the rear. Why not? If Korea surrenders herself to the dissecting knife, all will consider themselves entitled to a slice. This is the epilogue of the drama acted last year at the Hague.

Meanwhile the land for which Russia has applied is said to be at Chepho, on the coast opposite to the island of Kōje—a splendid port, it is alleged. Doubtless it has been intelligently chosen.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a powerful article deprecating journalistic excitement. It observes with regret that there is a tendency on the part of Japanese pressmen to yield to insular prejudice and to take a dangerously narrow view of the outside world and its doings. No valid reason exists why Japan and Russia should not live on amicable terms, and preserve each her own interests without impairing the interests of the other. This, we presume, is the *Nichi Nichi's* contribution to the discussion of the Masampo problem. It is to be desired that all newspapers were equally moderate. But what is to be done with a journal which, like one of our Yokohama contemporaries, infers that we are on the eve of war because a rumour is circulated that the Japanese Government has ordered a re-

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measurement of the ships forming the mercantile marine? *O sancta simplicitas.*

In the eminently moderate columns of the *Kokumin Shimbun* there is a communication from a St. Petersburg correspondent, signing himself "Tosui." He must be very well aware of the character of the journal to which he addresses himself as correspondent, and we take it, therefore, that he weighed his words well before committing them to the public through such a medium. He sets out by saying that in the primers used in Russian Schools, Manchuria and Korea are shown as falling within the area of Russia's "sphere of influence." Thus every Russian youth is brought up to believe that Korea virtually belongs to Russia, and that it ought to belong to her. The correspondent then recounts a conversation recently held by him with a Russian staff officer. The latter informed him, with absolute frankness, that Russia believes Japan to be bent upon getting possession of Korea and Manchuria and driving Russia back to the Baikal. "Tosui" contended in vain against such a theory. The officer refused to be convinced, and further made it quite clear that Russia must have Korea and that she intends to have it.

The Progressists know their own mind at all events. They have held a meeting and passed a resolution to the effect that it is a condition of vital importance to Japan's existence (*seison-jo no kitsuyo joken*) that Korea should be assisted to preserve her independence and that no foreign Power should be allowed to "stretch itself across" important parts of her territory (*yōchi ni hakyō suru*). In pursuance of that principle, the Party proposes to unite with fellow-thinkers, whether enrolled in the Progressist ranks or not. A committee is also to be appointed for the purpose of investigating political questions, and it has been decided, on the motion of Mr. Ozaki Yukio, that the Party will devote its strength to furthering the work of the Committee rather than to enrolling new members. Attached to the above resolution was a statement of reasons, in which it is explained that Russia's aggressive action is not an affair of recent origin, but that, inasmuch as the relations between her and Japan have been regulated by convention, there devolve upon both Powers special obligations to abstain from encroachments and to base their procedure upon a clear understanding. A deputation consisting of Mr. Kono Hironaka and Mr. Kato (M.) waited on the Prime Minister and on Viscount Katsura to expound these views. They did not find Marquis Yamagata but they were received by the Minister of War.

Tuesday, April 3.

The news that the Masampo complication has been amicably settled is naturally received with much satisfaction in Japan. There is, however, some uncertainty about the exact terms of the arrangement. The *Jiji Shimpo's* correspondent telegraphs that the land acquired by Russia is with in 10 Korean *li* of the Settlement boundaries; that is to say, well within treaty limits. The *Asahi's* correspondent wires that it is absolutely within the settlement. Concerning its own intelligence the *Jiji* observes that the privilege of acquiring land within a certain radius of a foreign settlement has never been questioned in any country; whereas the *Asahi*, commenting on the intelligence published in its own columns, naturally fails to see how the issue can be called a compromise, seeing that Russia always had the right to procure land within the limits of the Settlement, and that, consequently, if she has abandoned her proposal for Rampo and substituted a Settlement lot, she must be said to have yielded ground altogether. The *Yomiuri's* correspondent also telegraphs that the new lot is within the Settlement. But the *Yomiuri* is most entertaining. It insists that this arrangement is a mere piece of luck, Japanese statesmanship had no part whatever in bringing it about. "Oh! for a policy," sighs the *Yomiuri*, "and a statesman to carry it out." But it is plain that what our contemporary wants is the statesman of its own choosing, not the policy. Prejudice certainly attains its extreme limits when a newspaper, though the results that it advocates are attained, refuses to acknowledge that there has been any merit shown in attaining them. That is the frankest conceivable confession of a creed of persons not principles.

Concerning the facts of the case, we do not think that any of the papers from which we have quoted are absolutely correct. The *Jiji* is certainly right when it says that the land accepted by Russia as an alternative is within 10 *li* (3⅓ miles) of the boundaries of the foreign settlement, but we do not understand its assertion that the acquisition of land in such a position by foreigners is permitted by every country. It never was permitted by Japan. However, in Korea's case the British Treaty secures for British subjects the privilege of buying land within a certain radius beyond the Settlements. Hence it follows that what Russia has now agreed to do, she might have done at any moment under the most-favoured-nation clause. In that respect the *Asahi Shimbun's* comment is just, but the *Asahi* and the *Yomiuri* are both mistaken when they allege that the land is within the Settlement at Masampo. The only comment remaining to be made is that if there be nothing behind this method of arranging the complication, Russia has shown a very praiseworthy mood.

Thursday, April 5.

The conservative leader, Viscount Tani, has expressed himself very emphatically with regard to the Masampo question. Evidently it does not seem to him a matter of prime importance where the land obtained by Russia is situated, whether inside or outside treaty limits. What he thinks of is the purpose to which she proposes to apply it. He has not the slightest doubt that she intends to convert her new acquisition into a naval station which will constitute the link necessary for joining Vladivostock and Port Arthur, and also the *point d'appui* needed for swallowing up Korea. But while thus seeming to attribute sinister designs to Russia, Viscount Tani is exceedingly frank about the doings of his own country also. Looking at Japan's attitude from the Russian point of view, he finds that her large increase of armaments and her general policy in the peninsula can not fail to impress Russia with the notion that this empire aims at the acquisition of Korea, and he opines that there is no cause for surprise if the Northern Power takes steps to thwart that purpose. Viscount Tani has always been an enemy of military and naval expansion, and he takes this opportunity of emphasizing his views. He does not go so far as to say, however, whether Russia would have remained quiescent had not Japan armed. But, he does repeat his frequent assertion that Japan is powerless without money. People talk of Russian finances being embarrassed, but Russia has a war chest upon the contents of which she never encroaches in ordinary times. Hence she is always pecuniarily equipped for fighting, which is very far from being the case with Japan. We need scarcely say that Viscount Tani concludes with a dismal reference to the state of the country's foreign trade, the preponderance of imports, and the alarmist prediction that the basis of the gold standard will soon be shaken.

It appears to cause the *Hochi Shimbun* intense chagrin that Viscount Aoki has scored heavily over the Masampo incident, and that even the chorus of revilers who used to talk of him as *munō* (incompetent) are now driven to confess that he is decidedly *yunō* (competent). The *Hochi* cannot endure such a signal reversal of its frequent verdict. It has accordingly sent its familiars into the highways and byways to hunt for a new missile, and they have found one in the shape of a cock-and-bull story about the wife of a certain Secretary of a foreign Legation, who nearly rode over a translator of the Foreign Office in the streets of Tokyo, who, on demanding the name of the endangerer of his life, was met by a peremptory demand for his own card by the fair equestrian, who subsequently complained through her Minister to Viscount Aoki, who, being unable to induce the translator to apologise, went and apologised himself, to the great humiliation of Japan and to the lowering of her international prestige. Alas! The poor *Hochi*! To such expedients is it driven! Heaven has not gifted everyone with ability to be a critic of foreign politics, but without rising to that eminence a newspaper editor may at least be expected to understand the rules of common courtesy.

The *Chuuo Shimbun* has a rather mysterious note, eulogizing England's action with regard to the Masampo affair. The mystery consists in the fact that our contemporary leaves us quite in the dark as to what England did. We gather that she was dignified and imperturbable, but that her officials kept their eyes every widely open, and that every move made by Russia was most carefully telegraphed to the Government in London. It is pleasant to find that the *Chiuo* is satisfied, but we wish that it would have enabled us to share its satisfaction by being a little more explicit about facts.

In the course of a discussion on the spinning industry, the *Yomiuri* refers to the trade in yarns with Korea. It remarks that yarns constitute the most important staple of export to Soul, as they comprise more than half the amount of goods exported to Korea from Japan. Notwithstanding the fact that the appreciation of yarns in the interior of Japan directly affects the Korean market, demand for them increases day by day. It is said that as present the Settsu spinning company secures the largest amount in the exports to Korea, in spite of the price having risen from 53 *yen* to 55 *yen*. Two other companies, the Okayama and Hirano, have entered into competition in the Korean trade, but failed to overtake their rival in Settsu. Cotton shirtings are also in brisk demand in Korea, but the trade is entirely in the hands of the Chinese, and it was not until recently that the "Deer" brand shirtings were exported by the Japanese, who are now reported to be doing considerable business in this direction. English manufactures are chiefly used by the upper, cotton stuffs by the middle, classes, but the Japanese exports are utilized by both. This fact alone, our contemporary thinks, is sufficient to inspire hope for the future development of trade with Korea.

THE "YOKOHAMA MARU."

The *Asahi* reports that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Yokohama Maru*, while *en route* from Bakan (Shimonoseki) to Korea, sustained some injury to her machinery, and was unable to continue her voyage. She has been replaced by another vessel.

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GOLD IN HOKKAIDO.

It really seems as though the discovery of gold in Hokkaido were likely to prove an event of capital importance. According to the latest accounts, no less than four large districts are auriferous, Oshima, Hitaka, Ishikari and Teshiwo. By the *Jiji Shimpo* the total length of river-beds containing gold dust is put at 3,500 miles, and the total productive area, at 1¾ million acres. There are, of course, differences in the relative richness of the various deposits, but that a large tract will repay exploitation can scarcely be doubted. The Japanese evidently believe in the prospects of the place. It was discovered in 1898, and the following year saw about seven thousand persons at work, whereas forty thousand are expected to participate this season. It is admitted that 1,700 lbs. of gold were obtained last year, but the general impression is that 2,500 lbs. would be nearer the true figure. The best results thus far recorded have been on the Usatan and Pechang branches of the Tambetsu River, and on the Panke and Toimaki branches of the Horobetsu River. Nuggets weighing over half a pound have been found, but such chances are rare, though fragments from one-fifth to one-half of an ounce are said to be common enough. The managers of the Bank of Japan have held a meeting to consider the best plan for preventing the gold from leaving Japan, and their decision will probably be the establishment of agencies for buying the metal *in loco*. The discovery of this auriferous district may prove of very great value to Japan. It is said that, at present, the methods of working are often very defective. Common labourers, with no experience whatever, are digging without any supervision, the result being that they not only fail to extract more than a fraction of the gold available, but also render large areas unsuitable for subsequent exploitation.

A company has been formed by some foreigners in Yokohama. They are said to have acquired a space measuring 37 acres for a sum of 7,000 *yen*, an extraordinarily cheap bargain if the land be auriferous. An expert has been engaged from California, and all the necessary arrangements have been completed for commencing operations. This Company appears to be working entirely without Japanese participation. It will, of course, have Japanese assistance. In fact, we happen to know that it has been fortunate enough to secure the services of two thoroughly trustworthy Japanese *employés*. But the partners seem to be all foreigners. We doubt the wisdom of that arrangement. Experience shows that it is exceedingly difficult for foreigners to conduct in Japan, entirely on their own account, any enterprise requiring the employment of Japanese labour. It is, of course, incalculably valuable to have operations directed by a skilled expert, but labour troubles may at any moment wreck the most promising undertaking.

THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

The Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions will be opened in Carnegie Hall, New York, on April 21st. There are to be about two thousand delegates. It is the first general conference of the kind that has been held in America. Ex-President Harrison will be Honorary President, and men of note are expected from all parts of the world. Japan is to be represented by the Rev. M. L. Gordon D.D. M.D., the Rev. J. L. Dearing and the Rev. Julius Soper, D.D. One of the special features of the conference will be the Missionary Exhibit. "Germany and England," says the circular of the Press Committee of the Conference, "already have very complete Missionary Museums, but America is as yet deficient in this respect. Now, however, material is being gathered from every mission land in order vividly to present, through the eye, the social and moral conditions of the people among whom the missionaries are labouring. It will be the endeavour also to make it as far as possible a Progressive Exhibit, showing the results of a hundred years of missionary effort. It will combine a Library and a Museum, and will comprise publications of all kinds—books, Bibles, magazines from the field—in English and many other languages; maps and charts, pictures, models, curios in dress and workmanship, and objects of religious worship, such as idols and fetiches,—all intended to illustrate the actual surroundings of the missionary in his work. It is hoped that this Exhibit, which, by the way, will be permanent and not vanish with the Conference, may prove not only popular but helpful in arousing intelligent interest in missionary fields and work."

THE SHARE MARKET.

There has been a heavy fall in the market prices of various securities. For example:—

Security.	Paid up. Yen.	Price on Mar. 1st. Yen.	Price on Mar. 3rd. Yen.
Bank of Japan.....	200	430	427
Specie Bank	100	220	174
Tanko Railway	50	96	86.30
Kobu Railway.....	45	117	110
Japan Railway.....	50	74.30	69.80
Kwansei Railway ...	50	48.80	42.20
Sanyo Railway	47	55.60	52.60
Kyushu Railway	50	62	55.70
Fifteenth Bank.....	100	107	104
Industrial Bank	50	68.30	67.90
Yusen Kaisha	50	67.50	65.20
Meiji Life Insurance...	100	175	172
Tokyo Electric Light...	50	54	50.50
Nippon Beer.....	40	102	100
Toyo Kisen Kaisha...	25	29	26.40

This drop in prices, which is said to be causing some anxiety to the various banks that have advanced money against such securities—though the fall can not possibly have swallowed up the margins—, is apparently attributed by some economists to the flourishing condition of the import trade. Their line of reasoning is that the volume of currency has been reduced owing to the withdrawal of notes which have been exchanged for gold to send abroad, and that the diminution of volume has brought about a fall of securities. We wonder whether persons arguing in that manner take the trouble to think carefully about the processes leading to the results they discuss. How does it follow that because *A* goes to the Treasury and exchanges a certain number of notes for gold in order to purchase foreign commodities of which he has need, *B* becomes less willing to purchase securities which *C* offers for sale? The quantitative economists reply that if *A* did not buy foreign goods, there would be so much more money in the home market seeking investment, and securities would consequently rise. But the men who reason in that way are the very persons who have hitherto been in the habit of telling us that the currency is redundant, and that the extraordinarily high range of prices of commodities at present is due to that redundancy. They ought, then, to welcome a withdrawal of fifteen or twenty million *yen* from circulation, and they ought to be able to show that if the withdrawal has affected securities, it has also affected the prices of commodities. But there has not been the smallest fall in the prices of commodities: appreciation goes on steadily. However, apart from questions of that nature we rejoice to see that this depreciation of securities is giving a further impulse to the solution of the land-ownership problem. In short, whenever pecuniary pressure is felt in Japan, there is an inclination to turn to foreign capital, and a corresponding recognition of the fact that to deny the privilege of land-ownership to foreigners is to place an obstacle in the way of the advent of foreign capital.

THE FORMOSA CAMPHOR.

A new interpretation is assigned by the *Jiji Shimpo* to Mr. Yokoyama's somewhat inexplicable conduct in retreating incontinently from the field of the camphor-farm competition after having put in a tender far lower than that of any one else. The explanation is that Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company were able to demonstrate to Mr. Yokoyama the certainty that in making such a proposal he was inviting heavy loss, since the work could not possibly be done on the terms contemplated in his tender. Instead of engaging in such a rash speculation, the wiser plan would be to combine with Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company. That point of view commended itself to Mr. Yokoyama, and as he represented Mr. J. R. Morse and Mr. Kahn, it results that the camphor business goes into the hands of an English, an American, a French and a Japanese firm, in combination. That is an excellent arrangement, no doubt. After all, since the price to be paid to the Formosan Authorities was absolutely fixed, no matter into what hands the privilege of selling abroad fell, it is only the foreign consumer whose interests are impaired by this substitution of coalition for competition, and probably the foreign consumer does not greatly care whether he pays three half-pennies per pound more or less for his camphor. As for the Formosan Authorities, we do not know whether the statements made by Tokyo journals are correct, but if there is really a difference of 50 *yen* per picul between the price at which the camphor is obtained from the stills and the price at which it is sold to the coalition of merchants, then the local government's yearly profit on, say, four million catties, will be two million *yen*; a very pretty item of revenue.

The stories published about the camphor-farm competition in Formosa are now declared to have been all mistaken. It is denied that a combination has been effected between the men whom Mr. Yokoyama represented and Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company. A very much more prosaic explanation is offered, namely, that Mr. Yokoyama erred in his estimate of the cost of transport, and that discovering the error after he had submitted his tender, he applied for permission to amend the figures, but as the Authorities declined to grant his application, there was nothing for it except to withdraw. This account of the affair is attributed to the Japanese clerk of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company, the successful tenderers. A great number of competitors were expected to enter the field, but at the end only three appeared upon the scene. Their tenders were as follows:—

		First-class Camphor. *yen* per picul.	Second-class Camphor. *yen* per picul.
The Beikoku Boyeki Shokai. (Mr. Yokoyama)	Hongkong	101.90	94.23
	London	104.25	95.95
Messrs Samuel Samuel & Company...	Hongkong	102.378	94.23
	London	107.843	99.70
Messrs Mitsui and Company	Hongkong	103.19	95.47
	London	109.39	104.53

If this account be correct, Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company do not share the work with any one.

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THE COLONIZATION OF HOKKAIDO.

The island of Yezo measures 37,500 square miles and has a population of 500,000, or about 13 persons per square mile. It is, in fact, equal to one-fourth of the total area of Japan—excluding Formosa and the Pescadores—, and its total population does not exceed that of the little prefecture of Nara. The *Jimmin*, noting these facts, urges that greater encouragement should be given to immigrants, by contributing funds from the local treasuries and by obtaining special rates for them over railways and by steamboats. It is difficult to endorse the former part of this suggestion. Transport companies might find it worth their while to assist persons emigrating from Japan proper, since the larger the colony in Hokkaido the more extensive will the traffic become between that island and the mainland. But there is no apparently logical reason for saddling the localities with outlays on such an account. The colonizing of Hokkaido should be a matter of private enterprise only. The country has already devoted great sums to constructing roads and railways. In the days of the *Kaitakushi*, an annual appropriation of a million *yen* was paid over to that bureau, without query as to the intended distination of the money or scrutiny as to its ultimate employment. Many critics have undertaken to assert that the system was a mistake. We do not think so. It appears to us that the colonization of Hokkaido would have remained a comparatively unaccomplished fact had not the *Kaitakushi* existed, whatever may be said about the wisdom of some of the works undertaken by Count Kuroda's bureau. Excellent and most tempting terms are now offered to settlers. They can obtain land at almost nominal rates—rates so low that if Hokkaido offers any genuine inducements to agriculturists, the land ought to be taken up rapidly. It is alleged that there has been much abuse of this privilege. Capitalists have succeeded in getting possession of great tracts which they do not cultivate, holding them merely for speculative purposes. The regulations forbid that. They provide that the work of reclamation must be begun within a year from the date of granting the concession. But a regulation of that kind is always easy to elude. The law can not undertake to define what is exactly meant by reclamation. Putting up a few yards of fence or hoeing a square metre of land satisfies the letter of the regulation. But if abuses of that kind are proving a genuine obstacle, then there need not be much anxiety about the future of the island. Were there no demand for land, the doings of the speculator would not provoke complaint, and, for the rest, the speculator himself may be trusted to employ means of encouraging immigration since his venture must otherwise fail.

ONE YEN NOTES.

Complaints are heard from all parts of the empire, says a vernacular paper, with regard to the withdrawal of the one *yen* note from circulation, a step now contemplated by the Government. The authorities seem to think the inconvenience resulting from the adoption of such a measure will be only temporary, but the fact is likely to prove contrary to expectation. Should the one *yen* paper be withdrawn there would be no intermediate currency between 50 *sen* and 5 *yen*, and the inconvenience of this would most serious. So long as the Bank of Japan is provided with 4 millions of silver reserves no cause for anxiety or apprehension can exist with regard to the present note system.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

If the *Jiji Shimpo* be rightly informed—and it generally is—a strong movement is on foot to obtain some seats in the Cabinet for the leaders of the Liberal Party. That would be a very natural development, seeing that the Cabinet has now received the loyal support of the Party for nearly two years. The Liberals can scarcely be expected to cōoperate permanently without enjoying any reward for their good will. But the trouble is, we imagine, that their admission to the Cabinet would involve the complete re-construction of the latter. Marquis Yamagata is very unlikely to remain at the head of the Ministry if he has to part with some of the colleagues who have worked with him. From his point of view, such a step would amount to sacrificing fellow-Ministers on the altar of political expediency, and he is the last man in Japan to agree to anything of that nature. If the administrative machinery were not working smoothly, if any bungles had been made, or if divergences of opinion with regard to important problems had manifested themselves among the members of the Cabinet, a recasting of the portfolios could be understood. Not only, however, is the administrative sky perfectly clear, but it is also illumined by a very signal success in foreign affairs. It can not even be said that the Cabinet has refused to adopt the Liberals' views on any serious topic. Thus the proposed change assumes the character solely of a concession to personal ambitions. One can not but admire the curious facility with which politicians swallow their own doctrines when self-interest dictates that feat. In past years the shibboleth of the party leaders used to be "down with favoritism (*jojitsu*)!" The great abuse of the time, according to their view, was that persons were considered, rather than merits, in making official appointments. Would not the projected re-casting of the Cabinet be a flagrant concession to this very *jojitsu*?

THE PEERS AND BRIBERY.

When the Religions' Bill came up for final discussion in the House of Peers, our readers doubtless remember that rumours were suddenly circulated to the effect that the Buddhist agitators had employed bribes to procure the rejection of the measure. Subsequently the story was elaborated by adding details to the effect that the Buddhists were much embarrased to find the means of making good their promises. Viscount Tani alluded to these rumours when addressing the House during the debate on the Bill, and Mr. Hirata, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, expressed his conviction that nothing of the kind could have occurred in the Upper House, where the members had always been distinguished for disinterested discharge of legislative functions. The *Tokyo Asahi*, however, did not confine itself to vague statements. It named four members of the House, and declared emphatically that they had received bribes. We refrain, of course, from following our contemporary's example, but we may say that two of the men indicated are peers and two are commoners. Apparently these gentlemen were not disposed to vindicate themselves publicly against the newspaper charge. They probably shared the theory commonly entertained in Japanese society that a newspaper is not worth contradicting—a theory which tends not a little to keep the newspapers in their present comparatively degraded rank. But the *Mokuyo-kai* (Thursday Society)—one of the associations formed by members of the House of Peers—, to which the accused belong, was not prepared to treat such explicit accusations with indifference. It caused investigations to be undertaken, and their result is said to have lent so much colour to the *Asahi's* charge that the association directed the four men to clear their reputation or to resign their membership of the *Mokuyo-kai*. It is stated that, in consequence of this decision, legal proceedings are about to be instituted against the *Asahi*, and, we need scarcely add, the trial seems to be looked forward to with keen interest by a certain section of the public.

THE "TOKYO MARU."

The Japan Mail S. S. Company's *Tokyo Maru* (2,194 tons gross), commanded by Captain Jones, met with a serious accident this week. She arrived at Chefoo from Kobe, *viâ* ports, on the 31st of March, and resumed her voyage for Tientsin on the following day. Apparently she was caught in one of the thick fogs common in the Gulf of Petchili at this season, for she ran on the Miao-tao rocks. The injury received was so extensive that her fore-hold and the engine-room filled almost immediately. Four passengers seem to have been lost, two Chinese and two Japanese. The latter are Mr. Kawamata Harukata, who was engaged in collecting materials for a history, and Mr. Shiba Kiroku, a representative of a weaving company. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha at once sent the *Fushiki Maru* and the *Echigo Maru* to the assistance of the stranded steamer. At first she was supposed to be a hopeless case but later advices showed that if the weather continues fine, she might possibly be floated.

A NEW TAX.

Commenting upon the financial condition of the country, the *Niroku Shimpo* says that in spite of the fact that the revenue was over 100 millions *yen* in the 28th year of *Meiji*, and 200 millions in the 30th year, and is now about 300 millions, the Government have had to make every possible reduction in Departmental expenditures, and yet an increase of expenditure is absolutely necessary for the proper development of the country. Increasing taxation must therefore be adopted, despite the unpopularity which such a measure will bring the administration. Recourse may be had to something like a poll-tax. The rate contemplated is 5 *yen* for a family of five, 3.50 *yen* for a family of three, and 3 *yen* for a family of two. The smaller the number of a family, the greater the proportionate amount of income. By this means it is estimated that a revenue of at least 45 million *yen* may be realized. The scheme, though fraught with difficulty, may, our contemporary adds, prove highly advantageous to the country.

JAPANESE RAILWAY ENTERPRISE.

Railway enterprises in Japan appear to be developing very slowly of late, remarks the *Keizai Zasshi*. According to recent statistics the only new lines constructed between October last and January of this year are the following :—

Railway.	Section.	Miles.	Chains.
Bisei	Hagiwara-Ichinomiya	3	3
Iyo	Hiraikawa-Yokokawara	3	69
Nara	Nara-Kyoshiu	1	5
Government.	Shirosawa-Odate	4	6
„	Miyei-Kami Furano	9	74
„	Ruru-Wasamu	8	31
Boso	Ichinomiya-Ohara	8	68
Tokushima...	Kawashima-Yamazaki	3	72
Kiushiu	Udo-Sankakn	15	26
Karatsu	Iwaki-Hobara	3	40
Total		61	64

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MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The *Iwate*, one of Japan's new first-class cruisers (9,500 tons) was successfuly launched at Lord Armstrong's on the 29th March. It is expected that she will be ready to sail for Japan in the month of November.

The line-of-battle ship *Shikishima* left Singapore on the 29th March *en route* for Japan.

The torpedo-destroyer *Oboro* left Colombo for Singapore on the 28th March.

We read in Tokyo journals that a special court is to be opened in Hawaii for the purpose of hearing complaints arising out of the results of the recent sanitary measures of the Authorities. Each person claiming damages will have to submit an exact statement and furnish evidence of his losses. The Court will have a very long session if that system be pursued, and many of the sufferers will have to abandon all hope of obtaining redress.

It is stated that the International Law Society of Japan (*Kokusai-ho Gakkai*) has decided to bring out a dictionary of international legal terms, adopting the equivalents given by Mr. Ariga. The original terms are to be in French with English added occasionally. That, in our opinion, is a very great mistake. For one Japanese that can read French, there are thirty or forty that can read English. The compilers of the dictionary will be deliberately addressing themselves to a small audience when they might appeal to a large.

A rumour has recently been current to the effect that Viscount Yoshikawa being desirous of resigning the portfolio of Communications owing to ill-health, his place would probably be taken by Baron Suyematsu. It is now stated, however, that the story is groundless. We may mention, also, that there is again some irresponsible talk of Cabinet changes, based apparently on an interview that has taken place between the Prime Minister and the Business Committee of the Liberal Party. This gossip seems to be quite unworthy of credence.

The Japanese are carrying on experiments industriously in wireless telegraphy. A station has been erected within the confines of the Naval Department in Tsukiji and another at Haneda. The Communications Department, also, is preparing to establish communication by this system with the Seven Islands of Izu, Mikomoto-jima being the island chosen for the purpose. It is stated that the Military Authorities regard these proceedings as too slow, and are about to conduct experiments on their own account.

The condition of Asama-yama is said to be causing much uneasiness. It has behaved with such violence of late that the attention of geologists has been closely directed to it, and they have diagnosed a state of affairs which has added to the feeling of alarm. On the 31st of March, the volcano emitted a deafening roar, and thereafter during two or three hours dense volumes of smoke obscured the sky and ashes fell as thick as hail. An impression seems to prevail that the mountain may at any moment become dangerous to those living in the vicinity, and it is alleged that many people are making preparations to remove themselves and their belongings at a moment's notice. We take these details from the *Chuo Shimbun*. They may be sensational to a large extent. We hope so.

It is objected by the *Asahi Shimbun* that the Inland Sea is not wisely selected as the place for the first manœuvres connected with the mobilization of the Navy. The argument advanced is that the Navy would not find itself engaged in the Inland Sea unless Japan's first line of defenses had been forced, and that the wiser plan would be to choose a place such that the experience gained there might be likely to be of value at the beginning of a campaign. Our contemporary hints very plainly that the original intention was to select Korean waters, but that a change of programme was made in deference to Russian susceptibilities. These are points which scarcely warrant outside criticism. The Government must be trusted to arrive at the most prudent decision.

According to latest investigations of the Finance Department, the amount of tobacco to be collected this year at the sixty-six monopoly offices in the empire was estimated at 13,327,627 *kwan*, of which over 2 million *kwan* were received up to the beginning of last month. It is supposed that the actual amount will by far exceed this forecast, and the districts where leaf to the amount of from 300,000 to 700,000 *kwan* is likely to be received, will be Nagoya, Hadano, Fuchiu, Moki, Takayana, Miharu, Iwai, Kumamoto, Toriyama, Mito, Ikeda, Sukagawa, and Ota. The highest value for the finest tobacco in the country is fixed, according to the *Nippon*, at from 2.60 *yen* to 2.80 *yen* per *kwan*. The leaf produced in Kokubu and Demizu alone is said to be qualified for such a valuation, even the best tobacco in other districts being quoted at a little under or a little over 1 *yen*. As for the lowest class, the quotation does not exceed 20 *sen*. The Government seems to be contemplating fixing the rate for the 33rd year at 2.50 *yen* for first class leaf and 14 or 15 *sen* for the lowest, the scale on the whole being reduced as compared with the previous year. With reference to the above subject the *Jimmin* states that arrangements are being made to appoint the *Meiji* bank as the financial organ of the tobacconists, increasing its capital from 250,000 *yen* to 1 million *yen*, which amount is exclusively to be subscribed by tobacco dealers in Tokyo.

The total sum received for advertisements by various Japanese newspapers and magazines is said to be 2,300,000 *yen* annually, which is nearly equal to the receipts of the Government for telegrams. The figure seems tolerably large, but is not more than one-tenth of the figure for the United States.

Some one, high in authority, is said to have suggested that the best way to settle the Masampo complication would be to obtain from Korea a guarantee that Russia should not be allowed to use the land for military or naval purposes. The *Asahi* vehemently assails that temporizing politician, and wishes to know how on earth Korea could be expected to fulfil such a pledge. It strikes us that the *Asahi* is tilting at a wind-mill.

Mr. Pritchard Morgan has had to subscribe to some thirty-five conditions in order to obtain his concession for gold mining at Uensan. It is necessary that he should commence operations within two years from the time of signing the agreement, which proviso can not trouble him as he seems to have commenced even before the signature. He is permitted to exploit the mine during 25 years from the date of beginning work, and he has to pay to the Korean Government one-fourth of the profits, in two installments yearly, one in June and one in December. The area of the concession is 150 square miles—namely 15 miles long by 10 miles wide. That should suffice for 25 years' occupation.

A telegram from Söul says that there has been much trouble in connexion with the Street Electric Railway. It is worked by an American citizen, Mr. Colbran, under the guarantee of the Imperial Household Department. Mr. Colbran claims that there is a loss of 1,800 *yen* monthly on the operations. He recently called upon the Department to make good the loss and take over the line, and, at the same time, he pressed for concessions of the electric lighting and the telephone service, as means of recouping himself. The *Shogyo Shimpo*, from which we take the details, adds that the Department has borrowed a sum of 250,000 *yen* from the First Bank—which has a branch in Söul—and has taken over the railway. The state of affairs in Söul must be peculiar if a street electric railway does not pay.

The question of Wedding gifts for the Crown Prince and Princess has been settled by the Household Department. All Japanese from the Second Grade of the Sixth Rank and upwards are to send their presents direct to the Minister of the Imperial Household, and persons of lower ranks must do so thorough the local officials. Foreigners are to send, if they desire to do so, though the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Individuals or associations are equally at liberty to tender gifts; but it is provided that all presents must be sent by the day of the wedding, though a statement of the intended gift will suffice should not the article itself be ready. The officials charged with the duty of receiving the gifts (*kempin*) will not be responsible for the costs of carriage.

The *Yomiuri* approves highly of the strong and uncompromising resolution passed by the Progressists with regard to the Masampo affair. It considers that unless some decisive steps are taken to bring about a clear understanding between Japan and Russia in the Korean matter, the relations between this country and Russia will presently drift into the condition of the Japanese-Chinese relations two years ago, or the Anglo-Transvaal relations last summer. In order to effect such an understanding it counsels application to England and America, with the view, apparently, of inducing them to become indirect parties to the new convention between Japan and Russia. It should be remarked that our contemporary's article is vague as to the exact purpose to which the cöoperation of England and America should be put, but the interpretation we have here given seems to be correct.

The *Jimmin* (Liberal organ) has a peculiar article. It blames the Government for persistently keeping the public in the dark with respect to foreign policy, and contends that such a course not only tends to engender needless alarm. but also deprives the country's statesmen of the intelligent support of public opinion. That complaint, however, is not novel or strange. What we find interesting is a doubt expressed by our contemporary concerning the purpose of Russia's Masampo proposals. If they are for warlike purposes, the *Jimmin* contends that they should be opposed resolutely. If they are for commercial purposes, they need not provoke resentment in Japan. Does the *Jimmin* really imagine that there can be any question as to that point? Where is the trade that Russia wants to promote? And how could it possibly find an outlet at Masampo unless the Eagle flies over the whole peninsula?

It is stated that the faculty of the Medical College in the Imperial University are preparing a celebration in honour of the completion of Dr. Baelz' twenty-fifth year of service in Japan. As a matter of fact, the time will not be ripe until 1901, but Dr. Baelz proposes to go to Europe for a holiday this summer, and his return to Japan will be subsequent to the date of his quarter-of-a-century anniversary. We gather, therefore, that it is thought better to held the celebration before the eminent physician's departure; a wise resolve. We do not think that any other foreigner has made such a mark in this country as Dr. Baelz, and it is pleasant to see the desire of the Japanese to do him honour.

The annual meeting of Local Governors commenced at the Home Department on the 2nd instant. There was a time when these meetings attracted attention, being regarded as the embryo of parliamentary institutions in Japan. But after the organization of local assemblies in 1878, the *Chiho-kan Kwai-gi* fell to the rank of a mere official function. They nevertheless serve an important purpose—that of helping to unify the

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systems of material and moral progress throughout the country. Marquis Saigo, Minister of State for Home Affairs, addressed the Governors on Monday. The gist of his speech was that they should devote their energies to carrying out the various new laws and regulations in such a manner as to insure really practical results, for laws, however excellent, were a mere empty form unless their application was imbued with a spirit of intelligence.

According to statistics published in the *Nichi Nichi*, the number of Exchanges of various kinds in the empire exceeds 117 and the gross amount of their capital reaches 8,928,000 *yen*, while the numbers of brokers is no less than 1,550. Of the amount of capital above mentioned, 5,923,247 *yen* is paid up, while 1,809.500 *yen* represents the value of the godowns of the exchanges.

The porcelain manufacturers of Seto have formed a trust with a capital of a hundred thousand *yen*, thirty thousand of which has been paid up. It appears that the export of Japanese porcelains to Chinese markets have greatly increased of late, but that the profits of the trade are monopolized, for the most part, by the Osaka middlemen, and that the potters find their gains seriously diminished by breakages, real or nominal, due to defective packing. We do not gather whether it is the intention of the Trust to free themselves from the hands of the Osaka dealers, but probably their idea is to be able to dictate terms to the latter. The fact that Japanese porcelains can compete with Chinese in the markets of China is a striking illustration of the results of defective transport facilities. The Chinese can make better porcelain that the Japanese, and have always made better porcelain. It is for lack of railroads and steamers that they can not hold their own against the over-sea competition of their pupils and inferiors in this industry.

The people of Hikawa in Izumo have been behaving with great violence about the transfer of a Middle School from one locality to another. Izumo has the honour of possessing one of the greatest *Shinto* shrines in the empire, and the inhabitants of the province are correspondingly devout. They take a practical view, also, of their religion, and believe that the Gods should protect them against inconvenience of every kind. Consequently, when the inhabitants of the place where the school now stands learned that it was to be removed, they repaired in a body to the Shrine, and handed in their amulets, saying that they saw no use in cherishing the talismans of deities who could not, or would not, protect them against such a simple occurrence as the removal of a school. They then proceeded to the residence of Baron Senge, who is high prelate of the Shrine, and having battered in the gates, began to wreak their resentment on the furniture and fittings. There were some wounds on the side of the police and the rioters before quiet was restored. It is easy to understand that the removal of a school may mean a very great deal to the people of the district where it was originally situated. It may mean that their sons, instead of having to travel only a few hundred yards to and from their studies, are obliged to traverse as many miles.

Mr. Otani Kahei, addressing the Yokohama Economical Society on the 2nd instant, diaster great deal about the defective character of harbour accommodation at Yokohama. During his recent trip to the West, he had made a special duty of inspecting the harbours at Liverpool, New York, Marseilles, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, and so on, and he had come to the conclusion that the Yokohama harbour did not even deserve the name. Liverpool appears to have struck him especially, but, on the whole, Marseilles seemed the most suitable model, because the surrounding conditions, notably the absence of a river, constituted a close resemblance to Yokohama. His idea is that the whole length of the present breakwaters should be provided with railways and brought into direct connection with the central system of lines; that the space inside should be regarded as the harbour proper, and that the space outside should be a free port. He has not the least doubt that Tokyo will have a harbour one of these days, but he does not apprehend that Yokohama will suffer in consequence. The trade will require all available accommodation, especially after the distance between New York and San Francisco by sea is reduced by the Nicaragua Canal from 15,669 miles to 2,907. Yokohama can be made a free port when Tokyo has a harbour.

An interesting table has been published showing the nominal amounts of gold collected in Esashi last year and the average per head of those engaged in collecting. It should be observed, however, that this return is furnished by the official overseer of the district. It therefore represents only the actual quantities of which he had cognizance. But, as a matter of fact, numbers of people were engaged of whose doings the official overseer had no knowledge, and it is consequently computed that the total product of gold was at least three times as great as the figure shown in the table.

Month.	Total collected. Momme.	Number of persons employed.	Average collected per head. Momme.
April	149.20	35	4.263
May	8,197.30	14,743	0.556
June	10,820.10	188,728	0.573
July	26,032.26	30,167	0.863
August	29,753.74	37,768	0.788
September ...	41,883.81	53,001	0.790
October	1,321.72	4,030	0.313
November ...	1,096.20	3,649	0.300
December ...	618.20	2,067	0.229
Total 119,820.53		164,336	0.729

It will be observed that there are no returns for January, February and March and that the quantity for December is very small. The explanation offered is that owing to the fishery conservation rules, operations have to be suspended during those months. But doubtless the rigour of the climate is another reason.

The 31st of March, in other words, the last day of the last quarter of the 32nd fiscal year, has passed, and about one-half of the foreign residents of Yokohama still occupy the position of defaulters in the matter of the payment of house tax—urban and prefectural. When applied to, the residents return an uniform answer, namely, that pending directions from their Representatives in Tokyo they must decline to pay the collector's demand. Meanwhile, the Foreign Representatives are understood to be awaiting instructions from the Home Governments, since they have failed to come to an understanding with the Foreign Office in Tokyo. Undoubtedly this matter should have been threshed out before the conclusion of the Revised Treaties, but it did not suggest itself of any of the Western Governments, nor to any of the foreigners in this region who watched the course of the negotiations so keenly. Therefore, to find fault now is to rely obviously on the wisdom that follows the event. We can only hope that asettlement will be effected with the least possible delay. Every day that passes not only accentuates the refusal of the foreign residents to pay, but also increases the amount ultimately payable and correspondingly aggravates the irksomeness of the disbursement. We believe that the payment will have to be made, for the principle can scarcely be disputed, and no intelligible method of compromise suggests itself. The Registration Fee for land transfers was an impost plainly open to protest, and it has been abandoned. But we predict that the House Tax will not be seriously disputed by the Home Governments, in principle at all events, whatever may be thought about levying the full amount. It is truly most regrettable that these incidents should occur to ruffle the excellent spirit with which both sides approached the operation of the Revised Treaties.

The new electric cars on the Kodzu-Yumoto tranway are now in operation. They are splendidly arranged, and in every way a fine contrast to the miserable horse-trams. The journey is performed most comfortably and at excellent speed. The success of the system should make Tokyo people even more dissatisfied than at present with the wretched service of the capital. The new departure should make the Hakone district even more popular to pleasure-seekers from Tokyo and Yokohama.

FOREIGN INTERESTS IN KOREA..

The *Kokumin Shimbun* contains a timely and valuable analysis of the interests actually acquired by subjects or citizens of foreign States in Korea. The list is as follows :—

JAPAN.

The Söul-Chemulpo Railway.—Already open to traffic though not completely finished.
The Söul-Fusan Railway.—Concession granted to Japanese, and surveys now being made, but work of construction not yet commenced.
Gold Mine.—At Chiksan in Chhunhhang-do. Concession held by Messrs. Fukuzawa and Tatsuzo. Work is being carried on and the future is most promising.
Gold Mine.—At Chhong-won in Kyöng-sang. Concession obtained several years ago by Mr. Maki, but work not yet commenced.
Gold Mine.—At Songhwa in Hwanhai-do. Concession obtained 5 years ago by Mr. Tanaka but work not yet commenced.
Gold Mine.—At Chhölwön in Kangwön-do. Concession obtained by Mr. Okura Kihachiro, but work not yet commenced.
Smokeless Coal Mine.—At Pyöngyang. Concession obtained by Messrs. Kasai and Inukai, but work not yet commenced.
Various other mining concessions have been applied for by Messrs. Shibusawa Eiichi and Asano.
Whaling Privileges.—Obtained by Mr. Kawakita Kanshichi on the coasts of Hamgyön-do, Kanwön-do and Kyöngsan-do.
Management and Control of all the Posts and Telegraphs in the Empire.—Obtained last year by the Japanese Government.
Banks—Branches of the First, the Eighteenth, and the Fifty-eighth.
Schools—Sixteen secular and two religious (Buddhist)

RUSSIA.

Coal Mine.—In Hamgyön-do. The coal has proved bad and work is suspended.
Whaling Privileges.—In the same waters as the Japanese mentioned above, but the Russian concessionaire (Captain Kaiserin) is entitled to boiling stations on shore.
Timber-felling Rights.—In the districts adjoining the Yalu and Tumen Rivers and on the island of Ulnyung. The nature of this concession is vague, but undoubtedly very fine lumber is being obtained for use in the construction of the Trans-Asian Railway.
Schools.—Unascertained.

AMERICA.

Gold Mine.—At Unsan in Pyöng-an-do. Concession obtained by Mr. Morse. Said to be a rich mine. The employés number 40 foreigners, 1,200 Koreans and 30 Japanese. Last year the concessionaire presented a lump sum of 200,000 *yen* to the Korean Court, and the yearly payment made for the royalty is 25,000 *yen*.
Electric Railway.—In Söul. Commenced working last summer.
Schools.—Twelve, under Missionary management.

GERMANY.

Gold Mine.—At Tanghyon in Kangwön-do. Concession obtained by Mr. Walter in 1897. Several hundred men now at work.

ENGLAND.

Gold Mine—At Uensan in Pyöngan-do. Concession just obtained by Mr. Pritchard Morgan.
Various Contract Works.
Bank—A branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
Customs and Finance—Under the complete management of Mr. McLeavy Brown.

A representative of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, who has been abroad since last year in the interests of that institution, reports that he finds no ground for fear that Siberia will become a serious competitor of the United States in the matter of wheat. Wheat grown in eastern Siberia, he says, is inferior to American, and even when produced from California seed it degenerates the first year. Another feature observed by this authority while in Russia was the presence of piles of American flour at every landing-place along the Amur. So far as lumber is concerned, despite the abundance of forests from Vladivostock to the Ural, the trees are small, and most of the lumber comes from Puget Sound districts. Thus far the Trans-Siberian railway has benefited commercial interests in the United States more than all Europe combined, save Russia.

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MOUNTED TROOPS FOR THE JAPANESE ARMY.

WE observe that the *Jiji Shimpo* takes up a question often discussed in these columns, namely, the necessity of providing good horses for the Japanese Army. The ponies now used are not fit for cavalry and artillery purposes. They might do well enough were Japan opposed to a country employing similar cattle, as China, for example; but against European troops they would be almost valueless. The idea which prevailed when the Japanese army was organized on modern lines was that in a mountainous country like Japan cavalry could not be of much service. That notion was based entirely on the old-fashioned theory of cavalry charges, and it was not inconsistent with the belief that prevailed in Europe after the introduction of breech-loading rifles, namely, that cavalry could no longer get within reach of well-armed infantry in the open. But the war in South Africa indicates that a new role has been disclosed for cavalry and mounted troops in general, and that a hilly country is precisely the place where they can be used to best advantage. Even at this moment the details are reaching us of a brilliant *coup* made by the Boers which would have been quite impossible for infantry. Not merely have scouting duties acquired fresh significance, but it has also become plain that the breech-loading quick-firer, which was supposed to have driven cavalry out of the field altogether, has really made mounted men more necessary than ever, since it will hereafter be upon flanking operations principally that commanding officers will have to rely. We are by no means sure that in their ponies the Japanese do not possess excellent material for mounted infantry. The pony of this country is a hardy animal, cheap, easily fed and handy for use in precipitous or broken ground. Mounted infantry do not want fine cattle. All that they need is means of quick locomotion. But cavalry and artillery horsed with Japanese ponies and opposed by Western troops would make a poor showing. The Military Authorities must take this point into serious consideration. And they will also have to consider whether some means should not be adopted of encouraging equestrian exercises. Among nations claiming high rank there is not one, we believe, which has so little skill in riding as the Japanese. They learn quickly enough. Their troopers and gunners have fairly good seats, and would doubtless make a much more respectable figure if they were better horsed. But throughout the country in general horse-riding is almost unknown. Everyone must have remarked that in no part of Japan are people to be seen riding horses in such a manner as to become proficient equestrians. The peasant often perches himself on a pack-saddle, but that method of locomotion has nothing in common with riding: the man might as well be seated on a howdah. Had Japan found herself in a predicament like that recently experienced by England, where it was absolutely essential to provide, at a moment's notice, a large number of mounted men for military service in the field, she would have been quite helpless. The agricultural class does not ride; neither does the mercantile, and neither do the gentlemen. The old-time *Samurai* mounted a horse; but he did not ride, in the proper sense of the term. He balanced himself on immense shoe-shaped stirrups and trained his pony to a "disunited" gait which avoids jolting but which involves a terrible strain on a horse's endurance. The discovery that mounted infantry has such a great future before it is not unwelcome to Englishmen, for equestrianism is their national forte. With Japan the very opposite is the truth, and it seems to us to be a matter well worthy of the careful attention of the military authorities.

THE FUTURE OF JAPANESE INDUSTRY.

IT is not surprising that some anxiety should be felt about the future of Japanese industry. The factors which chiefly promised to assist this country in the field of competition were cheap, skilled labour and the small cost of living. But both of these aids are apparently becoming more and more apocryphal. The daily expenses of maintenance are fully twice as great now as they were twenty-five years ago, and the price of labour has risen in an almost equal ratio. In some cases one can readily understand why work commands increasing wages. Women, for example, who formerly could not hope for anything better than domestic service which brought them food, clothes—after a fashion—and a few shillings of annual wage, can now earn from 30 to 50 *sen* daily as factory hands, telegraph or telephone operators, or employes in various departments. The coolie class, too, are in keen demand for the purpose of carrying out extensive public works connected with the *post-bellum* programme, as well as those started by private enterprise. But take the case of gardeners. Why should gardeners be more expensive now than they were in the days when Tokyo might be called a city of gardens; the days when every one of the 273 noblemen of Japan, to say nothing of wealthy merchants, had extensive parks in the capital of the Bakufu, and when thousands of gardeners were employed where at present only hundreds are required? Why, again, should the furniture of gardens show the same appreciation—trees, rocks and shrubs, and so on? Is there greater demand for these things? Probably there is, in view of the augmented prosperity of the country; but it is not a demand proportionate to the appreciation, for the wages of common gardeners have risen from 22 *sen* to 45 or 50, and trees and rocks which cost 100 *yen* in 1875 can not be had now for less than 250. It is scarcely credible that the sums which the Japanese are now prepared to spend on fancy gardening have more than doubled in a quarter of a century. Even if there had been such an increase, it does not follow that the cost of labour and materials would have grown proportionately, for a larger quantity of both would have been forthcoming to supply the demand. There must have been a corresponding change in every branch of enterprise. Otherwise the more favoured would attract a larger supply of labour and the rate of general appreciation would lag considerably behind the enhanced demand in any one field. Some Japanese writers are disposed to attribute these economical changes in great part to the exhanced price of rice. But surely that is mistaking an effect for a cause? Rice has shared the universal appreciation, and has also felt the effect of the wave of prosperity which has greatly swelled the volume of the rice-consuming class. But it has no special responsibility for the things that have happened. What then is the cause? We should answer the question by another, is the appreciation real, or is it not, to a great extent, apparent only? Take the case of rice, since its importance is so paramount. Rice sold for 17/6 per *koku* when the pensions of the *Samurai* were commuted in 1876. Seventeen shillings and six-pence represents nearly 9 *yen* to-day, and the standard official price of rice, the price representing the maximum for the Exchanges, is 12.70 *yen*, while the actual quotation is 11.88 *yen*. Stated, then, in terms of gold, rice has appreciated 32 per cent. in 25 years, and if we apply the same unit of value to other commodities, it appears that there has been even less appreciation. In short, the labourer gets twice as much silver as he did a quarter of a century ago, and the householder has to pay twice as much of the white metal for the maintenance of himself and his family as he paid in 1875, but if the wages of the former and the disbursements of the latter are expressed in terms of gold, the difference between the past and the present ceases to be very striking. Could the appreciation of gold have been arrested twenty-five years ago, Japan's industrial outlook would not appear so gloomy to her economists as it looks to-day. But we commend to their attention the fact that the labourer's 25-sen wage in 1875 represented nearly 13 pence and that his 50-sen wage to-day represents about the same amount in sterling. Hence, for purposes of competition with gold-using countries, the situation of Japan has not been impaired. But for purposes of competition with China, the case is very different. We agree with an article published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the writer of which apprehends that foreign capitalists will be disposed to seen a much more inviting field for industrial enterprise in China than in Japan. It will be many years before China seriously feels the effects of the appreciation of gold; or, at any rate, before she practically responds to them. In the interval silver will purchase much more in China than in Japan, and the foreign employer of Chinese labour will have a cor-

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responding advantage. Japan has still a large margin for reform in the matter of organization. The petty, hand-to-mouth capitalist and the system of little domestic industries will have to be abandoned in favour of combination and economical methods. Writing in this strain some sixteen or seventeen years ago, we brought down upon our heads indignant remonstrances from critics who held that domestic industry, and the individualism it fosters, were the sources of Japan's success in the field of applied arts. There is probably some truth in the objection, but Japan can not afford to be artistic at the cost of her industrial prosperity.

HOW WE SAW THE "MAKIGARI."

BY A DISILLUSIONED FOREIGNER.

On the morning of Saturday, March 31st, there might have been seen, as the minor novelist says, at Yokohama Station a number of stalwart figures bearing a close family resemblance to a party of Boers going to the front. They all looked very happy and confident, like Boers who had just read one of Kruger's veracious despatches, speaking of the repulse of 10,000 Englishmen by 500 Transvaalers, with a loss of 6,758 killed on the side of the British and two slightly wounded on the part of the burghers. There was a warlike display of sporting rifles and guns, an impressive collection of slouch hats; and a flavouring of khaki. True, none of the party was equipped with a family Bible, without which, I believe, no true Boer goes forth to battle, but that is a mere detail.

These truculent-looking personages belonged chiefly to the Yokohama Rifle Club. They were mostly Japanese, but half-a-dozen foreigners were with them, and all were bound for the neighbourhood of Fujiyama, where a great *Makigari*, to rival those famous expeditions of the palmy days of Japanese feudalism, was to take place. None of us—I mean the foreigners—had, I fancy, very clear ideas of what a *makigari* was like, but I expect my own notion was the most vaguely magnificent of all. I had seen a picture of what might be expected—a gorgeous, coloured affair of Japanese origin—and it had kept me awake several nights, so impressed had I been with the terrible splendour of the scene which my favoured eyes were to witness. There was Fuji, towering up into the clear spring sky, the last two inches topped with a snowy crown; below were the steep and scrub-covered slopes where wild boar, deer, hares, foxes, badgers, and birds of all kinds had for three centuries swarmed unmolested by the hands of man. These slopes were now thronged with hunters and beaters. Myriads of stags and boars, each of which, in proportion to the size of the mountain, must have been vastly larger than the most terrific megatherium or mammoth of the pre-Adamite period, were rushing about in mad career, blazed at by gigantic sportsmen, and followed by the arrows of Titanic archers. Scores were lying dead upon the ground, others were in the very act of falling dead while leaping over a Scotch fir; here and there a sportsman was knocking down a boar or a fox with the butt end of his gun, or plunging his hunting knife into the animal's neck. It was indeed a warfare of Titans. Still lower down, just where the mountain began to rise from the fair plain land, were a policeman taking notes in most realistic manner, a foreign lady with brilliant gamboge hair and emphatic dress-improver, a foreign gentleman in a Newmarket coat extending over one-sixteenth of the mountain's area, two or three foreign artists, and a crowd of Japanese dandies.

This picture at once inspired and saddened me. I felt that I was about to see something mortal had never seen before, something fell and destructive, something that I might bore my grand-children with half-a-century hence, something that should invest me with the glamour of awesome experience. At the same time it seemed a little sad. I am essentially a peaceable and humane man. I am no sportsman. Even the shooting of a musical tom-cat with an air-gun has never afforded me absolute bliss. I have done it merely as a measure of state policy—as a benevolent autocrat might sign a death-warrant, recognising but deploring its necessity; the obituary howl of the unfortunate creature has even sounded reproachfully in my ears even in the moment of triumphal assurance that it would no more trouble my sleep. So I felt sorry for these poor animals, and especially for the deer. I knew this was the season of the year when a brighter iris changes on the burnished dove, and also (possibly) when a young stag's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love; and my heart bled for the feelings of the gallant buck who should see his sweetheart laid low by one of the thousand guns that were about to ravage the ground where his ancestors lived and died in peace for centuries.

I must own, also, to a tinge of personal concern. An awful rumour had been spread abroad that two-thirds of the sportsmen had only purchased their guns and taken out their licenses a week before, and that therefore the shooting might be expected to be a trifle erratic. Anxious friends had bidden me farewell with as much emotion as if I had been bound for Pretoria. Some, indeed, had grimly hinted that the expedition was at least twice as dangerous as the assault on Cronje's laager. However, I had made my will, bequeathing my few and insignificant debts (I am an unfashionable personage) to my next-of-kin, and I was moderately ready for the worst that might happen.

I need say nothing about the journey to Suzukawa, except that I made it standing up, with a short stout man standing on my right instep, and a long thin man crushing the toes of my left foot, while a particularly robust Japanese Nimrod sat lightly on the carriage seat and heavily on my lower ribs. These are only the ordinary experiences when there is anything unusual on the Tokaido Railway. Nearly everybody drank Kirin beer, munched sandwiches, and smoked cigars of appalling strength throughout the five hours journey, so that on the whole the carriage was not a pleasant place to be in on a warm Spring day.

At Suzukawa we found a teahouse, a triumphal arch, several policemen, tram cars, and carriages. The tram line was about two feet in width, and the cars would seat uncomfortably about four persons. Each of them was filled with about 20, and a corresponding quantity of luggage. The carriages were real curiosities. Something remotely resembling a horse was in the shafts, which were generally broken in three or four places and tied up with string or paper. The wheels had a spoke or two missing, and were rather elliptical than round. The body of the luxurious conveyance bore evident traces of having been used in some agricultural work not altogether unconnected with a manuring of crops. We surveyed the whole collection—myself and my friend—and decided to "pass" the carriages. The other foreigners, more intrepid, engaged two of them, and were soon going off at a fair pace down the rough road, tossed into the air by the excessive jolting, much as a ball is kept suspended on the top of a powerful spray of water.

Presently there came up a stern-looking policeman, rather handsome, but with a dark and diabolic look that suggested his perfect readiness to wade through slaughter to an inspectorship and shut the gates of mercy on the general public. In point of fact, he proved the most amiable and accommodating of men. He asked to see our tickets, and apparently there was something in them that entitled us to special treatment, for he immediately took us into custody. He was exceedingly kind, but the impression of being his prisoners was so strong that in five minutes we were both wondering whether we hadn't committed some murder or burglary a long time ago and forgotten all about it. He spoke a little English, this uncompromising official, and saying "Come—with—me" in a tone that admitted of no compromise he took us off to the police station. By this time we felt guilty of all the crimes mentioned in the Criminal Code, and of several others that had been overlooked by the framers thereof.

At the station was an excessively polite Kencho official, to whom we were introduced. He also spoke English, but was troubled to think that he could not be "eloquent" in that language.

"Take—a—chair," said the stern policeman.

"You should say, 'Take your seat,'" corrected the Kencho gentleman in an undertone.

"Take—your—seat," said the policeman, adopting the substituted expression.

We took our seats, accordingly, and enquired when we could start for Omiya, the rendezvous.

"Wait five minutes," said the Kencho gentlemen.

We waited half-an-hour instead, and at the end of that time two trams made their appearance. They were immediately invaded by about forty sportsmen who were waiting, and still at least a hundred were left behind.

We made an attempt to storm one of the vehicles, but it was unavailing.

"Wait five minutes," said our polite friend once more.

For an hour and a half we were continually entreated to "wait five minutes," and we might have waited all night, for the supply of trams was limited, while every train brought fresh crowds of sportsmen. At length, when Fuji was beginning to look dim and ghostly in the evening shade, we represented politely but firmly that we really must be getting on.

"Wait five minutes" was the only reply. But we determined, if we could not ride, to walk, and so we said. This stirred up our friends to energetic action, and at length a tram was commandeered, our luggage hoisted up, and we, with our custodians, obtained each standing room for one foot on the platform of the vehicle. And after "waiting five minutes," which really seems a formula in these parts, we began to lumber heavily along on the way to Omiya.

I am afraid to say how long the journey occupied. It seemed a day, but it may have been only two hours. By about nine o'clock we had arrived at Omiya, a town of several thousand people, consisting of one great straggling street, which, to our exhausted perceptions, appeared to be miles long. Jam and mud seem to be the two chief productions

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of Omiya. I can say nothing of the former commodity, not having tasted it, but the mud is the very muddiest mud I have ever stepped through.

Alighting from the tram we had a few minutes' walk followed by all the juveniles of the place, till we came to a triumphal arch, near which were three outdoor offices where tickets were examined.

"Wait five minutes," said our friend and disappeared with our tickets.

He went to the first office, where, in very high-toned Japanese, he protested that it was really most improper, and most impolite, but here were two foreigners, and would the officer in charge deign to examine our tickets? The tickets were examined, and after five minutes conversation it appeared that it was the wrong office. Then we went to a second office. The same delay and the same result. Finally the right place was found, and we were provided with cherry badges and a distinguishing ribbon for our coat sleeves, as well as an order on one of the townsmen for our accommodation. All kinds of signatures and counter-signatures had to be made, and a more elaborate example of officialism could not have been witnessed even at Somerset House.

One would have fancied that now everything was settled, and that two unhappy foreigners, who had been travelling ten hours and had been eight hours without food, might expect rest and refreshment. No.

"Wait five minutes," said our conductor.

"Come—this—way" said the stern policeman.

And off we marched for another half mile. We stopped before a miserable-looking hovel. This was one of the "houses of the wealthier inhabitants," in which guests were to be accommodated. We did not care for the prospect.

"Wait five minutes," and with this formula our conductor entered into a long and excited colloguing with the householder. When the five minutes were more than completed it turned out that this was the wrong house.

"I am very sorry," said the Kencho gentlemen. We were not.

Another march, and this time we stopped before a handsome residence.

"Wait five minutes." It turned out to be a quarter of an hour, and at the end we found that the host, while deploring the fact in the choicest of terms, could not help confessing that he had no room. All his accommodation was taken up.

We were in despair; but our guide encouraged us as before: "Wait five minutes."

Another long march, and this time we halted before a hotel.

"Wait five minutes." It was twenty before, from the maze of polite phrases, it became evident that we could expect no resting place there.

"Wait five minutes." On we went again.

This time we stopped before a butcher's shop, nicely ornamented by legs of beef and sides of pork, and haunted by the ghosts of all the animals ever killed in Omiya. Our friend was full of apologies. It was very dirty, it was not fit for us, we must forgive him for placing us in such degraded quarters, but what could he do?

We professed an entire satisfaction; we would be glad of any accommodation, even if it were fifty times worse.

"Then I am very cheerful," said our friend, "I am very joyful. Wait five minutes."

This time there was no difficulty and the conversation was very short. I think our friend used very few honorifics in the whole colloquy; at any rate an understanding was at once arrived at, and we were, half a minute later, in possession of a room at least six feet by six, simply but elegantly furnished with one *hibachi*. For two weary men it was accommodation enough. The place was clean, and the aroma of a cigar soon sufficed to lay the ghosts of slain quadrupeds which tainted even this corner of the establishment.

"Now for dinner," said we, as a couple of pleasant little Japanese girls made their appearance.

"Wait five minutes," said our friend, by sheer force of habit.

In a quarter of an hour the thing was done, and we were making the best headway possible for unskilful users of the chopsticks. I am not one of those who, like Mr. Lafcadio Hearn, "really prefer" Japanese food to the more substantial fare of the West, but hunger is an excellent sauce, and rice, pickled bamboo, fish, and various nameless compounds did nearly as well for two famished wretches as would the most elaborate French *menu*.

We were not able to give undivided attention, however, to the business of the moment, for we were receiving callers at intervals of ten minutes. All the officials of the district—and I am inclined to believe that that particular district is more than usually rich in officials—came to pay visits of ceremony. It was a perfect levée. Indeed, even as late as eleven o'clock, when we were vainly attempting to sleep, we had calls from two police inspectors and one civilian, whom we had to receive in pyjamas—a species of attire in which one feels to a certain extent at a disadvantage.

Our friend of the Kencho, in the meanwhile, stuck to us like an exceedingly amiable leech, plying us with instructions as to the morrow, praying us every now and then to "wait five minutes" for no ostensible purpose, and in short making himself as useful and agreeable as he could do. As the evening wore on and he himself got exhausted, his English, of which to had really a very fair knowledge, began to fail him, and he was finally reduced to "Excuse me," and "Wait five minutes."

Thus: "Will you have a cigarette?" "Excuse me, wait five minutes." "Do you think the weather will be fine to-morrow?" "I am very sorry; wait five minutes." "How many sportsmen are there here?" "Wait five minutes," &c. &c.

Finally, we were left alone, to snatch, if possible, a few hours' sleep, our friend assuring us that he would wait on us at 2.30 a.m. next day.

It was a difficult matter, that of sleeping. Apart from the unaccustomed wooden pillows and the matted flour, there was the not particularly subdued conversation of the other guests, who were apparently making a night of it. The smart tapping of a pipe against a *hibachi*, too, is not a sound that makes for slumber. However, about one o'clock we fell into a troubled dose, and by half-past two, when we were roused, we had lapsed into complete unconsciousness. It was not very pleasant getting up and dressing at that hour, but there was no time for regretful yawns, for the party was to start for the hunting ground at three. We got up, therefore, immediately, and by three o'clock we were out in the starry night waiting for the escort of police with whom we were to march up to the base of the mountain.

Presently there was a glare of paper lanterns far down the street, and in a few minutes the whole company came up. There must have been about 50 policemen and perhaps twenty civilians, all wearing *waraji*, which gave their tread an impressive silence. We all fell in, and went off at a smart pace. It was a weird journey for the first two hours. The night was dark, though clear; the path was only lighted by the paper lanterns carried by the police; and in the dim starlight the vast outline of Fuji showed vague and ghost-like far away.

The distance was said to be four *ri*, but a *ri*, as a measure of distance, is unsatisfactorily vague. We must have walked at least eight miles before the dawn, and then not nearly half the journey was accomplished. At daylight a halt was called at a country schoolhouse, the schoolmaster being unceremoniously roused to attend to the wants of the party. Then on again for another three hours of hard uphill walking. Every enquiry as to the remaining distance was met with, "Wait five minutes" from our official friend, and "one—more—*ri*" (a pause for consideration between each word), from our police ally. By this time our party was not alone. There were hundreds of people on miserable pack-horses (compared with which the animal of the Yokohama streets is a dashing and fiery steed) and on foot—sportsmen, spectators, and coolies bringing up provisions. The loads of some of the latter illustrated the amount of labour which the Japanese often give themselves by not doing things on a large scale. For instance, there was one coolie toiling up with a dozen bottles of beer over his shoulder, six on one side of the pole, and six on the other. One would have thought that it would be much cheaper to have taken two or three cases on a pack-horse, but the spirit which seems to impel a Japanese servant to draw well water with a thick wooden bucket weighing almost as much as the liquid it contains, instead of using a capacious metal receptacle that would give half the trouble, appears to obtain here also in the matter of transport.

At last, at 8 a.m,, we arrived at a sort of gipsy encampment on a small tableland just below the spot where the mountain begins to rise in earnest. We must have walked at least seventeen miles—no great feat in itself, but rather laborious when undertaken without breakfast after an hour's sleep, especially since the last three or four miles were a stiff climb. Those sportsmen who were with us were more keen on rest and food than on the pleasures of the chase, and several were quite knocked up before the day had commenced.

The weather had so far been perfect, and in the lowlands the temperature was almost summer-like. But hardly had the rendezvous been reached when it began to rain. We all know how it can rain in Yokohama. Multiply that by about ten, and you have the conditions prevailing at Fuji. Besides, it was bitterly cold, for we were now among the first patches of snow on the mountain side, and a little way up there were great white layers completely concealing the ground. A high wind was blowing—I don't know whether it was from the north or the west, for we had lost all sense of direction—but at any rate from the coldest point of the compass; and altogether the conditions were about as miserable as could be conceived. An awning had been put up here and there, but there was only one small tent for the police, capable of holding a dozen people. The rest crowded under the shelter of the scanty canvas, exposed on all sides to the rain and wind, or ensconced themselves behind rocks and tufts of herbage, like large and very miserable hares.

There was plenty to eat and drink—of a kind. At various stalls one could buy sandwiches, oranges, bottled beer, *sake*, a pre-

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peration called "corned bief" (made in Tokyo), and Huntly and Palmer's biscuits of the sickliest kinds. It was not exactly the fare to put people in rollicking spirits on a nasty day. There were a few fires which, if they did not warm, at least partially asphyxiated, and over these a few resolute spirits tried to assume a ghastly conviviality.

So passed an hour or two, during which the rain came pitilessly, while every now and then a cloud, which had strayed down too low, enveloped everything in a dense Scotch mist. At last it became comparatively fine, though the bitter wind remained. Now a few stalwarts of the Yokohama division sallied forth, but the Tokyo sportsmen seemed still disinclined to quit their shelter and the *sake* cup.

We—myself and my non-sporting friend—were wondering when the *makigari* was going to begin. It was eleven o'clock, and nothing had been done on an organised plan. There were enough men with guns to form a strong Boer commando, and enough archers to have turned the scale at Cressy, but they looked rather like making a day of it in that miserable encampment than turning out on the bleak mountain side. I don't know exactly what I thought the *makigari* would be like, but I had a vague idea of great quantities of game being driven out of cover by the 2,000 beaters, and being shot at in full view of the spectators by the horde of sportsmen. Nothing of that kind had occurred. I asked my Kencho friend when the fun was likely to begin, and received the answer I might have expected, "Wait five minutes."

We waited and waited, but no commencement was made, and then, out of desperation, and more to restore our frozen circulation than with any other object, we started on a reconnaissance. We walked for several miles through the covers—among scenery that would have been pleasing on a finer day; we saw shivering policemen and beaters gathered disconsolately in knots around small fires; we heard a shot or two, but we saw no deer or game of any kind alive. By this time a good many Japanese sportsmen had gone out and there was a lot of banging of guns—aimed at nothing in particular, for hardly any game was started, but fired simply as a show of doing something, and to keep up the party's drooping spirits. Then we wandered—sportsmen and a few spectators—for an hour or so, all of us feeling that this was not the *makigari* we had sacrificed so much to see.

Then the rain came on again. The last time it had merely drizzled in comparison. Now it came down in sheets, and washed out; all the spirit that was left in us. It was clear that it was going to rain all day, and equally clear that the sportsmen were not going to face it. Everyone commenced to go back as quick as possible towards the place where the encampment should be, for it was impossible to see more than a hundred yards ahead. Off we went, a drenched and miserable crew. After half an hour's walking we got back, and found at one of the camp fires a crowd of Japanese dancing with joy round the remains of a doe, the prize of one of the Japanese members of the Yokohama Club. There was a wild report of another doe having been killed, but we did not see it, and what one does not see it is not always safe to believe. The one trophy, however, was sufficient to cast a glow of joy over the excampment.

"I am very cheerful" said our official friend, as he pointed out the victim. Poor fellow, he did not look it, for he was perfectly shiny with rain from head to foot.

There was now nothing to do but tramp back to Omiya by a path never good, but now rendered absolutely frightful by the rain. A lingering hope of the sportsmen gave place to a desire to annihilate the distance between this savage wilderness and the comparative comfort of Omiya.

Off we started at a round pace, as sorry and draggle-tailed a crew as ever was seen. Smart fur coats that had looked brave in the morning were now sopping wet as to cloth and drowned-rat-like as to fur; "dressy" covert-coats clung shapelessly to the figures of the wearer; and boots and gaiters were one solid mass of mud. Ten miles had to be walked before we got to the plain and to a road that was even approximately civilised. Here there were two or three "carriages" and a rush was made for them, regardless of the fact that hire was at a premium, and that one could almost job the best brougham ever turned out at Long Acre for the price demanded for these wretched rattle-traps.

Even then the adventures of the day were not over, for the road was so bad that once the whole conveyance toppled over, precipitating us on to our heads in an agreeable ditch, only about a hundred yards from a spot where the road verged unprotected on quite a little precipice of thirty feet or so. The driver seemed to take it quite as a part of the day's work, and when the passengers had got clear he merely gave a lash to the horse, shoved the "carriage" upright again, and invited us to resume our seats. I don't believe there was a sound spoke in the wheels of the wretched thing, or a sound timber in the body, and yet it sustained no appreciable harm from an accident that would probably have rendered a well-built vehicle unfit for service. It merely rattled and bumped a little more; that was all.

At length Omiya was reached; and with dry clothes and a meal the dismal features of the day were soon merely a reminiscence. It rained with admirable steadiness the whole of the night and till past sunrise, and by that time most people had had enough of the *makigari* not to attempt to return to Fuji-yama. A few enthusiasts, I believe, did so, and I hope (though I do not believe) that they had splendid sport. No doubt they will return with tales of the immense slaughter they effected; say that they killed herds of dear and boars, but that really it was not worth the trouble to bring them back to Tokyo and Yokohama, &c., &c. We all know the nature of anglers' stories, and other sportsmen are probably quite as gifted in the matter of imagination. But the true unvarnished tale of the great *makigari* is as I have related it. It is unpicturesque, but veracious. And I should recommend that in the next edition of the Japanese English dictionaries this definition should appear:—"*Makigari*, a synonym for humbug, or *fiasco* (sporting)."

Many of the sportmen were shy of returning immediately to the capital and Yokohama. They were to be seen on every train up and down the line. Some went to Nagoya and Kobe; not a few to the Miyanoshita district; and several camped out on the seaside near Suzukawa. All wanted a few days to collect courage to meet the fire of chaff from their friends.

But the expedition was not without some pleasant reminiscences. One discovery that I made was the absolutely falsity of the smart Mr. Foster Fraser's criticism of the country policeman. The Japanese police everywhere are not bad fellows, but those in the country district seem to be even more kindly and obliging than, and at least as intelligent as, their town comrades. Better disposed towards the well-conducted foreigner they could not be. And the kindness of the officials everywhere also is deserving of a warm tribute. E. R. T.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of subscribers to the International Committee was held on Wednesday afternoon, in Keil's Building. Mr. H. J. Holm presided, and there were also present, Messrs. J. H. Jewett, R. J. Kirby, J. H. Brooke, C. Guisanni, J. T. Griffin, J. D. Hutchison. E. Rogers, C. B. Bernard, J. C. Hartland, H. Abegg, Alf. Woolley, Jas. Dodds, R. M. Stirling, M. H. R. Harris, E. Flint Kilby, C. V. Sale, L. Pollard. and, C. Campbell.

After a quorum had assembled, the CHAIRMAN declared the meeting open, and then read the advertisement which convened it. He next read the following:—

REPORT.

Formation.—The International Committee was inaugurated under this title at a Committee Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the 30th March, 1898, and was formed with the expressed object to consider the position of Foreigners under Japanese Jurisdiction.

A Committee of 21 gentlemen was appointed, mostly from among the members of the Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the various nationalities being selected in approximate proportion to their numerical strength; and their appointment at a general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on March 29th, 1899, was confirmed.

The Work of the Committee.—The Committee at an early date have deemed it of vital importance to endeavour to bring such parts of the Japanese Law as would most directly interest foreigners to their knowledge in a condensed, readable form. Towards this end they made arrangements with Prof. Dr. Loenholm for the compilation of a so-called "Digest" of the new Codes, which was brought out by the end of July, 1898, and which was followed by a supplement in May, 1899, this latter dealing with amendments or alterations decided upon in the meantime or made by the Diet in 1898-9, etc.

Your Committee think it will be generally admitted that these little books have proved of great value to the community in general, and that their appearance has contributed largely towards enabling all to form a tolerably correct opinion as to what the position under the new order of things was likely to be.

Your Committee after the appearance of these books decided to secure the services of Dr. Loenholm as their legal adviser, at a remuneration of *yen* 1,000 a year, this agreement to run from July 1st, 1899. The payment of this sum includes ordinary consultations as well as the translation for this Committee, free of charge, of any new Laws or Ordinances which may be of general or particular interest.

Besides these and other contributions by Dr. Loenholm, this Committee has been favoured with valuable information from the British Legation, (*i.e.* a number of carefully prepared translations of notifications); by the Kanagawa Kencho, by Mr. Saito, Chief of the Bureau of Taxation, and the "Japanese Association for investigating Questions relating to the Treaties," and to all of them we, on this occasion, beg to tender our best thanks. We are especially indebted to Mr. Mitsuhashi, Secretary of the Foreign Office, for his very kindly undertaking to be in a great many instances the intermediary between ourselves and various Government Offices, and for his readiness in answering questions on the most varying subjects. We venture to express a hope that his kind offices also in future may be placed at the disposal of this Committee.

Our Circulars.—All information obtained and the nature of which made it appear desirable has been brought to the knowledge of Subscribers by the issue of circulars, which have now reached 57. For details we beg reference to these circulars, and for the purposes of this report it may be sufficient to enumerate a few of the most important questions dealt with therein *i.e.*:—

Visiting and reporting upon the principal prisons in Tokyo—(May 20, 1898).

Business Tax, Tax on Capital.—(Oct. 31, Nov. 10, Dec. 27 and Circulars 17, 41).

Certificates of Origin.—(Nov. 23, Dec. 1 and Circulars 16, 36 and 53).

Correspondence between this Committee and the Japanese Association regarding various questions (Circular 15).

Fire Insurance Laws (Circulars 18, 19, 36).

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Law of Pledge (Circular 19).
Registration and Partnership (Circular 35).
National Tax Collection Law (Circular 37).
Ordinances *re* property in the former Settlements (Circulars 54, 55).
Re "Kaisha" and Kumiai (Circular 45).
Re "Perpetual Leases" and Superficies (Circular 46).
Examples *re* Business Tax (Circulars 47, 50).
Re Arbitration (Circular 57).

For some time time the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce having been also the Chairman of this Committee some matters have been treated under the auspices of the International Committee which should more properly have been dealt with by the Chamber of Commerce—the question *re* Certificate of Origin is now, for instance, left to the Chamber of Commerce. Sometimes it is, however, difficult to describe the exact sphere of this institution, and it will no doubt serve all ends best, if also in future a close co-operation is sought and adhered to as far as possible with other associations formed for special purposes.

Under the auspices of this Committee on the 9th of April last a dinner was arranged with the object of furthering the intercourse between Japanese and foreigners, which was honoured by the presence of most of the members of the Imperial Cabinet, and many leading Japanese gentlemen, and which proved a great success. A return dinner was given to your Committee by the Tokyo and Yokohama Chambers of Commerce.

Subscribers to the International Committee.—The foreign community was invited by circular and otherwise to lend their support towards a guarantee fund, to cover necessary expenses, and also as a proof of their sympathy with the aims of this Association. The list of subscribers now totals about 100, and a hope is hereby expressed that further supporters may come forward to promote the usefulness and influence of this institution, which, we venture to say, has done some substantial service in the past, and which will most probably find equal opportunities of doing good in the future.

Our aim is still the same, as was stated in the circular inviting support, *i.e.*, "It is not intended to work in an antagonistic spirit to the Government and Laws of this country, but to endeavour through friendly representations to remove difficulties and to promote a mutually good understanding."

Accounts.—The accounts, which are open to subscribers, are in a satisfactory condition, and with a balance at the end of last year of *yen* 1,830, now increased to *yen* 2,300, and with no early extra-calls on it in view, it is probably not necessary to collect further subscriptions for some time. On the other hand, it appears reasonable that the burden of maintaining this institution, which has so far fallen disproportionately on a few, should be more generally distributed, and it is suggested that the incoming Committee be charged with placing this matter on a broader basis.

Name of this Institution.—In pursuance of a resolution passed at a recent Committee meeting it is proposed to alter the name of this institution into "International Association," and it is further suggested that the Committee now to be elected should draw up a set of rules such as may appear necessary, and again invite the further co-operation of the Foreign Community.

Committee.—Some gentlemen having left the country, and through one or two resignations, which vacancies have not all been filled, the Committee at present numbers 15, and all of them now tender their resignation. In doing so they desire to put on record their obligations to their past Chairman, Mr. R. D. Robison, to whose great exertions most of the results so far obtained are in large measure due.

H. J. HOLM, Chairman.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1899.

1899.	Y. S.
Jan. 1.	
Balance in hand	203.04
Subscriptions to Guarantee Fund and Donations	3,274.50
Sale of Books	573.80
June 28.	
Refund—Decoration Committee	39.50
Dec. 31.	
Bank Interest	34.08
	4,124.92

1899.	Y. S.
Paid Dr. Lönholm Balance for "Digest"	1,500.00
Paid Dr. Lönholm Printing Supplement	134.26
Printing, Advertising, and Translation	435.68
Stationery, Postage, Delivery, &c.	150.00
Collector's Commission	74.00
Balance	1,830.98
	4,124.92

F. & O. E. C. GIUSSANI, J. H. JEWETT, Auditors.
J. E. BEALE, Secretary.
Yokohama, April 4th, 1900.

The CHAIRMAN said he wished to supplement the report with a few remarks. First, that the credit balance, owing to the collection of various subscriptions, had been increased to *yen* 2,300; and secondly upon the work of the International Committee. The institution was formed with the express hope of considering the position of foreigners. At the commencement of 1898 when it became certain that the new treaties would be put operation, everybody was asking, somewhat plaintively in some cases, how this and that would be under the new regime. Nobody however, felt inclined to take the initiative and to collect the necessary information. In fact what was everybody's business was considered nobody's particular business. The Chamber of Commerce was the only existing institution, and one which fairly represented the principal and vital interests of the community. It decided to take the matter up. It appointed from among its members the nucleus of a Committee, namely one of each nationality with power to add to their number in approximate proportion to the numerical strength of each nationality, and in this way a committee of 21 gentlemen, as referred to in the report, was formed. They had on some occasions been charged with not being fully representative of the community. He thought that at the best this was an individual opinion. Anyhow, he ventured to say that in the circumstances it was as fairly representative of the community as it could well be. The only other course was to call a public meeting and elect a Committee then, which was not at the time thought judicious. Moreover he believed the aims of the Committee and the steps taken to carry them out had been on lines having the sympathy of a very great majority of the community. Referring to the list of subscribers atttached, he said he thought it showed that the support given was fairly general. Yet there were many more names that should appear on the list. He hoped the new Committee to be elected would find means to draw more support not merely for the sake of the money but to show that all joined in the aims of the association. As to the accounts he had to say that the amount at their disposal would be reduced by the payment of three-fourths of Dr. Loenholm's retainer, payable at the end of March. Nothing was included for the salary of the Secretary, Mr. Beale, whose remuneration would have to be decided on by the incoming Committee. Since the issuing of the report and accounts the latter had been audited by Messrs. Jewett and Giussani and the account book signed to that effect.

After a pause, the CHAIRMAN moved that the report and accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Mr. STIRLING and carried.

NEW COMMITTEE.

The next business was the election of the Committee, but before proceeding with it, Mr. E. Flint Kilby suggested that a Chairman should be elected and that Mr. Holm be asked to serve again.

The CHAIRMAN, while appreciating the honour, said he felt he could not discharge the duties as well as some others and suggested that the election should be left to the Committee.

Mr. KILBY thought that the election would come far better and stronger from the meeting, especially when they remembered the excellent work done by Mr. Holm after Mr. Robison's retirement.

Mr. DODDS said he shared the views of Mr. Kilby and seconded the proposal. No one proposed another candidate, and the re-election was declared unanimous.

Mr. HOLM remarked that under the circumstances he would accept with pleasure and do his best.

The election of the Committee was then taken up and after one or two suggestions as to procedure, the number of Committeemen necessary, and the representation of nationalities, Mr. Stirling moved that the old Committee be re-elected with the substitution of Mr. C. B. Bernard's name for Mr. W. B. Walter. The Committee to have power to add to their number. This was seconded by Mr. J. C. Hartland and carried. The new Committee are Mr. H. Abegg, Capt. Bougouin, Messrs. G. W. Bramhall, J. C. Budd, James Dodds, C. Giussani, H. J. Holm, J. D. Hutchison, D. Jackson, E. Flint Kilby, G. W. Middleton, P. Sarda, G. Reiffinger, C. B. Bernard and Alf. Woolley.

THE CROWN PRINCE'S WEDDING.

The CHAIRMAN said there was one more matter to which reference should be made. From latest information it appeared that the Imperial wedding would take place in May, and he moved that—"This meeting recognising the desirability of the foreign community of Yokohama taking cognizance in a suitable way of the impending Imperial Wedding, the incoming Committee be instructed to take the necessary steps in the matter." At a recent meeting of the Committee this subject was under consideration and the general opinion seemed to be that an appropriate, signed, address, perhaps in a small casket of foreign design and obtained from Europe, might be presented. The matter, however, should be left to the Committee.

Mr. J. T. GRIFFIN seconded.

Mr. KIRBY asked that Tokyo should also be included, but Messrs. Stirling and Hutchison thought as Kobe and Nagasaki would be acting individually it would be well for Tokyo to do the same and the suggestion was dropped, the Chairman remarking that it was not the amount involved but the spirit underlying the gift.

The resolution of the CHAIRMAN was then carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said it was very desirable that every member of the Community should take an interest in the work of the Committee. If any question of either individual or general interest was brought to the notice of the Committee they would always be very happy to give it their consideration. In this way the usefulness of the Committee would be greatly increased.—(Applause.)

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. WOOLLEY, brought the proceedings to a close.

THE SPINNING INDUSTRY.

That the spinning industry in Japan has made marked progress of late is undeniable, but, remarks the *Shogyo*, strange to say, nearly all the spinning companies in the empire recently fell into a state of serious embarassment, owing to their failure to realise the profits originally anticipated. Their distress seems to have culminated in the year before last, but fortunately they have succeeded in placing their enterprise on a profitable basis since the latter half of last year. The most remarkable feature which has developed itself in connection with this industry is the gradual diminution in the number of factories, which seems to have led to a general extension of business and consequent augmentation of profits realized by the survivors. The following table shows the number of spinning companies as well as the average rate of dividends declared by them during the past eight years:—

Year.	Number of companies. 1st half.	2nd half.	Rate of dividend. 1st. half. per cent.	2nd half. per cent.
1892	28	30	11.5	14.5
1893	32	33	11.5	13.0
1894	28	43	12.4	7.1
1895	47	51	9.4	9.2
1896	59	65	9.4	9.1
1897	66	66	9.4	4.8
1898	76	71	5.9	3.6
1899	65	58	4.6	9.2

Thus the number of companies in the latter half of last year being 58, shows a decrease of 7 in comparison with the figure for the previous term, and of 13 as compared with the corresponding period of the year before last. But the average rate of dividend declared being 9.2 per cent., is precisely the double of that for the previous term, corresponding to the rate secured in 1896. This may be regarded as an indication of the revival of the industry, while the tendency to amalgamation is still noticeable. Spinning, under these circumstances, can hardly fail to be a profitable enterprise in future. As to reserves and profits for the past two years the figures stood as follows:—

	Profits. Yen.	Reserves. Yen.	Dividends. Yen.
1898 (latter half)	776,636	257,274	413,850
1899 (1st half)	1,496,188	335,281	996,267
1899 (2nd half)	1,416,609	512,131	1,632,724

Thus a slight decrease is noticeable in the amount

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of profits and in the number of corporations for the latter half of last year, but it must be observed that the spinners having ceased to obtain loans at high interest, and having adopted a proper system ofmanagement, have succeeded in increasing not only the rates of dividend, but also the amount of their reserves. They were unable to set apart any portion of their receipts as a reserve fund until the year before last, and it is therefore matter for congratulation, adds our contemporary, that they have acquired since last year funds for contingencies and for equalization of dividends.

As to the number of spindles in work and the output of yarns during the years under review, the figures stand as follow :—

	Number of spindles.	Output of Kwan.
1st half, 1898.....	925,574	15,773,787
2nd half, 1898	928,407	16,263,647
1st half, 1899.....	1,026,994	18,045,745
2nd half, 1899	1,086,721	19,663,633

Thus the number of spindles in the latter half of 1899 has increased by 2,833 and the output by 489,860 *kwan*, but a greater increment is noticeable in the figures for last year, the two items for the 2nd half of the year showing an increase of 59,721 and 1,617,888 respectively over those of the previous term. From these facts it is evident that the rates of dividend must have been augmented and the range of business extended during last year. What causes brought about these results? China, with the development of her northern territories, has shown a strong inclination to import Japanese yarns, while the spinning industry in India, which always proved itself formidable to the Japanese in the matter of competition, has for a time fallen into a state of decline. The market for Indian manufactures was gradually encroached upon by the Japanese merchants, who have thus succeeded in increasing the amount of export. These facts may be perceived from the following figures :—

	Amount of export; catties.	Value realized. Yen.
1st half, 1898.....	31,175,125	9.451,451
2nd half, 1898	37,638,637	10,665,135
1st half, 1899.....	47,964,238	13,035,116
2nd half, 1899	54,672,594	15,486,324

Thus an increase of 14 per cent. is noticeable in amount and of 18 per cent. in value, whereas the average price per catty was 28.3 *sen*,—a quotation seldom experienced since the 1st half of 1898. In the domestic market prices were still more remarkable, the tendency to rise having continued unabated since January of last year. Below are the figures :—

Average Price 1st half of 1899.	Yen.	Same in the 2nd half.	Yen.
January	77.75	July	79.50
February	79.76	August	82.87
March	80.00	September	91.25
April	77.25	October	95.00
Hay	75.87	November	94.00
June	77.62	December	93.75
Averages ...	78.04	.....	89.39

Yarns which were not sold at a higher price than 78 *yen* during the 1st half of the year under review were quoted in the latter half at over 89 *yen*, showing a difference of no less than 11.35 *yen*. Calculating according to catties, the value for each of the two periods, therefore, did not fall short of 26 and 29 *sen* respectively. These prices are higher than those fixed for yarns exported, and may apparently be regarded as indicating the unusual briskness of demand which must have existed in the interior during the period referred to.

RUSSIA'S FLEET AND THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing on the 15th Feb says :—The Russian Minister of Marine has given orders for the following vessels of the Baltic Fleet to be held in reserve :

	Tons.
Sebastopol, battleship	10,980
Poltava, battleship	10,980
Pereswiet, battleship.....	12,674
Admiral Ouchakoff, coast defence ship...	4,126
General Admiral Apraxine, cost defence ship.....	4,126
Admiral Seniavin, coast defence ship.....	5,126
Svetlana, cruiser	3,828
Standard, Imperial yacht	

The following ships of the Black Sea Fleet are to be held in reserve :

	Tons.
Rostislav, battleship	8,880
Sinope, battleship	10,180
Dvenadzat Apostoloff, battleship	8,076
Tria Sviatitelia, battleship	12,842
Georgi Pobiedonosetz, battleship	10,800
Captain Sacken, torpedo gunboat.....	742
Griden, torpedo gunboat	400
Kazarski, torpedo gunboat.....	400
Danube, transport	—
Pamyat Merkurya, 3rd cl. cruiser.....	3,050
Beresanj, training ship	—

Some people supposed to be competent to form an opinion, explain these orders by reference to the troubled state of the political horizon and by the unexpected developments which may arise out of the war in South Africa. The ordinary cruising programme of the Russian fleet in foreign waters, however, will remain almost unchanged this year. At Port Arthur there will be the guardship *Siatch* and the torpedo flotilla, and in the Pacific Ocean the following fleet will be maintained :

	Tons.
Petropaulovsk, battleship.....	10,960
Cissoi Veliky, battleship	8,880
Navarin, battleship	10,206
Rurik, armoured cruiser	10,923
Admiral Nachimoff, armoured cruiser.....	8.524
Admiral Korniloff, second-class cruiser...	5,000
Dmitri Donskoi, armoured cruiser.....	5,882
Vladimir Monomach, armoured cruisər...	6,061
Razboynik, corvette	1,329
Zabiyaka, sloop.....	1,234
Gremiastchy, armoured gun boat	1,500
Otvazny, armoured gunboat.....	1,500
Gilijak, gunboat.....	963
Korietz, gunboat	1,213
Mandjour, gunboat	1,416
Bobr, gunboat	950
Vzadnik, torpedo gunboat	400
Gaidamak, torpedo gunboat	500
And a torpedo gunboat flotilla.	

In addition, however, the Russian Pacific Squadron is to be reinforced this year by the undermentioned ships :

	Tons.
Politava, battleship	10,960
Palloda, cruiser.....	6,630
Waryag, cruiser	6,500
Amur, transport	—
Emsee, transport	—

And the torpedo boat destroyers Kit, Skat, Dephni, Kassatka, Forel, Sterlaid, Some, and Ossetr (of 312 to 350 tons), and the second-class torpedo boat Kefal.

The armoured cruiser *Pamyat Azova*, 6,675 tons, which is at qresent in the Pacific, will return to Russia.

In the Mediterranean Sea the Russian Government will maintain the subjoined squadron :

	Tons.
Emperor Nicholas I., battleship	9,672
Teretz, gunboat.....	1,224
Kubanetz, gunboat	1,224
Uraletz, gunboat	1,224
Abrek, torpedo gunboat	535

The *Emperor Alexander II*, battleship, 9,927 tons, and the *Zaporezetz*, gunboat, 1,224 tons, are to return to Russia.

The Minister of Marine's orders include the re-armament with mordern weapons of the *Emperor Nicholas I*, battleship; *Pamyat Azova*, armoured cruiser; *Sivoutch* and *Bobr*, gunboats; and *Standard* Imperial yacht. All these vessels, with the exception of the gunboats, wil be re-armed at Cronstad and the gunboats at Valdivostock, to which port their new guns will be sent.

From the programme which I have outlined above the conclusion may be drawn that the entire attention of Russia is at present concentrated upon the Far East, though, so far as the Mediterranean squadron is concerned, It can always be easily reinforced, in the event of any political difficulties, by the vessels which have been ordered to be kept in reserve. At all events, it shows that the political horizon is clear of storms. There are some people, it it is true, who will have it that Russia, with the cöoperation of France, is going to raise the Egyptian question, thereby taking advantage of the difficulties of England in South Africa; but this idea is a mere supposition. The Russian Government, as a matter of fact, has resolved not to depart from its attitude of strict neutrality, and does not intend to profit by Great Britain's present position. I may add that there have been no negotiations between Russia and France on the subject of Egypt, and all rumours to the contrary are due simply to the fantastic imaginations of certain journalists.

THE BOOKSHELF.

"*Negro Nobodies*," by Noel de Montagnac. Fisher Unwin's Overseas Library. Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Limited.

The series of tales and sketches in-out-of-the-way corners of the earth which Mr. Fisher Unwin is publishing in the Overseas Library, continue readable, though none of the succeeding volumes have been able to compare with the clever work of that talented eccentric Mr. Cunninghame Grahame, with which the new enterprise was presented to the public. "Negro Nobodies" shows the West Indian black in his various moods, grave, gay, sentimental, cynical, and philosophical. The work is evidently not that of an experienced professional writer, but it has a freshness which is not uninviting. The author has studied the negro character closely, and shows both sympathy and insight. To English readers, whose idea of black humanity is chiefly gathered from "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and the Moore and Burgess' Minstrels, the book should be interesting. One gathers the impression from it that in the West Indies, though the negro does not occupy so dignified a position politically as in the United States, he is not so much an object of aversion as in the latter country. The religious "Daddy," who delivers homilies in quaint English, and the *esprit fort* Zacche, with his Malthusian and anti-feminist notions, are the best-limned personalities in the book. We quote a sample of Zacche's powers as a lecturer :—

"This creature, woman," Zacche proceeded, "is like a lucky bag whichen small children buy for a quattie (1½d.) because it has a pretty face upon it, and, because it is supposed to contain first class sugar plums and maybe, such a thing as a diamond ring. But what do de said children find? Sutt'nly, I say, what do they find? De sugar plum all make out of plaster of Paris, and de ring—well, sutt'nly, that is a kind of a hoop for de finger having de likeness of a ring and made out of a cheap brass wire. Gentlemen, it is no diamond ring at all." (Cries of "For true, for true, 'pon my word.") "But, gentlemen, what can you expect for a so-so quattie? Howsomever, that is another matter. In de beginning a woman was made from de ribs of a man, Adam by name, whichen we read of in de second chapter of Genesis de twenty second verse (correct me, Missa Daddy, if I am wrong), and de said woman she was made perfect and knew no evil whatsoever. But she listened to all de word de serpent say, whichen we notice in de third chapter of Genesis de sixth verse, therefore she becomes to know evil, to teach evil, to do evil; and she have all those particular faculties down to this very day. A woman is de most perfect living instance of pure contraryness. Altogether, gentl'men, a woman is a petticoat full of powerful destruction. (Sensation and sighs). De more I live, de more you live, de more we all live, we are convinced that there is no end or specification to a woman's ways. Now, there are many old ways, but there are a heap of new ways. Sutt'nly, de old ways are bad ways, but, O Lord, de new ways is de worst ways.

"Sutt'nly, woman is useful, but so is dildo, whichen, as you know, makes a really first-class fence, but has more prickle and 'macca,' and is more ruinous to de flesh of a human person than plenty people can have a conception of. Woman is useful, but so is dildo; woman is amusing, but so is monkey, whichen is more deceitful than any other animal in this world; woman walk softly, but so do snake and scorpion; woman mean well, and so do black spiders; woman is attentive, but so is sand fly and mosquito; woman is bewitching, but so, by all accounts, is de very devil himself. (General uneasiness.) Therefore, my dear friends, de whole thing resolve itself into this—*have nothing whatsoever to do with such a person as a woman*. In conclusion I will tell you there are two particular things for a sensible man to avoid in this life, namely, posion of any sort and marriage. But sutt'nly poison is better than marriage, because in de one case you don't have time to see you mistake before you know nothing and all is peace, while in de other case you not only see you mistake, but you live with it, and you two eye them is constanly upon it, and that, my son, is equal to all de fire and brimstone and hot lead and de extra special boilingnation and more down below, whichen we all have been cautioned about from de first day when we were born."

On Sunday morning last a Russian committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver at the Pacific Hotel, Oura, Nagasaki. He had been employed on the railway at Port Arthur and came to Japan a few months ago to recruit his health. The body was handed over to the Russian Consul for interment.

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THE FERMENT IN CHINA.

The latest news from China shows that there is a general feeling of unrest, particularly in the northern provinces, which in some instances has developed into actual rebellion. The *N. C. Daily News* reports that a couple of Censors, evidently inspired, have presented a joint memorial to the Throne, denouncing the Tsungli Yamên as incapable, and recommending its abolition, all foreign relations to be dealt with in future by the *Li Fan Yuan*, commonly termed, The Mongolian Superintendency, but really meaning the Colonial and Tributary Department. In other words, this is a thinly-veiled attempt to relegate once more the Ministers of Foreign Treaty Powers to the grade of Tribute-bearers. Reuter's correspondent at Peking learns that the Boxers are giving much trouble round Tientsin, and that there had been an indecisive battle in Chihli between 1,500 Chinese troops and as many Boxers, with many casualties on both sides. News was also received by the Shanghai mandarins from Shanhaikuan, Great Wall, reporting the existence of a serious insurrection in the vicinity of Chinchou, on the Shanhaikuan-Newchwang railway to the northwest of the latter city. The insurgents are all pretty well armed and well-mounted, constituting a very mobile and formidable force to deal with. Several bands of them have already visited the railway and have also threatened to pull up the rails should troops be transported from Lutai and Shanhaikuan to quell the insurrection. An English engineer and a party of native assistants belonging, it is stated, to the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., at Kaiping, detailed to inspect some coal deposits at a place called Kaochiao, south of Chinchou, were attacked *en route* by a band of these insurgents. One of the native assistants, said to be the interpreter, in preventing a savage attack by a bandit upon the person of the Engineer was seriously wounded, but the diversion thus caused enabled the Englishman to escape to Chinchou, to the prefect of which he appealed for immediate assistance. A troop of cavalry was accordingly at once dispatched to the scene, the rest of the party were rescued, and a supposed bandit captured by the troopers. It is, however, more likely that the captive was a peasant belonging to Kaochiao who had stopped "to see the fun," while the real assailants galloped off as soon as help was seen coming.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

PROVIDENCE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—It behooves man to be very careful in his theodicies lest, in justifying God's ways, he justify only man's idea of these ways, and lest perchance he fail to justify even this idea. From the days of Job onward men have, however, occupied themselves with these great problems; and he who does so in sincerity and of necessity stands, like Job, justified in spite of errors and of words seeming blasphemous to those complacent ones on whom the heavy hand has not been laid.

Though we have thus many attempts at theodicy no one has seen fit to coin such a word as anthropodicy. It does not concern us directly to justify man's ways toward God, especially with regard to the use of ready-made phrases, which, though they may be instinct with life, are often only dead ashes from what was once a living fire. Is it necessary therefore to say anything about the ascription of recent British victories to "the help of God," or about Emperor William's writing, "God be praised for this first glorious deed of our arms?" There is no fault to be found with the use of these words, still less is there any suggestion that in such serious moments, men should utter idle words. The *Jiji Shimpo* looks into the meaning of these words asking if Lord Roberts intends thereby to say that God was the prime contriver of the recent victories, and since the use of such phrases is a stumbling block to some it is perhaps not untimely to inquire whether men are justified in giving thanks to God for victories.

By the wrong use of such phrases and the suggestion of wrong ideas about the ways of Providence stumbling blocks are made and counsel is darkened by words without wisdom. "Superstition," says Plutarch, "furnishes both a commencement to the production of atheism, and when it is gathered, a pretext—not indeed true and fair, but still not devoid of plausibility—for its continuance. For it is not because men see anything blame-worthy in the heavens. . . that they conclude there is no God in the universe; but the ridiculous works and impulses of superstition. . . give occasion to some to say that it were better there were no gods, than that there were gods who approved of and delighted in these things." All this is no less true now than it was then, and we who believe God need to reach to the depths of the commandment, "Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

A doctrine is too often judged by the explanations of its exponents. When one gives thanks for victory only, he lays himself open to the pertinent question, were defeats ascribable to the temporary alienation of Providence? Such questionings are very old, and bad reasoning ever recoils on the cause in whose defence it was undertaken. One, in days of old, pointed out to Diagoras the votive tablets at Samothrace erected by those who had escaped the perils of the ocean, and said:—"Thou who thinkest that the gods neglect human affairs, do you not observe, from so many by their vows have testified that they have escaped the power of the tempest?" "It happens thus," said Dragoras, "they erect no tablets who perish in the sea."

This ascription of victories alone to the overruling of Providence is akin to superstition which, essentially, is the seeing of God's power in certain events but not in all. It must be considered a refined form of superstition which led Thackerary to write, in a letter to his mother which ought perhaps never to have been published but which shows the heart of the man; and probably expresses the thoughts of many:—"I have a right to say, 'Father give me strength to bear my sufferings'; but I can't request any special change on my behalf. . . .or see any special divine animus superintending my illnesses and wellnesses. Those people seem to me presumptuous who are forever dragging the Awful Divinity into a participation with their private concerns." Now while there is such a thing as dragging the idea of God down to man's level, making a god in the likeness of man, there is no such thing as dragging God into participation with the affairs of His World, be they small or great. For are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

In considering, therefore, the use of the phrase, Thanks be to God, we find not that it is used too much but that it is not used enough. The apostolic injunction is, "In everything giving thanks, for this is the will of God." True it would have sounded strange had Buller given thanks for his defeats on the Tugela and protests much more stormy would have been raised than the mild criticism of Lord Roberts' pious phraseology. But if military usage cannot be squared with apostolic teaching, it is the usage that is at fault and and not the teaching. If the man of war cannot bring himself to give thanks in all things it would perchance be better did he not give thanks at all. If one can see God overruling all he can give thanks in defeat as in victory learning the lesson that is given and out of weakness becoming strong.

Though usage forbids public testimony to this principle we may believe that in private the military leaders carry out the precepts of the principle. Their public words need to be taken together with the freer utterances of the religious leaders of the people. Of these we have an example in a sermon by Dr. John Watson on the text:—"When thy judgements are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." He says:—"Had we indeed carried everything before us as some gay hearts imagined then had it been worse for us than a defeat. . . . We should have been intolerable both to God and man. . . ."

The whole matter of Providence is one very wide and very high. In thinking and in speaking of God's ways we need ever to keep in mind the reproof: "Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself."

I am, Sir, truly yours,
F. M.
Etajima.

JAPAN'S TEA TRADE.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—I notice from a paragraph in a recent issue of your journal that the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Sone, has informed the tea men that their manner of employing the subsidy granted them by the Treasury is not calculated to encourage a continuance of the assistance.

This subsidy was first granted in 1897, and amounts to 70,000 *yen* annually, the object being to supply means for extending the sale of Japan teas and to combat the increasing competition of the Indian and Ceylon growers.

The Government finds that after three years experience, this money has not been applied to any useful purpose and therefore it is not unlikely that it will be discontinued for the future, although it was originally intended to allow the grant for a period of seven years.

The question naturally suggests itself—what has become of the money? Nearly a quarter of a million *yen* has been paid to the Japanese tea guild since 1897 with absolutely no result, nor are there any indications that any but the most feeble attempts have been made with it for the purposes intended.

The money has not been successfully employed in extending the export of Japan teas, seeing that during the three years the guild has been in receipt of the grant, the export of tea has fallen off three million pounds.

The money has not been expended in cheapening the price of teas, as the cost of production in the country is now higher than it ever was before, nor has the money been employed in improving the quality of Japan teas, that of the past season's crop having been the poorest that has come to market for many years.

It would, therefore, be interesting to learn, to whause this quarter of a million *yen* has been put and how the further large amount to be received during the present and subsequent years is to be employed. So far, it has either been wasted and frittered away in purposeless schemes or it has been made use of for other purposes than those intended by the Government.

A very noticeable feature in the affair, is the secrecy that has been observed by the Japanese tea merchants regarding the subsidy, towards the foreign merchants, and although many enquiries have been made no information whatever has been vouchsafed as to its disposal, although this naturally would be as important to the foreigners engaged in the trade, as to the Japanese themselves.

The success of the Japan tea trade rests mainly on the efforts of the foreign firms—a fact of which the Government is well aware—and therefore it is impossible to suppose that the grant was made solely for the benefit of the Japanese merchant. It would be entirely an infraction of treaty obligations if that were the case, and it is only necessary to recall the fate of the short-lived Silk Subsidy some years ago, to dispel any ideas that the Government would be again likely to make such a mistake. On that occasion a subsidy was granted to the silk men with the object of stimulating the direct business, but so strong a protest was made by the silk merchants of Lyons and elsewhere that a bill was speedily introduced into the Diet for its annulment. Although the object for which the tea grant is made, is of an apparently different nature, it is equally a violation of treaty rights, if the sum is being employed by the Japanese merchants for their own benefit solely, but as I have already stated there are no indications that any other use has been made of it. Certainly no benefit has accrued to any foreigner connected with the trade, or to the trade itself.

At the time the subsidy was first notified, it was thought likely by the foreigners engaged in the Tea trade that they would have at least some say in its disposal, and an informal meeting was held in Yokohama with the view of offering suggestions, but owing to the decided attitude of the Japanese against discussing the subject with the foreign houses, the matter was dropped. It is not saying too much that if the foreigners had been allowed to co-operate with, or assist the tea guild when the grant was made in the beginning of 1897, the object for which it was intended by the Government would have been, if not actually attained, considerably furthered. Some practical use would have been made of the money and it would not have been wasted and lost, as it apparently has been.

The error the Japanese tea-men have fallen into is that the foreign merchants do not count in the matter. They overlook the fact that the Japan tea trade has been built up from the very commencement by English and American houses, and moreover, if these latter were to retire from the trade the Japan tea business would disappear utterly.

A few attempts have been made by Japanese firms to engage in the direct tea export business, but the conditions of the business preclude the possibility of their being able to successfully compete with foreign merchants in America and Canada. Differing from the silk business, the large open markets, such as New York and Chicago, only receive a portion of the teas shipped to America. The bulk of the trade is carried on in small shipments to all parts of the United States and Canada, specially ordered by grocers and distributors, and requiring on the part of the Japan packers the closest knowledge of the requirements of each locality. This knowledge has been obtained by foreigners only by years of experience, and it is not too much to say that it is

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impossible that the Japanese merchant could ever successfully compete in these fields.

That the foreign merchant can be overlooked therefore when any such object as the furtherance or improvement of the tea trade is in question, is impossible, and if the members of the Japanese tea guild have honestly at heart the welfare of the business the sooner they recognize this fact the quicker the object and intentions of the Government are likely to be accomplished.

I am Sir, yours, &c. TEA MERCHANT.

Yokohama, March 29th, 1900.

OUR SOLDIERS.

True with the truth of their race; strong with the strength of the limb
Of men who as children have romped, conquered in many a fight;—
To-day each Englishman fights, as if hope of the fight rests on him;
To-day each Englishman proves his pluck—his endurance—his might!

Bullets that whiz round their heads, swift shells that shreik at their feet:
Wounds to the veteran and young,—death to the dying and brave:
Across that chasm of Death, heroes clasp hands as they meet;—
Dauntless—shoulder to shoulder,—they traverse the ridge of the grave!

They stand at their guns and they think—oh! not of their own noble lives;
They think not of danger or foe, of assault,—of blood-blinding ball,
But they think of their Country and Queen, they pray for their children and wives;
They render their souls unto God;—they silently pray—and they fall!

And Death is their nearest neighbour,—Death on the plain and the hill;—
Death in the bullet and cannon, Death in the ball as it flies.
They lie in the trenches waiting;—wait for the order to kill:
No murmur's heard as they perish!—'Tis thus the Englishman dies!

They lie on the field of battle,—scorched by the heat of a hell,
Their life blood is ebbing slowly;—their throats they are parched and dry.
They're wounded,—and dying, and lonely,—yet no word as they fell;
No bitter, no useless lamenting. It is for their Queen that they die!

Oh God! cast Thy mercy on them, these gallant soldiers of ours;
As tortures they suffer in silence, pitiful pangs of the curst.
Oh Saviour! protect thy children; they lie in the sun for hours,
Bleeding and sick and weary—, and dying from wounds and from thirst.

Protect them oh, Christ!—and send them—as butchered and baffled they lay—
Visions of dear women praying,—sweet scents—as their souls they yield,—
Of the breezes ladened with fragrance on a balmy Summer's day;
The thoughts of wild thrushes warbling—the dream of an English field.

We can ask for nothing better, as their eyelids close in death—
Instead of the smell of the powder,—the whiff of a primrose from
Some haunt that they loved as children. Oh God!—as they yield their breath,—
Send them this blessed vision,—a glimpse of their English Home.

E. M. d'A.

Tokyo, April, 1900.

On Monday morning a young woman, apparently 21 or 22 years of age, dressed like a female student, was run over and killed by a goods train near Oiso. It is believed to be a case of suicide.

INTERNATIONAL SAILING RACES.

On Saturday afternoon advantage was taken of the presence in port of a German, English and American man-of-war to arrange a little scratch regatta among the sailing boats of the respective battle-ships and cruiser, and the result was some very interesting races. The idea originated, we understand, with Vice-Admiral von Bendemann, of the *Hertha*, and Vice-Admiral Bruce, of H.M.S. *Barfleur*, and Captain Wilder of the *Oregon* at once fell in with the proposal. Three races were arranged, for cutters, gigs, and barcasses and pinnaces. The course was from a flying start between the German cruiser *Hertha* and a red mark boat, past the lightship on port side, round a green mark boat one and a half miles N.E. of lightship; back again passing lightship on starboard and finish over the starting line. Distance 6 miles. The first prize was $20, second $10, entrance $5. All boats were to be rigged and sailed according to service regulations. The starters were as follow:—

CUTTERS.

H.M.S. *Barfleur* 1st Cutter, Lieutenant Jellicoe.
" " 2nd " Mr. Enghorst.
U.S.S. *Oregon*, 2 " Eng. Wartsbaugh.
" " 5 " Cadet Fuller.
S.M.S. *Hertha*, 1 " Lieutenant Berna.
" " 2 " " Hilmers.

GIGS.

H.M.S. *Barfleur*, galley, Mid. Johnson.
" " gig, Gunner Wagner.
U.S.S. *Oregon*, whaleboat, Cadet Pettingill.
" " " Lt. Comm. McCrackin.
S.M.S. *Hertha*, gig, Ob. Lt. von Natzmar.
" " " Lt. Bar. von Kottwitz.

BARCASSES AND PINNACES.

(First and last 2nd class; the American boats figure as Pinnaces).

H.M.S. *Barfleur* Barcass Lieut. Pillimore.
" " Pinnace " Stirling.
U.S.S. *Oregon* Barcass " Johnston.
" " " " McGrann.
S.M.S. *Hertha* Barcass Lieut. Bunneman.
" " Pinnace " v'Görsche.

At the time of the start there was nothing but the lightest of breezes and what there was, as well as the tide, was against the boats, and very slow progress was consequently made during the first hour or two. Later on, however, the breeze freshened up a little and on the return run the race became more interesting. The two pinnaces of the *Oregon* crossed the line in first and second place, the *Barfleur's* first cutter finishing third.

During the afternoon a number of guests were entertained on board the *Hertha* by Vice-Admiral von Bendemann, Captain von Usedom and the officers. The forepart of the cruiser had been decorated with flags and flowers, and after an excellent cold collation had been served, the guests engaged in dancing to the strains of the ship's Band, and at the conclusion of the hospitable entertainment were landed at the hatoba by the steam-launches of the *Hertha*. Among the guests present were the German Minister, Count von Leyden, Count and Countess von Wedell, Prince von Reuss, second Secretary of Legation, Miss Aoki, Mr. Consul-General Coates, Vice-Consul and Mrs. Hagen, Dr. Orth, O.S.A.; Dr. Koch; U.S. Deputy-Consul G. H. Scidmore, and many other ladies and gentlemen from Tokyo and Yokohama.

OPENING OF THE ROWING SEASON.

The Y.A.R.C. were particularly fortunate in the selection of Saturday afternoon for the opening of the rowing season of the Club. The weather was perfect and the water smooth enough for the smallest boats. As might have been expected under the circumstances there was a larger attendance of visitors at the Boat-house than usual, and the ladies of Yokohama graced the scene in considerable numbers. In addition to the attractions of a Band and dancing the fair visitors found a further interest in the sport in the fact that several of them took part in the procession of boats as coxswains.

In the run home from the Breakwater, which however could not be styled a race, W. Goddard finished first, and Allcock second. In the scratch races which followed, five 4-oars competed, J. J. Carst winning a good spurt in the blue boat, by about half a length from W. Goddard in the white boat, Hayward third. The race for Double Sculls was won by Allcock and F. Abbey against White and J. P. Abbey. The races for pair oars and skiffs failed to fill. The proceedings were under the direction of Messrs. H. C. Litchfield, President; F. J. Hall, Captain; Rev. E. C. Irwine, Dr. E. Wheeler, W. Goddard, H. Rose, E. Levedag, G. C. Allcock, L. Mottu, T. Herlihy, H. A. Poole, Hon. Treasurer; H. E. Hayward, Hon. Secretary.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Brett & Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday afternoon to elect a successor to Mr. J. H. Boag, the Managing Director of the company, who is leaving Japan. Mr. G. Blundell was unanimously elected. On the motion of Mr. Blake a very cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Boag for his valuable services to the company.

About 2.45 yesterday morning the front door of the house occupied by Miss J. Lee, No. 127, Settlement, was found to be on fire. The alarm was given and a party of firemen with hose reel and standpipe were despatched to the scene of the fire from the Settlement Station. The flames were quickly extinguished, only the door and doorway being burned. The fire was clearly due to incendiarism as a straw bag saturated with kerosene had been placed against the door.

Early on Sunday morning fire broke out in the country house of Mr. Sawada Shigetaro, the well known Tokyo barrister, at Oiso. The house was entirely destroyed, but the two adjoining buildings, belonging to Count Kabayama and Mr. Yonekura Ippei, a wealthy merchant of Tokyo, were saved. A farmhouse at Higashi Hatano, in Kanagawa Prefecture, owned by Mr. Ishiwatari Seitaro, was also destroyed by fire on Sunday afternoon.

At the annual meeting of the members and supporters of the Union Church, Kobe, held on the 2nd inst., Dr. Atkinson, the Pastor, handed in his resignation, in view of his approaching departure. The Reports of the Pastor and Secretary were adopted. A Committee of three—Dr. Atkinson, Mr. S. S. Lyon, U.S. Consul, and Rev. S. H. Wainwright, M.D.—was appointed to consider the matter of securing a permanent Pastor, and a motion was unanimously passed to invite Dr. Wainwright to accept charge of the Church temporarily. Mr. Albertson was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Richardson was chosen to take charge of the choir in place of Mrs. Atkinson (resigned), and Mrs. McKay was re-elected organist.

With reference to a paragraph which we quoted from a Nagasaki paper in our issue of the 31st ult., to the effect that a German naval officer had been recently fined 20 *yen* by the Nagasaki District Court for contravening the sketching regulations, we are informed by the German Vice-Consul that what the officer did was a most harmless thing. While walking in a valley behind the town, whence the harbour and fortifications were not in sight, he began to make a sketch of a pretty bit of landscape, when he was accosted by a policeman, who took down his name and address, and later on was fined 20 *yen* by the Court.

The *N.-C. Daily News* publishes the following Peking telegram under date of March 26—Orders have been sent to Admiral Yeh, commanding the Peiyang squadron, who is now at Canton with the fast cruisers *Haitien* and *Haishou*, to cruise to the Straits, emissaries of the Empress Dowager having already arrived at Singapore in the hope of assassinating or capturing alive Kang Yu-wei, Ch'iu Shu-yuan, Editor of the *Tienuan Sinpao*, and others of the Reform Party who have taken refuge under the British flag there. The speed of the Chinese cruisers (24 knots), as soon as the captured men are conveyed on board, will defy pursuit by anything that the British Government possesses in the Far East. This is said to be the last resort of the Empress Dowager in her eager desire to slay her enemies in the Reform Party.

William Steinitz, the celebrated chess player, was taken from a hotel to the insane ward of Harlem Hospital on the 8th Feb. He is 64 years old, and this is the second time he has seen such an experience. In the winter of 1897 he went to Moscow to take part in a notable tournament, and was prostrated during its progress. It was at first reported that he was dead, but a few days later a correction of the report was accompanied by the statement that he had gone crazy. Steinitz is a native of Bohemia and was born in Prague. A friend says that his case is not in.

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sanity; he is simply nervous and high strung. When Steinitz arrived at the hospital he told the surgeons he believed he was greatly affected by electric currents. The surgeon at the hospital said the chess-player's condition was serious.

It is reported that upon the advice of Prince Henry of Prussia, an expedition will leave Germany in the spring for the purpose of exploring German New Guinea, and reporting upon its capacity as an agricultural settlement. The Prince is apparently of an opinion, which is shared by most of his officers, that New Guinea has been too long neglected, and that it ought to become a very important market for German commerce.

The new Japanese battleship *Asahi*, which has just been completed in England, will leave Southampton by the end of this month for home. Upon arrival in Japan the big battleship will be attached to the fleet belonging to Yokosuka Admiralty. The *Asahi* is 15.447 tons displacement and her engines, of 15,207 i.h.p. give her a speed of 18 knots an hour. Her armament consists of fifty guns and four torpedo tubes. The battleship was launched on the 16th March, 1899.

The opening of the rowing season of the Kobe Rowing and Athletic Club was inaugurated on Tuesday afternoon with the usual procession of boats. The weather was fine and there was a fair attendance at the Boathouse, but only four boats turned out. The athletic sports of the same Club, which were fixed for Saturday next, were declared "off" on Tuesday, owing to the paucity of entries, only twelve having been received up to that date. What has become of the sporting spirit of Kobe?

English journalism has sustained an irreparable loss in the death of Mr. H. D. Traill. He was perhaps the most versatile writer of our day, and the facility with which he could turn from a serious article written in plain, terse English to the composition of those delightful rhymes which charmed us all, and from these again to criticism of the sanest and most illuminating character, was little short of marvellous. His "Dialogues of the Dead," "New Lucian," and "Recaptured Rhymes," will always be enjoyed, while his monograph on Sterne and his volumes to the "English Men of Letters" series are true literary history, and must always be of the highest value to the student.

We read in a home paper that on the eve of departure of the Japanese warship *Shikishima*, Miss M'Lean, of the Japanese Christian Institute, Tilbury Dock, was presented with a beautiful brooch and studs, in the presence of the officers and crew. The captain of the vessel, in making the presentation, spoke in the most appreciative terms of Miss M'Lean's devotion to the men of the Japanese Navy. The present was accompanied by an address, in which Admiral Marquis Saigo, president of the Imperial Naval Club, Tokyo, expressed his hearty thanks to Miss M'Lean, for her hospitality bestowed on the men in the Imperial Japanese Navy, who had been sent of late years to England with a view to taking the newly-built ship to Japan.

A Honolulu dispatch of the 16th ult. reported that there had been no new cases of plague for several days and the belief was again growing that the pestilence may be at an end. An effort was being made to so frame the quarantine rules that commerce may be resumed in many of the necessary articles of merchandise without danger of spreading infection. The daily inspection of the whole population of the city was still kept up, though the work had continued so long that it had become onerous. Four cases of typhoid fever had appeared among about seventy Japanese employed on the Waikiki water-works. All efforts to trace the source of infection had failed. The Japanese were living very near where the First New York Regiment was camped in 1898 when it developed so many cases of typhoid fever among its members.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The *Osaka Asahi* divides the citics of the present financial situation of Japan into two classes. The one is represented as optimistic; the other as pessimistic. The former maintain that the present depression of the financial market is destined to remedy itself in future, and that exports will considerably increase during the latter half of the year and thus contribute to the inflow of gold. The pessimistic observers, however, hold that if things be left to themselves, the steady outflow of specie will inevitably lead to the issue of inconvertible notes, which will eventually bring about the bankruptcy of the whole economic community. These diametrically opposite views can not but be regarded as extreme, remarks our contemporary. They are far from being justifiable; a financial depression requires artificial devices for improvement or amelioration. The forecast as to the increase of the volume of trade in the latter half of the year is not likely to be fulfilled beyond the attainment of an equality between exports and imports, no scheme for amelioration is discernsable in the present condition of affairs. The remedy, in our contemporary's opinion, lies in the selection of staples of import. The excess in imports in connection with productive enterprises is not at all to be feared, inasmuch as it virtually secures the cultivation of the nation's productive power towards the augmentation of exports in future. Curtailment in the import of unproductive material, including articles of luxury, is alone of paramount importance in the improvement of the country's financial situation. To attain this end the customs tariff should be forced to its highest limit on any class of articles which are deemed unproductive: the rates, so far as the conventions will permit, might may be raised almost to a prohibitive scale. Simultaneously with the udoption of these measures, taxes on productive commodities should be decreased to a considerable extent. Any proposition involving the principles of free trade must be condemned as the outcome of stupidity and ignorance. Among the staple imports at present sugar occupies a most prominent position, but the commodity is chiefly sent from Formosa to Hongkong for refinement, after which it is again imported to Japan for universal consumption, Nothing can be more uneconomical than such a process. As regards kerosene too, a similar lack of wisdom is noticeable. Measures may be adopted to furnish the oil to the natives to a much greater extent than has hitherto been attained, if the petroleum wells are worked with renewed vigour and assiduity. As regards rice, the prospect is much brighter, seeing that it can be horvested twice a year in Formosa. Cling to home productions and home manufactures, by all means and at all costs, and then the imports will decrease by themselves. Staples of exports must of course be encouraged, but in the case of silk the brisk demand for it in the interior almost cripples any scheme for increasing its export, and in order to curtail the amount of domestic consumption taxes on it should be considerably increased. Then again, all the unproductive capital floated in the empire should be placed in the hands of the manufacturing classes; the government bonds should be decreased and the credit system developed. Finally our contemporary urges the necessity of checking, the speculative spirit of the people by the imposition of heavy taxes upon transactions in shares.

The same paper also remarks that although the Bank of Japan has by raising its interest, endeavoured to maintain an equilibrium between its reserve specie and reserve securities, by way of preventing the exodus of gold, the measure so adopted can hardly be expected to secure the end in view. It is of course undeniable that with the dimunition of reserve specie, the reserve securities will increase, and this will doubtless have the effect of checking, to a certain extent, the tendency of the exodus of specie. Still a question which presents itself for immediate solution is, whether it will not be necessary for the Nippon Ginko to raise its scale of interest again. If the same cause is to produce the same effect in matters of finance, the economic community of Japan must be prepared to witness in future the grievous spectacle of an outflow of specie such as was experienced in the 30th and 31st years of *Meiji*. If the remedial measures subsequently adopted by financiers proved successful then, steps of a similar nature taken at present should prove equally efficient. In this assertion our contemporary alludes to the reduction of currency consequent upon the raising of interest, a measure carried out a few years ago to prevent the exodus of gold,—and by way of illustration gives the following figures:—

	Specie reserve. *yen.*	Notes. *yen.*
December, 1896	132,730,192	198,313,896
December, 1897	98,261,473	226,229,058
January, 1898	91,568,364	212,003,989
February, 1898	83,626,224	195,297,483
March, 1898	74,651,152	195,889,761
April, 1898	64,053,009	183,819,239
May, 1898	62,999,561	174,196,930
June, 1898	63,820,386	180,019,930

It will be perceived that the outflow of gold continued without interruption until it culminated in May, 1898, and at the same time the volume of currency had considerably decreased, the largest reduction being noticeable in May. These results were evidently brought about by the successive augmentation in the scale of interest, as may be seen from the following table:—

	Rate of interest on loans. *sen.*	Rate of discount. *sen.*
Sept. 7, 1896	2.1	2
June 14, 1897	2.3	2
Aug. 11, 1897	2.4	2.1
Oct. 23, 1897	2.5	2.2
Feb. 9, 1898	2.6	2.3
March 14, 1898	2.7	2.4

Thus the rates of interest were raised five times during ten months from June, 1897, to March, 1898. The volume of convertible notes also steadily decreased from April, 1898.

Turning to the actual condition of finance, our contemporary proceeds to show the exact relation between specie and notes, the figures for which, according to the latest reports of the Bank of Japan, stand as follows:—

	Yen.
Total issue of convertible notes up to March, 1900	209,866,256
Specie and bullion	100,573,792

The above figures, it may be observed, are almost, though not quite, equal to those recorded in December, 1897, and in the first two months of the year 1898. It may also be observed that in October, 1897, the rate of interest on loans stood at 2.5 *sen*, while the rate of discount did not exceed 2.2 *sen*. In February, 1898, the scale was increased by 1 *rin*, and in March another *rin* was added. The rates at present are fixed at 2.4 and 2.1 *sen* respectively, being equal to those recorded in August, 1897. From these facts it may be inferred that the tendency of the outflow of specie will continue unabated and that recourse will be had to the increase of interest on several occasions hereafter. Such are the conclusions arrived at statistically through historical investigation. The plan of raising the rate of interest is by no means satisfactory, but it must be carried out, asserts our contemporary, in the interests of the economic community at large.

DINNER TO JAPANESE SILK MERCHANTS.

On Tuesday evening the Japanese silk merchants of Yokohama were entertained to dinner at the Oriental Hotel by the Foreign silk shippers of the port. Mr. John H. Jewett, of the firm of Bavier & Co., presided, and in the course of the entertainment proposed the health of their guests. Mr. Ono, Chairman of the Yokohama Silk Guild, responded, in a speech in Japanese, of which the following is a translation:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN:—On behalf of the members of the Yokohama Japanese Silk Guild I beg to offer you my grateful thanks for the cordial manner in which you have received us this evening. In Japan there is now a great change, if we compare it with the old days, when trade was treated with contempt. It has been proved that commerce is,

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indeed, the life blood of society, and that no country shut up within its own boundaries can ever hope to be the home of a prosperous, progressive and developing people, and so our doors were thrown wide open for the commerce of the world. Nations, however, being different in character and opinion, should have frequent intercourse, and by personal interchange of ideas learn to understand each other better, so that no misunderstandings can occur between them. Following this principle, I think it is absolutely necessary that both the Japanese and Foreign Silk Merchants in Yokohama should come more frequently together, in order to know each other better and to interchange ideas. Such a gathering as this can not fail to create feelings of sympathy and mutual confidence which are so essential to the friendly relations of commercial men. We, the silk merchants in Yokohama, are not your rivals or competitors, in the sense that our interests clash. On the contrary, I may say that we have practically identical interests in this trade. Let us meet often to draw closer the relations existing among us. Let us hope that we may further promote the success of the trade, increase the prosperity of our country and largely augment its commerce. I thank you again most heartily for your kind reception to-night, and I propose to drink to the health of our hosts.

ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT BONDS.

On the 30th ultimo the Government issued bonds bearing 5 per cent. interest to the amount of 3,649,000 yen, and paid in the proceeds to the Bank of Japan. Of this amount 419,950 yen consisted of Hokkaido Railway Bonds, and 3,229,050 yen of Public Undertakings Bonds. The issue value for both was fixed at 90 yen per 100 yen face value. Below are the comparative figures for the past three years :—

	Amount of issue Yen.	Issue price in Yen.
March, 1897	3,000,000	99.22
October, 1897	10,000,000	95.53
November, 1897	10,000,000	94.70
December, 1897	3,000,000	92.41
January, 1898	8,000,000	96.09
March, 1898	3,900,000	90.21
March, 1900	3,229,050	90.
Total	41,129,050	—

It is to be understood that the above figures refer to the Public Undertakings Bonds alone, bearing 5 per cent. interest. As to the Hokkaido Railway Bonds bearing the same rate of interest, the figures stand as follows:—

	Amount in yen.	Value in yen.
March, 1898	1,000,000	90.21
March, 1900	419,950	90
Total	1,419,950	

The gross total from the outset of bonds for railway, public undertakings, and Hokkaido railways is as follows :—

	Yen.
Railway bonds (in eight issues)	17,907,350
Public Undertakings Bonds (in seven issues)	41,129,050
Hokkaido Railway bonds (in two issues)	1,419,950
Total	60,456,350

It is said that the Government proposes to distribute between these three classes of bonds the loans raised in London last year, but as the relative amount of distribution has not yet been determined, the same has been excluded from the above total.

JAPANESE SETTLEMENTS ABROAD.

The following notification is published in the *Official Gazette* over the signature of the Premier and the Minister of Foreign Affairs in regard to boards of commissioners to be charged with the duty of establishing and maintaining exclusive settlements for Japanese abroad :—

Art. I.—A Board of Commissioners shall be established in all exclusive settlements for Japanese in foreign countries, under the direct control of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Art. II.—The personnel of the Board shall be as follows :—1 President of *Sonin* rank ; 1 Engineer ; 5 Assistant Engineers ; 3 Clerks.

Art. III.—The post of President shall be occupied by the Imperial Consul in whom the power of superintending the affairs of the Board and exercising control over its officials will be vested.

Art. IV.—The Engineer, under the directions of the President, will superintend all the works undertaken.

Art. V.—The Assistant Engineers shall work according to the directions of their superiors.

Art. VI.—The post of clerks shall be occupied by student secretaries and interpreters belonging to the Foreign Department, and shall attend to miscellaneous affairs.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, March 31st :—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,590,900
Amount of convertible notes issued	227,448,080
Government deposits	60,349,638
General deposits	3,680,794
Exchange liability	13,579
Total	337,001,683
CR.	
Discount notes	74,416,140
Foreign discount notes	9,667,122
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	71,134,137
Exchange liability	3,282,295
Government bonds	55,513,511
Property	2,026,562
Bullion and Specie	98,961,912
Total	337,001,683

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	271,809,333
Bullion and Specie :—	
Gold	93,048,717
Silver	4,000,000
Total	97,048,717
Securities :—	
Government bonds	29,164,588
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	12,099,381
Commercial notes	57,496,647
Total	120,760,616

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	1,593,484
Silver	—	—
General loans	3,558,544	—
Government deposits	—	752,180
General deposits	360,152	—

TWO WILLS.

The man in the street will learn with considerable surprise that the late Sir Henry Tate was more than twice as rich as the late Duke of Westminster. Yet figures cannot lie, and Sir Henry's will has been proved at £1,263,565 5s. 5d. ("The ha'penny be demmed," said Mr. Mantalini), while that of the Duke of Westminster only reaches the very moderate sum of £594,226 is. It had been supposed that the Duke's yearly income was about as much as Sir Henry Tate's entire estate, and people said that His Grace never knew within £100,000 or so how rich he was. Chancellors of the Exchequer have been known to rub their hands at the very prospect of bringing the Grosvenor death duties into the Budget, but now we see how erroneous all these surmises really were. The Duke of Westminster, bless you, was quite a poor man—judged by what his estate is sworn to for probate—and one feels quite sorry that he should ever have been thought to be a millionaire. It is true that there is a trifle of £14,000,000 or so knocking about somewhere in the family, but what is that? Perhaps the late Duke may have been able to persuade those wealth relatives of his to assist him now and then ; but all the State is entitled to ask for probate duty on is this sum of £564,229. is. We hope that Somerset House has been very careful not to omit the shilling from duty, and for the rest we remain in a condition of thankful amazement at the beautiful legal ingenuity which can adjust these arrangements with such beautiful accuracy.—*London Letter.*

TRADE RETURNS.

The following summary of trade returns for the 32nd year of *Meiji*, as compiled by the Finance Department, is published in the *Official Gazette* :—

Exports.	Foreign production. *yen.*	Domestic production. *yen.*	Total. *yen.*
Taxed	32,490,317	—	32,490,317
Untaxed	177,027,253	1,977,757	179,005,016
Ships' stores	3,434,559	—	3,434,559
Total	212,252,136	1,977,757	214,929,894
Imports.			
Taxed	136,477,159	12,465	136,489
Untaxed	177,027,258	1,977,757	179,005,016
Ships' stores	—	—	—
Total	220,050,983	350,942	220,401
Excess of imports	—	—	5,472,031
Total of exports and imports	—	—	435,331,830

BULLION AND SPECIE.

	Gold coins and bullion. *yen.*	Silver coins and bullion. *yen.*	Total. *yen.*
Exports	8,268,365	2,409,821	11,178,247
Imports	20,080,695	82,804	20,163,500
Excess of imports	—	—	8,985,253

Classified according to the ports of export and import, the figures stand as follows :—

EXPORTS,

	Domestic production. Yen.	Foreign production. Yen.
Yokohama	107,891,874	380,855
Kobe	74,679,041	641,842
Osaka	5,79,290	265,008
Nagasaki	5,680,561	527,209
Hakodate	2,078,943	37,107
Niigata	127,429	7,158
Shimonoseki	4,161,423	92,872
Moji	6,154,606	1,117
Kuchinotsu	4,109,766	—

IMPORTS.

	Domestic production. Yen.	Foreign production. Yen.
Yokohama	76,298,120	154,884
Kobe	120,200,563	88,960
Osaka	6,390,913	14,178
Nagasaki	11,106,917	40,592
Hakodate	1,703,288	23,174
Niigata	109,006	6,809
Shimonoseki	1,374,162	3,970
Moji	689,089	132
Kuchinotsu	228,833	—

Other ports, whose trade does not exceed ½ million *yen* are omitted, while the figures below one *yen* are expunged.

PRODUCTION OF DIAMONDS.

The diamonds of Cape Colony are exported almost exclusively to England, which is (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) the great diamond market of the world ; other countries of destination are Belgium, Germany, and France, but the quantity taken by each is insignificant when compared with that received by England. The following particulars, showing the value of the exports of diamonds from the Cape in the six years 1893 to 1898 were given recently by "Le Monde Economique" :—

1893	£3,821,000
1894	2,614,000
1895	4,775,000
1896	4,647,000
1897	4,454,000
1898	4,567,000

From England the diamonds are sent to the various diamond-cutting districts, which are for the most part in Holland and Belgium. Amsterdam and Brussels are important centres of the industry. Nearly all the diamonds from the Orange Free State (Jagersfontein), valued at £400,000 in 1897, are cut in Belgium. In 1897 the production of diamonds in the Cape was 3,220,368 carats, valued at £4,000,000. This enormous production represents a fifth of the total value of the diamonds found in Brazil from the time of their discovery until 1886. At the present time, Brazil, as a country productive of diamonds for jewellery, is of little importance. In fact, only black diamonds for industrial purposes, are now mined. These diamonds

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are rendered valuable by their hardness for rock-boring purposes and also for polishing diamonds intended for jewellery. They are found principally in the district of Bahia.

South Africa will probably become as celebrated as Golconda, having produced many more diamonds than India; in the latter country only £160,000 to £200,000 worth are now found each year. Diamonds are found in Australia and Borneo, but, for the time being, South Africa may be said to have the monopoly of the diamond production of the world.

OCEAN CURRENTS.

Mr. F. T. Buller, writng for the *Spectator*, says:—So mysterious are all the physical phenomena of the sea that it is, perhaps, hardly possible to say of any particular one that it is more wonderful than the rest. And yet one is sorely tempted thus to distinguish when meditating upon the movements of the almost inconceivable mass of water which goes to make up that major portion of the external superficies of our planet which we call "the sea." In spite of all the labours of investigators, notwithstanding all the care and patience which science has bestowed upon oceanography, it is nevertheless true that, except in a few broad instances, the direction, the rate, and the dependability of ocean currents still remain a profound mystery. Nor should this excite any wonder. If we remember how great is the influence over the sea possessed by the winds, how slight an alteration in the specific gravity of water is sufficient to disturb its equilibrium and cause masses hundreds of square miles in area to exchange levels with the surrounding ocean, we shall at once admit that, except in those few instances hinted at which may be referred to constant causes, ocean currents must of necessity be still among the phenomena whose operations cannot be reckoned upon with any certainty, but must be watched for and guarded against with the most jealous care by those who do business in great waters.

Perhaps one of the commonest of the many errors made in speaking of marine things is that of confounding current with tide. Now tide, though a variable feature of the circulation of the waters near land, is fairly dependable. That is to say, the navigator may calculate by means of the moon's age and the latitude of the place not only the time of high water, but knowing the mean height at full and change of the moon, he may and does ascertain to what height the water will rise, or how low it will fall at a certain place on a given date. True, a heavy gale of wind blowing steadily in or against the same direction of the ebbing or flowing tide will accelerate or retard, raise or depress, that tide at the time; but these aberrations, though most unpleasant often-times to riparian householders, are rarely of much hindrance or danger to navigation. This cannot be said of the currents of the sea. The tides have their limits assigned to them both inland and off-shore, although in the latter case it is almost impossible to tell exactly where their influence becomes merged in the vaster sway of the ocean currents, with all their unforeseen developments.

The limits of tidal waters in rivers, on the other hand, being well under observation at all times, may be and are determined with the greatest exactitude.

With regard to the few instances of dependability among ocean currents, the first place will undoubtedly by common consent be given to the Gulf Stream. Owing its existence primarily to the revolution of the earth upon its axis, its outflow through the tortuous channel connecting the Gulf of Florida with the North Atlantic is more constant and steady in direction than any ebbing or flowing tide in the world, inasmuch as its "set" is invariably upon one course. Its rate is not so uniform, varying somewhat with the season, but in the narrowest part of the channel remaining fairly constant at about four knots an hour. Yet sail but a few score leagues into the Florida Gulf whence this great river in the sea takes its apparent rise, and its influence disappears! The mariner may seek there in vain for that swift, silent flow which in the Straits of Florida sweeps him north-eastward irresistibly in the teeth of the strongest gale. What has happened? Does the mighty stream drain westward into that great land-locked sea by hundreds of channels from the Equatorial regions, but far below the surface, and, obeying some all-compelling impulse, rise to the light upon reaching the Bahama Banks, pouring out its beneficent flood as it comes at the rate of a hundred miles per day? It sweeps into the broad Atlantic, and immediately spreads out into a breadth to which the Amazon is but a brooklet, losing its velocity meanwhile, until, having skirted the North American coast as far as the Grand Banks, it rolls in sublime grandeur eastward towards these "fortunate isles." As it does so the mystery attendant upon it deepens. Its balmy presence cannot be mistaken, for the air on either side of it may be piercing in its keenness, while immdiately above it there is summer. A gale blowing at right angles to its course will raise that terrible combination of waves which gives alike to the "Western Ocean" and the "pitch of the Cape" their evil reputation as the most dangerous in the world; and yet who among navigators has ever been able to determine what, if any, rate of speed it has in mid-Atlantic? Look through hundreds of log-books kept on board ships that are, perhaps, more carefully navigated than any others, the North Atlantic liners, and you shall not find a trace of the Gulf Stream "set" mentioned. In order to make this clear, it should be said that in all properly navigated ships the course steered and the speed made are carefully noted throughout the twenty-four hours; and this course, with distance run, calculated from the position accurately fixed by observation of the celestial bodies at the previous noon, gives the ship's position by "dead reckoning." The ship's position being also found by the celestial bodies at the same time, the difference between the latter and the "dead reckoning" position should give the "set" and direction of the current for the twenty-four hours, And in vessels so carefully steered, and whose speed is so accurately known, as the great liners are, such current data are as trustworthy as any nautical data can be. But according to the records kept by these able navigators, there is no current setting eastward across the North Atlantic. Perhaps the explanation is that it is so very sluggish as to be unnoticeable, for those dreadful monuments of misfortune to themselves and others, the derelict ships, have been known to drift completely backwards and forwards across the Atlantic, finding not only a current to carry them eastward, but its counter-current to carry them back again.

But who among us with the slightest smattering of physiography is there that is not assured that but for the genial warmth of this mighty silent sea-river our islands would revert to their condition at the glacial epoch; who is there bnt feels a shiver of dread pass over his scalp when he contemplates the possibility of any diversion of its life-giving waters from our shores. The bare suggestion of such a calamity is most terrifying.

As steady and reliable in its operations is the great Equatorial current which, sweeping along the Line from east to westward, is doubtless the fountain and origin of the Gulf Stream, although its operations among that ring of islands guarding the entrance to the Mexican Gulf are involved in such obscurity that none may trace them out. And going farther south, we find the Agulhas current, beloved of home-ward-bound sailing ships round the Cape of Good Hope, pursuing its even, resistless course around the Southern Horn of Africa changelessly throughout the years. How its stubborn flow frets the stormy Southern sea! No wonder that the early navigator doubling the Cape outward-bound, and fearing to go south, believed that some unthinkable demon held sway over those wild waves. The passage of Cape Horn from east to west holds the bad eminence to-day among seafarers of being the most difficult in the world, but what the outward passage around the Cape of Storms must have been before men learned that it was possible to avoid the stream of the Agulhas current by going a few degrees south we of these later days can only imagine. What becomes of the Agulhas current when once it has poured its volume of Indian Ocean waters into the Atlantic? Does it sink below the surface some hundreds of fathoms, and silently, smoothly, glide south to the confines of the Antarctic ice barrier, or does it wander northward into warmer regions? In any case, it fulfils the one grand function of all currents, whether of air or water,—the avoidance of stagnation, the circulation of health among the nations of the earth.

Coming northward in the Pacific, let us note the counterpart of the Gulf Stream, the Kuro Siwo, or Black River of Japan, with the multitudinous isles of the East Indian Archipelago for its Caribbean Sea, and Nippon for its British Isles. It is, however, but a poor competitor in benevolence with our own Gulf Stream, as all those who know their Japan in winter can testify. Others there are that might be noted and classified if this aimed at being a scientific article, but these will suffice. These are surely wide fields enough for the imagination to rove in, wonderful depths of energy in plenty wherein the reverent and thoughtful mind may find all sufficient food for its working. Remembering that the known is but the fringe of the unknown, and that the secrets of the ocean are so well kept that man's hand shall never fully tear aside the veil, we may patiently ponder and wonder. That great sea of the ancients beyond whose portals, according to their wisdom, lay Cimmerian darkness,—what keeps its almost tideless waters sweet? Unseen currents enter and leave by the Pillars of Hercules at differing levels, and could we but penetrate those dim regions we should doubtless find the ingress and egress of that incalculable mass of water proceeding continually, the one above the other, renewing from the exhaustless stores of the Atlantic the staleness of great midland lake, itself apparetly remaining in unchanging level.

But when all these great well-known movements of the ocean have been considered, there still remain an infinite number of minor divagations influenced by who knows what hidden causes. The submarine upheavals of central heat, when from out of her glowing entrails the old earth casts incandescent stores of lava, raising the superincumbent mass of water for many square miles almost to boiling point,—who can estimate the effect that these throes have upon the trend of great areas of ocean? The almost infernal energy of those gyrating meteors of the tropics as they rage across the seas,—how can any mind, however acute, assess the drag upon the whole body of surface water that is manifested thereby? To say nothing of the displacement caused by the less violent but far more frequent stress laid upon the much-enduring sea by extra-tropical gales, whereby the baffled mariner's calculations are all overset, and his ship that should be careering safely in the wide offing is suddenly dashed in ruins upon the iron-bound shore!

Great efforts have been made to lay down for the benefit of seafarers a comprehensive scheme of ocean currents all over the watery surface of the globe, but in the great majority of cases the guidance is delusive, the advice untrustworthy, through no fault of the compilers. They have done their best, but mean results can never help particular needs. And so the wary mariner, as far as may be, trusts to the old-fashioned three "L's,"—lead, log, and lookout, knowing full well how little reliance is to be placed in the majority of cases upon any advice soever concerning the mystery of ocean currents.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

Shanghai, March 31.

The Duke of Norfolk has resigned the Post-master-general-ship, and sails for the Cape to join the Sussex Mounted Infantry which he raised.

LORD METHUEN.

In pursuance of orders from Lord Roberts, Lord Methuen with the mounted troops has returned to Kimberley from the Barkly district.

OLIVIER.

It appears certain that Olivier, with several thousand men and many guns, has reached a place of safety and is now advancing to Kroonstad. It is assumed that the condition of the horses in French's division prevented him from attacking Olivier.

THE EIGHTH DIVISION.

The Eighth Division lands at East London and proceeds to the front immediately.

RUSSIA IN KOREA.

Russia is pressing Korea for a concession at Masampo.

THE "IWATE."

The Japanese cruiser *Iwate* has been launched at Elswick.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Archibald Forbes, the famous war-correspondent, is dead.

THE DELAGOA AWARD.

The Delagoa award is that Portugal is ordered to pay fifteen million three hundred and fourteen thousand francs, plus five per cent. interest, from June 1889.

FIGHTING NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN.

Roberts telegraphs from Bloemfontein on Friday, that owing to activity of the enemy on the immediate front and their hostile action towards the burghers who had surrendered, it was found necessary to dislodge them from the kopjes at Karee Siding to the south of Blandfort. The operations were successful under Tucker and French. The British now hold the kopjes. Their loss was 108 killed and wounded.

LADYBRAND.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Maseru that the Boers who returned to Ladybrand are strongly posted in the mountains, and are

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picketing in every direction, raiding English farmers.

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS.

The improvement in Anglo-French relations is marked.

THE UNIVERSITY SPORTS.

Oxford has won the sports by six events to four.

CHINESE AFFAIRS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Shanghai, April 1.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Joseph Walton called attention to the failure of the Government to uphold British interests in China. A prolonged debate ensued. Mr. Brodrick said that in many cases railway concessions had been obtained, but no work had been done. China was justified in requiring that some substantial progress should be made, and that if a serious undertaking such as that promoted by the Peking Syndicate be supported (officially ?), it should be pressed forward. With regard to internal navigation, the employment of gun-boats would be continued, and other expedients would be considered. He denied that British influence in Peking had disappeared. The policy of Her Majesty's Government was not to look for further territorial acquisitions, but to keep open the water-ways. The Government had exercised legitimate pressure conjointly with other Powers for the purpose of promoting tradal facilities.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

Cambridge won the University Boat Race.

[Cambridge has won the Varsity race for the second year in succession, making her 24 victories to 32 gained by Oxford. She had a good many old Blues in her boat this year, and the betting was in the Light Blues' favour when the last mail left home.—ED. *J.M.*]

THE VARSITY BOAT RACE.

Cambridge won the Varsity Boat-race by 20 lengths.

[Last year Cambridge won by 3¼ lengths in 21m. 4s.—ED. *J.M.*]

ST. HELENA GUARDS.

Four hundred of the Gloucestershires have sailed for St. Helena to guard the prisoners.

THE TRANSVAAL MINES.

The Transvaal State Attorney has officially informed the Foreign Consuls that there is no intention of destroying the mines.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT.

Mr. Michael Davitt has arrived at Kroonstadt.

THE FIGHT AT BLANDFORT.

The total casualties at Blandfort were two officers killed and eight wounded; 10 men killed and 162 wounded.

BIRTH OF A ROYAL PRINCE.

The Duchess of York has been safely delivered of a son.

[The family of the Duke and Duchess of York now consists of three sons and a daughter.—ED. *J.M.*]

RACING IN ENGLAND.

Shanghai, April 2.

The Lincolnshire Handicap was won by "Sir Geoffrey," with "Strikenlight" second, and "Forcett" third.

The Grand National Steeplechase was won by "Ambush," "Barsac" running second, and "Manifesto" third.

THE EIGHTH DIVISION.

Fresh orders have been issued for the Eighth Division to disembark at Cape Town and go north immediately.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND THE AUSTRALIAN PREMIERS.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to the Australian Premiers, said that the view held by Australia is completely in accord with the feeling in Great Britain and the rest of the Empire.

HORSES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Later.

Quantities of Hungarian and other horses are being shipped to repair the heavy wear and tear incidental to Lord Roberts' operations.

PAARDEBERG.

A force of Boers are in laager in the neighbourhood of Paardeberg and marauding bands are visiting the farmers.

HONOURING THE GALLANT DEAD.

Lord Roberts has telegraphed to President Kruger, offering his condolences on the death of General Joubert and praising his chivalry and bravery.

THE NEW COMMANDER.

It is stated that President Kruger, in his speech at the funeral of the late General Joubert, announced that Louis Botha would succeed Joubert.

A SURPRISE NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN.

Shanghai, April 3.

A British convoy and batteries have been ambushed near Bloemfontein in a deep spruit, and 6 guns were captured.

THE EXPLANATION.

Reuter, in a later telegram, says that a message from Reuter's agent at Bushman Kop, dated 31st March, explains that a force consisting of the 10th Hussars, the Household Cavalry, and two horse batteries under Broadwood, with mounted Infantry under Pilcher, were garrisoning Thaba N'chu when they were threatened by a strong force of Boers on the evening of the 30th. They retired to Bloemfontein Water-works, where the camp was shelled at dawn from the rear, whereupon Broadwood sent off the convoy and the batteries, with the result already wired.

Colville's division left Bloemfontein early on the morning of the 1st April, and arrived at noon, and they are now shelling the enemy.

BROADWOOD'S LOSSES.

Later.

A despatch from Lord Roberts confirms Reuter's message from Bushman Kop. Broadwood reports that his losses in the ambush were 350, including 200 missing, 7 guns and all his baggage.

THE GUNS RECOVERED.

Roberts telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of 1st inst. that a report had just arrived that the enemy had retired towards Ladybrand, leaving 12 wounded officers and 70 men at the Water-works. A special telegram to the *Daily Chronicle* from Bloemfontein dated the 2nd says that Broadwood's guns had been recovered and that the water supply of Bloemfontein had been cut off.

TWO OFFICERS ESCAPE FROM PRETORIA.

Shanghai, April 4.

Haldane, of the Gordons, and Lemesurier, of the Dublins, have escaped from Pretoria and reached Lourenzo Marques.

THE SCENE OF THE AMBUSH.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Bloemfontein, says that the scene of the ambush was a terrible sight. The spruit was filled with corpses of horses and with broken waggons, in hideous confusion. Broadwood's presence of mind and skilful handling saved the destruction of the entire force.

FOR RHODESIA.

The transport *Chicago* is leaving Cape Town for Beira with a portion of the Bushman's Corps, horses, mules and plant for the Rhodesian Railway. A large stock of supplies and provisions are also going to Beira.

THE AMBUSH AFFAIR.

Later.

Reuter's agent telegraphing from Bloemfontein on the evening of the 2nd, says that the enemy still occupied the Water-works. The Boers were shelled on the 1st and returned the fire. It is reported that some Boers are moving south.

A despatch from Lord Roberts praises the gallantry of the 9th Battery in the ambush affair. The officers served the guns as the men fell under seven hours' cross fire.

THE MINES CLOSED DOWN.

Shanghai, April 5.

The *Times'* correspondent telegraphs from Lorenzo Marques that it is reported that all the Rand mines were closed down on Thursday. The British workers and bank clerks there and in other places were expelled wholesale.

THE BOERS DEMORALISED.

The Transvaalers are demoralised. It is impossible to induce many to return to the front. President Kruger has prevailed on President Steyn to make one big stand before surrendering.

THE BLOEMFONTEIN WATER SUPPLY.

The destruction of the Water-works at Bloemfontein causes inconvenience, but there is a plentiful supply of drinking water in the town.

FRENCH RETURNS TO BLOEMFONTEIN.

Colville's division and French's cavalry have returned to Bloemfontein.

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS.

H.I.H. the Prince of Wales, while passing through Brussels on his way to Denmark, was fired at with a revolver by an unknown man in the railway station. The Prince was not hurt. The assailant jumped upon the footboard of the carriage in which the Prince, the Princess, and an Equerry were riding. He fired twice through the window, hitting nobody.

THE AMBUSH DISASTER.

The guns and waggons captured in the ambush have not been recovered. The pursuit of the Boers was abandoned.

THE QUEEN IN IRELAND.

The Queen's entry into Dublin was a brilliant and an immense success.

ADMIRAL DEWEY FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

Admiral Dewey has announced his willingness to stand for the Presidency of the United States.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE IN TOKYO.)

FRENCH VICTORY IN AFRICA.

Saigon, March 31.

Telegrams from Algiers announce that a column of French troops carried the Oasis of Turkhar in Tidikelt by assault after bombardment and in spite of desperate resistance. The assaulting column had 9 killed and 48 wounded, including 2 officers. The casualties on the side of the Morocco Arabs were 600 killed, a hundred wounded, and 450 prisoners.

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THE SAHARA.

Saigon, April 1.

The French journals offer congratulations on the occupation of the Oasis of Turkhar, and forsee that this event will have considerable consequences.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Lord Roberts has dislodged the Boers from the kopjes in the neighbourhood of Blandfort. His casualties were 21 killed and 170 wounded.

PRESIDENT KRUGER'S RESOLVE.

Saigon, April 3.

President Kruger, speaking at the obsequies of General Joubert in Pretoria, declared the resolve of the Boers to continue the struggle to the death.

THE THABA N'CHU DISASTER.

It is announced from Bloemfontein that the Boers surprised in a ravine near Thaba N'chu an English column under Broadwood. They captured 7 guns, all the baggage, and 200 prisoners. The English had also 150 killed and wounded.

THE FRENCH COLONIAL ARMY.

Saigon, April 4.

The Chamber of Deputies continues the discussion of the project of law relating to the Colonial Army. General Gallifet, amid much applause, maintains the proposition of the attachment of this Army to the War Department.

THE THABA NCHU AMBUSCADE.

The whole press of London shows much concern about the Thaba Nchu ambuscade.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Jiji Shimpo.")

KANG YU-WEI AGAIN.

Peking, April 2.

It is stated that Kang Yu-wei has been negotiating for the purchase of 10,000 military uniforms in Hongkong. The Peking Government has directed Li Hung-chang, the Viceroy of the Two Kwang, to communicate with the Governor of Hongkong on the subject.

THE SHANTUNG INSURRECTION.

The Shantung insurgents have entered Chihli. It is possible that the Foreign Powers may consider it necessary to land troops for the protection of residents in Peking.

THE MASAMPO COMPLICATION.

Söul, March, 31.

Minister Hayashi, in pursuance of instructions received from the Home Government, has made some representations to the Korean Government.

Söul, April 1.

The Russian Minister was pressing his demand for land as Masampo with much insistence, but as the Korean Government, in consequence of representations made by the Japanese Minister, showed a determined front, the Russian Minister withdrew his demand, and substituted an application for land within the treaty limits, on which basis a settlement has been effected.

An arrangement having been concluded for a grant of land to Russia within the limits of the foreign settlement at Masampo, one of the Russian ships has left Chemulpo. The Russian officers appear to be dissatisfied because the Korean Government allowed itself to be influenced by Japanese representations.

MR. PRITCHARD MORGAN.

Söul, April 3.

Mr. Pritchard Morgan, the concessionaire of the Uensan gold mine, has been appointed Korean Consul in London.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Nichi Nichi Shimbun.")

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

Söul, March 31.

The Korean Government has definitely refused Russia's demand for land at Masampo.

MASAMPO.

Söul, April 1.

In consequence of the refusal of the Korean Government, Russia withdrew her demand for Rampo, at the entrance of Masampo Bay, and agreed to accept instead a lot of land within 2½ miles of the Settlement. On that basis the matter was settled amicably.

CHINA.

Peking, April 4.

The Government has issued an edict that should any trouble occur in Canton, Li Hung-chang will be held responsible.

AN APPARENT COUP.

Peking, April 5.

There are signs that the Government is contemplating some important step tomorrow.

THE INSURGENTS.

It is announced that in consequence of the doings of the insurgents the Foreign Powers are likely to land troops.

THE WAR.

London, March 13th.

A Parliamentary paper containing the telegrams sent to the British Government by the Presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State, and Great Britain's reply thereto, was issued this afternoon. It first gives the telegram sent by the two Presidents to the Marquis of Salisbury, as follows:

Bloemfontein, March 5th.

The blood and the tears of thousands who have suffered by this war, and the prospect of all moral and economic ruin, wherewith South Africa is now threatened, make it necessary for both belligerents to ask themselves dispassionately and as in the sight of the triune God for what they are fighting and whether the aim of each justifies all this appalling misery and devastation.

"With this object, and in view of the assertions of various British statesmen to the effect that this war was begun and is being carried on with the set purpose of undermining her majesty's authority in South Africa and of setting up an administration over all of South Africa independent of her majesty's Government, we consider it our duty to solemnly declare that this war was undertaken solely as a defensive measure to maintain the threatened independence of the South African Republic and is only continued in order to secure and maintain the incontestable independence of both republics as sovereign international states and to obtain the assurance that those of her majesty's subjects who have taken part with us in this war shall suffer no harm whatever in person or property. On these conditions, but on these conditions alone, are we now, as in the past, desirous of seeing peace re-established in South Africa, while if her majesty's Government is determined to destroy the independence of the republics, there is nothing left to us and to our people but to persevere to the end in the course already begun. In spite of the overwhelming pre-eminence of the British empire, we are confident that that God who lighted the unextinguishable fire of love of freedom in the hearts of ourselves will not forsake us, and that he will accomplish his work in us and in our descendants. We hesitated to make this declaration earlier to your excellency, as we feared that as long as the advantage was always on our side, and as long as our forces held defensive positions far within her majesty's colonies, such a declaration might hurt the feelings and honor of the British people. But now that the prestige of the British empire may be considered to be assured by the capture of one of our forces by her majesty's troops and that we have thereby been forced to evacuate other positions which our troops had occupied, that difficulty is over, and we can no longer hesitate to clearly inform your Government and people in the sight of the whole civilized world why we are fighting and on what conditions we are ready to restore peace."

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State:—

"Foreign Office, March 11.

I have the honour to acknowledge your honours' telegram, dated March 5th from Bloemfontein, of which the purport is principally to demand that her majesty's Government shall recognize 'the incontestable independence of the South African Republic and Free State' as 'sovereign international States' and to offer on those terms to bring the war to a conclusion.

"In the beginning of October last peace existed between her majesty and the two republics under conventions which then were in existence. A discussion had been proceeding for some months between her majesty's Government and the South African Republic, of which the object was to obtain redress for certain very serious grievances under which the British residents in South Africa were suffering. In the course of these negotiations the South African Republic had to the knowledge of her majesty's Government made considerable armaments and the latter had consequently taken steps to provide corresponding reenforcements of the British garrisons at Cape Town and in Natal. No infringement of the rights guaranteed by the conventions had, up to that point, taken place on the British side. Suddenly, at two days' notice, the South African Republic, after issuing an insulting ultimatum, declared war upon her majesty, and the Orange Free State, with whom there had not even been any discussion, took a similar step. Her majesty's dominions were immediately invaded by the two republics. Siege was laid to three towns within the British frontier, a large portion of two colonies were overrun, with great destruction of property and life, and the republics claimed to treat the inhabitants of extensive portions of her majesty's dominions as if those dominions had been annexed to one or the other of them. In anticipation of these operations the South Africa Republic had been accumulating for many years past military stores on an enormous scale, which by their character could only have been intended for use against Great Britain.

"Your honours make some observations of a negative character upon the object with which these preparations were made, I do not think it necessary to discuss the questions you have raised. But the result of these preparations carried on with great secrecy has been that the British empire has been compelled to confront an invasion which has entailed upon the empire a costly war and the loss of thousands of precious lives. This great calamity has been the penalty Great Britain has suffered for having of recent years acquiesced to the existence of the two republics. In view of the use to which the two republics have put the position which was given them and the calamities their unprovoked acts have inflicted on her majesty's dominions, her majesty's Government can only answer your honours' telegram by saying that they are not prepared to assent to the independence either of the South African Republic or the Orange Free State."

The correspondence was read in both houses of Parliament to-day and the concluding paragraph of the British Premier's reply elicited prolonged cheers.

London, March 15.

A dispatch to the *Daily Chronicle* from Bloemfontein dated Tuesday evening, March 13th says:—

Bloemfontein surrendered at 10 o'clock to-day. It was occupied at noon. President Steyn, with a majority of the fighting burghers, has fled northward.

Lord Roberts made a state entry at noon. He received a tremendous ovation. After visiting the public buildings he went to the official residence of the President, followed by a cheering crowd, who waved the British flag and sang the British national anthem. They were in a condition of frenzied excitement.

Monday afternoon, previous to the surrender, there had been a little sniping and shelling, but the enemy retired. Lord Roberts has his headquarters at the President's house, and there are many of the British wounded in the building. The railway is not injured.

The following is the text of Lord Robert's dispatch to the War Office announcing his occupation of Bloemfontein:

Bloemfontein, March 13th.

"By the help of God and by the bravery of her majesty's soldiers the troops under my command have taken possession of Bloemfontein. The British flag now flies over the Presidency, evacuated last evening by Mr. Steyn, late President of the Orange Free State. Mr. Fraser, member of the late executive government; the Mayor, the secretary to the late Governor, the Landrost and other officials met me two miles from the town and presented me with the keys of the public offices.

"The enemy have withdrawn from the neighbourhood and all seems quiet. The inhabitants of Bloemfontein gave the troops a cordial welcome."

London, March 15.

The first half of the campaign is over. Lord Roberts arrived at Modder river on February 9th. He entered Bloemfontein on March 13th. Thus, in a little over a month, he has effected the relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the capture of General Cronje's forces and the hoisting of the flag in the capital of the Free State. All this has been accomplished with comparatively trifling losses.

It is small wonder that he is the hero of the hour in England. All the newspapers eulogize him and congratulate the country. They talk of the Free State as having passed out of existence, as being now one of the shadows of history.

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It is not doubted that there may be heavy fighting, but the genius of Lord Roberts is looked to for victory over all difficulties. His grim reference to the "late" President Steyn is understood to show that there shall be no ambiguity as to the position assumed toward the republics.

The fact that Mr. Fraser, late chairman of the Free State Raad, and leader of the opposition to Mr. Steyn, came with the deputation to surrender the keys, is regarded as extremely significant of considerable difference of opinion among the Free Staters regarding the war. It is said that President Krueger hates Fraser on account of his sympathy with the Outlanders. The demonstrations of the Bloemfontein inhabitants are also regarded as a good augury for the future of British supremacy.

It is interesting, in connection with the rapid advance of Lord Roberts, to learn that the Russian military attaché with the Boers, who was captured by the British, sent the following telegram to the Czar:—

"I am perfectly amazed at the energy in action and the endurance of the British infantry. I need say no more."

There is still no news as tc whether Lord Roberts has captured any rolling stock. If he has not yet then he will be obliged to wait until the repairing of the bridges over the Orange river enables him to bring rolling stock up.

The British continue pressing their advance on the Orange river. The Boers still hold Bethulie ridge on the north side of the stream, but their trenches are dominated by the British artillery. Heavy firing is in progress and there has been some skirmishing.

Lord Kitchener seems to be very successful in reducing the extent of the Dutch rising.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 1	F. April 6
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India 2	M. April 9
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 3	M. April 9
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 4	W. April 11
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 5	Th. April 12
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 7	Sa. April 14
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich	Sa. April 14
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 6	Th. April 19
Hongkong.....	M. M. Co.	——	Th. April 19
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. April 23
America	P. M. Co.	China	Th. April 26

1 Left Kobe on the 5th inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 26th ult.
3 Left Nagasaki on the 4th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 23rd ult.
5 Left Hongkong on the 4th inst.
6 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst.
7 Left San Francisco on the 31st ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	N. D. Lloyd	Weimar	Sa. April 7
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Sa. April 7
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. April 9
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	W. April 11
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th. April 12
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Yarra	F. April 13
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. April 13
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. April 17
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. April 18

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 466.

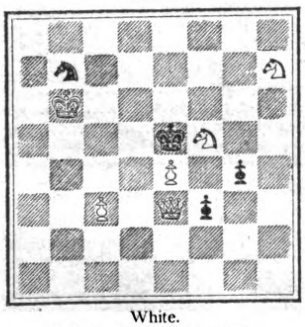
Key move Q to R 2.

Correct solution received from "East Anglia," and Dr. Max Lehmann.

PROBLEM No. 468.

By F. SKALIK.

Black.



White.

White mates in three moves.

GAME 577.

EVANS' GAMBIT.

One of eight games played blindfold at the West End Club, London, in 1876:

Black.—Blackburne. White—Maj. Martin.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	13 Q R4	B Kt2
2 Kt K B3	Kt Q B3	14 Q R-Qsq	B Kt3
3 B B4	B B4	15 B Q3	P B4
4 P Q Kt4	B x P	16 PxP *e.p.*	QxP
5 P P3	B R4	17 K R-Ksq	K Qsq (a)
6 P Q4	PxP	18 KtxR P	R Ksq
7 Castles	PxP	19 Q K Kt4 (b)	Kt Q5
8 Q Kt3	Q B3	20 B Kt2	KtxKt ch (c)
9 P K5	Q Kt3	21 PxKt	QxB
10 KtxP	K Kt K2	22 QxP ch	KxQ
11 B R3	P Kt4	23 B Kt5 mate	
12 KtxP	R Q Ktsq		

GAME 578.

PHILIDOR'S DEFENCE.

White—E. Kemeny. Black—Major Hanham

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	23 Q Q6	QxQ
2 KKt B3	P Q3	24 RxQ	K Bsq
3 P Q4	Kt Q2	25 P R6	P Kt3
4 B Q3	B K2	26 RxP	K K2
5 B K3	KKt B3	27 P R4	Kt Kt sq
6 P B3	P B3	28 R B7ch	K Q3
7 QKt Q2	Q B2	29 R Kt7	Kt B3
8 Q B2	Castles	30 P R5	Kt (Kt3) K2
9 Castles	R Ksq	31 Kt Q4	Kt x Kt
10 Kt B4	B Qsq	32 PxKt	P to B3
11 P QR4	Kt Bsq	33 PxPch	PxP
12 P R5	Kt Kt3	34 P B4	Kt B3
13 P QKt4	B K3	35 P Kt5	Kt R4
14 PxP	PxP	36 RxKKtP	Kt B5
15 KR Qsq	KtQ2	37 PxPch	KxP
16 B K2	B K2	38 BxRP	Kt Q3
17 R Q2	Kt(Q2) Bsq	39 R Kt5ch	K Q5
18 QR Qsq	P KR3	40 B Kt7ch	K K6
19 Kt Q3	KR Qsq	41 B KB3	R QBsq
20 Kt B5	RxR	42 R Kt6	R Ksq
21 KtxBch	KtxQ	43 P R6	Resigns
22 QxR	KtQ2		

Major Hanham has a predilection for close openings, whether as first or second player. He played similar openings during the B.C.A. Congress, London, 1886, and at Nottingham immediately afterwards—he, the late Captain Mackenzie, and Lipschutz competing as American representatives. In consequence of 3...Kt to Q 2 he cramped his game, and tries now to get elbow room with 9...K to K sq, to be followed by Kt to B sq and Kt to Kt 3; but he might have developed with 9...Kt to Kt 5, and after Kt takes B he could have posted the Q Kt at B 3, with less loss of time. White's 10, Kt to B 4 is intended to tempt Black to weaken his pawns with 10...P to Q Kt 4. The remainder of the game takes its natural course, White keeping possession of the open Queen's file, and the pretty ending which follows after 24 R takes Q, compensates for the dreariness of the previous part. Black could have stopped the threatened 25 P to R 6; but he thought, probably, of imprisoning White's Rook, only White looked further ahead in the combination, so that instead of imprisoning the Rook, it becomes an unwelcome visitor, and when at last he is ready to catch it with B to B sq, White has the pretty Kt to Q 4 *in petto*, which wins right off, no matter what Black replies.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, F. G. Hansford, 31st March,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 29th March, General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Romney, British steamer, 1,763, W. R. Bennett, 31st March,—Rangoon via Kobe, 29th March, Rice.—Helm Bros.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 31st March,—Kobe, 29th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,467, Fred. Davies, 31st March,—Otaru via ports, 25th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,617, J.W. Wale, 1st April,—London via ports, and Kobe, 31st Mar., General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 1st April,—Yokkaichi, 31st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mutsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 564, M. Deguchi, 1st April,—Honjo, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 453, Nagao, 1st April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 2nd April,—Kobe, 31st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yangtsze, British steamer, 4,148, H. L. Allen, 2nd April,—Liverpool via ports, and Nagasaki, 31st March, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,182, A. E. Moses, 3rd April,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 1st April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hewick Hall, British steamer, 2,378, A. Scott Kilvert, 3rd April,—Galveston via ports, and Kobe, 1st April, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 3rd April,—Hakodate, 31st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi, 2nd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Brooklyn (20), U.S. Flagship, 9,215, Capt. J. M. Forsyth, 3rd Aprii,—Manila.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 4th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 15th March, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Weimar, German steamer, 3,176, H. Mayer, 4th April,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 3rd April, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Dalny Vostock, Russian steamer, 2,265, Alex. Gove, 4th April,—Tacoma, Wash., 14th March, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

D'Entrecasteaux (26), French Flagship, 8,114, Capt. de Maroll, 4th April,—Hongkong.

Saint Irene, British steamer, 2,473, W. Attree, 4th April,—Portland, Oregon, 13th March, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 4th April,—Otaru via ports, 30th March, General.—Nippon Yusen Raisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 5th April,—Kobe, 3rd April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Wm. Watt, 5th April,—Hongkong via Moji and Kobe, 3rd April, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yarra, French steamer, 2,084, Rogliano, 5th April,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 4th April, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, J. Miyagi, 5th April,—Otaru via ports, 31st March, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Concord (6), U.S. Flagship, 1,710, Com. S. M. Ackley, 5th April,—Guam.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 5th April,—Yokkaichi, 4th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Robt Farquhar, 5th April,—London via ports, Kobe, 4th April, General.—Cornes & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,161, H. Sakimoto, 31st March, Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 31st March,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kawachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,781, J. S. Thompsen, 31st March,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Maria Valerie, Austrian steamer, 2,644, A. Fellner, 31st March,—Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, F. G. Hansford, 1st April,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese stermer, 1,894, De Le Lande, 2nd April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 2nd April,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 2nd April,—Yokkaichi, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, Robt. Day, 3rd April—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 3rd April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 4th April,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sibiria, German steamer, 2,199, Braun, 4th April,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 4th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General. Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 4th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thyra, Norwegian steamer, 2,419, Edwardsen, 4th April,—San Brancisco and Potland, Oregon via ports, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

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Hector, British steamer, 3,005, John Barr, 4th April, —Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Romney, British steamer, 1,763, W. R. Bennett, 4th April—Karatsu, Ballast.—Helm Bros.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, W. W. Greene, 4th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 4th April, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 771, J. Arakawa, 4th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Candia, British steamer, 4,195, W. H. Houghton, 5th April,—London via ports, Mails and General. —P. & O. S.N. Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3128, Captain J. T. Smith, 5th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General,—P. M. S.S. Co.

Ikai maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, Captain T. Sakai, 5th April,—Kobe, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese ster, 866, Captain S. Yamamoto, 5th April,—Bonin Island, Mails and General, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yawata Maru*, from Melbourne via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Hays, Miss M. Donald, Mr. Moses, Mr. Carsham, Mr. Marfleur, Mr. Brushford, Mr. and Mrs. Davidge, Mr. and Mrs. M. Donald, Mr. and Miss Clapperton, Mrs. Jons and 3 children, Capt. Rose, U.S.A., Mrs. Abbott, and Miss Mihara, in cabin; Mr. D. S. Hughes, Mr. Steinberg, Mr. Berima, and Mrs. Steinberg, in second class: 6 in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. J. F. Abbott, Mrs. E. W. Peabody, Mr. and Mrs. E. Vouck, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Farnam, and Mr. Y. Iwate, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. W. J. Schroth, Mr. E. S. Knight, Mr. C. M. Truby, and Mr. Jno. E. Allen, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. K. Yamada, Mr. K. Koga, and Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Wood and daughter, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mrs. A. F. Chamot, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. L. Wahl and child, Mr. J. Hall, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Baker, and Miss Era, Miss F. B. McClure, Miss S. Mitchell, Mrs. G. G. Baily, and Miss L. Doman, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Weimar*, from Bremen via ports:—Capt. Philipp, Dr. Tourneau, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Arens, Mr. Bourne, Mr. Seaman, Mr. V. and Miss Temple, Miss Graham, and Mr. G. Erich, in cabiE.

Per French steamer *Varra*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. James, Mr. Chibandier, Mr. Steenackers, Mrs. Frique, Miss Joubert, Mr. Kuepper, Mr. Wachter, and Mr. and Mrs. Dugatta, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kawachi Maru*, for London viâ ports:—Mr. K. Uchita, Mr. M. Teruki, Count N. Ogasawara, Misses Teruko and Sumiko Ogasawara, Prof. K. Higuchi, Mr. S. Moriyama, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Ballagh, Misses Edna F. and Bessie U. Ballagh, Master Hamilton C. and Ino. K. Ballagh, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Brindley, Mr. L. Ceresole, Mr. C. N. Crosse, Mr. James Aitken, Mr. C. Mitsuchi and Insp. of Mach. K. Urano in cabin. Mr. J. Koyayashi, Mr. T. Date, Mr. T. Nagao, Mr. K. Ishiguro, Mr. K. Nakamura, Mr. M. Anezaki, Mr. M. Ohashi, Chief Surgeon S. Nose, I. J. Army, Mr. M. Yasui, Mr. K. Hara, Miss Atsu Noguchi, Miss Tsuna Moroboshi, and Mr. James Weir in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco viâ Honolulu:—Mr. J. E. Auzerais, Mr. Owen F. Aldis, Mr. Owen Y. Aldis, Mr. Vernon A. Busbridge, Mr. R. W. Bell, Mr. Paul Devaux, Miss A. L. Derrick, Mr. H. Gulbenkian, Rev. W. H. Grant, Mr. J. Helm, Miss Marie Helm, Miss Elsie Helm, Miss Louise Helm, Master Julius Helm, Master Wm. Helm, Mr. H. Hirayama, Mr. T. Inomata, Mr. A. Koebele, Mr. A. Karlsson, Mrs. E. Morrison, Mr. Y. Matsumoto, Mr. T. Neidick, Mr. M. Rothlisberger, Mrs. M. Rothlisberger, Mr. E. D. Sims, Mrs. E. D. Sims and child, Rev. Julius Soper, Mr. K. Tanaka, Mr. T. P. Terry, Mrs. T. P. Terry and child, Mr. Y. Wakita, Com. G. H. Weeks, U.S.A., Mr. J. Clifford Wilkinson, and Mr. H. Greenwolde-Williams, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Nicholson, child, infant, and European nurse, Mrs. R. N. St. John and two sons, Mrs. J. F. Allen, Mr. Charles Freeman, Mr. J. N. Seymour, Miss Seymour, Mr. M. Tokiyada, Mr. D. S. Hughes, Mr. J. H. Bachelor, R.N., Miss Nina Smith, Col. A. H. Turner, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. A. G. M. Weale, Mr. H. C. Brushfield, Mrs. Abbott, and Mr. Albert Gent, R.N., in cabin; 4 Chinese and child, in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Jno. L. Alm, Mrs. G. G. Bailey, Mrs. A. F. Chamot, Miss L. Dorman, Mr. C. N. Emby, Dr. Flanchin, Mr. R. Gill, Mrs. R. Gill, Mr. J. Hall, Jr., Mr. Wm. Hall, Mr. K. Koge, Mr. E. S. Knight, Miss Mitchell, Mr. A. J. Melhuish, Miss F. B. McClure, Mr. Plummer, Mr. E. da Rosa, Mr. W. A. Ramsay, Mr. W. J. Schroth, Miss Smith, Mr. E. F. Wood, Mrs. E. F. Wood and child, Mrs. L. Wahl and child, and Mr. K. Yamada, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No business worth mentioning has been done in shirtings, the quotations being nominal in the absence of transactions. There are a good many purchases previously made undelivered, dealers apparently being unable to raise the cash to take them up. The market for woollens and fancy cottons is very quiet and there is practically no market for yarns, though Japanese dealers are willing to sell at less than present Manchester cost. Of raw cotton, the imports from March 15th to 28th were 25,000 piculs, but there have been very few sales effected. The metal market is also stagnant, no sales having been reported.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches ...	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.95 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	335.00 to 345.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400.00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$29.00
Indian Broach	28.50
Chinese	28.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward ...	6.50 to 7.00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanised Iron sheets	13.00 to 14.50
Wire Nails, assorted	8.50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.50 to 7.90

KEROSENE.

There has been a slight fall both in American and Russian oil. The estimated sales from March 15th to 28th, amount to 52,000 cases American and 28,000 Russian.

American	$3.00 to 3.05
Russian	2.95 to 3.00
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

Business has been done in Brown Takao to the extent of 22,000 piculs, in Canton to 13,500 and in white refined to the amount of 37,900 piculs. The total import of the latter since 1st January amounts to nearly 300,000 piculs.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.30 to 6.00
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	5.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

After a good demand during the middle of March, both for America and Europe the market is now very quiet, with quotations for the most part nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse...	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse...	1,170 to 1,180
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine...	1,140 to 1,150
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,160 to 1,170
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	1,120 to 1,130
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse...	None
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	1,100 to 1,100
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,110 to 1,110
Re-reels—No. 2	1,110
Re-reels—No. 3	1,090
Kakedas—Etra...	1,160
Kakedas—No. 1	None
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,090
Kakedas—No. 2	None
Kakedas—No. 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

The market is quiet; about 2,000 piculs have been placed, but quotations remain unchanged. The stock is estimated at 2,400 piculs, Noshi 750 piculs, Kibiso 500, and Sundries 1,150 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	$170 to 180
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	160 to 160
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium...	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	140 to 145
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	100 to 135
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best...	160 to 165
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	150 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	53

TEA.

Nothing to report, as there have been no transactions. The *Doric* took 56,457 lbs. for New York on the 21st ult., and the *Empress of Japan*, on the 23rd ult., 32,000 lbs. for Canada. Total settlements for the season up to March 25th, were 212,700 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	Nominal
Finest	Nominal
Fine...	Nominal
Good Medium...	Nominal
Medium	Nominal
Good Common	Nominal
Common	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 5.

London silver $\frac{1}{16}$ higher and discount ¼ per cent. lower have had no material effect on rates of exchange, which continue unaltered.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 $\frac{3}{8}$
— — Bills on demand.....	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 $\frac{11}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight ...	2/0 $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight.....	254½
— Private 4 months' sight...	259
— — 6 months' sight...	260 to ½
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50½
Germany—Bank sight.....	206½
— Private 4 months' sight.....	211½
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight.....	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74
— Private 10 days' sight	74¾
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27½

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, April 5.

Breweries:—A mistake occurred in last night's quotations. It should have read:—There are no sellers under *yen* 150. Buyers offer *yen* 148 for June delivery. Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 212.50. Grand Hotels can be placed at *yen* 240. Club Hotels are steady at *yen* 85. Langfeldts can

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be had at par. Helms can be had at par. Laundries have sellers at par.

Debentures.—Breweries are steady at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs changed hands to-day at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	212.50 B.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	150 S.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 B.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	152.50 B.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	450 B.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	100 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	Nominal

N.B.—S.=Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, W.=Weak, E.=Enquiries

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, April 5.

Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 212.50 Grands Hotels have buyers at *yen* 237.50. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 152. Founders are wanted at *yen* 450. Langfeldts are obtainable at *yen* 100. Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 147.50. Laundries can be had at par. Helm Bros. can be had at par.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs have been purchased from Hongkong at $85.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works .....212.50 Buyers.
Grand Hotel .....237.50 Buyers.
Club Hotel..... 90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel .....152 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co.....100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co. .....147.50 Buyers.

Tokyo, April 5.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	93.60
War Loan Bonds	93.60
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	97.00
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	430.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.30
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	171.50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.50
Third National Bank—paid up yen	67.50
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	103.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—pain up yen 25	27.00
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	72.80
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	61.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	22.60
Kobu Railwav—paid up yen 45 *...	116.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 *...	78.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 *...	55.30
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	42.60
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 *...	56.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40 *...	43.50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	88.90
Hokkaido Colliery R'way 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	72.40
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	75.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50 *...	41.80
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	29.00
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	50.00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	17.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	33.00
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	20.80
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	12.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13 *...	18.50
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	225.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	193.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	66.00
Osaka Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	27.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 10 ...	14.50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	26.80
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	23.50
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25...	39.00
Yokohoma Dock, new—paid up yen 20	32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	34.00
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	16.00
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	205.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	182.00
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	130.00
Tokyo Merchandize Exohange—paid up yen 25 ...	87.00
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	2.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yeu 50	50.60
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	25.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	89.20
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 30...	68.00
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40	104.00
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50	39.60
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50... ...	49.50
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	44.00
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up 25...	22.50
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	14.70
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50	43.00

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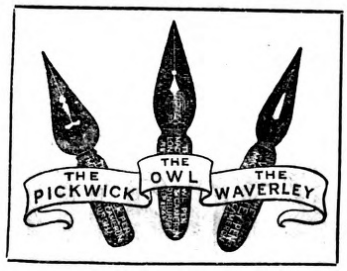

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH, 1900.

DEATH.

At her residence Notton, Chippenham, England, on April 11th, FRANCES ELLEN AWDRY, widow of Sir John W. Awdry, aged 79.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MAFEKING has not yet been relieved and sharp fighting continues in the neighbourhood.

THE famous wrestler Takasago Uragoro (63) died at his residence in Tokyo on the 9th inst.

GOOD Friday was a wet and blustery day, but the weather cleared up after midnight, and there is every prospect of a sunny Easter.

THE Boers are displaying great activity in the Orange Free State, besieging Wepener and even threatening Aliwal North in the Cape Colony.

THE Thirtieth-year new pattern rifle for the Japanese Army has been served out to all the troops in the Tokyo command, but it is expected that the supply for the rest of troops will not be ready until next year.

BY a fire which broke out at Ichinichimachi, Nishida-kawa district, Yamagata., on the night of the 8th inst., 50 houses were destroyed.

IT is said that a dog suddenly went mad at Nakano-machi, Tokyo, on the 7th, and before it could be shot, 13 men and boys were bitten by it.

UP to noon of the 27th ultimo there had been eighteen cases of Plague and seventeen deaths from that cause in Hongkong since the 1st January.

THE *Niji*, a 31-knot torpedo-boat destroyer, built for the Japanese Government by Messrs. Yarrow and Co., left the West India Docks on 15th March for Japan.

THE smoking law is being put into force. On Saturday three young girls were punished in Yokohama for smoking. Their employer was also fined by the Police.

THERE is to be a railway bureau in Korea. One of the Min has been appointed to direct it, and Mr. Omiya Chobei is said to have received the nomination of chief manager.

A TELEGRAM received by the Meiji Fire Insurance Co., Tokyo, on the 8th inst., says that a big fire occurred at Matsuzaka, Ise, that day, and there is an estimated loss of *yen* 10,000 for the Company.

ON Monday evening a horse ran away near Yokohama railway station. The driver, named Tokijiro was knocked down and killed on the spot. The runaway horse returned to the owner's stable after smashing a *jinrikisha*.

THE promoters of the Fuji *Makigari* are sad men these days. They collected 1,000 *yen* from 650 subscribers, but had to pay about 2,400 *yen* as expenses. Instead of making money, they are out of pocket some 1,400 *yen*.

A PARAGRAPH in *L'Avenir du Tonkin* announces the opening of the first Japanese shop in Saigon. Hitherto the Japanese have limited their activities there to one profession only, and the writer congratulates them on the innovation.

A MOST successful herring harvest is reported from Yezo. In Sutsu and Iwanai twenty-five thousand *koku* of the fish were taken during the first three days of the season, and from other localities also good results are announced.

A FORWARDING agent named Tanaka Akizo, of Yokohama, has been arrested for attempting to forward some 90 *kwamme* of dynamite and 10,000 percussion caps belonging to the Kanamaru rifle store, in the shape of ordinary cargo.

MR. J. DE REUS, Consul for the Netherlands at Yokohama, has left for Kobe to take charge of the Consulate there. Mr. H. Klingen, of No. 89, has been entrusted with the care of the Dutch and Swedish and Norwegian Consulates at Yokohama.

SIR THOMAS JACKSON is deputed to represent, at the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, the manner in which the right accorded to foreign steamers to navigate the inland waters of China has been nullified in practice.

THE U.S.S. *Baltimore* arrived at Yokohama on Wednesday from Manila. The usual salutes were exchanged. The *Baltimore* is Admiral Watson's flagship, and her Captain is Captain J. M. Forsyth. She has 4413 tons displacement and 20.1 knots speed.

THERE is a report, which appears to be true, that many dead rats have of late been seen in the streets of Osaka, and that some cases of sickness resembling pest have occurred. The *Chiuo Shimbun* blames the authorities for keeping the matter secret.

VISCOUNT AOKI, speaking to the Local Governors now in session, urged that steps should be taken to prevent the deceptions practised by emigration agents, for the purpose of inducing women and children to go abroad. It appears that there have been many abuses in connexion with this matter.

THE trials of the 27-cent. Canet gun manufactured at the Osaka Arsenal have now been concluded on the Haruki plain in Izumi. They are said to have been entirely successful, and the weapon has been selected as a model for purposes of coast defence. This is the first cannon of large calibre made in Japan.

THE steamer *Tokyo Maru* is now reported a total loss. She ran aground at mid-night during a fog, and though hopes of saving her were entertained at first, they proved illusory. The facts as to the insurance of the cargo are not yet known, but it is believed that the risk was held mainly by the Nippon Kai-riku Hoken Kaisha.

IT is reported in the columns of the *Chiuo* that a new discovery of gold has been made in Hokkaido. The place is on the Tokoro River in the Kayabe district. It is under the Hakodate jurisdiction, and, being thus far more accessible than Esashi, the prospects are considered to be very rosy. A foreigner seems to be endeavouring to gain possession of the place.

A TELEGRAM received in Tokyo says that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Hawaiian Administration Bill on the 6th instant. The Bill brings Hawaii definitely within the jurisdiction of the States with regard to the Oriental Immigration Law, and its effect will be to render null and void all contracts for Asiatic labour concluded subsequently to the annexation of the islands.

THE *Pique*, cruiser, Captain H. C. Reynolds, which is to relieve the *Iphigenia* on the China Station, and whose departure from Plymouth has already been twice postponed in consequence of mishaps to her machinery, has been in collision in Plymouth Sound with a steam collier. Some six feet of the cruiser's upper deck was carried away, and it was necessary to have her docked.

THE Emperor of Korea wants to have a palace in Occidental style, it is said. We should not have supposed that His Majesty's finances warranted such an extravagance, but rumour alleges that it has been found possible to set aside a sum of three hundred thousand *yen* for the purpose, and that application has been made to Japan for an architect to prepare the plans.

THE recent rain brought down a freshet by the old aqueduct of Tokyo, and it would seem that the waters carried some poison, for a number of large *funa* were seen the next day floating dead in the moat. The police have sent experts to inquire into the matter. It appears that the police stations have not yet been supplied with the filtered water of the new system, and they are naturally rendered anxious by this event.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, April 7.

It appears at first sight a little perplexing to be told, in one breath, that the Transvaalers are demoralized and that they can not be induced to muster for more than one final effort; and, in the next, to learn that all British subjects have been ordered to leave the territories of the Republic. The latter measure does not seem to suggest any symptom of weakening on the part of the indomitable old Kruger—a grand man truly, whose qualities are doubtless just as much admired by Englishmen as by his own nationals. Yet, we are disposed to think, that the two pieces of intelligence are not irreconcilable. Why should Kruger order the expulsion of British subjects at this stage, seeing that he has permitted them to remain peacefully up to the present? They do not constitute a menace now any more than they did six months ago. They are unarmed, have no access to arms, and never have had access to arms for several years. It has been part of the Boers' policy to render the Uitlanders powerless by keeping them unarmed. One possible explanation of this new measure is that some plot has been discovered among the British residents of the Transvaal. But we should probably have heard of that, had such a reason been forthcoming; for though the expulsion of the British is not an outrage, from the point of view of international law, it is at all events a hardship for which the Boers would have been glad to assign a sufficient explanation had any such been forthcoming. Another conceivable explanation is that the escape of the two British officers whose arrival at Pretoria has just been reported, was found to have been effected through the connivance of some of their civilian nationals, and that Kruger, in order to prevent any repetition of such acts, adopted a wholesale precaution. But though that consideration might apply to the British residing in Pretoria, it could not be reasonably extended to the British in Johannesburg, whose presence, for the rest, has hitherto been of the greatest service for working the mines. We thus arrive at two other hypotheses. The first is that Kruger desires more privacy. He finds that the world is getting too much information about the state of affairs in the Transvaal, and that the best way to stop the flow of intelligence is to cut off the source by driving out the British population. That may have a general, or it may have a particular, application. Kruger may find it desirable to exclude prying eyes altogether, or he may wish to lower the curtain pending the preparation of the final act. It is useless to discuss such exceedingly nebulous conjectures. The last hypothesis is that the question of provisions is becoming serious. This appears to us to be the most likely explanation. The Boers find it necessary to diminish as much as possible the number of mouths to be filled. There must have been a heavy drain upon their supplies during the past six months. If will be remembered that when Great Britain announced her intention of treating as contraband of war any provisions destined for military purposes, President Kruger uttered a protest so vehement that his forecast of the effect of the measure could be clearly inferred. Probably the Boers, taking stock of their available resources, have decided that it would be an advantage to reduce the consuming classes.

It must have been a disappointment to Englishmen to learn that the Boers get clean away with the guns and waggons taken from Broadwood and Pilcher, and that French and Colvile abandoned the pursuit. In other words, the Boers accomplished nearly all that they intended to do, and probably in one sense a great deal more. Their prime object was to cut the water-supply of Bloemfontein, and to remain in possession of the intake for a sufficient time to render Bloemfontein untenable by the British forces and thus bring about the evacuation of the town. They may not originally have expected to find an English garrison in Thaba Nchu, but the discovery did not disconcert them at all. They manœuvred so skilfully that the garrison had to fall back; and not only to fall back from Thaba Nchu, but also to abandon the Water-works. It will be remembered that the first telegram represented Broadword as having retreated on the Water-works, and thence sent back towards Bloemfontein his artillery and convoy. The first inference to be drawn from such a message is that the British commander himself remained at the Water-works. But it is plain that if he had intended to make any stand there, he would have kept his artillery. Besides, a subsequent telegram contained a significant statement; namely, that had it not been for Broadwood's presence of mind and skilful handling, the whole force would have been destroyed. We can only conclude, that he retired from his second position, the Water-works, with his whole force, and that he was ambushed in column of march, his advance guard with the artillery and waggons coming in for the brunt of the attack, which was evidently a repetition of the old story, the Boers on the heights, the British in the valley below. Had the position been reversed previously to the final retreat, our experience of Boer tactics suggests that they would have formed laager and held their ground. Broadwood might have done that, of course. But his idea, doubtless, was that instead of taking any needless risks, the wisest plan was to get as near Bloemfontein as possible, so as to be within easy reach of re-inforcements. In fact, he wanted to draw the Boers on, and they proved too much for him. But it is evident that they were not able to hold the Water-works. They got possession of them on the 31st March, and they were compelled to retire on the following day, so that beyond doing some damage which will probably be expensive and troublesome to repair, capturing some guns and waggons, and showing themselves very daring and able they accomplished nothing. As to the question of pursuit, the superficial idea is that since the Boers were encumbered with the waggons taken from the British, it ought to have been possible to overtake them. But a moment's reflection will show that the task was probably exceedingly difficult. It may be taken for granted that the Boers sent off the captured guns and waggons at the very earliest moment; that is to say, on the afternoon of the 31st of March. They themselves retired on the afternoon of the following day, but they retired before a force which had marched thirty miles to attack them, and which, consequently, can not have been in a condition to undertake any rapid operations of pursuit. Probably the pursuit did not commence until the morning of the second. Even then, had the country been fairly open. French might have got within striking distance. But the country was not open. On the contrary, it was mountainous and difficult. Under such circumstances there can be no comparison between the rates of follower and followed, other things being equal. The Boers were falling back upon friendly districts of which they had a perfect knowledge. They had nothing whatever to fear except from the British in the rear. French was advancing into a hostile country of which he knew little, if anything, and he had to feel every yard of his way, for in such movements, if at any time, the opportunities for ambushes offer repeatedly. The slightest rashness on the part of the British commander might have involved his column in a disaster precisely similar to that which befel Broadwood. One might almost compare the relative situations to those of two men, one whom walks in the light while the other follows in darkness. It has to be remembered, too, that the Boers were not demoralized by defeat. They had not suffered any defeat of a crushing character. They had merely evacuated the Water-works when they appreciated that an overwhelming force was advancing to drive them out. Under the circumstances we do not find it at all surprising that the pursuit had to be abandoned. The Boers in the north-east of the Free State will not receive their quietus until Buller forces the passes of the Drakensberg. They cannot be very strongly held now.

Monday, April 9.

The telegrams received on Saturday with reference to the fighting in the Free State were somewhat obscure. Nothing appears quite certain except that two companies at least of the British troops posted on the line of communications have been wiped out. Bethany (or Bethanie), in the neighbourhood of which the disaster occurred, is the second station on the railway to the south of Bloemfontein, at a distance of 32 miles. The next station south of Bethany, distant 11 miles, is Edenburg, and mid-way between the two stations the line crosses the Riet River. The source of the Riet is in the Beyers Bergen range of hills twenty miles eastward of the railway and nearly parallel to it, but before reaching the railway the stream receives a tributary called the Fourie Spruit, and on this tributary lies Reddersburg, 12 or 13 miles distant from Bethany. It will be remembered that after their successful ambushing of Broadwood's column, a part of the Boers were said to have moved southward. They doubtless proceeded by the road from Thaba Nchu to De Wet's Dorp, and it is not at all improbable that the objective was to destroy the Riet bridge between Bethany and Edenburg. From De Wet's Dorp they turned westward, and threading their way through the broken country about the sources of the Kaffir River and Fourie Spruit, they came upon a picquet of two companies of the Ninth Mounted Infanty at Reddersburg, and after a prolonged fight captured them. Two companies of mounted infantry have a nominal strength of 200 men. They were not capable, therefore, of opposing any considerable force of Boers. The telegram concludes with the words "Gatacre despatched," but does not tell us what he despatched or whether he was himself despatched to the scene. We do not know where Gatacre has his head-quarters, but probably he is at Trompsburg, 35 miles south of Bethany. He is an ill-starred commander, but in considering this last disaster, we must remember that the British have an immense line of communications to protect, and that they are exposed to precisely such enterprises as the Boers are now undertaking. The question is, however, what can the Boers hope to accomplish. They are running immense risks in moving so far south of their bases at Kroonstad and Winburg, and although they may cause considerable mischief and harrass the British, they may be themselves surrounded at any moment. Besides, these guerilla attacks upon lines of communication are of no consequence. Un-

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less an army can throw itself across the enemy's communications and compel him to turn and fight with his face to his base, the operation is strategically valueless. The Boers have apparently broken up into a number of flying columns. We hear of one under Villebois-Mareuil at Boshof, a town 32 miles north-east of Kimberley; which is 80 miles south-east of Boshof, and another at Bushmanskop, which is some twelve miles north-east of Bloemfontein. Villebois-Mareuil doubtless intended to menace Methuen's communications between Kimberley and Warrenton, and thus check his advance. Similarly the column that cut the Waterworks, and then despatched a force southward by the road to De Wet's Dorp, intended to threaten Roberts' communications with the Orange River, and thus induce him to detach for the protection of his lines a part of the forces destined for his advance beyond Bloemfontein. The plan of campaign on the part of the Boers is courageous and clever, but it can not be effective, for guerilla bands may impare communications but they are powerless to cut them, in the strategical sense of the term. We interpret the action of the Boers to mean that their great apprehension in a general engagement is the action of the British mounted troops, and that, by organizing a number of flying columns to menace Roberts' lines, they hope to induce him to detach a large force of his mounted troops for the defence of the lines and the pursuit of these columns. But Roberts will clearly apprehend the significance of that manœuvre, and will not allow himself to be turned from his main purpose by trivial incidents. Every day is bringing him fresh troops for his lines, and every flying column detached by the Boers weakens their main body correspondingly. If they are assured that Roberts does not contemplate a forward movement for some time, their present plan would be more intelligible, but if anything like a big struggle is impending, they violate one of the fundamental rules of strategy when they detach troops on the eve of a battle.

Wednesday, April 11.

The operation just performed by the Boers in the Free State is one of the most curious in the history of warfare. Lord Roberts must have an army of sixty or seventy thousand men under his immediate command, yet we see ten or twelve thousand Boers outflanking him and placing themselves across one of his lines of communication at a distance of some fifty or sixty miles from his head-quarters. It is a *coup* brilliant in respect of audacity, but what the Boers hope to accomplish by it one does not immediately apprehend. They will certainly delay Roberts' advance beyond Bloemfontein. He can not move to the attack of Winburg or Kroonstad leaving ten or twelve thousand Boers in his rear to destroy the railway and capture his convoys. On the other hand, how long can the Boers hope to maintain such a position? If they could compel Roberts to detach for the purpose of assailing them such a force as would deprive him of the power of holding Bloemfontein, the outlook might be different. But the English General can afford to leave twenty-five thousand men in the lines at Bloemfontein, while moving as many more to crush the Boers who have placed themselves across his rear. We do not perceive how this singularly reckless column can hope to escape annihilation. Olivier has unquestionably taken Roberts by surprise, and has practically eliminated a thousand British soldiers from the fighting arena with probably very little cost on his own side. Now, however, comes the task of extricating himself from the position he has assumed. If he can manage that part of the feat, he will deserve immense credit. His only hope is to retire by the routes he followed in his advance; namely, by the east of the Free State. To move in the comparatively open plains on the west would be to covet certain destruction. But assuredly he can not expect to find the roads open for his retirement, or to preserve his own communications for more than a few days. It is one of the most interesting chapters of the war. When Bloemfontein fell and Ladysmith was relieved, Kruger declared that the British difficulties would only really commence when they had seized all the chief towns, for they would then find their detached forces swallowed up piecemeal by flying columns of Boers. Apparently an effort is now being made to illustrate that prediction.

Thursday, April 12.

It is interesting as an object lesson in international prejudice to observe the execration heaped upon the Boers because some of them have used explosive bullets against the English. But surely the English themselves have been the greatest sinners in this respect? The dumdum bullet is British and has been freely employed in our wars against Indian tribes and Arabs. We can not see that it is less cruel to fire an expanding bullet into the body of an Arab or an Afridi than into the body of a Boer. On the contrary, if degrees of cruelty be assessed, the dictates of humanity are more grievously violated in the case of the semi-civilized native who is without medical attendance or ambulance aids and has to suffer unsuccoured, than in the case of the Boer on whose account the Red Cross Society, and other charitable institutions, to say nothing of the governments of the two Republics, make all possible arrangements for tending the wounded and nursing the sick. These contrasts can not fail to make themselves apparent to people of the slenderest intelligence. The progress of civilization does not seem to bring any modification of the singular injustice shown by the white races of the world towards the coloured. From first to last we deem ourselves the superiors, and tacitly agree that the canons of conduct which must be rigidly obeyed in our treatment of each other, have no binding force where the "inferior" races are in question.

As to the Boers' contention that they have merely used explosive bullets taken from the British themselves, it is simply another of those exceedingly clumsy lies for which these stout but unscrupulous burghers make themselves conspicuous. Possibly some of them may be so ignorant as to imagine that the British soldier procures ammunition wherever he can find it, and carries one pattern to-day in his pouch, another to-morrow. But the average Boer must be perfectly well aware that not one solitary round of dumdum ammunition could be in the possession of the British force in South Africa, unless it had been served out to them by the Government, and that when the British Government declares that not one round has been served out, the truth of the declaration is beyond all question. The average Boer must be well aware of that fact, and of course the Presidents of the two Republics can not entertain the smallest doubt about it. Yet we find them addressing to Lord Roberts a despatch in which they assert that many burghers of the Free State and of the Transvaal took dum-dum bullets from British troops. That is an example of the fine courtesy said to be observed by the Boer leaders.

Friday, April 13.

The doings of the Boers are becoming more and more inexplicable. If they confined themselves to a raid into the southeast region of the Free State, ambushing or waylaying British outposts and then retiring upon their own base, we could understand their proceedings. But that does not seem to be their plan at all. On the contrary, they have made a regular invasion of the territory lying south of the Bloemfontein-Ladybrand line, and are not only besieging towns, but also sitting down within sight of the Orange River and in full view of the troops holding it. It is not to be supposed that they think of forcing the crossings of the River, or of offering serious resistance to its northward passage by the British troops. General Rundle will have no difficulty, we imagine, in moving the Eighth Division to Springfontein *viâ* Norvals Pont, though some days may elapse before he reaches that place. Meanwhile, if Roberts thinks it advisable, he can push a strong column across eastward to Thaba Nchu and Ladybrand, completely cutting off the Boers' line of retreat and their communications. The force that they have posted at the Water-works on the road to Thaba Nchu is doubtless intended to prevent a movement of that kind. and then to preserve a line of retreat for the Boers that have gone south. But it can not be a large force, and the probability is that Roberts has hitherto refrained from dislodging it, not because he apprehended any risk in doing so, but because he saw his opportunity in letting the Boers execute their strange series of manœuvres undisturbed. It appears to us that all these men who have marched down the eastern side of the Free State will have insuperable difficulty in rejoining their comrades at Winburg and Kroonstad, unless they hasten to do so at once. Roberts is not likely to hurry them. Every day they remain in the neighbourhood of Bethulie, Smithfield and Rouxville, renders their final retirement more problematical. It may be that their object was simply to demonstrate to the inhabitants of the south-eastern regions the unwisdom of submitting to the British before the latter were in a position to protect them fully, but the demonstration will prove very costly, we imagine.

General Carrington's movements when he reaches Beira are not to be governed altogether, it seems to us, by the object of preventing the Boers from trekking into Rhodesia, if, indeed, that purpose be seriously entertained at all. From Beira there is a line of railway to Salisbury, a distance of about 300 miles. Now the Makeking line runs north as far as Buluwayo, 491 miles beyond Mafeking. Between Buluwayo and Salisbury there is a break of 240 miles where the railroad has not yet been laid, though a line of telegraph runs. Thus from Beira to Mafeking troops can be carried all the way by rail, with the exception of a break of 240 miles. Colonel Plumer seems to be now posted at Ramathlabama, which is the next station on the line northward of Mafeking, at a distance of 12 miles. We interpret the last telegram to mean that he advanced six miles south of Ramathlabama on the 31st of March, but that he had to fall back again on the latter place. It will be seen, therefore, that British troops moving to the relief of Mafeking *viâ* Beira, Salisbury and Buluwayo, already have an advance post within 12 miles of Mafeking. Now the distance from Kimberley to Mafeking is 223 miles, and a column taking that route would have to fight every mile of its way, in addition to leaving large bodies of men behind it as it moved along, for it would be marching within striking

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distance of the Transvaal's borders all the way. On the other hand, a column moving by the Beira route would be in absolute safety until it got within a few miles of Mafeking; the distance to be covered by marching would not be appreciably longer than that between Kimberley and Mafeking, and there would be no question of detaching men to guard communications from first to last. It appears to us that Carrington is bound for Mafekin, and that we shall by-and-by see a strong column massed there for the invasion of the Transvaal, simultaneously with Roberts' forward movement from Bloemfontein. It has always been our conviction that Mafeking would be one base for the attack of Pretoria. The telegraph has told us that railway materials have been sent to Beira, which means, of course, that the interval between Salisbury and Buluwayo is to be bridged. Had a road existed there, Mafeking would have been relieved long ago. Roberts has doubtless cast up his account carefully. That he could force a way to the beleaguered town *viâ* Warrenton and Vryburg can not be doubted; but he would have to employ at least twenty thousand men for the operation and his casualties *en route* would out-number the whole garrison. Wasting lives is not his method. The Beira road is longer in actual distance, but it can probably be traversed as quickly on the whole as the Kimberley route, and not a man need be lost until the column gets within striking distance of Mafeking. Finally, if Carrington is to undertake any enterprise against Pretoria from Mafeking, it would be an incalculable advantage to have an absolutely secure line of communications running all the way to the sea coast through British territory, entirely beyond the reach of Boer attack. It is in that region of Africa, we believe, that the greater part of Buller's troops will ultimately be employed. Instead of using them to force the Drakensburg passes at a heavy sacrifice of life, they can be quietly and safely carried into the Transvaal *viâ* Beira, Salisbury and Bulawayo; an immense flanking movement, it is true, but not a mile too long if one or two thousand lives are to be saved. It is a curious freak of fate to contrive that the Capetown-Cairo Railway should have a large section constructed for belligerent purposes in connection with a war which seems destined to greatly extend British dominions in Africa.

DEPARTURE OF MR. W. B. WALTER.

It is the custom of the great house of Jardine, Matheson and Company to allow its leading men to retire after a certain number of years in harness, and an Eastern Community has therefore to be prepared at any time for a loss like that which Yokohama has now sustained in the departure of Mr. W. B. Walter. There are, however, special reasons for regret in Mr. Walter's case. He had spent over thirty years in Japan, had won innumerable friends, and had always associated himself actively with every project for the benefit of his fellow-residents. Moreover, he was thoroughly versed in Japanese affairs, and had an intimate knowledge of the Japanese language. Our satisfaction, therefore, at the thought that he will now enjoy in the home country the ease to which his long and assiduous labours entitle him, is tempered by a sentiment of sincere sorrow that this community can no longer enjoy his fellowship and profit by his helpfulness.

YOKOHAMA COMMUNITY.

The *Jiji Shimpo* says that the foreign community of Yokohama is diminishing. The reason assigned is that under the new tariff merchants do not find the same opportunities of gain as they did in the old days, and further that the idea of submitting to Japanese jurisdiction is irksome. It is said to be chiefly the dealers in tobacco and alcoholic beverages that are taking their departure, inasmuch as the import duties on these staples are almost prohibitive, and, besides, many Japanese are engaging in the business.

We are greatly inclined to doubt whether Japanese jurisdiction has driven any one away or is likely to do so. The average foreigner does not find that his transfer to Japanese jurisdiction has made any difference whatever in the events of his daily life. He has to pay taxes—a disgreeable duty, doubly unwelcome in view of the immunity previously enjoyed. But nothing else troubles him with regard to the Tariff. Tobacconists and publicans may have felt the change very severely, but the customs returns do not show that the volume of the import trade has suffered. The figures for Yokohama and Kobe from January 1st to March 31st, indiindicate that imports aggregated 76⅓ million *yen* against exports entered at 43⅓ millions, the excess of imports being 33 million *yen* and the total volume of the trade, 119⅔ millions. That certainly does not suggest that the import trade is suffering from the increased duties. We may mention incidentally that the outflow of specie in the same interval was nearly 13 million yen.

THE ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY.

The Anti-Vivisection Society of New England continues its campaign as vigorously as ever. We have received its pamphlet in the usual routine, and we do not notice any diminution of the forcible language employed by the denunciators of the practice. It is difficult, however, to accept all the assertions they advance. For example, they ask us to believe that anti-toxin has not contributed anything to the successful treatment of diphtheria. How can we believe anything of the kind when every medical expert that we meet tells us just the opposite. Again, the anti-vivisectionists seem to lay stress on the failure that has hitherto attended efforts to find a serum which shall cure the pest. Does not an argument of that kind weaken the cause in which it is put forward? Twenty negative results can not weigh against one positive. The anti-vivisectionists are on safer ground when they condemn the cruelty that attends many field sports and methods of catering for fashion. Ladies are naturally prominent in this protest. One of the gentle sex calling herself "Velina Caldwell Melville" says:—

> The woman who protests not, by example and precept, against the slaughter of birds for millinery purposes is as much a transgressor as the man whose business it is to lie in wait for the mother-bird as she wings her way homeward, with the bit of supper in her bill, and brings her down just outside the nest, strips her beautiful plumage, and leaves her there to die by inches in sight and sound of her starved nestlings.

This is an example of the defect generally marring the work of these kind-hearted people. Their imagination betrays them into hysterical excesses which bring ridicule on their reasoning. How can a bird be "brought down," "stripped of her plumage" and then "left to die by inches"?

CHINA.

Quite a number of Japanese subjects have been travelling about Fuhkien since the commencement of this year, seeking opportunities to convert Japan's "sphere of influence" to practical account. We read of a party headed by Mr. Ogawa Shigeno, of the Osaka Seisha Kaisha; of another under a mining expert, Mr. Saito Seiichi, and of others under Messrs. Yoshikawa Sanjuro and Takashima Kinsai. Considerable success is said to have attended all their exploitations. They have found silver mines, lead mines, iron mines, and smokeless coal mines, all sufficiently promising to encourage railway enterprise.

Disquieting rumours still come from Peking and Tientsin, but they have to be largely discounted, in view of the evident excitement under which folks in that part of the world are labouring. Thus a visit paid by the Empress Dowager to the Ewo Palace, in company with the Emperor, was supposed to be inspired by some sinister design, and led to the despatch of telegrams announcing that another *coup d'état* was on the *tapis*. But it subsequently transpired that such a visit was part of the Court's regular annual routine. With regard, however, to the Shantung insurgents, the statement is confirmed that they have made an irruption into Chili, and it is even alleged that they have reached the neighbourhood of Tientsin, so that, in all probability, the Foreign Powers will have to land troops for the protection of life and property in the Settlement. The Peking Government, however, desiring, it is presumed, to avert the necessity of alien interference, has sent seven thousand troops to attack the rebels. Meanwhile the threatened insurrection in Canton appears to have ended in smoke, for the present at all events. The Viceroy Li has apparently found means to check it. From Wei-hai-wai, however, comes a statement that the people of the district are banding together to oppose the British, and that disturbances are apprehended.

ASHIO MINE TROUBLES.

Fresh troubles have broken out at the Ashio Mine. The story is told in the columns of a Tokyo contemporary, but it bears the aspect of being highly coloured. The facts are stated to be these. In consequence of the great scarcity of timber for building purposes, the experts employed at the mine have been manufacturing a sort of concrete by mixing lime with the refuse of the mine. Blocks of this compound have served excellently for building purposes. The supply of lime, however, has not been over plentiful, and the men engaged to excavate and burn it showed so little concern for the farmers in the locality of the kilns that much discontent was caused and frequent complaints were addressed to the police. Finally—and it is at this point that the story becomes apocryphal—, the representative of Mr. Furukawa, owner of the mine, invited the rustics to an entertainment, plied them with *sake*, and then drew a cordon of armed workmen around them, threatening dire consequences unless an agreement relating to the lime-yielding district were signed immediately. The rustics, though more or less inebriated, refused compliance, whereupon they were vigorously attacked with swords, pistols and bludgeons, and seventeen received more or less severe injury. It is not easy to credit this tale as it stands.

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RUSSIA AND KOREA.

Monday, April 9.

Recent telegrams have spoken of an island called Koka, where Russia is said to have obtained a lease of land. The place in question is now explained to be Koha, a small island about 2½ miles in circumference, lying at the entrance of Mokpho Bay. When Mokpho was opened to trade, Japanese subjects purchased various lots of land on this island, but the Korean Authorities subsequently decided that although its measured distance from the settlement showed it to be within the treaty radius of 10 *li*, nevertheless the intention of the treaty was to indicate measurements on the mainland, and that it could not be read as referring to places separated by water from the base of calculation. This decision was accepted at the time, but it would seem that Russia has now induced the Söul Government to adopt a new view. The telegrams further speak of the area of land acquired by her as 300 *tsubo*, or one-fourth of an acre. But such a fragment of ground would not suffice to build even a private residence. Some conjecture that three thousand *tsubo*, not three hundred, have been acquired. That correction helps very little. Two and a half acres of land would certainly make a coaling station, but a very small one.

Wednesday, April 11.

There is no confirmation of the rumour that Russia has obtained a lease of land on an island at the entrance of Mokpho Bay. There is no reason to believe that she has even attempted to obtain any such concession. So far as we can ascertain, she has withdrawn her original application for an extra-settlement lot, and has been content to purchase land within the Masampo treaty limits. But it is understood that she is now seeking to obtain from the Korean Government an explicit guarantee that the island of Kuje, or any part of it, shall never be alienated from Korean possession. At first sight, such a proposal seems to partake of the nature of establishing a sphere of influence, but as Russia herself is included in the Powers rendered ineligible by the guarantee, the neutralization of the island is alleged to be chiefly contemplated. We say "is alleged," but there can be little doubt as to the real meaning of such a guarantee.

SPECIE RESERVE AND THE NOTE ISSUE.

Uneasiness is evidently caused by a gradual diminution in the volume of the Bank of Japan's specie reserves. On the 24th of March, they stood at 94,640,000 *yen*, in round numbers; on the 31st, the figure was 93,040,000 *yen*, and on April 7th it had fallen to 91,960,000 *yen*. Probably it will soon be as low as 90 millions, or nearly 20 millions less than it was at the beginning of the year. On the other hand, the volumes of convertible notes at the same dates were 210,660,000 *yen*; 217,800,000 *yen* and 212,400,000 *yen* respectively. Hence, although the policy now pursued by the Bank is tending to reduce the volume of these notes, there has not been any diminution proportionate to the contraction of the specie reserves. Foreign observers do not share this uneasiness, we imagine. In every country the specie reserves and the note issues show a margin of fluctuation, and in Japan's case the margin is likely to be exceptionally large owing to the fact that the quantity of specie in circulation is remarkably small.

CONSCRIPTS AND REVIEWS.

Patriotism in Japan takes the form, *inter alia*, of giving a good send-off to lads caught in the meshes of the law of conscription, and of extending a sumptuous welcome to time-expired men, as well as to soldiers billeted on the people on occasions of grand manœuvres. As to the last habit, from what we have been able to learn, it is not altogether voluntary on the part of householders. They find that it pays better to spend some money for the entertainment of men billeted on them, than to incur risks which the men know how to make costly. In short, there is a great deal of abuse connected with this matter of billeting. The billeted soldier has many ways of making himself offensive, and even destroying property, and he does not hesitate to employ them unless his hosts make it worth his while to be tractable. Naturally the inhabitants of districts where manœuvres are held, regard the event with many misgivings. Similarly the custom of organizing festivities in connexion with the departure and return of a conscript are not really calculated to promote patriotism. The former function assumes a character of condolence; the latter, of congratulation, and both tend to foster an impression that conscription is a grievous hardship. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that Viscount Katsura, Minister of War, in addressing the assembly of Local Governors now sitting at the Department of Home Affairs, urged that the people should be discouraged from all these practices; that entertainments should not be given either to send off or to welcome conscripts, and that householders should not supply to billeted soldiers anything beyond what is required by the regulations. Viscount Katsura being an eminently practical officer, we presume that he will accompany this injunction with the issue of regulations for restraining demands made by soldiers upon families where they are billeted.

Another useful instruction given by the Minister to the Local Governors related to the importance of posting conspicuous notices at places where trespass is forbidden for military reasons. There have been several instances lately of inadvertent violations of rules by foreigners and Japanese, and it is the duty of the Authorities to see that if certain localities are interdicted, the interdict should be distinctly published.

"*JITSUYO EIGO.*"

Mr. George Bunt, Government Teacher of English to the Police of Hiogo Prefecture, has published a little book of 14 pages containing sentences in English and Japanese simply intended for use by police constables who find themselves in contact with foreigners. The sentences seem to be well chosen. Apparently the volume is to serve as a *vade mecum*. Each constable being provided with a copy is expected to point to the phrase embodying the meaning that he desires to convey, should he not be able to make himself understood verbally. The idea is good, and, as we have said, the sentences are so judiciously chosen that they will very often prove valuable. The author has not added *Romaji*, so that few foreigners will be able to decipher the Japanese. But it is not intended that they should. What they have to do is to search for an English sentence approximately conveying the thought that they wish to communicate to the constable, and then, by pointing out this sentence to the guardian of the law, his comprehension will be secured. To facilitate the process the sentences are grouped under subject headings, as "At the Hatoba," "A Row," "Inebriation," &c.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

It is stated that the Imperial Spring Garden Party at the Shiba Detached Palace will take place on the 15th instant, and that the Emperor and Empress will both be present. The cherries this year are said to be magnificent, as might indeed have been expected in view of the extraordinarily warm weather of the past few days.

Rumour is again busy with the relations between the Cabinet and the Liberals. This time there appears to be a pretty general consensus of opinion that something more than mere talk is in the air, and that a redistribution of portfolios is really among the probabilities of the immediate future. We shall be surprised if Marquis Yamagata agrees to anything of the kind.

Tokyo newspapers speak of an island some 25 miles distant from Kelung which was deserted by the Chinese inhabitants at the time of the war, and which is now likely to fall into the hands of an enterprising Japanese. It is stated that great quantities of valuable feathers can be obtained yearly, and that a plateau of considerable area invites cultivation. But access to the island is evidently very difficult.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce has embodied in a manifesto its views as to the advisability of granting to foreigners the privilege of owning land in Japan. Copies of the document have been forwarded to every member of the two Houses of the Diet, and also to all the leading newspapers. It is couched in very emphatic terms. We shall publish a translation as speedily as possible.

A police officer named Murata Sanenobu recently became a fugitive from justice. He had been dismissed from his post for applying a hot iron to the cheek of a man charged with keeping a gambling saloon and for endeavouring to extort confession from a woman by even more brutal measures. Criminal proceedings were then instituted against him by the public procurator in Kobe. He fled to Himeji and has been apprehended there.

A telegram from Nagaoka reports that at 6 p.m. on the 7th instant a working train on the Hokuyetsu line (Echigo-Kaga), running against the signals, was precipitated into the Shibumi River. The statements of casualties vary: one account says that two men were injured, and another puts the number at three. Some spans of a bridge had been removed for repairs, and the driver of the train proceeded in ignorance of the fact and disregarding the signals, it is said.

It is now alleged that no less than twenty-four members of the House of Peers are implicated in the bribery scandal connected with the Religions Bill affair. Some of them are alleged to be desirous of hushing up the matter, but their fellow-members insist that something must be done to clear the reputation of the House. It is impossible to tell how much truth there may be in these rumours. Presumably they are not altogether made out of whole cloth, but we suspect that they are greatly exaggerated.

The Cotton-spinning Companies of the Kwansei region are to hold a meeting on the

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17th instant for the purpose of discussing a resolution which is expected to pass without dissent. It is to the effect that night work be abandoned from May 1st, or that some other method be adopted for reducing the present output by fifty per cent. The proposed penalty for violations of this agreement is expulsion from the cotton-spinning union, and consequent exclusion from participation in the beneficial rates of freight granted by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Recently, when the Pest threatened to become formidable, supplies of serum were procured from Saigon through the intervention of the French Legation in Tokyo, and owing to the great helpfulness shown by the Yersin institute and the French Minister no inconvenience was experienced. But it is naturally felt that Japan should be self-supplying in such a matter. Dr. Kitasato has accordingly made the necessary arrangements, and we read in the columns of a Tokyo contemporary that he is in a position now to furnish considerable quantities of the anti-toxin, should occasion arise for its use.

It is stated by the *Mainichi Shimbun* that another complication has occurred with reference to schemes for the reclamation of the fore-shore at Otaru. The Tanko Railway company, the people of Otaru, the Okura firm and another applicant are in the field, and if our contemporary may be believed, there is a seamy side to the competition. Perhaps so, but we can not forget that the *Mainichi Shimbun* is in an exceedingly pessimistic mood at present, and that if its representations of the state of affairs in Japan were literally accepted, a very ill-omened picture would result.

Choshi, the place where the Tone-gawa pours its waters into Yedo Bay, is one of the most dangerous spots on the coast of Japan. A great volume of water and detritus is hurled sea-ward by the big river, and at certain state of the tide and wind shipping catastrophes are frequent, for it need scarcely be said that a vast number of junks enter the Tone continually. The Maritime Life-saving Society of Japan (*Dai-Nippon Suinan Kiusei-kai*) has a station there, and we read in the *Asahi* that very successful experiments have recently been made with a gun, invented in America, for throwing a line to vessels in distress. At a range of from 300 to 400 yards great accuracy can be obtained.

Mr. Kondo Rempei, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, is to start for America on the 17th instant. His prime purpose is to attend the conference of trans-Pacific steam-ship companies and connecting railway corporations which meets in San Francisco in April. He will thence proceed to Chicago, Washington, New York, and other important cities in the United States; afterwards to Canada, and finally to Europe, where England, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland and Italy will be visited. Mr. Kondo will be accompanied by Messrs. Kawada and Masaki of the Head Office, and by Mr. Mihara, the Company's Hongkong Agent.

The postage stamps issued in commemoration of the Imperial Wedding are to have, it is said, a border in the form of a scroll composed of the Imperial chrysanthemum badge and the badge of the House of Kujo. The central device will be a stand on which are piled a number of *mochi* cakes—one for each year of the Imperial bridegroom's age—and two pairs of chopsticks, one pair made of silver and one of wood. There will also be a willow-wood writing box. An expert in ethnology explains that during the first three days after the wedding the Imperial couple will use these chopsticks to eat, or make pretence of eating, the *mochi*, after which the remainder will be buried in a suitable place, duly purified. The stand on which the *mochi* cakes are piled is shaped like a crane, and the material is silver.

It appears that the revenue derived from the customs last fiscal year did not fall far short of the Finance Minister's estimate. The returns for Hakodate, Niigata and some minor ports are not yet available for the month of March, but the figures for all the other places show that 15,478,423 *yen* was collected, being only 632,898 *yen* below the estimate. At one time there was talk of the collection's failing to come within millions of the amount shown in the Budget, and the actual result is therefore considered very satisfactory, especially as the import duties on some articles used for manufacture were abolished by the action of the Diet, and a further reduction of revenue was caused by importations during the preceding year in anticipation of the new Tariff.

It is stated that the Japanese Admiralty has decided to abandon the project of constructing a torpedo-depot ship. Such a vessel figured in the original *post-bellum* programme, but doubts have now arisen as to her utility in comparison with six torpedo-catchers which can be procured for the same outlay—between four and five million *yen*. All orders under the *post-bellum* scheme, with the exception of this depot ship, have now been placed, the construction of the two third-class cruisers which remained on the list having been lately intrusted to the Yokosuka and Kure dockyards. It is stated that the Admiralty experts regard the torpedo-destroyer with great favour, and believe that its extended use in naval operations is one of the features of the future.

The citizens of Tokyo do not show as much inclination to avail themselves of the new water-works as was anticipated. According to the estimates of the Municipality, fully 80,000 houses out of the 294,436 forming the city, were expected to apply to have the water laid on, but the number of applicants up to the present has been only 19,418, and the financial prospects of the undertaking are correspondingly gloomy. It is scarcely to be expected that the average citizen will incur a heavy expense to have the new supply brought into his house and will pledge himself also to make regular monthly payments so long as the old pipes continue to keep his wells full. The Municipality must make up its mind resolutely to do away with the old *suido* altogether, and thus compel the use of the new. It is a matter that closely concerns the health of the city.

There is an interesting note in the *Chuo Shimbun* about the cost of building materials in Tokyo. We are told that prices of material and labour have increased enormously, but the figures given by our contemporary do not seem to bear out that assertion. It says, for example, that two-storeyed Japanese buildings now cost 74 or 75 *yen* per *tsubo*, and that buildings in foreign style cost 100 *yen*. Such prices would not be reckoned very high, we imagine. The *Chuo* adds, however, that the population of the capital is increasing in a much larger ratio than the means of accommodation, and that habitable buildings in convenient quarters command extraordinary prices. There are, in fact, six buyers for four sellers. It is obvious that the best way to ease the pressure is to construct street railways. As soon as electric lines give free access to the suburbs, large additions will be made to the habitable area of the city.

The directors of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha have decided to raise a loan of four million *yen* on debentures. The loan will be issued in two installments commencing from July next, and the foreign market is to be approached as well as the domestic. For home purposes the 100 *yen* debenture will be offered at 98 and will bear interest at the rate of 9 per cent. For foreign purposes the minimum selling price will be 95 and the interest 7. Ten years is to be the period of redemption, and we read in Tokyo journals that the 100 *yen* debenture is to be regarded as a £10 security. But we do not undertake to say what that means. A hundred *yen* is not the equivalent of £10: it is appreciably more than £10. After the experience that Mr. Morse has had with the Kobe Municipality, the foreign public will be exceedingly chary of placing credence in sterling figures printed on the back of Japanese securities.

An animated dispute is said to be going on among the adherents of the Shingon Sect. The sect has no less than ten *honzan*, or principal temples, including such celebrated places as Koya-san, Gokuku-ji and Ninna-ji. Their divided jurisdiction having long been a source of friction, an agreement was made at the commencement of the *Meiji* era that the chief prelate should be furnished by each of the *honzan* in turn, and that his term of office should be three years. The arrangement does not seem to have worked well, as is easily conceivable, and the representatives of the main temples now desire to change it in the sense of completely separating the *honzan* and letting each work independently. But the branch temples (*matsu-ji*) object to such a change, and a warm discussion is said to be going on. Japanese Buddhism does not appear to be in a very satisfactory condition, if we may judge from the frequent troubles that have taken place during recent years.

YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY.

An interesting programme was as usual arranged for the fortnightly meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society, held in the Van Schaick Hall last evening, and there was a fair attendance. The paper was by Mr. M. Sachs, being devoted to a critical review of the life and works of Hans Christian Andersen, probably the best known of Danish poets and authors, whose "Fairy Tales," translated into many languages, have afforded unparalleled delight to thousands of juveniles as well as to children of riper years. Mr. Sachs gave a sketch of Andersen's character and works. Strange to say, the author who wrote so sympathetically for the young and loved them so well did not like children near him, aud moreover died a bachelor, never personally knowing the delights (and troubles) of matrimnoy and paternity. The reader quoted several passages from Andersen's works exemplifying the style and characteristics of the author. The paper was received with applause. The second half of the programme was as follows:—

Vocal Solo ..... "Autumn Song" ..... Grieg.
Mr. HANSEN.
Violin Solo..... (*a*) "Abendlied" ..... Schumann.
(*b*) "Minuetto" (1702) ... Veracini.
Miss ANDREWS.
Song ..... "Dichterliebe" ..... Schumann.
Mr. HANSEN.

Sir Claude Macdonald has assured the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce that "no change of tariff is at all likely to take place without previous consulation with the parties most interested, more especially the Chambers of Commerce of Hongkong and Shanghai."

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THE COMMEMORATION MUSEUM.

IT appears that the Household Department refused, in the first instance, to approve the scheme suggested by the Tokyo Municipality for erecting a fine-arts museum to commemorate the wedding of the PRINCE IMPERIAL, the ground of refusal being that although it was proposed to erect a museum, no funds for furnishing or maintaing it were in sight. The Municipality thereupon declared its willingness to be responsible for the furnishing and the maintenance as well as the construction, and on that condition the Household Department gave its consent. The Municipality seems to think that the sum of five hundred thousand *yen* will suffice for all purposes, and as several promises of twenty thousand or thirty thousand *yen* have been already received, it is calculated that no difficulty will be experienced in raising fully six hundred thousand. It is not very satisfactory to learn these general estimates only. One would like to know how they are arrived at. There can not, we presume, be any intention of spending less than two hundred and fifty thousand *yen* on the building and its surroundings. A smaller outlay would produce an edifice quite unworthy of the purpose. Indeed, we are disposed to think that three hundred and fifty thousand would be nearer the mark, for it is obvious that the building must be of a solid and comparatively fire-proof nature. Suppose that we put it at three hundred thousand *yen*, and suppose, further, that six hundred thousand are raised. Then there will remain three hundred thousand for furnishing and maintenance. The costs of maintenance will be very considerable. There must be a principal curator and several assistants, and there must be ample arrangements for warming the building so as to prevent destruction by damp. However economical the management may be, we cannot estimate these various outlays at less than seven hundred dollars a month. Then there are insurance and repairs, at least three hundred a month, so that we arrive at a thousand a month for maintenance. In other words, a capital fund of two hundred thousand yen must be invested at 5 per cent. for maintenance alone. There remains, therefore, a hundred thousand *yen* for furnishing the museum. That is quite inadequate. In view of the prices that have to be paid now-a-days for art objects of merit, we should say that three or four times a hundred thousand *yen* would be insufficient to furnish a museum worthy to be called in any sense municipal, to say nothing of national or imperial. Of course, there would be no insuperable difficulty in getting together a pretty collection at an expense of a hundred thousand *yen*, but it would be merely such as a private gentleman might possess, and would, indeed, be far inferior to many private collections in France, the United States and England. The Municipality of Tokyo surely can not propose to form a collection of that nature and call it by some name commemorative of such events as the marriage of the Prince Imperial and the capital's offering to His Imperial Highness on that great occasion. Perhaps the idea is to fill the museum with specimens of modern art; specimens representing the *Meiji* era. That would be a reasonable idea, and every one acquainted with the subject knows that very beautiful objects of modern art workmanship are to be obtained—objects in many cases far superior to anything produced in former days. But every one acquainted with the subject knows also that a hundred thousand *yen* would not begin to suffice for such a purpose, that is to say, if specimens really representative of the finest workmanship are to be obtained. From all that has been said and written, however, we imagine that the idea is to bring together a collection of pre-*Meiji* examples. If that be so, the money will prove still less adequate, and the result will be that after furnishing a few cases, the committee will find their bank account exhausted and the museum virtually empty. Besides, the question is not of one solitary effort. There must be a sum of money available year by year for the purchase of any specially fine objects that come into the market. We presume that the idea is to work on intelligent lines. In other words, the projectors do not think of merely throwing together a number of pretty things haphazard, without any regard to their character as representing the historical and local developments of Japanese Art. There must be some serious plan underlying the programme, and if there is, then two things have to be contemplated; first, the assembling of a sufficient number of specimens to furnish the museum at least sufficiently to make it presentable; and secondly, the gradual acquisition of specimens which shall fill up the gaps inevitably left at first. It is very likely that the Committee of the Municipality have taken these things into full consideration, and that we may be simply "preaching a sermon to Shakka." But we can not conceive how the thing is to be done with the sum named, and therefore we venture to set down the thoughts that occur to us.

We learn from the *Hochi Shimbun* that the Fine Arts Museum, which is to be built in commemoration of the Prince Imperial's wedding, will probably have for architect Mr. KITAYAMA, who is connected with the Building Bureau of the Imperial Household. His plan contemplates a building of granite, having an area of 400 *tsubo* (⅓ of an acre) and costing 1,500 *yen* per *tsubo*, or six hundred thousand *yen* in all. It will have a dome 50 feet high, strengthened, probably by an iron frame. That is a costly project. The building alone will absorb all the available funds. There appears to be a great deal of uncertainty about the choice of a site. Hibiya, Kasumigaseki and Ochanomizu are all spoken of, but Kasumigaseki is most in favour for the moment. If Hibiya be selected, the building will probably have to be one-storeyed, since good foundations are difficult to find in that district.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Viscount Hayashi and Viscount Kuroda have been appointed to fill the two vacancies in the Privy Council.

The loss of the *Nojiro Maru* at Nojiro-hama in Akita on the 10th instant is announced. One man was drowned. The ship carried a cargo of twenty thousand bags of herrings.

Mr. D. F. Robertson, an English resident of Nagasaki, is said to have been naturalised and registered as a Japanese subject. He was formerly in the employ of the Engine and Iron Works.

The *Official Gazette* announces the establishment of a Japanese Consulate at Masampho. Hitherto there has been only a branch consulate at that place, under the jurisdiction of the Fusan Consulate, but Masampho now becomes independent.

A part of the work upon which Marquis Ito is engaged is said to have been completed, namely, the section relating to the marriage affairs of the Imperial Court and the Princes of the Blood. It appears to be a tolerably voluminous body of regulations, but the contents have not been made public.

The Government, it is said, contemplates spending a sum of 400,000 *yen* yearly on jail buildings, namely, 300,000 *yen* for new structures and 100,000 *yen* for repairs. Six new structures will be shortly commenced, the sum devoted annually to each of them being 50,000 *yen*, and the period for completing them, 10 years, the total cost of each being thus 500,000 *yen*.

A treaty of commerce and amity has been signed by representatives of Japan and the Congo Free State, and has received the approval of the Privy Council of the Empire. The exchange of ratifications is therefore expected to take place shortly. We observe that the treaty has an exceptional title, a "declaration of amity."

The next meeting of the International Postal Union is to take place at Berne on the 20th of July. In the regular routine Rome would be the place of assembly, but as this year is the 25th since the organization of the Union, a special ceremony is to be held at Berne. Messrs. Matsunaga and Hakatani are to be the Japanese delegates.

We stated in a recent issue that a railway bureau is to be organized in Korea and that Mr. Omiwa Chobei will be the first "Superintendent." It appears that the reason for organizing such an office is the extreme difficulty of transacting railway business under existing circumstances, when every question has to be submitted to, and decided by, the whole Cabinet in full conclave.

The *Fuso*, after having undergone extensive repairs in the sequel of her accident last summer, has now made her official trial. She attained a speed of 12 knots with ordinary draught, against 10.06 knots, which was her figure before the accident. She is therefore a better ship than she used to be. Her armament is now being shipped.

Mr. Hoshi Toru's abandonment, or postponement, of his projected trip to China, has set the tongues of the gossips wagging. They interpret this change of plan as an indication of some important political event—a rupture between the Liberals and the Cabinet or a change of Ministry. But the *Jimmin*, which may be trusted in this matter to know what it is talking about, denies

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that the event has any political significance whatever, and refers it simply to Mr. Hoshi's desire to take part in the ceremonies connected with the Prince Imperial's Wedding, and to assist in carrying out the Municipality's plans for the erection of a commemoration Museum of Arts.

The Nagoya Court of Appeal has delivered judgment in the case of assault and battery connected with the Sumida river fête in the summer of 1898. Mr. Kansai has been sentenced to 7 days' detention, and Kondo to 15 days' major imprisonment. Thus all the appeals have not resulted in any change of the original verdict. Court after Court has recorded its opinion that the English naval officers were in the right and the Japanese pleasure-seekers in the wrong.

Reports from the North show that the take of herrings continues to be quite exceptional. The fishers in the Matsumaye district expect to get forty thousand *koku* in all. In the Iwanai waters seven or eight thousand *koku* have already been taken, and from another district the return is twenty-five thousand *koku*. These herrings are used chiefly for fertilizing purposes. Upon the abundance or scarcity of the catch the prosperity of the agricultural classes during the year depends largely.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce publishes the following figures, showing the total production of raw silk in Japan during the past decade :—

	Catties.
1890	843,272
1891	1,087,976
1892	1,096,088
1893	1,233,554
1894	1,296,783
1895	1,603,311
1896	1,442,721
1897	1,537,561
1898	1,479,747
1899	1,752,591

The *Hochi Shimbun* has discovered that the lady who nearly rode down an official of the Foreign Office was not the wife of a diplomatic personage, and that the imperilled official was not a translator but a translator's clerk. But these errors do not disconcert our contemporary in the slightest degree. It still appears to think that the prestige of the empire was impaired because the lady was not obliged to apologise on bended knee, and it now includes the *Japan Mail* in its circle of attack.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has decided, it is said, to issue its new loan of two million yen at 95, the rate of interest being 7 per cent. There appears to be some uncertainty as to the destination of the money. It was supposed to be intended for developing the Company's service to China, but we now observe a statement in a generally well-informed Tokyo paper that the Company destines a large part of the sum to pay off debts to the Yasuda Bank (900,000 *yen*) and to the Mitsu Bishi Bank (300,000 *yen*). There is also a rumour that negotiations are in progress to effect a loan of 4 million yen from a French bank.

The *Chuo Shimbun* states that legal proceedings have been instituted against Messrs. E. P. Mason and Company, of Yokohama, by Mr. Hayashi Akira, of Uyeno-hara in Yamanashi Prefecture. The story told by our contemporary is that Mr. Hayashi delivered a parcel of silk fabrics to the foreign firm, but that the latter demurred to the price. Mr. Hayashi accordingly sold the goods elsewhere, but when he sought to recover them from Messrs. Mason and Company, the latter declined to part with them pending the settlement of a debt said to be due by a Mr. Okabe, whose connection with the silk we fail to trace. During the discussion that ensued the market price of the article fell, so that a loss of some hundreds of *yen* was incurred, and for that loss the suit is instituted. This appears to be a very fragmentary tale.

The case of assault in connexion with the Ryogoku river festival has not yet been concluded. The incident occurred, if we remember aright, in 1898, but the defendants, Kasai and Kondo, have managed to postpone the execution of the sentence by appeal after appeal. The Nagoya Appeal Court having finally been ordered to re-try the case, it came up for hearing on the 7th instant, and judgment is to be delivered to-day (11th). It will be remembered that the victims of the assault were British naval officers, and that the sentences were 7 days detention for Kasai and 15 days' imprisonment for Kondo.

The year before last the import of sugar into Japan represented 28 million *yen*, or 43 million catties. Last year the figures were smaller—27 million catties and 17 million *yen*. But this year already shows an import of 7 million *yen* worth in 3 months. The Japanese are becoming great consumers of sugar. That fact is generally regarded as a proof of prosperity, but the indication is not altogether conclusive in Japan's case, inasmuch as the high tax on *sake* has led to the manufacture of a substitute by mixing sugar with alcohol. The *Kokumin Shimbun* thinks that something might be done to develop the sugar-producing capacities of the Riukiu Islands.

Rumour continues to busy itself with the affairs of the Ministry. One newspaper alleges that Marquis Yamagata has actually gone so far as to convey his desire to resign through Viscount Tanaka to Marquis Ito, and that Marquis Ito has signified his willingness to accept the responsibility under certain conditions. We attach no importance to the story, for it is obvious that if Marquis Yamagata desired to make any communication to Marquis Ito, he would make it direct, not through an intermediary. It is impossible to doubt, however, that something is on the *tapis*, or that meetings are taking place between leading members of the Liberal Party and Ministers of State.

At present a Japanese child is required to attend a primary school from the age of six. He spends 4 years there, and then passes, if he pleases, into a middle school, whence he can graduate after another period of 4 years, if he passes all his examinations. Thus, at the age of 14, he is supposed to have received an ordinary education. It is probable that this system will be changed in the sense of prolonging the primary-school course to 6 years, and shortening that of the middle school to 2 years. The contention is that the great majority of lads do not pass on to a middle school. Their education ends when they emerge from the primary school, and they are then quite unequipped for the ordinary duties of life. An additional 2 years in a primary school would materially raise the average educational standard.

In spite of the serious apprehension excited by the Instruction issued by the Minister of State for Education with regard to religious teaching or exercises in private schools holding officially recognised status, the method of enforcing the instruction has been so liberal and leinient that almost all uneasiness has been removed, and Christian efforts are being vigorously employed in the educational field. The *Nippon* enumerates five schools which have been recently established in Tokyo, virtually on a charity basis, for the tuition fees range from 10 *sen* to 25 *sen* per month, reaching 50 *sen* (optional) in one case only. All these schools have obtained official recognition. In other words, children attending them are considered to be discharging their educational duty as prescribed by law. The *Nippon* seems disposed to sneer at the Minister of Education's failure, but surely it would have been juster to give him credit for wise liberality.

If the companies forming the Cotton-spinners' Union decide to close their mills during a period of 10 days each month, the output will be reduced by 25,000 catties monthly, but if, as is more probable, they adopt the eight-days proposition, the reduction will not exceed 20,000 catties. They took advantage of Count Inouye's recent presence in Osaka to invite him to speak on the subject. He delivered an interesting address, but it did not include any definite opinion as to the necessity of reducing the output of the mills. Evidently the Count was inclined to think that a better remedy lay in the direction of seeking to stimulate the export trade. The gist of his address was the want of a spirit of combination among the Japanese. It was impossible, he insisted, to achieve commercial success in the present era without employing every resource of organization and combination.

The *Jiji Shimpo* has an article condemning the methods of the dog-slayers of Tokyo. These men are entitled to kill a dog if they see that it has no collar, and they obey the strict letter of the law, striking down animals without compunction, although they must be perfectly well aware that many of the dogs thus destroyed are pet animals against which the law is not directed. There have indeed been cases where dogs, whose owners and habitations were well known, nevertheless attracted attention on account of their beautiful skins, and were watched until a day came when they happened to be found without collars. Apart from these abuses, the *Jiji* justly condemns the practice of clubbing dogs to death in the public thoroughfares. It says that such procedure is not only horribly cruel, but also most demoralizing to the onlookers. We heartily endorse our contemporary's protests. The custom is quite barbarous. But the whole question of the treatment of animals — especially beasts of burden — in Japan invites the earnest attention of benevolent people. It is impossible to walk in the suburbs of Tokyo without seeing sights that should excite the profound pity and indignation of every educated man.

The *Yomiuri* complains of the inactivity of the Formosa Association. Among the enterprises that ought be be undertaken by the Association, our contemporary enumerates the following as of supreme importance :—(1) Detailed report on the actual condition of Formosa, and the despatch of officials on a tour of inspection. (2) Collection of Formosan productions as well as of merchandise suitable to the requirements of the islanders. (3) Affording all possible facilities for immigrants to, and tourists from, Formosa. (4) Investigation of practical enterprises undertaken in the island. (5) The promotion of facilities for the mastery of the language. (6) The establishment of a Formosa Hall. (7) Publication of a practical periodical report. (8) Organisation of meetings to deliberate upon Formosan topics. (9) Superin-

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tendence and protection of Formosan students. (10) Collection of correspondence, newspapers and magazines, books and old annals connected with Formosa. All these things should be done by the Association, but with the exception of the publication of a monthly report and occasional lecture meetings nothing has yet been accomplished.

Professor Murakami, principal of the Middle School of the Higashi Hongwanji, has created a sensation by delivering a most outspoken lecture against the chief Vicar, Ishikawa Shuntai, and the agitation recently promoted by the latter against the Religions Bill. The occasion chosen by Mr. Murakami was the anniversary of Shakka's birthday, which was celebrated by the Young Men's Buddhist Associations of Japan on the 8th instant. Some 4,000 persons attended at the Kinki-kan in Tokyo to listen to speeches, so that the Professor had a good audience. He attacked the Ishikawa party vehemently. Mr. Atsumi, the former Vicar, had been ousted, he said, because of corrupt practices and spendthrift methods, but it was impossible to claim that any improvement had been effected by the substitution of Mr. Ishikawa. The speaker then assailed the methods employed to prevent the passage of the Religions Bill. He spoke as though there could be no manner of doubt that corruption and intimidation had been resorted to. There are rumours that this very plain-spoken Professor will be asked to send in his resignation, but it is alleged that if such a step be taken, the whole faculty of the School and also the students will follow him into retirement.

It appears that there has been some trouble between the German Representative and a military student. Stripped of embroidery the story reduces itself to this. Count von Leyden, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood, and another European lady, were seated in a first-class carriage of the Japan Railway Company at Oji station, when a number of Japanese passengers attempted to enter, although the carriage was already full. After three or four had entered, the Count closed the door, using for the purpose the crook of a stick carried by him. This act seem to have been resented by a military student who was among the would-be occupants of the carriage. He seized the stick, and attempted to wrest it violently from the Count, demanding at the same time who he was, whence he came, and by what right he essayed to close the door. The Count, of course, refrained from entering into any altercation. He complained at once to the station-master and satisfactory arrangements were made, though of what nature we have not heard. The Japanese are understood to deny that there was any attempt to take the stick from its owner, but of that, we presume, there can be no doubt. Probably the very natural use made of the stick for closing the door was misinterpreted, and perhaps *sake* had something to do with the trouble.

There is talk of reducing the telephone rates at night, when the wires are little engaged. Certainly such a step would be greatly appreciated. Our own experience goes to show that the men on duty at night are generally napping when one rings them up. At the best of times they can not compare with the female operators in point of smartness. Some of the latter have developed a power of rattling off names and numbers that is quite bewildering. One gets the impression of listening to a patter song. Besides, the women are far easier to understand, and they seldom perpetrate the unbusiness-like solecism of interrupting a man after he has been switched on, for the purpose of enquiring whether he is engaged in conversation. When a male operator is in charge, the people talking to each other are oppressed with a tormenting apprehension that their sentences may be at any moment thrown into hopeless confusion by sudden interpolations of *moshi moshi ohanashichiu desuka*, or *mada sumimasenka*. The male operator has also a terrible propensity to sever the connexion at the end of the conventional five minutes, without troubling himself to inquire whether the wires are still in use. Then, if he is an accomplished nuisance, he retorts upon his complaining clients that they themselves must have retired from their posts, inasmuch as the wires were never unswitched! Since every five minutes' use of the instrument for communications outside Tokyo, or Yokohama as the case may be, costs 25 *sen*—a heavy charge—, one would suppose that, in the interests of the Telephone Bureau, the operators ought to wish people to talk as long as possible, instead of adopting vexatious devices to cut them off.

As some of the second-rate Tokyo journals show a disposition to discuss in animated terms the recent incident on the Nippon Railway Company's line in which a Foreign Representative was concerned, the *Kokumin Shimbun* points out that the affair is not worth a paragraph, having been nothing more than an attempt on the part of some people to force themselves into a carriage already full, and a very natural attempt on the part of others to obtain even standing room in the carriage rather than be left behind on the platform. The Foreign Representative himself laughs at the affair as altogether trivial. To us (*Japan Mail*) the moral pointed by the story is an old one, namely, that the organization of railway traffic in Japan leaves a great deal to be desired. Railway companies appear to have a very immature conception of their duties to the public. They do not recognise that when a man buys a ticket he is entitled, not only to a place in a carriage, but also to a place where he shall be free to enjoy the amount of accommodation which constitutes a condition of legally regulated travel. A railway company has no right to pack a carriage with passengers over and above the proper limit, and passengers have an indisputable right to protest against being thus packed. But Japanese travellers are wonderfully long-suffering. We make these remarks, not because we attach any importance to the recent incident but merely because it furnishes an obvious occasion for calling attention to defects of railway management. Perhaps it may assist to correct an abuse which constitutes a distinct imposition on the travelling public.

THE KOBE WATER WORKS CASE.

It appears that the Kobe Municipal Authorities have decided, most unwisely we venture to think, that the law must be invoked in the case of the Loan Bonds purchased by Mr. J. R. Morse. We have therefore obtained from Mr. Morse the following statement of the facts, as the affair can not fail to prove of great interest:—

On the 7th of July, 1899, I was visited by the Mayor and several Members of the Municipal Council of Kobe, who came up here to negotiate the sale of the Kobe Water Works Bonds. The inducement held out to me for the purchase of these Bonds was the promise of large orders for materials to be used in the construction of the Water Works, and the more important statement made to me by the Mayor, that these bonds were not like the Tokyo City and Osaka Harbour Works Bonds, inasmuch as they would be redeemable in Sterling or at a fixed rate of exchange, and thus make them more attractive to purchasers abroad. We discussed the rate of exchange sometime before we could agree; the Mayor wishing to take the rate fixed by the Finance Department on the 1st of July, which was 2/11/16d. to the *yen*, but this I would not agree to, for I would be obliged to borrow money at 2/13/16d. to the *yen*. This latter rate was finally settled upon and I wrote the Mayor the following letter:—

In accordance with our understanding, I agree to take from you Kobe Municipal Bonds to the extent of 1,000,000 *yen* in the denomination of 1,000 each, with the endorsement of Sterling exchange on the back of each bond at the rate of £103/7/8½ for 1,000 *yen*, and at the rate of 92 per 100 *yen*. One-half the above amount, I will take and pay for on the 15th of this month, and one-half on or before the 15th December. . . . .

We entered into an agreement at once, and on the 15th of July I advanced the sum of 460,000 *yen* in exchange for the Mayor's receipt and agreement to deliver 500,000 in Bonds on the 15th of August. When the Bonds were brought to me, I merely examined the English translation and finding the Sterling rate exactly in accordance with our agreement, I took it for granted everything was all right.

On the 11th September I had occasion to examine these bonds with a friend of mine, Mr. H. W. Denison, when to my surprise, he discovered the rate of exchange was not mentioned in the Japanese Text of the Bond, and that the translation was incorrect. I immediately wrote the Mayor as follows:—

Yokohama, Sept. 11, '99.

HONORABLE NARUTAKI YOSHIYUKI.

Mayor of Kobe City, Kobe.

DEAR SIR:—When I entered into a contract with your good self on the 7th of July last, for the purchase of Kobe Municipal Bonds to the extent of 1,000,000 *yen*, my understanding of the matter was that when we fixed the rate of exchange at 2/1 1/4d. to the *yen*, or £103/7/8½ for each 1,000 Yen Bond (which rate was to be shown on the bonds), these Bonds would be redeemable at the same rate of exchange.

Upon examining these bonds a day or two since, I find the Sterling rate is not included in the Japanese text, and therefore the translation is incorrect. I write to ask, if in selling these bonds abroad, I am justified in stating that they will be redeemed at the rate given in the English text or translation, *i.e.*, £103/7/8½ for each 1,000 *yen*. My object in having the Sterling rate fixed, as you know, was to make the bonds more attractive to foreign investors, and certainly your Interpreter on that occasion informed me this was well understood by you, but in showing a sample bond to a prospective purchaser a day or two since, this question of redemption in Sterling came up, and it was then I discovered the rate was not mentioned in the Japanese text.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if my understanding of the matter is correct, *i.e.*, that these bonds are redeemable in yen at face value, or the equivalent of £103/7/8½, as may be desired by the holder.

Hoping you are enjoying good health, and with best respects, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES R. MORSE.

To this letter I have never received a reply. Shortly after (Sept. 23rd) I left for China, and on my return, about the end of November, I called on the Mayor in Kobe, in company wth the Interpreter, Mr. Ishida, who acted for the Mayor when our original agreement was entered into. I asked the Mayor if he had considered my letter of the 11th September and what his intentions were regarding the redemption of the Bonds in Sterling. He replied that it *was* his original intention to have the rate of exchange fixed and to redeem the bonds in sterling, but after receipt of my letter of Sept. 11th, he applied to the Minister of Finance and learned that he could not make such a contract with me and therefore he could not change the Japanese text of the bond. On my arrival in Yokohama I wrote the Mayor as follows:—

Yokohama, Dec. 1, 1899.

HONORABLE NARUTAKI YOSHIYUKI,

Mayor of Kobe City, Kobe.

DEAR SIR,—As explained to you during my short visit in Kobe a few days since, the misunderstanding

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between us regarding the redemption of the Kobe Water Works Bonds has made it impossible for me to sell these bonds abroad, and consequently I cannot take up the remaining 500,000 *yen* on the 15th inst. I enclose copy of a letter I wrote you on the 11th Sept. showing my understanding of our agreement. This letter I handed to Mr. Ishida to forward to you, but in case he failed to do so, I now send this copy so that you may know how surprised I was to learn the sterling rate was not included in the Japanese text.

In my letter to you of July 7th, I wrote as follows :—

> In accordance with our understanding, I agree to take from you Kobe Municipal Bonds to the extent of 1,000,000 *yen*, in the denomination of 1,000 each, with the endorsement of Sterling exchange on the back of each bond at the rate of £103/7/8½ for each 1,000 Japanese *yen*, and at the rate of 92 per 100 *yen*.

You will remember that we discussed the rate of exchange some time before you could agree to the rate I had to pay the bank for a loan of £40,000, *i.e.*, 21 1/16s. to the *yen*, or £103/7/8½ for each 1,000 *yen*. You wished to take the rate named by the Finance Department, which I believe was 2/1 1/16d. to the *yen*, but this I could not agree to, and then you consented to the higher rate. This seems to me conclusive evidence that your understanding of the matter at the time was the same as my own, *i.e.*, that the Bonds would be redeemed in sterling at the rate agreed upon between us. Mr. Ishida, the Interpreter, has stated to me on several occasions that this was clearly understood at the time contract was signed.

I don't know at present what action I will take in the matter to protect my interests, but as stated to you at our late meeting, I have a prospective buyer for the entire amount of 1,000,000 *yen*, *provided* interest will be paid in Shanghai through the Yokohama Specie Bank, and an extension of five months time be given for taking up the remaining 500,000 *yen*.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if this extension will be granted, and very greatly oblige.

Yours faithfully, JAMES R. MORSE.

The day following dispatch of this letter, I received the following letter from the Mayor :—

Kobe, Dec. 1, 1899.

JAS. R. MORSE, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—A proposition for paying with sterling for Water Works Bonds of this City, which was made byyou on our last meeting of 29th ult., has been introduced again to the City Council and the matter was very carefully discussed and consulted, but decision was given upon this entirely unsatisfactory to your desire, as replied previously. And another request of postponing payment of balance on bonds until May of 1900, which was agreed upon between you and the City Council, as to be paid upon or before 15th December this year, was also not accepted. Please be good yourself to understand the circumstances as above, and hoping the agreement will be carried out on or before the 15th December this year as agreed at first.

Faithfully yours,

Y. NARUTAKI, Mayor of Kobe.

On the 6th December I received the following letter from the Mayor :—

Kobe, Dec. 5, 1899.

JAMES R. MORSE, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—Your esteemed letter of the 1st inst. duly to hand and contents has been noted.

You have stated circumstances so fully as it is your desire to postpone payment of the balance of assets on the bonds until May 1900 on account it becomes so hard to sell out the Bonds to abroad, caused by a misundersanding made upon between us in regard to refunding principal of the Water Works Bonds of this City, but from first time of making agreement with you, we the City Council always were negotiating with you by definite opinion, that is as our answer dated 15th September last (which letter I have never received) to your inquiry of the 11th same month, it was and is our principle that we do not refund in sterling in any case.

And again, you said that the fact of our consultation made with you on exchange rate at first, shows as if refund will be made in sterling, but it was simply done by this reason, if we made entry by exchange rate at time of agreement, or by office rate of the Department of Finance, and as it was our desire to make entry by official rate, so as it is, we venture to think it is apparent that this does not mean of making refund in sterling.

Although we think you are perhaps under some circumstances necessarily of making them money matters, but we also are under some circumstances which we cannot accord with your request.

The matter as above stated, we are under obligations to request you to pay balance on or before 15th inst., in accordance with agreement.

Yours faithfully,

Y. NARUTAKI, Mayor of Kobe.

On the 7th of December, I addressed the Mayor as follows :

Yokohama, Dec, 7, 1899.

HONORABLE NARUTAKI YOSHIYUKI,
Mayor of Kobe City, Kobe.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th inst., and note with much regret the position you have taken regarding my contract with you for the Kobe Water Works Bonds. If as you say it was not your intention to redeem the bonds in sterling why was the sterling rate of exchange shown in the English text of the bonds, and why was it you first objected to the rate named by me and afterwards accepted it, *i.e.*, 2/1 1/16d. to the *yen*? Your Interpreter, Mr. Ishida, is a good English Scholar, and he cannot but testify that we *did* agree to the rate at which these bonds were to be redeemed, and when on the 15th day of August your Agent brought me the first instalment of 500,000 *yen* in bonds with the indorsement in sterling as agreed between us, I did not question the genuineness of the translation, but now that I know this endorsement in sterling means nothing, and that the bonds will only be redeemable in *yen*, I must take steps to protect my interests by placing the matter in the hands of my legal adviser.

I may also mention another inducement held out to me at the time of contracting for these bonds, *i.e.*, the placing of orders with my firm for several hundred thousand *yen* worth of Supplies on Commission terms of 5 per cent. Up to the present time no orders have been placed with us, and no assurance from you that business will be given us on the terms named. I must therefore conclude that you have no intention of carrying out your part of our agreement. Regretting the necessity of taking legal action in this matter, I remain,

Yours very truly, JAMES R. MORSE.

On the 12th of December I was waited upon by three or four representatives of the Mayor, who said they had been sent by the Mayor to inquire what my intentions were regarding the remaining bonds undelivered. I told them I had already notified the Mayor that I had placed the matter in the hands of my legal adviser, and that I would not take the bonds. During our conversation I asked them if it was not the original intention of the Mayor and Members of the Council to redeem these bonds at the rate of exchange fixed in our agreement, and they replied :—

Of course it was our original intention to redeem the bonds in sterling, but when the Mayor received your letter of Sept, 11th he had to reply it was never our intention to redeem the bonds in sterling, *because* the Finance Department would not consent to our proposal to do so.

Fortunately I had two witnesses present when the above statement was made, and they will testify to the correctness of it as given in this article.

I have no intention of commenting through the Press on this matter, but simply make this statement of facts for the benefit of the public and for my own protection in case of further misrepresentations through the Japanese Press.

JAMES R. MORSE.

Yokohama, April, 1900.

The case instituted by Mr. J. R. Morse in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, against the Mayor of Kobe for the cancellation of the contract concluded between the parties for the purchase of Kobe Water-works bonds, came on for hearing again on Thursday, before Judge Fujise and Assistant Judges Morii and Shimamura. Mr. Morse was represented by Mr. Suzuki; defendants by Messrs Kusaka, Sakurai, Otsuki and Oda, all of Kobe. After the contract had been produced, details of which were given in our columns the other day, the defendants' counsel applied for leave to institute a counterclaim. This was opposed by Mr. Suzuki, and evidence was next given by Mr. Yamamoto Shigezo, of the Kobe Municipal Council, who deposed to being present at a conference which Mr. Ishida and others had with Mr. Morse relative to the purchase of the bonds. Mr. Ishida, who acted as intrepreter between the parties, was also examined at considerable length, and gave a full account of the various interviews with Mr. Morse and the representatives of the Kobe Municipality with reference to the fixing of price and the rate of exchange, and of the interview in Kobe after Mr. Morse found that the bonds were not to be redeemed in sterling at the rate mentioned in the English translation on the back of the bond, the Mayor of Kobe at this meeting stating that the Treasury Department refused to grant permission for such a proceeding. The case was eventually adjourned.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

In the *Shakai Zasshi* appears a very long and thoughtful discourse by Dr. Motora on "Religion and Education," which was delivered in the form of a lecture to the Shakai-Gakkai some weeks ago. As Dr. Motora is a highly repected Christian scholar whose opinions represent those of a large class of Japanese Christian converts we give a somewhat full summary of his essay. After observing that the Department of Education has shown by its recent action that it does not realise the intimate connection that exists between religion and education, Dr. Motora goes on to say :—According to both Buddhists and Christians one of the chief objects of religion is to give comfort to man under the trials which he is called upon to bear. Buddhism holds that one of its principal functions is to give peace of mind to its converts and contends that according to their rank and knowledge men suffer from such varieties of anxiety that, in order to meet every conceivable case, the comfort to be administered has been arranged under 88,000 heads, much after the fashion of a dictionary of medical specifics. Though Christianity does not go into such minute particulars, the comfort that it affords has special reference to the mental condition and circumstances of ordinary men and women. Both religions teach that man will eventually get rid of suffering altogether; and here is where superstition comes in. Buddhism has its Emma and its red and blue devil, Christianity has its future punishment and its future rewards—devices for getting rid of suffering. It would seem, if we are to judge from the past, as though religion and superstition were inseparable. In both Christianity and Buddhism there is a good deal that is noble and good mixed with what must be pronounced childish. . . What it is important to bear in mind is that religions rests on a special kind of faith and that this faith is quite separable from intellectual knowledge.

Coming to education—we are using the term in a broad sense to include all the training that a subject of the empire ever needs,—to say that it must be national implies that it cannot be mixed up with any special form of faith. To adopt one form would be to declare against other forms, which, whilst opinions differ as they do now, would be unjust. . . . Men's minds are more made up as to religion than they are as to education. On the latter the greatest variety of opinion is held. But taking education in the sense of the training of loyal subjects of the empire, it seems to me that there are two ways in which education and religion must come into conflict. (1) The province covered by each is different. Religion is extensive and all-embracing, education is limited and confined to one special object. To take an illustration, a member of the Congregational Church has joined a body where there is no distinction of country, where all believers are on an equality, where religion is supreme and all else of subordinate importance. Now a person who is undergoing education with the object of serving a particular state must regard the state as before all things. In the case of religion certain doctrines are pre-eminent, in the case of education the state is pre-eminent. Now it is quite plain that the two distinct sources of authority must conflict with each other under certain circumstances. When occasions arise in which a choice has to be made between following religion or being loyal to the state, one or the other has to give way. If religion gives way, then faith is weak. If the state is compromised, then the sense of loyalty is poorly developed. (2) Another particular in which religion and education come into conflict consists of the nature of the teaching imparted by religious teachers on the one hand and schoolmasters on the other. The knowledge imparted by the latter is *objective* and scientific in character, such as is acknowledged by the nation to be thoroughly reliable. But the knowledge imparted by the religious teacher is *subjective*, founded on faith and appealing to faith. Should religion then be banished from the schools? Before adopting any such course we have to consider what religion has accomplished in the past. By its teaching that in the moral world there is a

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law of cause and effect which operates most regularly, it has proved to be an incentive to virtue and a preventive of vice in many cases. It is true that with the progress of science men have studied heredity and evolution so much that the consequences of action, both moral and physical, are plain to them. Hence it may be said that with the progress of general knowledge the sphere of religion has been considerably curtailed. In teaching, the positivism of science has taken the place that religion used to occupy, and as time goes on religion is being more and more compelled to act as a mere negative power. But it would not be true to say that science has occupied the province of religion to the extent of rendering it unnecessary. It is possible that in the distant future this may take place, but this is a mere speculation and does not concern the age in which we live. . . . . Still are there not provinces of the mind which religion affects that science leaves untouched? And for the formation of character, is not an appeal to the mystical side of man's nature often most beneficial? Is any system of psychology complete that does not treat of that love of the mystical* which forms a leading characteristic of so many minds? There are regions which neither science nor philosophy have reached. It is these worlds that the mind loves to explore and it finds religion ever ready to act as guideb. If y supplying to certain minds food for meditation, by ennobling their thoughts and furnishing them with high ideals; religion moulds character, does not this clear it of the charge of being merely a negative force? This character-forming work is surely positive in character.

. . . . As I said above, there are particulars in which religion and education come into conflict, but it should be our endeavour so to arrange matters that this conflict may be avoided. It being acknowledged that both education and religion are valuable and indispensable, each in its own sphere, it only needs a little common sense to render it impossible for them to come into conflict with each other. That they do occupy separate provinces should be recognised. It was, in my opinion, this consideration that led the Mombusho to forbid the holding of any religious ceremonies in schools. This was not declaring against religion in its own proper sphere, but it was simply asserting the principle that religion and education should be kept quite separate from each other. It has been said that the order might have been confined to State Schools, but it is difficult to see how the Mombusho could allow licensed private schools to mix religion with education just as they please. This would be sanctioning the teaching of sects whose tenets are distinctly immoral.* By insisting on the separation between religion and education the Department acted wisely. It will be seen then that while I favour the separation of religion and education, and while I admit that they may often conflict with each other, I am opposed to the banishment of religion altogether. As a factor in educating the mind it is highly important and without it the highest type of character cannot be produced.

* * *

"What is new Theology?" asks the *Seikyo Shimpo*. Two distinct classes of Christians exist everywhere, says this organ, namely those who appeal to authority and those who appeal to reason. To Japanese, who know as a rule very little about these things, the term "new" applied to anything is a recommendation. It sounds progressive. As a nation we have given up so many old things that to pronounce a system of theology to be out of date seems to us a very natural proceeding in this progressive age. But there is a great deal of misconception connected with this subject. The authority on which the orthodox party relies is that of the apostles of Christ, the original transmitters of His teaching. No modern Christian has any right to make a creed for himself. His duty is to accept what has been handed down to him without arguing about it. It is true that in explaining the teaching of Christ resort is frequently had to logic, but this is a very different thing to bringing Christian doctrines to the judgment-seat of reason and relying on the verdict of such a court. To reason about questions that have been settled by Christ is heresy, and since this is just what the authors of the "New Theology" do, they are to be denounced as heretics who have made a god of intellect. When once men are allowed to alter Christ's religion to suit their own fancies, there is no end to the vagaries in which they may indulge. The remodelling of the religion of Christ attempted by this school of thinkers is to be unequivocally denounced.

* * *

No. 158 of the *Bukkyo* contains a short history of Buddhist literature during the year 1899, from which we make the following extracts. What attracted most attention in Buddhist literary circles last year was the discussion carried on in the *Mujintusui*, the *Sho*, the *Toyotetsu-gaku* and other magazines on "Pure Altruism." The *Mujinto* has perhaps no equal among Buddhist publications in respect of high theoretical discussion. Dr. Murakami has been lecturing at the Tokyo Imperial University on Systematic Buddhism. Mr. Oda Tokumo has published a glossary of Buddhist terms found in Yamato-bun, or purely native literature. The Jodoshu has been earnestly discussing orthodoxy and heterodoxy. An historical work on the Buddhist Canon of some importance, entitled *Bukkyo Seiten Shiron*, was published by Mr. Anezaki some months ago. The new magazines that appeared during the year were the *Hokyo* (Treasure Mirror), the *Kyo-o* (教王), the *Seikyo Hyoron*, which was discontinued before the end of the year the *Muryo-ju* (Eternal Life), an organ of the Jodo Sect, the *Sangan* (三眼) and the *Shinsho Shimpo*. The *Hansei Zasshi* changed its name to the *Chuo Koron* during the year.

* * *

The *Tokyo Maishu Shimpo* contends that the history of the Christian Church in Japan during the past thirty years reveals an inherent weakness in the Japanese mind, which is lack of will-power. Dividing man's mind into its three constituent parts, the intellect, the emotions and the will, it will be seen, says the writer we are quoting, that with the Japanese the development of the former powers is out of all proportion to the development of the will. This accounts for the general fickleness of which so many Churches complain. The majority of Christians go to extremes, led by their intellects or their feelings. The excessive development of the intellect lands us in Unitarianism or rationalism. Undue development of the feelings ends in revivalism and other vagaries. Religion that is dependent on feeling can never be stable. It is one thing to-day and another thing to-morrow. . . . Japanese Christian education is very one-sided. Until this defect is remedied there can be no reliable progress in Christian propragandism.

No 862 of the same periodical has a thoughtful article entitled *Seisho no Seiji Shiso* (Biblical Political Ideas), of which the following is a brief summary. The teaching of the New Testament on politics is lacking in explicitness. Hence Christians form their own conclusions, resulting in extreme individualism and anti-nationalism. The teaching that before God all nations are alike and that Christ's religion to a certain extent abolishes race and national distinctions undoubtedly gives a handle to the opponents of Christianity. John Stuart Mill maintained that political ethics are not properly taught in the New Testament, and in this country Dr. Inoue Tetsujiro, in his pamphlet on the conflict of religion and education, lays special stress on the same point. It is a fact that the church has from time to time adopted Greek and Roman politico-ethical theories to fill up the gaps left by the New Testament teaching. Now the reason of the deficiency complained of is not far to seek. When Christ preached in Judæa the Jews were subject to a foreign yoke and there were no burning political questions filling the minds of Christ's audiences. Even had there been such questions, to have discussed them would have led to interference on the part of the authorities and to the interruption of Christ's work as a preacher of salvation. But it is not true to say that no system of politics is taught in the Bible, for what is not found in the New Testament is supplied by the Old. If the object of the teaching of Christ was the benefit of men as individuals, the aim of the Old Testament prophets was the raising of a nation to a high level of attainment. This is very clearly shown by the writings of the late Professor Robertson Smith, for some time editor of the "Encylopædia Britannica," who says explicitly:—"The object of prophetic teaching was not the salvation of individuals, but the persuasion of a people to walk uprightly and to allow themselves to be guided by God's wisdom"* Those Christian sects which from time to time have figured as political reformers have taken their ideas from the Old Testament. Cromwell imagined himself to be another Moses sent to deliver God's people from the tyranny of the English Pharaoh, Charles I. The Pilgrim Fathers when they turned their backs on England imagined that they were leaving the flesh-pots of Egypt for an American land of Canaan flowing with milk and honey. The religion of the South African Boers is distinctly Old Testament in type. But the Puritans and the Boers alike make Moses rather than the later prophets their model. Hence their standard is by no means the highest Bible Standard. That is to be found in the teaching of those books of the old Testament that were composed during the later stages of Hebrew history. The political ideals presented by the prophets are as lofty as any the world has ever conceived of, and it is highly important that in this political age we, as a nation, should recognise this fact.

Mr. Hachihama Tokuro writes in the *Tokyo Maishu Shimpo* on "Religion and Suicide." He begins by observing that all religions are opposed to suicide, and in as far as they are followed tend to lessen the number of cases of self-destruction. But statistics go to show that some forms of religion are more powerful as a preventive than others. With the Christian religion Protestantism is more conducive to suicide than Roman Catholicism. The latter holds out various hopes of forgiveness and provides remedies for crimes that tend to relieve the anguish of mind that is apt to culminate in suicide. Protestantism is more severe and does little to prevent a man from lapsing into despair. Mr. Hachihama quotes statistics to show that in Roman Catholic countries like Spain, Portugal. and Italy, suicide is much less common than in Protestant countries like Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Scotland. Doubtless the frequency or rareness of the practice is to be traced to other causes, such as general character, custom, and a variety of special circumstances, but the absence or presence of religious faith is an important factor in all cases. The following generalisations seem to be founded on facts, says Mr. Hachihama:—There are more suicides among atheists and sceptics than among religious people. There are more suicides among Protestants than among Roman Catholics. There are more suicides among rationalistic Protestants than among the unquestioning orthodox sects. There are cases where suicide may be said to be indirectly caused by religion. Such are those instances where in obedience to some religious ideal men try to suppress natural desires to such an extent as to render life unbearable and to make even self-destruction a welcome method of putting an end to the torment caused by conflicting emotions.

* * *

Mr. Abe Isoo in the periodical from which we have just quoted defines very clearly the position occupied by Japanese Unitarians. We are not strictly a church, says Mr. Abe, but an Association, resembling the Young Men's Christian Association, or the Evangelical Alliance (Fukuin-domeikai). It would be possible for us to form ourselves into a church if it were considered de-

* It is not quite clear in what sense Dr. Motora uses this word. As a recent writer in the *Saturday Review* remarks, "No word is more ambiguous, more variously applied than mysticism. One writer calls it 'the life-blood of religion.' It is merely 'the romance of religion' to another."—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

* We have translated the quotation from the *Tokyo Maishu Shimpo*, the original not in being our possession.—(WRITER OF THE SUMMARY.)

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sirable, and I for one should have no objection to such a course being followed. But as we have notified the authorities, at present we are not a church or a separate sect. The difference between our body and the two Associations mentioned above is that, while they aim at uniting Christians of various denominations, we aim at uniting Christians with all who have religious convictions of any kind, be they Buddhists, Shintoists, Confucianists, or what not. What we strongly object to is our being represented as an anti-religious body, as merely the advocates of a certain system of morals. We have never joined forces with persons who are opposed to all forms of religion. We unite ourselves with those who believe in some kind of religion, but we go no further. In order to be a Unitarian it is not necessary that a man should give up the tenets of his own sect. There are many Congregationalists in our ranks, who still remain members of their own churches. We are ready to work with any sect that may wish to have our aid. We have no objection to occupying orthodox pulpits or to having orthodox preachers occuping ours. Though there are Unitarians in America who still retain all the characteristics of a sect, we have no connection with them and are in no sense their followers. Though not a sect ourselves, we are the friends of all religious sects.

* * *

The following statement appeared in the *Jiji Shimpo* a few weeks ago:—According to investigations made at the beginning of March, the total number of Christian Churches (buildings) is 582, of preaching stations 389, and of ordained preachers 1,243 (288 of these are Roman Catholic.

* * *

Under the title of "Religious Ideas in the Twentieth Century," Professor Murakami, of the Imperial University, one of the highest authorities on Japanese Buddhism, states his views at considerable length in the *Tetsugaku Zasshi*. We give in a brief form the conclusions which this learned Theologian has reached.

(1) *The amount of interest taken in religion in Japan at the present time is abnormal.* The question which it is important to consider is, will it last? All forecasts of the future are apt to be erroneous, but nevertheless a review of the tendency of thought is never without interest to serious minds.

(2) *Is science likely to supersede religion?* Science is active and religion is for the most part passive, and as a rule the passive gives place to the active. The reign of science during the past few decades has rendered mankind intensely practical and utilitarian, and hence it happens that even with religions the question is perpetually asked, what do they effect? What place do they fill in the scheme of things that cannot be filled by anything else so well? There is no difficulty in showing that the higher forms of religion do satisfy wants of human nature that fail to find the same kind of satisfaction elsewhere. Science will no doubt continue to expose and to make war against all untrue elements of religion, but to all that is really valuable as a factor in human progress in any creed it will prove a friend rather than an enemy.

(3) *Will existing religions amalgamate and form a new creed?* It seems to me probable that sooner or later a new form of religion will make its appearance in our midst, but I entirely disagree with Dr. Inoue Tetsujiro in thinking that there will be any amalgamation of existing faiths. Religion is very much a matter of feeling and is largely dependent on tradition and history. To imagine that the allegiance which has been given to Christ can be transferred to Shaka, or vice-versa, shows ignorance of religious human nature. Then, too, the very genius of existing creeds differs so much that amalgamation without loss to either would be impossible. Take Buddhism and Christianity. The former is a religion of ideas, on certain thoughts or conceptions the whole system is founded. The basis of Christianity is personality. It deals especially with man's personality in the Universe and preaches a personal God. The two religions are plainly incompatible with each other.

(4) *Which of the two great religions* (Buddhism and Christianity) *is likely to come off victorious in Japan?* Christians allege that Buddhism in Japan will henceforth occupy the position of the Greek philosophy in Europe and that her temples will only be preserved as specimens of ancient art. Buddhists, on the other hand, say that Christianity is irrational and that its teaching is subversive of state interests. Both of these opinions are exaggerations. In trying to predict which religion is likely to find favour in Japan in the 20th century three things have to be considered. (*a*) The past history of the state. (*b*) The general sympathy of the people. (*c*) The nature of the two religions. In all these particulars there is little doubt, I imagine, that Buddhism has a brighter future than Christianity can possibly enjoy in this country.

(5) *But what kind of Buddhism will take precedence of Christianity?* Certainly not traditional Buddhism as it is preached throughout the country to-day. There is nothing in the empty forms observed by uneducated priests to serve as a substitute for Christianity. A new form of our faith must be relied on for meeting the exigencies of the time in which our lot is cast. Both Christ and Shaka were begotten of the ages in which they lived. Is it too much to expect that amid the darkness of the present time a great light in the form of a religious reformer may appear? Buddhism must be transformed in order to harmonise with the spirit of the 20th century. It must get rid of its asceticism, its pessimism, its separation from the world, its excessive reliance on eschatology. It must mix with the busy world, enter into its affairs and leaven everyday life with its spirit.

(6) *Is it desirable to unite all existing Buddhist sects.* In my opinion they might with profit unite in the matter of doctrine, but I see no reason for enforcing uniformity as regards ceremony. While their differences are superficial, their agreement is real. I should like this fact made more patent to the world.

(7) *In the transformed Buddhism that is to take the place of the old creed what shall be chosen as a basis, the ideal or the personal?* This is undoubtedly the most difficult point connected with the construction of our new creed. It is contended that the success of Christianity in reforming men's lives is owing to its intensely personal character, and it would seem as though traditional Buddhism had been forced to try and make up for its want of real personal objects of worship by setting up imaginary ones, such as the Mida of the Western paradise. The invention of personal objects of worship may be said to be a device employed by certain Buddhists for influencing the minds of men. I have no doubt whatever that the original creed was purely ideal, and that its founder never intended it to be otherwise. But idea after idea has undergone the process of personification in the course of history. The imputation of personal attributes to conceptions has all been done with a view of making them more intelligible and of satisfying the human craving for personal objects of worship. Almost all the original conceptions of the Buddhist creed have been represented in symbols so much that to most minds the symbols stand for the original conceptions. Dr. Murakami quotes numerous instances of this and concludes his remarks on personality in the following manner. If all attempts at dispensing with the personal element in religion have signally failed in the past, there is no hope of their succeeding in the future. Hence we must see to it that our new Buddhism is no purely ideal system. The necessity of adapting the creed to the requirements of mankind renders personification imperative.

(8) *Why is it essential that the new Buddhism of the future should assume the character of a system of practical ethics?* Dr. Motora observed not long ago that religion is specially designed for individuals and morality for society generally. This is not a correct estimate of the function of the two reforming agencies; for surely religion is greatly concerned with mankind as a whole, and one of its chief functions is to show pity to the distressed and the needy and to benefit people everywhere. It is a fact that the Buddhists of the past have separated themselves from the world to too great an extent. The Buddhist view of the world has been essentially pessimistic and men have deemed it best to turn their backs on a world they have no hope of saving. But this has not been the practice nor the teaching of a large number of Buddhists. The object of Buddhism as originally conceived was the salvation of the world by active participation in its affairs. If there have been many pessimists in Buddhist ranks there has also been a little band of optimists who have in hopeful tones proclaimed to the masses enlightening truths. That original Buddhism teaches asceticism and retirement from the world I don't believe. The fleeing from evil instead of battling with it became fashionable in the middle ages, but it was not the plan adopted by the early propagators of the faith.

The ideas propounded above savour of speculation, concludes Professor Murakami, but they are founded on what has actually taken place in other countries where the circumstances have resembled those in which we find ourselves. If we have transformed our political institutions in a most radical manner, there is no reason why we should not be equal to the task of effecting a fundamental religious reform, and I am one of those who believe that sooner or later it will come.

THE DELAGOA BAY DECISION.

We have been asked by correspondents to publish a statement of the Delagoa Bay case in which, as reported by telegram, a verdict adverse to Portugal was recently rendered. The facts are these—we take them from a home journal:—

The Portuguese claimed the bay by virtue of its discovery by Vasco da Gama more than three hundred years ago, although they did not establish a colony. On the passing of the Dutch possessions in South Africa into the hands of Great Britain in the eighteenth century, the English sent an expedition along the coast, and concluded treaties with the native chiefs which secured the southern part of this bay to Great Britain. Soon after the Portuguese authorities took possession of the northern part, and made some claims to the southern part, which however, remained in the hands of the British until 1871, when the Portuguese seized a British ship. Mr. Gladstone submitted the case to arbitration without appeal, and Marshal MacMahon, President of the French Republic, decided in favour of Portugal. In this Great Britain acquiesced. In 1875 the Transvaal entered into an agreement with Portugal for the construction of a railroad from the bay to the heart of its territory. Portugal was to build it to the frontier and the Transvaal from the frontier to Pretoria. An American citizen, Colonel McMurdo, was awarded a charter for the road to the Transvaal border, and given a concession for ninety-nine years, involving the refusal of permission for another road for a distance of seventy miles on each side of his line, which gave him a practical monopoly of the inland trade. In 1887 the road was completed to the Transvaal frontier, and then the Portuguese Government insisted upon its being continued for a considerable distance, and completed within eight months. This was absolutely impossible, and the expiration of the term found the supplementary portion not quite finished. Thereupon the Portuguese Government recovered the concession and confiscated the entire railroad property. On the death of Colonel McMurdo his rights were taken up by both the British and American governments and Portugal was warned that she would be held responsible for injury or loss to British subjects, while the United States Government supported the claims of Colonel McMurdo's heirs and other investors. At last the whole matter was submitted to arbitration, and in 1890 the Swiss Government appointed three of its most eminent jurists to constitute the tribunal. In the following summer representatives of Great Britain, the United States and Portugal formally signed the writ of submission, but the court was not organized till February, 1892. The claim included one of $7,250,000 for the Delagoa Bay Company and $1,500,000 for Mrs. McMurdo. Competent engineers, it is stated, estimate the concession to be worth at present more than $30,000,000. The whole matter has hung fire for a long time, and as generally understood, for political reasons.

At a meeting of the committee of the Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. E. Flint Kilby was unanimously elected Chairman and Mr. John Lindsley vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

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THE TEA PROBLEM.

The most important points involved in this problem are considered by the *Keizai Zasshi* to be as follows.—(1) Exemption from taxation of Japanese tea exported to America; (2) Establishment of offices for the inspection of the leaf in the ports of export; (3) Extension of markets for the leaf. In the custom houses in America certain samples are provided according to which all imported teas are to be graded, so that any found inferior are rejected. Mr. Otani Kahei, who recently returned from America, is said to have remarked as a result of his close inspection of the samples referred to, that they were apparently designed for securing leaf of fine shape and light colour, irrespective of fragrance and other essential qualities. Under this standard teas which are comparatively poor in shape and dark in colour are rejected. The leaf passed as satisfactory was found to be wanting entirely in fragrance, when steeped and mixed with milk or sugar. Mr. Otani therefore urged the necessity of abolishing the samples in America, and at the same time establishing Tea Inspection Offices in Japan, on condition that the leaf examined at these institutions should be accepted in America without reference to the samples provided. This proposal obtained unanimous approval at the central assembly of tea merchants recently held in Tokyo. As to the injustice of America's imposition of a tax upon Japanese tea, it is of course advisable that a protest should be made by way of protecting the native leaf against the competition with which it is threatened, but at the same time it must be perfectly well understood, asserts our contemporary, that the offices for the inspection of tea ought by no means to be established in ports of import, inasmuch as the operations of scrutiny, however rigorous or perfect they may be in Japan, can hardly save the leaf from the fate of rejection when improper methods of inspection are followed at its destination.

The programme recently submitted to the Central Assembly of the Tea Dealers Union with regard to the extension of markets is stated to be as follows:—(1) Measures to be taken for posting advertisements in street railway cars, shops, and other places of public resort, in the principal cities in the United States and Canada. (2) Despatch of commissioners to the States and Canada to make inspections at the most important ports of those countries; the branch offices in New York and Chicago to be continued as hitherto, and a new office established in Montreal. (3) The tea saloons in New York and Canada to be maintained as before with a view to enabling the public to appreciate the peculiarities of Japanese tea. (4) The office in Vladivostock to be maintained in its present condition, and a number of commissioners to be despatched to various parts of Siberia at a convenient season. Hitherto a certain subsidy has been secured from the Government to extend the scheme of advertisements in San Francisco, but the money so acquired is now to be appropriated for the establishment of a new branch office in Montreal. The abolition of the distribution of tea utensils, for the time being, is likewise attributable to these circumstances. The Tea Dealers' Union, it may be remembered, is furnished by the Treasury with an annual subsidy of 70,000 *yen*, and may therefore be able to inaugurate the undertakings mentioned at its discretion, but it is hardly credible, adds our contemporary, that success can ever be secured by such plans.

SAILING SHIP FOUNDERS OFF IDZU.

The British sailing ship *Iranian*, 2,938 tons, with 110,000 cases of kerosene oil from Washington and Philadelphia, consigned to the Standard Oil Company, struck a rock and foundered off the coast of Idzu, on April 3rd. The *Iranian* left New York for Yokohama on November 23rd. The scene of the disaster is about 74 miles from Yokohama and some 40 miles off the mainland.

The ship had a good passage till the night of the 3rd inst., when, at 9 p.m., she struck. A big sea was running and the vessel filled quickly. Two boats were quickly launched, and all the crew, with the exception of one man, Smith, who apparently through his own stupidity declined to leave, quitted the ship. The mate's party, after half-a-day's rowing, made land, and were conveyed to Shimoda by a Japanese schooner. The master, Mr. Watt, had meanwhile landed his contingent, at Niijima, and met the mate at Shimoda, where he had gone with a view to engaging a boat to go back to the scene of the wreck, in the hope that the man Smith, who had been left behind, might be still surviving. The mate's party arrived in Tokyo on Monday.

The names of all the forecastle hands are not yet forthcoming, but the following are among the members of the ship's company:—Master, Andrew Watt; 1st mate, John Jamieson; 2nd mate, Hubbard; 3rd mate, Richardson, Boatswain, James Buchanan; Steward, Alexander Sinclair; Cook, Archibald Watson; Sailmaker, John Brown; Apprentice, Keeling; Boys, John Brown, Simon Edward Rowney.

A part of the crew of the *Iranian* are now staying at the Salvation Home, and, being quite destitute, are deserving objects of charity. They have suffered considerable hardships, though the Japanese appear to have done as much for their comfort as was possible. A quantity of provisions was despatched by the Governor of Tokyo to Niijima, where also an interpreter was sent. The master, Mr. Watt, has not yet arrived.

No trace has been found by Captain Watt, who returned to the scene of the loss of the *Iranian* off Idzu, of either the ship or the man Smith, who refused to leave with the boats. It is inferred that the vessel went to pieces and that Smith was drowned.

THE "TOKYO MARU."

The *North China Daily News* says:—The C.N.S. *Tungchow*, Capt. Hughes, at 3 a.m. on the 2nd instant, heard distress signals fired from the stranded *Tokyo Maru*, and her engines were soon afterwards stopped, an anchorage being made in 9 fathoms. It was fine weather at the time, with light variable winds, and a heavy easterly swell. At 5.30 a.m., the *Tungchow* stood in closer to the *Tokyo* and at 5.45 she anchored in 8½ fathoms. The captain of the Japanese liner came on board the *Tungchow*, and reported having gone ashore in a dense fog. At the same time Mr. Baddeley, chief officer of the C.N. steamer, took a boat off with the idea of bringing on some European passengers from the *Tokyo*, who were making the best of it on shore, wrapped up in blankets. The heavy swell, however, prevented this being accomplished, and the boat was again hoisted in. At 7.15 a.m. another Japanese steamer of the N.Y.K. hove up to the rescue, and the *Tungchow* proceeded on her voyage at 8.02 a.m. The passengers and crew are all safe with the exception of a Japanese merchant reported missing. The ship herself is apparently a total wreck, her forecastle being under water,, and she appears to be gone in the bulkheads. With an increase of the easterly swell, of which there were all indications on the 2nd instant, she would soon go to pieces.

WRECKS ON THE WEST RIVER.

The frequency with which wrecks are reported from the West River indicates the necessity that exists for a systematic survey of this important waterway, remarks *The China Mail* of April 2. The latest victim is H.M.S. *Sandpiper*, which was brought down this morning in tow of the torpedo destroyer *Fame* with her forward compartments full of water. A large steamer named the *Wo On* has been wrecked in the Shiu Hing gorge. She lies on her broadside with about 50 feet of her starboard side showing and underneath her stern fifteen fathoms of water. It is supposed that she struck a rock right amidships. When the vessel struck she stood upright for about three hours and the passengers got safely ashore. The *Wo Ping* and *Wo Kwai* went up to render asistance, but they have since left the steamer. The *Wo On* belongs to Banker and Company. In December last a large lorcha named the *Sai Ping* was wrecked above Tak Hing; torpedo boat No. 36 was wrecked in January; and the steamer *Po Wa* was wrecked on 28th February. This vessel has been salved and is on her way to Canton. The West River will soon establish an unenviable record at this rate.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

THE CASE FOR ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Judging from scattered expressions in your correspondent "Justice's" two letters, I am afraid he is an American of the modern "Heroes of the Revolution" type, like Mr. Bourke Cochrane, Senator Mason, and Representative Clarke, the men who wind up eloquent and passionate denunciations of British tyranny and grabbing with a fervid wish that Canada may soon be annexed by the "Great and Glorious and Righteous Republic." In that case I tender my apologies in advance to "Justice." There is no use in reasoning with such, and I have no desire to provoke a reply from one of the Heroes of '75. But if "Justice" is not sarcastic in his admission that the British people, and presumably also those to whom they intrust their national interests, have a conscience, I beg leave to submit a few observations and institute some parallels to Great Britain's action towards the South African Republics.

First may I suggest that the very definite and specific charges of corruption, misrule, and oppression brought against Mr. Kruger and his clique are hardly to be dismissed by a vague reference to the standard histories of Geo. M. Theal and James Bryce? Perhaps "Justice" has access to those works and will kindly favour us with quotations. Besides, even if Mr. Theal and Mr. Bryce judge in favour of the Boers, their decision hardly ranks with that of a judge. It was only yesterday that I read a letter of Mommsen where he speaks of "English oppression of down-trodden and despised peoples," but I should not take that dictum of the great historian as a just verdict based upon impartial consideration of the facts. Great as Mr. Morley and Mr. Bryce are in their special fields of work, their opinion on South African affairs is no more authoritative than Mr. Davitt's or Mr. Stead's; they all alike speak as opponents of the Government.

I will not refer to the very stong historical and conventional rights of England towards the Transvaal. Her rights up to 1853 were clearly as good as those of the United States over Utah, with this difference in favour of the claim of the Mormons to independence, that they did not dispossess and reduce to slavery any native race, but, to be sure of not being interfered with, settled in the desert and made it blossom. The English Government through Sir A. Milner referred to their historical rights only when the passing in silence of Mr. Reitz's claim to absolute independence for the Transvaal might have been construed as a tacit admission of the justice of it. Up to that time the English Government acted solely on the undoubted right which belongs to every nation to see that its subjects are fairly treated.

Let us see, then, what was the situation before the Jameson Raid. I have not access to reliable statistics of the white population of the Transvaal, the apportionment of the taxes, and the land ownership. The figures I have seen vary very widely. But it may be taken as conceded that either before the Raid or on the eve of the war the Outlander population greatly outnumbered the Boers, that they owned a large part of the land, controlled all the industries other than cattle raising, and contributed more than half of the total revenue. It will be conceded that in all countries that have a pretence to civilisation the basis of political power is either superiority of numbers, or wealth and land ownership, or intelligence, and that, since the removal of anti-alien legislation, naturalisation has become easy and the rule for established immigrants, and that now the words "population" and "nation" are practically synonymous. It cannot be questioned that the franchise has practically been denied to the Outlander population in the Transvaal, before there was agitation and conspiracy, simply because their numbers were too great! In 1882, the law of naturalisation was similar to that of the Orange Free State and admitted all whites of 5 years' residence to the citizenship. As Captain Mahan has pointed out, as soon as the first batch of immigrants was eligible for citizenship, the law was changed so as to deprive them of it indefinitely or leave it at the discretion of Mr. Kruger. Mr. Stead and "Justice" also doubtless will plead for Mr. Kruger that the Outlanders would shortly have swamped the burghers. What! the franchise to be conceded to Outlanders only when their number is so small that they cannot manage to win any seat and to be withdrawn when their numbers are sufficient to entitle them to several! A very novel plea, indeed, to parade under the name of love of independence. Suppose the Canadian

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Government, about to grant representation to the Klondyke district, should adopt that rule and say to American gold diggers, "You can have the franchise now because you are in the minority and anyhow cannot get a seat; but, mind, if your numbers increase and you ever become able to secure one, you shall then give up the privileges of citizenship." What a storm there would be in the States, which can scarcely admit even now Canada's right to impose what customs duties seem fit to her.

But, admitting President Kruger's theory for the sake of argument, is that right he claims for the native population an absolute right? Are there no limits put to it by common sense? Is it to last as long as there is any one of the chosen race to inherit it? Suppose England, as "Justice" and Mr. Stead and all cranks of that ilk suggest, had had patience and had allowed time to work its cure. Suppose 10 years have elapsed without interference and that emigration has gone on at the same rate. Suppose the proportion of Outlanders to Boers had increased till it stood at 10 to 1. Evidently Mr. Krüger's argument would be stronger than ever, for the danger would be greater than ever of the Outlanders swamping the Boers and robbing them of their "hard-earned independence." The Outlanders might be $\frac{9}{10}$ of the population, own $\frac{3}{4}$ the land, control all the industries, contribute $\frac{9}{10}$ or $\frac{99}{100}$ of the national income, and yet the "nation" would be Mr. Krüger and his friends, now all in office or enjoying monopolies. And a Jameson conspiracy then would still be a wicked conspiracy to overthrow the dear old republic. Mr. Krüger would pathetically appeal to his friends in America---(I suppose the Irish vote which in their minority manage to get the balance of power)---"Can I grant the franchise to people who are always slandering me and conspiring against the Republic?"

The situation has arisen before, although most people do not seem to remember it, on the municipal stage. At an early period in the history of the European incorporated cities and communes, when there was no longer the same fear of annexation by land-grabbing barons, the Burgess lists were closed, although settlers were still invited. The Burgesses kept to themselves the control of the communal property and the government of the City. There was exactly the same situation as in the Transvaal now, first and second class citizens, and "inhabitants" (Outlanders); Small Council (1st Raad), and Great Council (Second Raad); the second class citizens being hardly better off than the inhabitants, and the Burgesses on the Golden Book having the monopoly of office, paying no taxes, and in many cases sharing the handsome proceeds of the communal property. Their authority was not uncontested, as "Justice" will find if he consults the history of Genoa, Venice, Berne, Freiburg, and Geneva. Each attempt at revolution (Johannesburg agitation and Jameson raids) hardened the hearts of the Burghers, who like Mr. Kruger saw in their "subjects" merely-stiff necked rebellious people.

The French Revolution put an end to that tyranny in many countries, and the ease with which the Revolutionary armies overran Switzerland was due solely to profound hatred of Burgher rule which prevailed everywhere. In some cities the old régime was re-established after Waterloo, and Geneva saw two unsuccessful attempts before the evil thing was finally done away with. In '48, if I remember well, Fazy by a bold *coup* seized the arsenal, and the oligarchy collapsed, just as Jameson hoped to effect a bloodless revolution by the capture of Pretoria.

What differences there are between the "inhabitants" of the oligarchic cities and the outlanders of the Transvaal are wholly to the advantage of the latter. The Burgesses at least could claim that their fathers had firmly established the independence and prosperity of the City. In the Transvaal, real independence and stability was impossible until Great Britain had reduced the Zulus and Matabele to submission at the cost of may lives and 6 millions sterling, and the national finances had been placed on a sound footing by the labour of the outlanders.

That distinguished exponent of American ideas of justice and liberty, *The New York Sun*, lately suggested that when England was tired of butchering people that preferred death to English tyranny, she would turn to America and ask her what should be done. A gruesome suggestion. Had the *Sun's* writer in his mind the American saying that the only good Indian is a dead one? Let us consult American history and see what precedents America affords in her treatment of Mexico. The American settlers in Texas, many of whom had gone in defiance of law, not by virtue of treaties as the Outlanders, enjoyed full civic rights (see Jay's Mexican War). They only objected to sharing it with Mexicans (greasers) in the joint legislature of Coahinla and Texas. And they wanted liberty, like the Boers, to hold slaves! Perhaps when the *Sun* editor spoke of England going to America for advice he thought also of the treatment dealt to rebellious Mexicans when Kearry proclaimed the annexation of New Mexico, (see Jay's Mexican war, pp. 199 and 235). The loyal Mexicans were threatened with confiscation of their lands if they did not return forthwith to their homes and submit to United States rule, while at Taos eleven were hung for fighting for their independence.

But perhaps "Justice" will say to this that it was a criminal act of the Slavery Party in the South, that it was duly reprobated by men like Mr. Seward, President Adams, Dr. Channing, and Chancellor Venn. It is referred to in present-day school histories of America as a vindication of political rights against Mexican oppression. However, let that pass. Let us come to later acts of the great, glorious and righteous Republic that have some similarity with the acts of England he complains of. Let "Justice" tell us by what right the American outlander minority (mostly, by the way, sons of missionaries, I have heard) overthrew the rule of the native majority in Honolulu. And finally, as he has so much virtuous indignation to vent, let him turn his attention to the acts of his Government, backed by the majority of Congress and the nation, towards the Cuban and Philippine patriots.

I have argued so far on the supposition that the British had claimed all they had a right to—proportional representation and share in the government—and as if the English Government had attacked the Transvaal to back their demands. That was only to bring the British case on a parallel line with the precedents set by the citizens and government of the free, enlightened and righteous Republic. That is doing a grave injustice to England, however. As "Justice," whose knowledge of history seems to be derived from editorials in papers like the Chicago *Tribune* and the New York *Sun*, would know if he had cared to follow the course of negotiations last year, all Sir Alfred Milner asked for on behalf of his countrymen was a modicum of representation, at most ¼ of the seats in the Rand for more than half of the population, so that (I forget his exact words) the outlander population might have a constitutional way of submitting their views to the Government and relieve the British Government of the necessity of interference in the international affairs of the Republic. As to the second point, it is strange it should be necessary to remind one who signs himself "Justice" that the criminal aggression was against English territory, and that Mr. Leyds all along has talked of the Transvaal's *right to a port*.

If we have precedents in America's way of dealing with people like the Boers, we have also precedents showing the way to deal with immigrants in exactly parallel circumstances. When the gold fields in Western Australia were discovered, there was but a scanty cattle-raising population living much as the Boers live. In one year, there was an influx of 20,000 immigrants, largely Americans and foreigners. Five years later a Legislative Assembly was established and all the immigrants were given the franchise. He will find another example in Klondyke, and more in his own country. In fact, the unexampled prosperity of the States is undoubtedly due to a great extent to its liberality towards settlers. As a fact, America may be said to be governed by the outlander majority, Irish, German, etc., and thoughtful Americans deeply regret that the English influx has not been more considerable. It would be curious to analyse the composition of the meetings held in favour of the Boers by "the heroes of the Revolution." How many of those thousands that follow Mr. Bourke Cochrane are of American parentage? How many of Anglo-Saxon blood in the States were through their ancestors backing George III., in his "criminal aggression" against the colonies?

In justice to the American nation let it be recognised that much of the frothy denunciation of England now in fashion is due to the coming on of one of those quadrennial fits of insanity brought on by the Presidential election. There is danger in that appeal to national vanity and prejudice. Even people who sign themselves "Justice" are apparently influenced by the torrents of lies and misrepresentations poured out by the most unscrupulous party press. It is indeed strange how educated men, as I take "Justice" to be, allow themselves to be turned by falsehood provided it be printed. I have an example in a neighbour of mine, a full-fledged Ph.D. of Gottingen, who is content to answer to my request for evidence:—"But it is in all the papers. German papers do not tell lies!"

Lest my allusions to America's little transactions in land-grabbing (your friend, Dr. Clay McCauley, had a fine name for them, which I have treasured since the days of the Venezuela trouble, "America's *natural*, providential expansion within her *continental* limits") should add to "Justice's" dislike of England, let me state, in conclusion, that I am not an Englishman. I am a citizen of an older republic, one that has had to battle a good deal for its independence in the course of the last six centuries. Only that independence and love of freedom was always consistent with other people's rights (except in the case of burgesses and inhabitants). And when twice within this century two powerful neighbours threatened her, it was England, not the States, that came to the rescue and saw her safely through, without any possible thought of reward. I believe England is in the main right, though her motives may be mixed, and acting for freedom and civilisation, so much so that had not I had impedimenta in the shape of a family, I should have hastened to South Africa and tried to enlist under the English flag; nay, in spite of the fact that Mr. Jameson and Mr. Rhodes are millionaires, I would deem it an honour to have been a member of the unfortunate Raid.

I remain, dear, sir, Yours truly,

HISTORICUS.

Kumamoto, April 2nd, 1900.

THE PASSING OF A HERO.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The message announcing Admiral Dewey's willingness to stand for the Presidency is the second act of the drama in which the hero of Manila Bay passes off the stage on which he has been a star for almost two years. The first act was the transfer to his new wife of the house which was the gift of the admiring and loving public. The admiral can, in fact, lay the blame for his downfall from his high pedestal of a hero to that ambitious woman. That to her is due also his change of opinion concerning the Presidency is made clearly evident by the following paragraphs from Mr. Wm. E. Curtis' column in the *Chicago Record*:—

Mrs. Dewey has confided to a few intimate friends that while she and the admiral are travelling this spring they will ascertain the feeling of the public toward Admiral Dewey and the Presidency and decide whether he will be a candidate. Mrs. Dewey does not deny her ambition to be the "first lady in the land," and says that while Admiral Dewey was averse to running for office before his marriage he is such a devoted husband that he will gratify her by accepting the presidency if the country desires to bestow it upon him.

When one of the women to whom this remark was made asked Mrs. Dewey on what ticket the admiral would be be a candidate she replied naively:—"I don't see that it makes any difference, because he will be supported by all the people. He is a republican and I am a democrat so that will be a stand-off."

It has always been supposed that Admiral Dewey s a Democrat and might be a formidable rival to Bryan for the Presidential nomination; and it was also supposed that his marriage to the sister of John R. McLean, recently defeated Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio, might assist that candidacy. But, as the Democrats seem to have taken a firm stand against expansion, or imperialism, as they call it, the admiral, as an ardent expansionist, must train with the Republicans. But, in that case, what reason is there for laying aside the experienced McKinley and taking up an inexperienced naval hero? Admiral Dewey deserves the highest rank as a naval commander; but what qualifications does he possess for the Presidency? It is greatly to be feared that Dewey's entry into politics will spoil him, just as a similar course detracted tremendously from Gen. Grant's reputation. The military hero of the Civil War was a failure as President; the naval hero Dewey would better keep out of politics.

HAWKEYE.

Tokyo, April 7th, 1900.

THE LOST "IRANIAN"—AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The shipwrecked crew of the *Iranian* have appealed to me to supply them with clothing, underwear, caps, and shoes.

May I ask you to kindly make known the need to the community through the columns of your paper? Contributions of clothing, etc., sent to the Mission will be gratefully acknowledged.

Believe me, Yours faithfully,

W. T. AUSTEN, Seamen's Chaplain.

April 10th, 1900.

OVERHEAD RAILWAYS.

According to the *Hochi Shimbun*, the following overhead railways are shortly to be established in Tokyo:—

Shinsenza-Eirakucho section—This is to be completed under the supervision of the Government. The portion within the castle walls has already been determined, and surveys are now being undertaken. The Shiba district alone seems to present some difficulties, as it involves an invasion of the *geisha* quarters.

Kinshibori-Yokoami section—This is in fact an extension of the Sobu railway. A charter has already been obtained for a section between Kinshibori and that part of Hyappongui which extends to the Sumida. But as the line has to traverse the urban district of Honjo, considerable difficulties will prob-

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ably be experienced in the purchase of land as well as in the execution of the work.

Senju-Makurabashi section—The extension of the Tobu railway is to terminate at Etchiujima, but it has been determined for the present to complete the work between Senju and the neighbourhood of Makurabashi in Mukojima. As this line passes, for the most part, through open fields, work is expected to be finished much sooner than that on other sections.

Shinanomachi electric railway.—This railway is to be established between Shinanomachi and Kawasaki, under the supervision of Mr. Homma Eiichi, who proposes to commence work at no distant date.

Yotsuya-Akasaka section—This being an extension of the Kobu railway, work is shortly to commence in conformity with the decision of the Railway Assembly last month.

YOKOHAMA RECLAMATION SCHEME.

According to the *Yorozu*, there are at present three distinct parties who have applied to the Government for permission to reclaim the seashore at Yokohama. One consists of Mr. Oda Kwanichi and 270 others; another comprises Messrs. Sasa and Saito; a third is headed by Mr. Yokozaki Shigetaro. Each party claims a different portion of foreshore. Messrs. Sasa and Saito have applied for 4 million *tsubo* west of the Honmoku headland. Mr. Oda wants to secure 240,000 *tsubo* east of the cape, for the reclamation of which permission has been already granted to the Oyamada party and the Yokohama combination,—while Mr. Yokozaki prefers, the neighbourhood of the coast set apart for the construction of a harbour. Serious trouble, however, is imminent in connection with these schemes,—a trouble which seems to lie in the Home Department's resolution to accept the Sasa party's application alone to the exclusion of other parties' demand. It is said that Mr. Oda's application is to be rejected on account of Oyamada's portion being still in process of reclamation, whereas the difficulty of sanctioning Mr. Yokozaki's project is attributed to the possibility of its creating an obstruction to the harbour scheme. The Oda party, however, includes among its promoters over forty Liberal members of the Diet, and these, adds our contemporary, have now combined to demand an explanation from the Home Department as to the latter's intention of rejecting their application; representing in strong terms that the scheme of filling-up the seashore ought to be approved so long as it is calculated to offer facilities of communication.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

Committee :—President—Mrs. Irwine. Vice-President—Mrs. Eldridge. Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. Parsons, Hon. Secretary—Mrs. Thomas. Managers—Mrs. Dodds, Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Isaacs, Mrs. Grauert, Madame Gielen. Hon. Secretary, Tokio,—Honourable Mrs. Whitehead.

Your Committee have much pleasure in laying before you the 27th Annual Report of the Association, but regret that the Funds of the Society are not in as satisfactory a condition as last year. You will see by the Hon. Treasurer's Report that several very sad cases of poverty have been relieved, also the passage money of others either partly or wholly paid, in order to give them a chance of another start elsewhere. We are glad to say one of the families who have been receiving assistance for some years, is now able to do without help, beyond having their house rent paid, the children being now old enough, and able to assist their mother, who in a short time, we hope, will be free from all assistance from the Ladies' Benevolent Association. The case of every person desiring assistance is enquired into personally by members of the Committee, and all such are helped according to their need, without any distinction as to creed or nationality.

We trust the subscribers will kindly continue their subscriptions and donations, and that many new members may join, as in such a changing Community, it is impossible foretell when some urgent and sudden call may not be made on the Funds of the Association, and though there are many outside calls as we all know, still we must not forget there are many cases of poverty and distress to relieve in our own little Community. We draw attention to the Hon. Treasurer's account which shows that the subscriptions are less than half the expenditure, being $1,240 against expenditure $2,985. Members of the Society are therefore earnestly solicited to raise their subscriptions, and any donations will be gratefully received. The sincere thanks of the Ladies' Benevolent Association are tendered to the kind friends who have sent donations either from themselves personally, or by giving entertainments for the benefit of the Funds of the Society and to the Editor of the *Japan Herald* for printing last year's Report at a reduced rate, also for the donations of clothing, further contributions of which, especially men's clothing, are greatly needed at present, and will be thankfully received by the President at the Parsonage.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the kind help of the King's Daughters' Circle towards the part maintenance of a destitute sick woman at the General Hospital.

The work done by the Ladies' Benevolent Association during the past year will be seen by the Hon. Treasurer's Report.

J. P. THOMAS,
Hon. Sec., L.B.A.

Dr.

Paid to Salvation Army	$ 50.00
Paid to Hospital for one bedridden woman, an insane man, and operation and attendance for a poor woman	719.00
Paid ward and schooling for one year for a deserted European child	177.25
Paid rent for one year for a widow and her children	337.50
Paid for milk for and her seven children, also assistance during summer months.	240.30
Paid by monthly installments to assist a woman with 7 children and an insane husband	320.00
Paid for furnishing a lodging house to help a poor woman to help herself	172.00
Paid to assist and send back to Guam some destitute islanders	237.75
Paid one month's school fees for one boy.	38.00
Paid to assist two men destitute	2.00
Paid for boots for one boy	3.00
Paid passage to America for a poor woman	100.00
Paid for cod-liver oil for a boy	8.75
Paip for boots for a poor woman	3.50
Paid printing and stationary Account to Secretary	17.00
Paid rent and assistance for destitute couple	67.00
Paid to assist a poor woman with a sick husband	5.00
Paid part passage to Vladivostock of a poor miner	30.00
Paid for two Christmas hampers for two poor families	15.00
	$2,543.05
To balance	382.81
	$2,925.86

Cr.

Brought forward from 1898	$600.52
Received in Subscriptions for 1899	1,240.00
Received in Donations	1,085.34
	$2,925.00
To Balance	$ 382.81

M. M. WALTER,
Hon. Treasurer.

THE B. W. P. A.

A Committee of the British Women's Patriotic Association was held at No. 7 Bund, on April 2nd. The total amount realised by the Tableaux Entertainment on February 20th, was *yen* 704, and a first cheque for *yen* 500 was accordingly forwarded on March 6th, to the Mansion House Fund for immediate necessities. The result of the Choral Society's Concert not having yet been announced by the Secretary, the Committee proceeded to the discussion of the Burlesque entitled "Bluebeard," which is to be given at the Public Hall on April 19th under the auspices of Mrs. Dinsdale, assisted by an influential Committee. The current accounts of the B.W.P.A. are appended :—

M. DODDS, Honorary Secretary.

BRITISH WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION.
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.

	Yen.
Gross Receipts from Entertainment, 20th Feb.	672
Donations	41
Sale of Materials and Properties after entertainment	16
	729

DISBURSEMENTS.

	Yen.
Rent of Public Hall	40.00
Electric light	27.50
Cost of costumes, etc.	35.62
Band	15.00
Decorations, attendance, and sundries	34.05
Draft transmitted to the Patriotic Fund in London	500.00
Balance at Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	76.83
	729.00

B. BUCHANAN DUNLOP, Hon. Treas.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A coolie named Takata, employed on the railway, committed suicide in a house of ill-fame at Shin Yanagicho, Kofu, the other day, by blowing off his head with dynamite.

On Tuesday night a farewell dinner was given at the Oriental Hotel to Mr. de Reus, Netherlands Consul, who has been transferred to Kobe. Mr. Klingen is appointed acting Consul.

At a "Book Tea" one guest went with a neat little card pinned to his coat, whereon appeared a large ? in red ink, set in the middle of an escutcheon. It stood for "The Red Axe." Another lady wore a single flag over her head which puzzled everybody. "It can't be 'Under Two Flags,'" said one of the guests. "Why not?" said the smiling lady; "one flag is under two, isn't it?"

An impudent theft is reported to have taken place on the *Empress of India* on Monday morning. A Chinese from the Van Tai exchange shop went on hoard with 950 *yen* in paper and silver, and was about to enter a cabin when a foreign sailor seized the bag containing the money and made his escape. The matter was reported to the police, but no arrest was made by the time the steamer left, 5 p.m.

The *Nippon* publishes statistics of the Finance Department showing the number of foreigners who, being domiciled within the jurisdiction of the Kobe Customs authorities, are amenable to business tax for this year. Classified according to occupation, the figures stand as follows :—Sellers of merchandise, 94; Bankers, 2; money lenders, 2; lenders of goods or furniture, 1; brokers, 99; manufacturers, 22; persons engaged in transport business, 9; building contractors, 6; printers, 2; inn-keepers, 2; restaurant keepers, 4; public agents, 5; middlemen, 6.

The Police have arrested four Chinamen, whose ages range from 19 to 13 years, on suspicion of setting fire to No. 127 on the morning of April 3rd. After their arrest they confessed that they set fire to Miss Lee's residence by collecting quantities of charcoal matting, old brooms, etc., and lighting them after pouring kerosene oil over the heap. Their hope was to steal something in the confusion which would follow an outbreak of fire; The lads have been sent to the Court for trial. two have already served terms in prison.

An attempt to commit *seppuku* occurred at the Water Police station, Yokohama, on Thursday. A man named Nakajima Kanekichi (42) had intended to proceed to America, where he hoped to obtain work as a cook. He endeavoured to leave by the *Braemar*, but having no passort was stopped by the police. The man was also penniless, and being desperate drew a dagger and cut himself in the abdomen, inflicting an injury about five inches long. The inspector-in-charge in attempting to prevent the act had two of his fingers injured.

A foreigner who is alleged to have forged two drafts on the Chartered Bank at Kobe and Yokohama was arrested at Shanghai on Wednesday, and an application is to be made for his extradition. The man has passed under the names of Rosario and Smith, and was employed formerly by the Chartered Cank at Bangkok. The drafts forged are said to have amounted to about 18,000 *yen*. He left Yokohama under the name of Brown. The proceeds of the crime he remitted to a friend at Singapore through another bank, and almost all the money has been recovered. The forgery is said to have been exceptionally clever.

We read in a home paper that on the eve of departure of the Japanese warship *Shikishima*, Miss M'Lean, of the Japanese Christian Institute, Tilbury Dock, was presented with a beautiful brooch and studs, in the presence of the officers and crew. The captain of the vessel, in making the presentation, spoke in the most appreciative terms of Miss M'Lean's devotion to the men of the Japanese Navy. The present was accompanied by an address, in which Admiral Marquis Saigo, president of the Imperial Naval Club, Tokyo, expressed his hearty thanks to Miss M'Lean, for her hospitality bestowed on the men in the Imperial

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Japanese Navy, who had been sent of late years to England with a view to taking the newly-built ship to Japan.

The *North China Daily News* learns that the provincial officials of Chêkiang have, through Mr. Glenell, British Consul at Hangchow, contributed the sum of Tls. 10,000 to the Indian Famine Fund. No pressure of any kind was put on them; they were simply told that the outports were giving something, and that anything they chose to subscribe would be gratefully received.

Inouye Kasaku, a clerk employed by Mr. Kitagawa Yohei, a wholesale cotton merchant of Kobe, was arrested on the 2nd inst. on a charge of obtaining money to the amount of *yen* 175,000 by forging cheques with his employer's signature. The forger, the *Kobe Herald* reports, presented the fraudulent cheques to the Formosan Bank and Sumitomo Bank and has drawn the amount in several sums since February. The man confessed at the police station that he put the whole amount into the share and rice markets. The authorities are searching for the man's accomplice, as it is thought he could not have lost so large an amount in the course of a month or two. It is also reported that the man was in the employment of Mr. Kitagawa for a number of years and bore a very good name.

Telegrams recently received from Peking by the *N.-C. Daily News* state that the impression in official circles was that H.I.M. Kuang Hsu's death by foul means is daily expected, and that so sure of this is the conservative Grand Secretary Hsu T'ung that he has already prepared his suit of Court mourning, consisting of grey and black cotton-cloth official robes, in anticipation of the Emperor's near demise. This example was being generally followed by officials high and low in Peking, and so numerous are the orders for mourning Court robes at the clothes' stores in the capital that buyers are now charged twice and often three times the ordinary figures demanded for such articles.

THE FEELING OF EUROPE REGARDING THE WAR.

Commenting on the feeling of the Continent of Europe towards Great Britain during the earlier stages of the war, and the effect produced by the news of Roberts' successes and the relief of Ladysmith, the *Saturday Review* says:—

The injury in truth done to British prestige in Europe was very serious. It was not so much that our Continental friends thought that they would have done any better against the Boers: their Intelligence Departments are too well informed for that. On the contrary, the successes of the Boers had caused sundry searchings of the heart amongst European military authorities, and an uncomfortable consciousness of their own defects. The higher staff officers of the German and French armies are too clever not to have asked themselves repeatedly of late, Would our conscripts have stuck to their general, when reverse followed upon reverse, as loyally as the British soldier has fought for General Buller in his patient, and apparently desperate, attempt to find a way into Ladysmith? No: the danger to Great Britain did not arise from a belief on the part of other nations that they would have succeeded where we had seemingly failed. Our peril sprang from what our neighbours hailed as the sudden and unexpected discovery that the British were not invincible, that their spell of luck was over, and that they had lost the key to world-wide success. This thing called British prestige is after all a myth, a figment of the diplomatist, a bogey with which our senile statesmen have been frightening us into paying more taxes for our army nnd navy! Such has been the language of the man in the street, faithfully reproduced by the able editor, in the capitals of Europe. If two tiny Republics like the Transvaal and the Orange Free State can invade British territory, and hold England at bay for four months, what might not be effected by France and Russia, or by a Triple Alliance? Visions of a Russified Persia, of a Frenchified Egypt, or of a Germanised Zanzibar, of the partition of China —what limit is there to the building of Castles in Spain?—have been floating through the heated brains of nameless politicians, who talk in cafés and write in newspapers. We do not say that these wild dreams have been cherished in the chancelleries of Europe; but they have not been discouraged, and the sovereigns and their ministers have been content to watch and wait.

The recent striking events have changed all this, and the symptoms of the transformation are rather amusing. Our real friends in Europe, we must sorrowfully admit, are easily reckoned: the German Emperor, Italy, Denmark, and Greece. The bundle of races and provinces, which goes by the name of the Austrian Empire, is so divided on every topic under the sun that it is safe to assert that there is nothing like national unanimity on the South African War, though it is equally safe to assume that the Emperor has no intention of siding with Mr. Kruger against Queen Victoria. But apart from the Courts there is unquestionably both in Germany and Austria a vast amount of illfeeling against England. In France, except the hotelkeepers and possibly the fashionable tradesmen, we fear that the nation is almost to a man hostile. We know that in Russia Mr. Chamberlain's policy is bitterly condemned in all circles of opinion. Now of course this volume of enmity has been increased rather than diminished by the successes of Lord Roberts and Sir Redvers Buller. Hope has given place to rage, and dreams of partition have been succeeded by fear of annexation.

THE COMMERCIAL SITUATION.

Although the Bank of Japan has steadily raised its scale of interest since last autumn, as a means of preventing the exodus of gold, it has failed, remarks the *Jiumin*, to secure the results anticipated. The inequality of trade continues unabated, and indeed increases with the lapse of time, threatening to involve the whole economic community in serious embarrassment. Financiers, unable to remain patient under these circumstances, have now begun to devote their utmost energies to the improvement of commerce by schemes of their own creation. Some of these have been disclosed, and are receiving practical recognition from the people at large. The most remarkable is one which refers to the taxation of silk for domestic consumption. That plan is advocated by Count Inouye, whose recent address at the Yurakukai has clearly shown the necessity of such a step as a preventive against luxury and a stimulus to the export trade. Next in importance is the system of remitting taxes on exports of all descriptions. Such a measure is suggested by Mr. Masuda Ko and approved by Mr. Megata, Director of the Taxation Bureau, and Mr. Hayakawa, Director of the Section of Customs of the Finance Department. The third plan which is brought upon the tapis has for its object the collecting of small sums now in the hands of the poorer classes of society. The bonds issued by the Industrial Bank as well as the Agricultural and Industrial Bank are considered too large in face value to secure subscription from the labouring classes. But the issue of debentures in small sums of one to five *yen* would bring the investment within the means of every individual. Another scheme proposed is to increase the duties on imports to the highest extent consistent with conventional stipulations. The excess of imports at present is the great source of embarrassment which almost cripples the operations of the economic community of Japan. Augmentation of customs duties may have the effect of creating a sort of a barrier against imports of all descriptions. Finally the plan of Government endorsement of bonds is recommended, with a view to facilitating their sale in foreign markets.

THE INCOME TAX.

We are asked by the Revenue Officials of Yokohama to bring to the notice of the foreign public, the undermentioned facts concerning the payment of Income Tax, reports concerning which should be made this month:—

FOR INDIVIDUALS.

All individuals who are under obligation to pay income tax according to the provisions of Art. VIII. of the Income Tax Law, issued as Law No. 17, in Feb., 1899 shall forward their report to the Government in April every year. According to this law incomes are divided into three classes, namely (1) Incomes of juridical persons: (2) Interest on public bonds or companies' debentures payable in places where the Income Tax Law is in force; and (3) Incomes of individuals. Incomes of the third class are calculated on estimates based on the actual circumstances of each taxpayer in April every year. Any person who has in any part of this country, where the Income Tax Law is in force, a residence, or place of abode, or who resides in a fixed place for one year or more, and has an income of 300 *yen* or more per annum, is under obligation to pay income tax. Persons residing outside the districts where the Income Tax Law is in force, who have property, trade, business or occupation, in a place where the said Law is in force, are under obligation to pay income tax in respect of the income derived therefrom.

2.—With regard to incomes mentioned in clauses 1 to 7 in paragraph 7, the tax is directly levied on the estimates of their annual receipts; and the cost of living, all other household expenditure, etc., cannot be deducted therefrom. If there has been a difference between the estimate and the actual income, and the latter has sustained a diminution amounting to one-fourth or more, the person concerned may report the fact to the Government on or before January 31st of the following year and apply for the revision of his income.

3.—The incomes derived from business or professions, house rents, ground rents, or other property are based on the estimated annual amount which remains over after the necessary expenditure has been deducted from the total receipts. The term "necessary expenditure" is only applicable to that which is directly necessary for the carrying on of a particular business; as, for instance, the original cost of goods laid in as stock; the cost of raw materials; the cost of repairs to, or charges for, hiring places and things; public imposts upon places, things, or businesses; employees' wages; and other expenses necessary for the earning of incomes. In case of places or things used for business purposes being also used for household purposes, no portion of the cost of repairing or of charges for hiring them, or of public imposts or other expenses on the same, can be deducted in respect of such use for household purposes from the amount available for taxation. For the same reason the wages of servants who are employed for both business and household purposes, entertainment expenses disbursed for business as well as social purposes, and interest on loans raised other than for business purposes, must not be deducted.

4.—The incomes of the head of a family and of members of his family who live with him, or of two or more members of a family who live in the same house, shall be reckoned together, and if the total reaches 300 yen or more per year they are under obligation to pay income tax. In such cases the reports of their incomes shall be made out separately, and on the margin of the reports the words "Living with so-and-so" shall be written.

5.—Although all incomes realised from property, trades, businesses, or occupations in places where the Income Tax Law is in force, must be reported, the incomes falling under any of the following heads need not be reported, as they are not taxable incomes:—

1. Occasional incomes which do not belong to undertakings conducted with the object of profit.
   An income here mentioned means one which comes into one's possession unexpectedly, such as money left by the dead, or rewards or remuneration and the like which are given without any previous understanding.
   The provision is not applicable to fees or remuneration received by professional men such as doctors, lawyers, translators, interpreters, etc., as the result of a tacit agreement or according to prevailing usage.
2. Dividends receivable from a juridical person upon whom income tax has already been imposed under the Income Tax Law.
3. Incomes realised from property, trade, businesses, or occupations in a foreign country, or in places where the Income Tax Law is not in force, [Formosa, Okinawa-ken, (the Luchu islands). Ogasawara-jima, (Bonin islands), and the seven islands of Idzu comprise the districts where the law is not in force].
4. Interest on public bonds or companies' debenture which has been paid in a place where the Income Tax Law is in force—that is, interest on which income tax of the second-class has already been levied.
5. Travelling expenses, educational funds, and legal allowances for support granted to widows and orphans, etc.
6. Salaries of military and naval men on active service.
7. Allowances for support granted to widows and orphans, etc., and pensions to wounded or invalids.

6.—The reports on the incomes of individuals shall first be examined by the competent Taxation Office and then they shall be submitted to the discussion of the Income Investigation Committee, elected from among the payers of income tax in the locality, and the Director of the competent Revenue Administration Bureau shall decide upon the amount of tax to be levied on each payer according to the resolutions of the Investigation Committee. Taxpayers shall be informed of the amount of tax to be levied on them before the process of collection is commenced, but the decision of the authorities will not necessarily be in accordance with the reports furnished by them. According to the results of investigation the amount of tax not based on the reports may be notified to them; and even to persons who have not presented any reports at all, notice to pay a certain amount of tax may be sent by the authorities,

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as the result of their investigation that they enjoy an income justifying the imposition of that amount of tax. If the taxpayers object to the amount of tax notified to them, they may apply for an enquiry into their income, stating the reasons for their dissatisfaction, or they may lodge an appeal or institute administrative litigation against the decision. In taking these measures, however, considerable trouble would be unavoidable. Moreover, the cases where a change in the amount of income are allowed are limited to those caused either by the result of an enquiry, of the examination into an appeal, or of an administrative litigation; or to cases where a revision of the amount of income is required owing to a diminution of the income amounting to one-fourth or more. For these reasons each taxpayer should be careful to make a correct statement.

7.—The following is a definition of the principal items to be reported:—

1. Salaries or wages—By this is meant the remuneration which any person receives, for occupation, labour, etc., from Government, public offices, companies, shops, factories, and other corporations or individuals, either according to fixed rules or by a periodical contract, etc.
2. Special allowances—By this is meant the rewards which any person receives for labour from others under the name of either monthly allowances or entertainment expenses, etc.
3. Rewards paid in instalments—By this is meant the rewards which any person receives as share for labour, according either to a certain contract or a periodical resolution, etc., from companies, shops, and other corporations or individuals when the accounts of profit and loss are made out, and at other similar times.
4. Interest on money loaned or deposited not in the course of business—By this is meant interest on money loaned by persons who do not make the business of money-lending their occupation; interest on money deposited not for the purpose of business, that is interest on money loaned or deposited by ordinary individuals other than business men, such as interest on money deposited in banks, post offices, and other places for the purpose of gain. As a matter of course interest on money loaned by pawnbrokers and others whose business it is to loan money, as well as interest derived from money deposited in the course of or owing to the nature of business, is to be calculated, and reported as business income.
5. Dividends received from juridical persons upon whom no income tax has been levied under the Income Tax Law—By this is meant incomes from juridical persons in a foreign country or in a place in this country where the Income Tax Law is not in force, or from juridical persons whose business is not conducted with the object of profit and who are exempted from taxation.
6. Interest on public bonds or companies' debentures, which is not paid in places where the Income Tax Law is in force—By this is meant interest on public bonds or companies' debentures, which is paid in a foreign country or in a place in this country where the Income Tax Law is not in force, and is received by transference in a place where the Law is in force.
7. Annual allowances, annuities, and pensions—Money which is given to members of an Assembly elected either by the Government or the people for their labour and expenses is called annual allowance; money which is given to persons who have rendered meritorious services to the nation is called annuity; and money which is given to civil officials and military and naval officers, and others, according to fixed rules, in recognition of services rendered by them, is called pension.
8. Income derived from a business or profession—By this is meant income derived from commercial, industrial, and other businesses or professions or scientific and technical occupations and from all classes of labour not otherwise enumerated.
9. Income derived from house rents.—By this is meant income derived from the letting of houses.
10. Income derived from ground rents.—By this is meant income derived from the letting of land to others by persons who have leased it from the Government or from others.
11. Income derived from properties other than the two items above mentioned.—By this is meant income derived from properties other than houses and land, that is from ships, boats, vehicles, horses, and other properties.

8.—Entries in the report shall be made in compliance with the principal points mentioned in the above para graphs, and the report so entered shall be forwarded to the Yokohama Taxation Office (Tobe Rokuchome) within the legal period (April). Anyone who wishes for further information or explanation may obtain it by applying to the Yokohama Taxation Office at any time. For more details persons are referred to an English translation of the Tax Laws of Japan, published by the Yokohama Revenue Administration Bureau.

FOR JURIDICAL PERSONS.

1.—The statement of accounts is to be presented to the Government each business year by juridical persons who are under obligation to pay income tax according to the provisions of Art. 7 of the Income Tax Law (No. 17), promulgated in Feb., 1899. By the term "juridical persons" is meant corporations composed of several persons for the purpose of carrying on commercial business and registered in compliance with the provisions of laws and ordinances as joint-stock companies, limited partnerships, or ordinary partnerships. By the term "business year" is understood the fiscal year in which the account of profit and loss of respective companies is made up; as, for instance, the period from January to June is fixed as the first half-year and July to December the second half-year; or the whole calendar year, or from April to March the following year, that is, the period in which the account of profit and loss of respective companies is made up is regarded as a fiscal year.

2.—With regard to the third-class incomes mentioned in the Income Tax Law, that is, incomes of individuals, the kind and amount of income is to be reported to the Government by each tax-payer in April every year. But as to the income of juridical persons there is no fixed period during which a report should be made, as the period of closing accounts differs according to the statutes of each company or partnership, as already mentioned. In the case of joint-stock companies a statement of accounts of profit and loss should be presented to the competent Taxation Office within seven days after the passing of accounts at any ordinary general meeting of shareholders, and in the case of limited partnerships or ordinary partnerships the same should be presented to the said office within seven days after the approval of accounts at a meeting of partners. When a statement of accounts is presented it should be accompanied by a copy of the statutes of the company, of the business report presented to the shareholders or partners, and of the resolutions passed at the meeting.

3.—In the case of first-class incomes, that is incomes of juridical persons, being different from those of individuals which are based on estimates, whereas those of juridical persons are based on actual income, should the business year comprise the period in which the Revised Treaties had not become operative and that in which they became operative, such juridical persons are required to forward a statement of accounts to the Taxation Office on the present occasion.

4.—The income of a juridical person is calculated on the balance remaining after deducting total expenditures or gross losses from the total receipts or gross profits in each fiscal year. In case of there being a balance carried over from the accounts of the previous year on which the tax has already been imposed, and, in the case of an insurance company, should there be an amount reserved to meet liability for insurance, such amount may be deducted. If among the profits, there is a dividend which has been received from a juridical person on whom tax has already been imposed, or interest on public bonds or companies' debentures, which has been paid in those parts of Japan where the Income Tax Law is in force, that is where the second-class income tax has already been imposed, such amount may also be deducted.

5.—Amounts of money given to members or employees of a company as rewards at a fixed period or occasionally, irrespective of the profit or loss of the company, according to the statutes of the same, may be deducted from the profit side in preparing a statement of accounts. In case of defraying rewards from a balance remaining after deducting all the business expenditures as total loss from the total profits according to a resolution at a general meeting of shareholders or partners, such amount of money shall not be deducted, or, in other words, all the balance shall be calculated as net profit.

6.—When a reserve is made for the purpose of an extension of business, of the purchase of property, of the redemption or depreciation of machinery, furniture, etc., if such reserve is defrayed out of the net profit after deducting the total loss from the total profit, it shall not be deducted.

7.—A juridical person who has a head office in any part of Japan, where the Income Tax Law is in force, and derives income from his trade, business, property, or occupation in a foreign country, must forward to the Government a statement of accounts, adding it to his income in Japan. However, in case the office in this country is merely a branch of a head office in a foreign country, a statement of accounts of profit and loss only in respect of business or property in any part of this country, where the Income Tax Law is in force, need be presented.

8.—With regard to the income of a juridical person the competent Taxation Office will make investigation into any statement of accounts presented, and the Director of the competent Revenue Administration Bureau will decide upon the amount of tax to be levied. The process for the collection of the tax shall be adopted after each tax-payer has been notified of the amount of tax to be collected. Sometimes it may be possible that the amount of income does not agree with that of the statement of accounts presented, as the result of investigations made by the Government. If the tax-payer thus notified is not satisfied with the amount of income decided upon by the Government he may apply for an enquiry by stating the reasons of his objection, or may make an appeal, or institute an administrative litigation. In doing these, however, there will be considerable trouble inevitably involved, and therefore it is required that any juridical persons, in presenting a statement of accounts, should bestow careful attention on its compilation and ensure its accuracy.

9.—Although persons who derive income from property, business, or occupation in any part of this country, where the Income Tax Law is in force, are under obligation to pay tax, income falling under any of the following heads is not liable to taxation, and therefore no report is required as to it:—

1. Income of juridical persons, the business of whom is not conducted with the object of profit.
2. Occasional incomes which do not belong to undertakings conducted with the object of profit.
3. Income realised from property, or trade, business, or occupation in a foreign country, or in places in Japan where this law is not in force (Formosa, Okinawa-ken, or Luchu islands, Ogasawara-jima, or the Bonin islands, and the seven islands of Idzu). But this provision is not applicable to the income of a juridical person whose head office is in a place where the Income Tax Law is in force,

10.—Entries in the statement shall be made in compliance with the principal points mentioned in the above paragraphs, and the report so entered shall be forwarded to the Yokohama Taxation Office (Tobe Rokuchome), whtiin the legal period. Anyone who wishes for further information or explanation may obtain the same by applying to the Yokohama Taxation Office at any time. For further details persons are referred to an English translation of the Tax Laws of Japan, published by the Yokohama Revenue Administration Bureau.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

If the members or partners of a juridical person upon whom first class income tax has been imposed have any other income coming under the third class, they should as a matter of course forward a report of the income as the income of an individual.

Special attention is called to this matter so as to avoid any possible misunderstanding on the subject.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE FAR EAST AS IT AFFECTS THE UNITED STATES.

By STUART ELDRIDGE, M.D.,

Acting-Assist. Surgeon M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector at Yokohama, Japan; Late member Imperial Board of Health, at Tokyo, and Sanitary Adviser to the Japanese Government.

Great as has been our recent progress in the knowledge of the causes and methods of prevention of the infectious diseases, it is questionable whether, as regards the propagation of such from point to point, any advantage gained by our more exact information is not almost neutralized by the present rapidity and frequency of communication by sea and land, and the great increase in the number of people transported.

At the time when crossing the Atlantic involved a voyage of 12 to 14, and, as concerns the Pacific, of from 20 to 30 days, and in the earlier era of the sailing ship, disease either manifested itself before arrival at a United States port, and so could be, as a rule, stopped at quarantine; or, in the case of sailing vessels, the infection often exhausted itself in a shipboard epidemic before the American destination was reached.

The Orient is the home and focus of the most dangerous and infectious epidemic maladies. Cholera, always present in India, has become almost, if not quite, acclimated and endemic in China, is frequently epidemic there, and lingered in Japan, sometimes widely and fatally prevalent, from 1877 until 1896, having been introduced from China in the former year, and, perhaps, on several subsequent occasions.

Smallpox is more or less epidemic in China and the Philippines every year, and, though with greatly diminishing frequency, is occasionally widely prevalent in Japan as well.

Dysentery of a peculiarly infectious and malignant type, of which an average mortality of over 25 per cent. is an evidence, has been steadily increasing in Japan, with each succeeding summer, for nearly 20 years, until now the whole country is infected by it to such an extent that the number of cases during the past few years has reached annually over 100,000. A special report on this disease, by myself, will be

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found in the Public Health Reports of the U.S. Marine Hospital Service for January, 1900.

Beriberi, too, a comparatively little understood disease, but undoubtedly infectious and capable of becoming violently epidemic and fatal, conditions on shipboard seeming somewhat specially to favour its development; has, during the past 25 years, spread from its probably original home in the Far East, until now it is occasionally met with, sometimes in serious outbreaks, almost all over the earth.

Leprosy also must be mentioned in this connection, although, of course, its infection can be more easily detected and guarded against than those of the maladies just named.

All the foregoing diseases, however dangerous and insidiously propagated they may be, must at present yield in importance to the plague, when considered from the point of view of State Medicine.

After a century of practical quiescence, during which it lingered only in remote Asian localities, or, if it invaded better-known regions, the epidemics following were, however severe, of but comparatively limited extent, this disease had for most of us become but of historical interest, to be read of as it occurred in Europe in former times, with pity for the ignorance that encouraged or failed to check such pestilences, and with self-congratulation that in these days we need no longer fear them. Our happy confidence in the practical extinction of the plague has, however, of late been rudely destroyed. Plague is now actually present and epidemic to a greater or less degree in China, the Philippines, Formosa, Hawaii, the Malay Peninsula, India, Persia, Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Eastern Russia, Portugal, East Africa, the Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Paraguay, Brazil: has recently knocked at the doors of both England and the United States; and, within a month, was violently, if briefly, epidemic in Japan, where it has, fortunately, been, at least temporarily, arrested either by the very active measures employed by the Government or by an exceptionally cold winter or by both, though grave fears are entertained that it may reappear in the coming spring.

In short, plague shows at present, the strongest tendency to become pandemic.

While, undoubtedly, in the most civilized countries, the conditions favouring filth-bred diseases are no longer so general as once, when the sanitary state of the palace was little better than that of the hovel of to-day, and, consequently, we have reason to hope that, with the knowledge and means at our disposal, we can control the pest, if only after a struggle, costly both in lives and money; there are, even in the best governed modern cities, slums which offer a most favorable environment for the germs of the disease. That it behooves the authorities responsible to at once inaugurate thorough sanitary reform in such localities, in anticipation of the possible introduction of plague, is a truism; but as is always the case, no action is likely to be taken until the danger is at, or within, our doors.

However successful may be the attempt to exclude, control, or stamp out this malady in more enlightened regions, the old foci of the disease in Asia, where no intelligent effort for its control or suppression is to be looked for, will still remain, an ever-present danger, from which, at any time, may start the pandemic wave of pestilence.

First studied from the point of view of our recent advances in etiologic research, in Hongkong, in 1894, and, later, especially in India, our knowledge of its causation, the conditions determining its epidemic development, and its methods of propagation from man to man, or from the lower animals to man, is still sadly incomplete.

The protean nature of plague constitutes one of its most dangerous features considered with reference to its early recognition when met. So called pestis minor, with its close resemblance to ordinary, and comparatively, innocuous lymphadenitis, but capable, under conditions as yet unknown, of assuming malignant epidemicity; mild or slowly developing cases of the graver form of the malady, which, after a few hours, or days, of relatively slight and non-specific symptoms, suddenly develop with fatal violence; and the pneumonic type of pest, often closely simulating acute pneumonia; may all, especially in single cases, and in the absence of a well-marked epidemic, easily escape correct diagnosis and the enforcement of proper precautions; and so initiate a serious outbreak.

The material infection of plague, too, is, in all probability under natural conditions, more persistent and resistant to disinfectants and changes of temperature than is shown by laboratory experiments, while it undoubtedly shares the property of certain other pathogenic microbes, *e.g.*, those of cholera; of, at times, adapting itself to unusual and ordinarily unfavourable climatic conditions; and all we know points to the ready transmission of the disease by infected bedding, clothing, merchandise, or soil, in which the infection may remain active for a period as yet undetermined, but, certainly, not brief.

Such being some of the most imminent dangers from the Far East, to which our country is exposed, an exposure that must became more perilous with the increase of travel that will, infallibly, follow upon our territorial expansion in the Pacific, how are they to be guarded against?

First and foremost as a protection is, of course, our seacoast quarantine; but this is, as yet, but imperfectly and irregularly organized. It is one of the faulty results of our federated system of government that matters deeply affecting the welfare of the people as a whole, such as the administration of quarantine, are, at many points, in the hands of local officials, often untrained, inexperienced, and, perhaps, appointed from purely political considerations. At some places a double system of quarantine is in operation, the class of officials just mentioned cooperating with or, more often, opposing and embarrassing the officers of the Marine-Hospital Service, who are acting in behalf of the United States. In time of pressing danger, as for example, in the notorious instance of importation of cholera to New York by the steamship *Normania*, it may be, as it was then, indispensably necessary for the United States, legally or illegally, to assume absolute control. This, however, can be done only with difficulty and at the expense of severe, perhaps dangerous, friction with the State or city authorities,

Of primary importance then is the placing of the whole system of sea-coast quarantine in the hands of the only body of trained and experienced sanitary experts in the country, the officers of the Marine-Hospital Service, by effective legislation, ignoring all local organizations and interests as well, when conflicting with thorough precaution.

Protective measures employed abroad, so far as they consist in the mere issuing of bills of health to vessels, which certify to the good health of the persons on board and to the sanitary condition of the port of departure, are common to all civilized countries. With the exception, however, of those issued at certain ports, on behalf of the United States, bills of health, in these days of ocean telegraphy and rapid communication, have lost much of their former value and have degenerated into a simple formality, being issued, as a rule by the consuls of the country to which a ship is bound, without special knowledge on their part of the sanitary state of the place of issue, and upon the unsupported statement of the captain or surgeon of the vessel that all is well on board. This applied, equally and generally, in the case of ships destined for ports in the United States, prior to the passage of the Act of Congress approved February 15, 1893, granting additional quarantine powers and imposing additional duties upon the Marine-Hospital Service. This act provides for the detailing of medical officers of the government, to serve at the consulates in foreign ports, for the purpose of furnishing information, inspecting vessels, and intelligently granting the necessary bills of health.

Under this act, officers and acting officers of the Marine-Hospital Service, the latter selected from resident practitioners of special knowledge of the local conditions and diseases, and familiar with the language of the country, have been assigned to the consulates of the United States at most points of large emigration or which are peculiarly dangerous sanitarily; and their services have, again and again, proved of the highest value.

My own experience, as one of the medical officers of the second class above mentioned, during 6 years, and at a point of special importance, has shown me the utter futility of dependence upon the judgment or information of non-medical officials, however careful and conscientious, or upon the statement of interested officers of ships, and the absolute necessity of skilled and independent professional assistants to the consuls.

Yokohama, the port at which I am on duty, is, in a sense, and so far as America is concerned, the sanitary gateway of the far East. At the distance of a journey of a week or more, by steamer, from the China ports; the point of final departure for all the lines trading between China and Japan and our Pacific coast, some 7 in number, any infection embarked at Hongkong, or at Amoy or Shanghai, the Chinese ports of call, is almost certain to manifest itself prior to the sailing of the ship from Yokohama, and to be detected at the man-by-man inspection of all on board made just before the departure of the vessel. Should infectious diseases be found at this final examination the bill of health is withheld pending thorough disinfection, and, if necessary, detention in quarantine; and, as a penalty, up to $5,000, may, under the law, be imposed upon any ship entering a United States port without these documents, the vessel, be she American or of other nationality, is practically under the control of the United States Sanitary Inspector, and must submit to such measures as he thinks necessary. As there is now an officer of the Marine-Hospital Service located at Hongkong, and, since the recent outbreak of plague in that city, one at Kobe also, it will be seen that, in this part of the part of the world at least, and with certain exceptions hereafter mentioned, the system of extra-territorial protection is as perfect as can well be devised.

In addition to the duties above noted, officers of the Marine-Hospital Service abroad are expected, under the head of furnishing information, to keep the Supervising Surgeon-General thoroughly posted upon all matters of sanitary interest relating to the countries in which they are stationed, and material of the greatest value is thus supplied for the various publications of the service.

When especially dangerous diseases are epidemically prevalent at foreign ports, or in the neighbourhood of the same, the law of the United States imposes upon all steerage passengers, whether way or through, upon ships bound thither, disinfection of persons and effects, and a quarantine before embarkation of duration varying with the incubation-period of the existing disease. To enable this to be effectively carried out, the steamship companies interested have been induced to erect, at several ports in Europe from which steerage travel is greatest, regular establishments for the accomplishment of the isolation and disinfection required, and these are under the supervision of the United States medical officer on duty at the port.

As yet no such complete appliances, although urgently required, have been supplied at any port in China or Japan, though one of the steamship lines possesses a disinfecting plant in Hongkong, erected under the pressure of the late Hawaiian Government, but which has no buildings for isolation attached, and is, besides, not generally available. It is, however, hoped that arrangements may soon be effected by which, at least in Yokohama, the needful equipment will be at the disposal of the medical officer in charge. Meanwhile the United States sanitary inspectors in the Orient are doing as best they can, by makeshift and temporary arrangements, to carry out the spirit if not the letter of the law, though under great difficulties.

Altogether, with the exception of the deficiency in equipment just mentioned, it is not easy to see where, under existing circumstances, it is possible to take greater or more effective precautions abroad save by a wider extension of the system of attaching medical officers to consulates, or, perhaps, by a modification permitting the consuls, at ports not of the first importance, to employ the services of local physicians, at a compensation paid by fees, and so varying with the amount of work performed.

In concluding these brief and imperfect notes upon an important subject, I would say that, so far as my personal experience goes, while, in the earlier days of the enforcement of the necessarily somewhat onerous requirements and restrictions of the United States laws, the shipping companies were somewhat obstructive and recalcitrant, they are beginning to recognize that the precautions required are a protection and advantage to themselves and that, as a rule, they are ready to cooperate with and asssist the Sanitary Inspector in their execution.—*The Philadelphia Medical Journal.*

[We are informed that, since the above was written, arrangements have been made with the steamship companies trading between Japan and the United States, by which, both at Yokohama and Kobe, they will furnish the necessary facilities for disinfection and, when required, detention of steerage passengers or infected crew, under the supervision of the U.S. officials.—Ed. *J.M.*]

SILK.

Vernacular papers agree in stating that the silk trade of Yokohama continues to be dull in spite of the general activity of foreign markets. Orders from abroads appear to decrease day by day. Last year the market held out bright prospects for every merchant, quotations in the case of fine silk having risen from 800 *yen* to 1,100 *yen*. As for first class Shinshiu silk, the value even reached to 1,080 *yen*, and this tendency to increase steadily continued until October. This year the condition is exactly reversed. Prices on the whole have fallen by 200 *yen* in the case of coarse silk, and prospects are gloomy in all respects. The following comparative figures clearly show the situation of the silk trade:—

	1899. Bales.	1900. Bales.
Stock at the end of May.....	1,440	8,577
Same from June 1st to March 1st ...	111,404	92,445
Total.....	112,844	112,792
Sales from June 1st to March 31st .	108,018	104,315
Stock on March 31st	4,764	1,479
	Yen.	Yen.
Price of silk for June delivery	112	110
Price of coarse filatures at end of March	1,150	1,080
Price of fine filatures	1,150	1,110

No small anxiety is felt by firms interested in the trade.

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BUSINESS CORPORATION LAW.

This law consists of nine chapters containing 90 Articles in all, of which the most important may be enumerated as follows :—

Art. I.—The Business Corporation dealt with in this law is to be understood to mean the juridical persons of an association organized for purposes as set forth below, securing the personal occupation or financial benefit of its members by :—(1) Issuing loans to the members of the corporation and affording facilities for investing their savings. (2) Selling their manufactures. (3) Purchasing articles necessary for their occupation or subsistance and selling the same to the members. (4) Disposing of articles produced by them, or providing them with work or articles necessary for their occupation.

The business specified in clause 1, is not allowed to be carried on conjointly with any of the transactions mentioned in other clauses.

Art. II.—Business corporations shall be of three classes : limited, unlimited, and guaranteed.

Art. VI.—The corporations shall be free from income and business taxes.

Art. NII.—Any number of persons less than seven cannot be organized into a corporation.

Art. X.—A corporation is not allowed to limit the number of its members.

Art. XVII.—Each member must be possessed of more than one and not more than ten shares.

Ar. XLIII.—Any surplus funds for distribution among the members of the corporation shall be appropriated for the payment of shares in arrear.

Art. XLIV.—The corporation is not allowed to distribute the surplus until it has redeemed all losses sustained by it.

Art. XLVI.—The corporation is required to set apart one-fourth of the surplus at the end of each business year until the same shall have reached the reserve specified by its regulations,

Art. LIX.—The corporation shall be under the direct supervision of a Minister of State, a local Governor, or communal Headman.

Art. LXXVI.—The manager, inspector or liquidator of a corporation shall be liable to a fine of from 5 to 300 *yen* in the cases enumerated below :—

1 When he has failed to register as prescribed by these regulations, or has made a fraudulent registration.

2 When he has made false statements to the government officers or at a general meeting of the corporation, or has concealed facts.

3 When he has neglected to note down the items in the document as required by this law, or has inserted fraudulent notes in them.

4 When he has violated Articles XLIII. or XLVI. or four others relating to a statement of accounts, the nature of shares, and the distribution of property.

5 When he has failed to present necessary reports to the Authorities, or refused to undergo inspection, or to comply with the order of the Government.

6 When he has neglected to insert advertisements as prescribed in Article 79 or 81 of the Civil Code, or has issued fraudulent advertisements.

7 When he has acted contrary to the provisions of Article 70 or 81 of the Civil Code.

Art. LXXVIII.—The date of operation of these regulations shall be determined by Imperial Ordinance.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

THE BOERS PUSHING SOUTHWARDS.

Shanghai, April 6.

The Times correspondent at Bloemfontein, telegraphing under date of the 3rd instant, says that the Boers have crossed the Modder River in some force on the east of Bloemfontein, and that the mounted infantry has been in touch with them all day at Bushman Kop, twelve miles distant.

TROOPS FOR BEIRA.

Later.

Altogether four transports, mostly with Bushmen, have gone to Beira.

MAFEKING.

Reuter's Agent, telegraphing from Mafeking, under date of 23rd March, says that after several days' bombardment the enemy are very quiet.

THE QUEEN AND HER IRISH SOLDIERS.

The Queen has ordered the formation of an Irish regiment of Foot-guards.

CLEMENTS.

Shanghai, April 7.

The *Daily Mail* correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 4th inst. that Clements' division, 6,000 strong, passed Bloemfontein in the morning and encamped temporarily five miles further south.

THE FREE STATE.

The *Daily News* correspondent telegraphs that President Steyn has been appointed commandant of the Free State. The General Volksraad was adjourned temporarily after a comforting speech from Steyn.

A SKIRMISH.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 5th inst. that a slight skirmish took place on the preceding day at at Bushmans Kop. The Boers moved south and the British reoccupied Uppington.

METHUEN CAPTURES A COMPANY OF BOERS.

Shanghai, April 7.

Lord Methuen telegraphs from Boshof (the word in the original is "Loshop," but it is probably a mistake for "Boshof") that on the 5th of April he surrounded a Boer force under General Villebois-Mareuil. None escaped. Villebois and 7 Boers were killed, 8 were wounded, and 54 were taken prisoners.

CAPTURE OF BRITISH BY BOERS AT REDDERSBURG.

Lord Roberts telegraphs under date of the 5th that it is supposed that three companies of the Irish Rifles were captured at Reddersburg. No trace of them can be found and they are doubtless all prisoners.

LATER NEWS OF THE REDDERSBURG AFFAIR.

Two companies of the Ninth Regiment of Mounted Infantry were surrounded near Reddersburg, eastward of Bethany Station, by a strong force of Boers. They resisted from noon on the 3rd until the morning of the 4th, when they must have surrendered. General Gatacre has been despatched to attack the Boers.

THE CASUALTIES IN THE AMBUSH.

The total casualties in the ambush near Thaba Nchu were 435, namely, 8 killed, 75 wounded, and 352 missing.

ACCIDENT TO A LINER.

The liner *Mexican* sank two days from Cape Town after collision with a transport. The passengers, 112 in number, were all landed.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.

Shanghai, April 8.

A determined attempt to escape was made by the Boer prisoners in Simonstown. Fourteen succeeded.

THE BOERS AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that parties of Boers are seen in the environs of the town.

THE REDDERSBURG AFFAIR.

Shanghai, April 9.

The five companies which were captured near Reddersburg on the 3rd instant were marching across country to Smithfield when they were surprised by a force of 3,200 Boers with five guns. The British numbered 591. They gallantly defended themselves, but the Boer guns obliged them to surrender. The British casualties were : Two officers killed, two wounded, and nine captured ; eight men killed, 33 wounded, and the remainder captured.

THE BOER ACTIVITY ROUND BLOEMFONTEIN.

It is believed that the extreme activity of the Boers around and to the south of Bloemfontein is rather in the nature of a raid against the inhabitants for the purpose of terrorising the Free Staters who have submitted. The British troops have been withdrawn from Rouxville to Beeste Kraal. The Boers are all round Rouxville.

A BEWILDERING SITUATION.

Later.

The military situation is regarded as bewildering. The British Army is immobile at Bloemfontein, while a force of Boers, estimated at not less than 12,000, of which Olivier's commando is the nucleus, is scouring the country far South and overpowering or threatening the British outlying posts. The formation of a town guard at Aliwal North indicates that even a fresh invasion of the Cape Colony is possible.

SWAZILAND.

The condition of Swaziland is frightful. The Queen's impies are butchering the obnoxious chiefs wholesale.

EXCITEMENT IN PARIS.

Many Frenchmen are among Methuen's prisoners. There is excitement in Paris in consequence, especially at the death of Villebois.

OUTPOST AFFAIR NEAR SPRINGFIELD.

The Boers from the Waterworks have attacked our outposts near Springfield.

TROUBLE IN ASHANTEE.

There is serious news from Ashantee. All the tribes are in arms.

EFFECT OF THE REDDERSBURG AFFAIR.

Shanghai, April 10.

The Times correspondent, telegraphing from Bloemfontein under date of the 6th instant, says that the loss of the companies at Reddersburg is unfortunate, as it completes the eastern flanking movement by the Boers, who now stretch in a thin line from Sannas Post on the south to a point on the east of the Jagersfontein road.

BRABANT.

Later.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Aliwal North under date of the 7th inst. that four companies of Irish Rifles and two companies of Volunteers arrived from Rouxville yesterday evening covered by two squadrons of Border Horse sent out by Brabant to prevent the enemy from frustrating the British movement.

ON SPECIAL DUTY.

Rundle is ordered on special duty to Kimberley.

THE BOERS' ADVANCE : WEPENER SURROUNDED.

Shanghai, April 11.

Six hundred Boers have occupied Rouxville.

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A larger commando, mainly composed of burghers who had previously submitted, have left Smithfield for Wepener. Two thousand Boers with five guns are already round Wepener, which is practically isolated, but the place is provisioned and entrenched.

The enemy is in sight of Aliwal North.

HORSES FOR THE CAPE.

Twenty-three steamers have been chartered to convey 20,000 horses, from Australia, Buenos Ayres, and New Orleans to the Cape before the end of May.

CARRINGTON.

Shanghai, April 11.

Gen. Carrington, who is now at Capetown, proceeds to Beira immediately.

FIGHTING AT WEPENER.

There has been severe fighting at Wepener during two days. There were considerable casualties on both sides, but the result is unknown.

SEVERE BOMBARDMENT AT MAFEKING.

The enemy opened a most furious bombardment at Mafeking on the 27th March. The Boers advanced to attack the place on two sides, but were repulsed.

RUNDLE.

Gen. Rundle, with the Eighth Division, has been diverted to Springfontein.

THE GENERAL POSITION.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Bethulie under date of the 9th that the Boers now practically hold the entire Free State on the east of the Railway. The enemy is located 12 miles to the east of Bethulie Bridge, having evidently come down country after the Reddersburg affair.

COLONEL PLUMER'S ADVANCE.

Shanghai, April 12.

Colonel Plumer, with 270 men and a Maxim, reached Ramathlabama on the 31st March and got within six miles of Mafeking, but was forced to retire in good order. His casualties were three officers and seven men killed; three officers and 24 men wounded; and 11 missing. The enemy's loss was serious.

[Note.—Ramathlabama is 14 miles to the North of Mafeking on the railway.—Ed. *J.M.*]

COL. PLUMER.

Later.

Colonel Plumer was slightly wounded in the action on the 31st March.

BRABANT AT ALIWAL NORTH.

Colonel Brabant, with the bulk of his brigade, is at Aliwal North.

REINFORCEMENTS.

Troops have been ordered from Durban to the Cape.

GENERAL GATACRE.

General Gatacre returns to England.

GENERAL POLE-CAREW.

General Pole-Carew has been appointed to the command of the 11th (?) Division.

WEPENER.

The fighting continues at Wepener. The garrison is holding out bravely. Troops are rapidly advancing to the assistance of the place.

LADYSMITH.

Reuter's agent telegraphing from Ladysmith under date of the 10th inst., says that the Boers opened fire that day, shelling the British camp at Elandslaagte from three positions. They did no damage. A British reconnoisance found the enemy in large force and strongly fortified.

THE U. S. "BENNINGTON."

The American warship *Bennington* has been ordered to China, owing to the unfavourable conditions prevailing there.

ST. HELENA AND THE PRISONERS.

The authorities intend to ship all the Boer prisoners to St. Helena.

H.M.S. "POWERFUL."

The *Powerful* has arrived at Portsmouth, where she has had a magnificent reception.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France in Tokyo.)

THE ATTACK ON THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Saigon, April 6.

At Brussels yesterday evening an anarchist named Sipido, an ironmonger, fired, at the railway station, two shots with a revolver into the carriage containing the Prince and the Princess of Wales, who were on their way to Denmark. No one was hit. Sipido declared that he fired because the Prince of Wales had caused thousands of men to be killed in South Africa. The Prince has asked for merciful treatment for him. There is universal indignation.

WAR NEWS.

Saigon, April 6.

The English are fortifying Bloemfontein. The Boers, to the number of about 20,000, are massing in the neighbourhood of the town and are menacing the English communications.

The London journals show some uneasiness about the situation of Lord Roberts.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE COLONIAL ARMY.

Saigon, April 8.

The French Chamber of Deputies has adopted the project for a Colonial Army, and has agreed that it should be attached to the Department of War.

CAPTURE OF A BOER DETACHMENT.

Lord Methuen, with infantry and guns, surrounded near Boshof the French Colonel Villebois-Mareuil with a detachment of 70 Boers. Villebois-Mareuil and 7 Boers were killed, 8 wounded, and 54 made prisoner.

BRITISH DETACHMENT CAPTURED.

The Boers, near Reddersburg, in the neighbourhood of Bethany, killed and wounded 40 English and made 600 prisoners.

CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS.

Saigon, April 9.

M. Bons d'Anty has been nominated Consul at Chungking; M. Dautremer, to Szemao; M. Chassain de Marcilly, to Hankow; M. François, to Meng-tze; and M. Guillien to Lung-tze-chow.

SENATOR FOR NICE.

Saigon, April 10.

General Berenger has been elected Senator for Nice.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Boers, to the number of ten thousand, reoccupy the places evacuated by the English in the south of the Orange Free State.

Saigon, April 11.

The Boers yesterday attacked the British garrison at Wepener, and renewed the attack to-day.

THE BUDGET.

Saigon, April 12.

The French Senate have adopted the Budget with some modifications.

THE WAR.

The Boers show great activity in the Orange Free State. They continue to attack Wepener.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Jiji Shimpo.")

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

Söul, April 11.

It is rumoured that the Russians have presented to the Korean Government a renewed demand with reference to Masampo consisting of 11 items.

The principal local official at Mokpho has been dismissed from office for entering into negotiations with Russia on the subject of a lease of land on Koha Island without proper consideration of the question of Treaty limits.

(From the "Hongkong Daily Press.")

THE CHINESE EMBROGLIO.

Shanghai, March 30.

A Peking native telegram states that the Chinese 24-knot cruisers *Haiten* and *Haishow* have been ordered to Singapore to arrest the Reform leaders there and to evade any possible British pursuit.

(From the "China Mail.")

ABDUCTING POLITICAL REFUGEES.

Hongkong, March 29.

On Tuesday Kwong Yu-pui, a member of the Chinese Reform Party, and formerly Editor of the Chinese newspaper published at Yokohama, was arrested by emissaries of the Chinese Government here in Hongkong. The captive was abducted to Canton.

Sir Henry Blake, the Governor, and the British Consul at Canton have made representations on the subject to Li Hung-chang, the Chinese Viceroy to Canton, but the latter still holds Kwong a prisoner.

Hongkong, March 30.

Kwong Yu-pui is safe in Macao.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, April 7th:—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	15,499,969
Amount of convertible notes issued	208,589,421
Government deposits	60,565,100
General deposits	6,643,108
Exchange liability	77,012
Total	321,374,612

Cr.	
Discount notes	67,942,656
Foreign discount notes	8,367,394
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	67,313,301
Exchange liability	1,202,011
Government bonds	55,456,046
Property	2,026,928
Bullion and Specie	97,066,273
Total	321,374,612

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	212,467,047
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	91,691,664
Silver	4,000,000
Total	95,691,664
Securities:—	
Government bonds	20,843,088
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	12,303,221
Commercial notes	61,629,074
Total	116,775,383

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	1,357,053
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	3,820,836
Government deposits	215,462	—
General deposits	2,962,341	—

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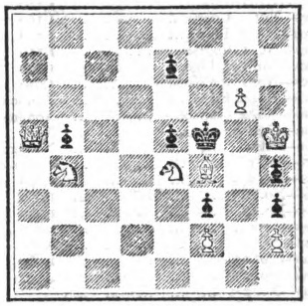
CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

PROBLEM No. 469.
By Emil Hoffman.
Black.



White.
White to play and mates in three moves.

GAME 579.
Falkbeer Counter Gambit.

Black.—Prof. A. S. Hitchcock.	White—Dr. J. B, Trowbridge.
Manhattan, Kan.	Hayward, Wis.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	25 Kt B4	B B2
2 P KB4	P Q4	26 KR QBsq	P K Kt4
3 PxQP	P K5	27 Kt Q3	P QR4
4 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	28 R Kt7	QR Bsq
5 Q K2	B K2	29 RxP	RxRch
6 KtxP	KtxP	30 KtxR	R QBsq
7 P Q3	Castles.	31 Kt Q3	R B5
8 Q Kt KB3	P KB4	32 Kt B5	RxP
9 Kt Kt5	B Kt5ch	33 Kt Q7	K Kt2
10 P B3	KtxQBP	34 P K6	B R4
11 Q QB2	Kt Q4ch	35 P R3	R K5
12 B Q2	BxBch	36 Kt B5	R K8ch
13 QxB	P KR3	37 K B2	R K7ch
14 Kt R3	Q K2ch	38 K Bsq	R QB7
15 Kt K5	Q Kt5	39 Kt Kt7	P Q5
16 QxQ	KtxQ	40 Kt Q6	R B8ch
17 R Bsq	P B3	41 K B2	R B7ch
18 P Q4	B K3	42 K Ktsq	K B3
19 P Q R3	Kt Q4	43 P K7	P Q6
20 B B4	R Ksq	44 KtxPch	KxKt
21 Castles	Kt Q2	45 P Kt4ch	K B5
22 BxKt	PxB	46 PxB	K Kt 6
23 R B7	KtxKt	47 R KB6	R Kt7ch
24 B PxKt	P Q Kt3	48 K Bsq	P Q7
		49 P K8 (Q)	

Black announced mate in five moves :—

49	R Kt8 ch	52 K Rsq	Q Q4ch
50 KxR	P Q8 (Q) ch	53 K Ktsq	Q Kt7 mate
51 R Bsq	Q Q5 ch		

GAME 580.
Game from the Vienna Tournament.
Brody beats Schwartz.
Sicilian Defence.

White—Swartz.	Black—Brody.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P Q B4	15 PxP	B R3
2 Kt KB3	P K3	16 Kt K5(c)	BxKt
3 P Q4	PxP	17 BxB	RxBP
4 KtxP	Kt K B3	18 Q K2	QR KBsq
5 B Q3 (a)	Kt B3	19 R Bsq	B Q5
6 B K3	P Q4	20 QxPch	K Rsq
7 PxP	KtxP	21 K Qsq	RxP
8 KtxKt	PxKt	22 RxR	QxR
9 B Q2 (b)	R Q Ktsq	23 B K2	Kt K6ch
10 B Q Bsq	B Q3	24 BxKt	BxB
11 Q B3	Castles.	25 Q Q6	Q B6ch
12 Kt Q2	P K B4	26 K Ksq	B B7ch
13 Kt B4	B B2	27 K Q2	
14 P K Kt4	Q R5	Black mates in two moves.	

Notes from The Illustrated London News.

(a) A critical point in this variation. If P to K 5, Q to R 4 ch, and Kt to Q B 3 is answered by B to Kt 5. Perhaps the best is Q to Q 3.

(b) Very awkward, but Black has gained the attack and threatened Kt takes B, followed by B to B 4 or Q to Kt 5.

(c) The position is full of interest. White might, instead, try R to K Kt sq, threatening to win by B to K Kt 5. Black could not reply Q takes P because of R to R sq. Anyhow, the text move leads at once to a most hopeless game, and Black makes the best of a fine attack.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 1	Sa. April 14
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich 2	M. April 16
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 3	Th. April 19
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	America Maru	M. April 23
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. April 23
America	P. M. Co.	China 4	Th. April 26
Europe	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons 5	—
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 30
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	M. April 30
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. May 3
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Su. May 6

1 Left Shanghai on the 9th inst.
2 Left Shanghai on the 11th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 31st ult.
4 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.
5 Mails transferred to *Aoenigsberg*, due about 21st.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Tu. April 17
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. April 18
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. April 18
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	F. April 20
Hongkong.....	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich	Sa. April 21
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	W. April 25
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	China	F. April 27
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 30
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. May 2
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. May 4
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. May 7

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 6th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 5th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, S. Nishimura, 7th April,—Shanghai via ports, 31st March, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 8th April,—Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 8th April,—Yokkaichi, 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Admiral Korniloff (16), Russian cruiser, 5,000, Capt. Petroff, 8th April,—Port Arthur.

Indra, British steamer, 3,923, F. L. Burkhill, 9th April,—New York via ports, and Shanghai, 4th April, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Nunome, 9th April,—Bombay via ports, and Kobe, 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 9th April,—Vancouver, B.C., 26th Mar., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 9th April,—Kobe, 7th April, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Puyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 9th April, —Nagasaki, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 9th April,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 8th April, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 9th April,—Yokkaichi, 8th April, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, Captain T. Sakai, 10th April,—Kobe, 8th April, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, American steamer 1,691, J. Truebridge, 10th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 8th April, Mails and General,—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Saint Regulus, British steamer, 1,999, C. W. McMullen, 10th April,—Hongkong, 2nd April, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Serbia, German steamer, 2,377, Sachh, 10th April,—Hamburg via ports, and Shanghai, 5th April, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Cartisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 11th April,—San Diego, Cal., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sidra, British steamer, 2,033, A. Atkinson, 11th April, —Middlesbrough via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Baltimore (14), U.S. cruiser, 4,600, Capt. Thomas, 11th April,—Manila.

Drummond, British steamer, 1,794, W. T. Chubb, 11th April,—New York via ports, and Shanghai, 5th April, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 11th April,—Otaru via ports, 6th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 12th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 23rd March, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Machaon, British steamer, 4,276, W. T. Hannah, 12th April,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 11th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 12th April.—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 11th April, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Malacca, British steamer, 2,615, E. G. Andrews, 12th April,—London via ports, and Kobe, 11th April, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 12th April,—Yokkaichi, 11th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Dalny Vostok, Russian steamer, 2,265, Alex. Gove, 6th April,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.,

Braemar, British steamer 2,316, Wm. Watt, 6th April,—Portlond, Orogan, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Saint Irene, British steamer, 2,473, W. Attree, 6th April,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 6th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Weimar, German steamer, 3,176, H. Mayer, 7th April,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 7th April—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 7th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 7th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, J. Miyagi, 7th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Howick Hall, British steamer, 2,378, A. Scott Kilvert, 7th April,—Port Arthur via Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Yangtsze, British steamer, 4,148, H. L. Allen, 7th April,—Marseilles and London via ports, General. —W. M. Strachan & Co.

St. Mirren, British ship, 1,855, James Hamilton, 7th April,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Benvorlich, British steamer, 2,164, W. Thomson, 8th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Hertha (34), German cruiser, 6,000, Captain von Usedorn, 8th April,—Kobe.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 9th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 10th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 10th April,—Yokkaichi, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 10th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Olympia, American steamer, 1,691, J. Truebridge, 11th April,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd,

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, M, Nishimura, 11th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 12th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong via ports :—Capt. D. Williams, Mr. J. C. Epperly, Miss Denbigh, Mr. J. W. Parmalee, Mr. P. de Rossoff, Mr. W. Warrender, Mr. J. Elson, Lieut. A. C. McKelvey, Mr. Fair, and Mr. P. A. Rudden, in cabin. For San Francisco :—Mr. L. L. Hopkins, Mrs. R. H. Crane, Mr. G. B. Ryan, Mr. W. H. Melsome, Mr. R. Ogilvie. Mr. E. W. Bonnaffon, Mr. J. Thebaud, and Mr. Chun Yun, in cabin ; Mr. R. Turner, and Mrs. C. E. Lindguist, in European steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Mr. Staffa, Mr. K. Nagai, and Mrs. M. Tanaka, in cabin : Mrs. F. Shinozaki, Mrs. Ching, Mrs. Chin, Mrs. Boul, Mr. and Mrs. Sakuma, Mr. Damador Sing, and Mr. Puran Sing, in second class ; 60 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C. :—Mr. W. Ahrens, Mr. J. A. Brady, Miss J. L. Boyd, Mr. T. S. Cockburn, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Clark, Miss Dorothy Drew, Miss Madge Daly, Miss H. Daly, Mrs. W. Ellis Dunn and child, Mr. Wm. Eckert, Mr. R. D. Gottlieb, Miss Hunt, Mr. John Holiday, Mrs. H. B. Hammond, Mrs. W. P. Haliday, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Laflin, Mr. H. Lyman, Mr. and Mrs. Macray, Mrs. E. McClintock, Miss R. Maine, Mrs. M. Mitchell, Mr. H. B. Mc-

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Queen, Mr. Masakata Nakajima, Mr. R. Narita, Mr. H. T. Oxnard, Mrs. L. C. Smith, Miss Edna Stewart, Mr. J. J. Shaw, Mrs. H. Scott, Miss Eloise Sherwood, Mr. K. Tokushima, Mrs. H. St. Denys Thomason and son, Mr. Takase, Mrs. Umbren and child, Miss Mabel Wheeler, Dr. and Mrs. Wing, Mrs. Waller and infant, and Miss Jessie Waller, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. E. Drummond, Mr. J. Fraser, Mr. F. Kingsell, Capt. and Mrs. Hatherly, Mrs. Lebeaud, Mr. W. T. Payne, Mr. H. Marcus, Mr. J. P. Yates, Mr. G. G. Stadleman, Mr. S. Wheeler, Capt. de Berry, Mr. Cartwight, Mr. Wong Shin Hing, Mr. Kwong Man Wing, Mr. and Mrs. Ferrar and daughter, Mr. Retarber Samuel, Mr. Wong Fit Sang, and Mr. Chan Ching Lin, in cabin; 11 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Armsby, Miss C. A. Dakin, Mr. and Mrs. John Hinkel, Mr. W. J. Gorham, Mr. T. Sakata, Mrs. L. Wheaton, Dr. and Mrs. S. Kobayashi and 2 servants, Miss Yasuda, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Cowan and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Gunn, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hoppin, Mrs. Jewett, Mr. John Spalckhaver, Miss L. Wood, and Capt. F. W. Perkins, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. G. S. Beebe, and Mr. C. W. Clifton, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. Geo. P. Colbert, Mr. M. Mitchell, Mr. James H. Cunard, Mr. F. Gourley, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. W. P. Lambe, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. B. S. McAllister, Mr. Leong Chin, Mrs. L. L. Day and daughter, Mr. Y. T. Leou, Mr. A. J. Walsh, Mr. John N. Boyd, Mr. Lew Fung Chih, Mr. G. E. Fraser, Miss Grace Starr, and Mr. W. Marculis, in cabin,

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. W. E Errington, Mr. P. Marshall, Dr. D. H. Evans, Mr. F. F. Hungdorff, Mr. W. J. Thomson, Cap. C. E. Bancroft, Mr. J. A. Higgon, Mr. J. F. Mayers, Mr. Gershom Stewart, Mr. Geo. Tyson, Mr. G. A. Adams, Mrs. Grün, Mr. J. Sterner, Mr. and Mrs. T. Weir, Mr. C. M. Kragh, Mr. Basil Rhodes, Mr. Kobaldt, Baron Popp, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. M. Birch and 2 children, Mr. Smith Ryland and valet, Mr. W. J. Setnath, Mr. H. Kobayashi, Misses Sale, Messrs. Kawasaki and Yamaguchi, Mr. A. M. Fisher, and Mr. C. S. Downs, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mr. F. Brown, Mr. A. McConachie, Sir Thos. Jackson, Misses Jackson (2), Mr. Alex. Donald, Mr. R. Paridant, Mr. Hugh Hill, Mr. and Mdme. Kong Ying Ying, Rev. and Mrs. Whitman, 4 children, Mr. E. S. Whealler, Rev. F. W. Warne, Mr. F. J. Newman, Miss Reifsnyder, Capt. Wells, Mr. O. Menser, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. J. E. and Master Stewart, Dr. and Mrs. Lowry, Miss Lowry, Mrs. Pitkins and infant, Mr. N. B. Manchen, Mr. Geo. Tayle, Mr. D. E. Brown, Baron Alex de Neufoille and valet, Miss H. Jackson, Mr. Jas. Marshall and Col. A. H. Taylor, in cabin; 15 intermediate; 434 steerage.

Per British steamer *Malacca*, from London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Frizell, child and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. La Rache, Mr. Jacob, and Mr. Mullins, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Weimar*, for Bremen via ports:—Prof. Baeltz, Mr. V. Hermann, Mr. A. G. Price, Mr. O. D. Jerauld, Mr. J. G. Spoerer, Mr. L. L. Bailey, Mr. N. R. Devin, Mr. and Mrs. E. Maurach, Mr. C. F. Pope, Lieut. W. H. McGrann, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. E. Vouck, Mrs. H. Kessler and child, Mr. E. Baelz, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Walter, Mr. M. Kimura, Mr. R. E. Preston, and Mr. G. Williams, in cabin.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. J. J. Antrobus, Mr. E. W. Bonnoffon, Mr. Eugene Burrais, Mrs. R. H. Crane, Mr. M. Fleischer, Mr. John C. Greves, Mr. L. B. Greenstone, Mr. L. L. Hopkins, Mr. S. Halliwell, Mrs. I. E. Kirkland, Miss Kirkland, Mr. Wachter Louis, Mr. W. H. Melsome, Mr. F. H. Noltenius, Mr. Robert Ogilvie, Mr. G. B. Ryan, Dr. A. Sims, Mr. J. Thebaud, Mr. Chun Yun and servant, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. L. Giles, Mr. P. Hillyer, Mr. W. H. Wilson, Miss C. J. Necley, Dr. Max Peters, Mrs. Korf, 2 children and amah, Mr. A. Korf, Mr. W. H. Wilson, Mr. Ecker, Mr. R. Lyons, Mr. E. W. Noel, Mr. B. Odani, Mr. Y. Aomura, Mr. E. Becker, Mrs. A. M. Fisher, and Mr. H. S. Brindley, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. W. J. Pettican, Mr. W. C. Tylor, and Mr. J. J. Shaw, in cabin; Mr. S. Sugiura, and Mr. and Mrs. Miho, in second class.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Capt. Wm. Finch, reports:—Left San Francisco on March 23rd, via Honolulu on March 30th, and arrived at Yokohama on April 11th. Fresh to moderate winds, clear weather and smooth seas throughout passage.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Following are silk shippers per *Rio de Janeiro*, for San Francisco, April 7.

Bavier & Co.	88
Siber, Wolf & Co.	41
Otto Reimers & Co.	17
Kitto Shokwai	148
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	23
Doshin Kaisha	19
Total	336

The following were the silk shippers per steamer *Weimar*, for Bremen via ports, on Saturday:—

	Waste.	
	French.	Austria.
Sieber, Wolf & Co.	30	—
Dell'Oro & Co.	—	36
	30	36

Following are silk shippers per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, B.C., April 13:—

	Bales.
Vivanti Bros.	76
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	47
Doshin Kaisha	24
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	22
Total	169

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is absolute stagnation in all lines. In yarns, grey shirtings, and fancy cottons and woollens Japanese dealers still stand out against the prices demanded by importers, though the latter are more than justified in their demands by the high values prevailing at home. Metals are also quite inactive for similar reasons.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches ...	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches ...	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches ...	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	335.00 to 345.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400.00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$29.00
Indian Broach	28.50
Chinese	28.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.50 to 7.00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanised Iron sheets	13.00 to 14.50
Wire Nails, assorted	8.50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.50 to 7.90

KEROSENE.

Market unchanged.

American	$3.00 to 3.05
Russian	2.95 to 3.00
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

Market steady; quotations unchanged.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.30 to 6.00
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	5.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.80 to 9.50

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Settlements have been very small, the principal business being done by native shippers. Holders are lowering their prices, without, however, effecting any extensive movement.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,180
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,160
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,160
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	1,110
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,130
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,070
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	Nominal
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½	1,070
Re-reels—No. 2	1,060
Re-reels—No. 3	1,040
Kakedas—Etra	1,160
Kakedas—No. 1	None
Kakedas—No. 1½	1,060
Kakedas—No. 2 / Kakedas—No. 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

A fair amount of business in medium grades; stock is of poor quality.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	$185
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	175
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	180
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	170
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	145
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	135
Noshi—Bushiu, Best / Noshi—Bushiu, Good / Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	135
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	125
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	175
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	162½
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	70
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	55

TEA.

There is still nothing doing.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest / Choice / Finest / Fine / Good Medium / Medium / Good Common / Common	Nominal

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, April 12.

Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 155. *Yen* 10 is offered for the right to new ordinary shares. Langfeldts—A few shares can be had at *yen* 107.50. Helms are obtainable at par. Laundries have sellers at par.

Debentures.—Breweries are steady at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	212.50 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	150 N.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	155 B.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	450 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	107.50 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 Sa.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	Nominal

N.B.—S.=Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, W.=Weak, E.=Enquiries

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, April 12.

Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 147.50. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 155. *Yen* 12.50 is offered for the right to new ordinary shares.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	212.50 Steady.
Grand Hotel	240 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	155 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co.	110 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	147.50 Buyers.

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 12.

Silver and discount from London are unaltered and though private paper is quoted somewhat irregular, the tendency is upwards, with rates closing for the mail per steamer *Empress of China* as under. All the Foreign Banks will be closed to-morrow, Good Friday.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 5/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 1/4
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16 to 3/4
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/16 to 7/8
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	259 to 60 1/2
— — 6 months' sight	260 to 62
America—Bank sight	49 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	50 1/2 to 5/8
Germany—Bank sight	206 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74
— Private 10 days' sight	74 3/4 to 75
India—Bank sight	151 1/4
— Private 30 days' sight	153 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 3/8

TOKUMIYA.

BROKER IN LOAN BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, AND STOCKS.

Cash and time transactions.

No. 1, KABUTOCHO, NIHONBASHI-KU, TOKYO.

TELEPHONE NO. 921, NANIWA OFFICE.

MEAN PRICES OF SHARES AND STOCKS FOR DIRECT DELIVERY.

Tokyo, April 12.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	93.50
War Loan Bonds	93.50
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	97.00
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	430.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.30
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	171.50
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.50
Third National Bank—paid up yen	67.50
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	103.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—pain up yen 25	27.00
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	71.60
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	61.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	22.30
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	*... 115.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	*... 75.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	*... 54.70
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	42.00
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	*... 55.20
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	*... 42.80
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	88.50
Hokkaido Colliery R'way 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	72.50
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	77.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	*... 42.00
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	32.50
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	50.00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	17.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	31.50
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	20.00
Chugoku Railway.—paid up yen 25	12.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13	*... 19.00
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	226.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	290.50
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	65.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	17.90
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 10	14.50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	26.60
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	23.50
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25...	39.00
Yokohoma Dock, new—paid up yen 20	32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	34.00
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	16.00
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	205.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	178.50
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	140.00
Tokyo Merchandize Exohange—paid up yen 25 ...	86.00
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	2.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yeu 50	50.60
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	25.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	94.00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 30...	69.00
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40	101.00
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50	37.00
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50... *...	48.80
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	44.00
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up 25...	21.00
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	14.30
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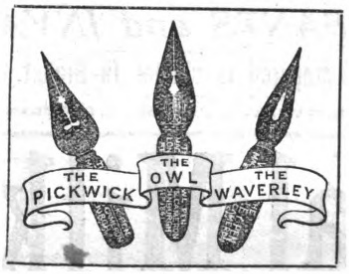

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, 1900.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

HONGKONG had only 25 hours of recorded sunshine in March.

THE entries for the Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club exceed the numbers entered at the Autumn Meeting.

THE yacht *Tolna*, with Count Festetics on board, has been wrecked on the Minicoy islands, Ceylon. The Count and the crew are believed to have got ashore safely.

FIRE broke out on the 15th inst. at Awabori-dori, Osaka, in a house occupied by Kikyo Heijiro. Five houses were destroyed. A carpenter's family resided on the upper-floor of one of these houses and all of them, Matsubara Sokichi (52); Kumi (45) his wife; Tomi (18) the daughter and Uichi (11) the son, were burnt to death.

THE Easter services in the various Churches of Yokohama were well attended and the musical portions were particularly pleasing at Christ Church and Union Church.

THE Duke of York has accepted from a resident of Cork a thousand packets of shamrock seed, which will be sown upon the graves of Irish soldiers in South Africa.

THE six-year-old grandchild of Prince von Hohenlohe, the German Imperial Chancellor, has been bitten by a mad dog at Cannes and was sent to the Pasteur Institute for treatment.

THE German Emperor has given his brother, Prince Henry of Prussia, six months' leave of absence from naval duties, after which period his Royal Highness is to be given a post on land.

THE severest snowstorm known in Austria for many years began on March 30. The streets of Vienna were impassable. Provisions ran short in many parts of Austria and on March 31st railway service ceased entirely.

SELDOM has Yokohama witnessed a more successful extravaganza than that of "Blue-beard," given at the Public Hall on Thursday. Pretty music, charming dancing, and clever acting made the evening thoroughly enjoyable.

IN the University regatta held on the Sumida-gawa on Saturday, the Championship flag was won by the crew sent by the Medical College; Law and Engineering making but a poor bid for the honour.

OFFICIAL notification has been received in Manila, but not as yet published, that the Eighth Army Corps is to cease to exist, and that the military forces of the United States in the Philippines are to constitute a separate department to be known as the Department of the Philippines.

THE news from South Africa is meagre this week. Lord Roberts has been criticising severely the tactics of Generals Buller, Warren, and Thorneycroft before Ladysmith. The seige of Wepener has been raised. Mafeking still holds out. Sir Charles Warren has been recalled.

QUEEN VICTORIA cabled to Lord Roberts asking him to convey to Mrs. Joubert, widow of General Joubert, her sympathy at the loss of her husband, and to tell her that the British people always regarded the dead General as a gallant soldier and honorable foeman. The captured British officers sent a handsome wreath.

SUNDAY was the great cherry-viewing day in Tokyo and the public parks were crowded. With reference to the affair the following police-statistics for the day are interesting:—Asakusa—drunken men, 87; missing children, 47; fights, 11; pickpockets arrested, 2. Honjo—drunken men, 205; missing children, 14; fights, 96 (severe injuries, 6); pickpockets, 2; other misdemeanours, 10.

THE *Jiji* give some figures with regard to the number of convicts sentenced to death during the past three years. The total, it remarks, did not exceed 3 males in 1897, 2 males and 1 female in 1898, and 3 males and 2 females in 1899. This year the figure had already reached 5 up to the end of last month, while 11 more are under sentence of death.

DR. STAINER'S sacred meditation, "The Crucifixion," was given at the close of Evening Prayer on Good Friday by the choir of Christ Church. The beautiful music was charmingly rendered under the skilful direction of Mr. W. Karl Vincent, Organist of the Church. The solos were taken by Mr. H. E. Hayward and Mr. S. H. Somerton. The quartet was particularly well sung.

Truth hears that the dispute between the British Treasury and the representatives of the late Duke of Westminster has been settled, and the case will not go into the law courts, the result being that death duty will now have to be paid upon the whole of his real and personal property. It is estimated that upwards of a million sterling will have to be paid by the new Duke in respect of the duty on the settled estates in Middlesex and Cheshire.

A FIRE occurred in the library of the Vatican at the end of March and it was almost by a miracle that a quantity of ancient books and documents of great value were saved from destruction. The fire originated in the chimney of a room occupied by one of the night watchmen, who gave the alarm, calling the papal guard and city fire department. After considerable effort the fire was finally quenched, although not until much damage had been done by smoke and water.

MESSRS. C. ILLIES & Co., the local Agents of the United States and China-Japan Steamship Line, have received a telegram stating that the steamer *Verona*, of the above named line, from New York to Japan, sprang a leak which necessitated her being beached near Suez to save her from foundering. The steamer is now in drydock at Suez, and is expected to be able to continue the voyage ont he 5th proximo. The cargo is reported to be considerably damaged, but no particulars have as yet reached the local office.

ONE of the oldest residents of Yokohama, Mr. E. Whittall, died on Saturday morning at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. V. Blad. Mr. Whittall, who was in his sixty-ninth year, came to the East at a very early age. He was for some years in China, and was afterwards chief of the Yokohama branch of the firm of Jardine, Matheson, and Company. He retired to carry on business on his own account. He had been ill about a year.

ACCORDING to the *Yomiuri* the number of fires in the capital from January to March this year, as compared with last year, was as follows:—

	1900.	1899.
January	22	42
February	29	26
March	36	29

The comparative figures as to houses destroyed are as follows—January, 18 and 54; February, 72 and 20; March, 46 and 90.

JUDGE Wilkinson, while passing through Chicago on his way to England, was pounced upon by the reporters of the city. To the representatives of the *Record* he is reported to have said:—"It is an open question whether or not the new court system in Japan was not inaugurated too soon. The law of Japan is derived largely from the French and German codes, which are not as adaptable to the Japanese uses, and especially with reference to English and American subjects, as would have been English common law."

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Sunday, April 15.

The communication addressed by the Boers to Portugal with respect to the passage of British troops through Beira is an interesting development of international law. England's case—which obviously has Portugal's endorsement—is that the Beira route gives access to British territories, not to Boer territories. Any attempt to move English troops from Lourenzo Marquez against the Transvaal would be an obvious violation of Portugal's neutrality. But in the case of Beira the troops are carried into British territory—Rhodesia—and if from thence they operate for either defensive or offensive purposes against the Transvaal, Portugal has no responsibility. It would certainly be a most unfriendly act on the part of the Portuguese Government to close to Great Britain a railway having no *raison d'etre* except the fact that it communicates with a town in an English Colony. Such procedure would amount to saying that Portugal refuses to allow the English to pass to their own dominions along a road ordinarily used by them. At the same time, there is no denying that the Boers have some ground for a protest. Their contention doubtless is that the passage of the British troops is plainly connected with the war; that they are, in fact, destined for operations against the Transvaal in some form or other, and that they would be ruled out of the campaign in that district if they could not penetrate to Rhodesia through Portuguese territory. We must assume that the question has already been considered in all its bearings by Great Britain and Portugal, but it is a question of capital importance, and we await the issue with much curiosity. We have already stated our reasons for thinking that the Beira route, if accessible, will prove of very great value to England.

Thursday, April 19.

It appears to us that the defence of Wepener will stand out as one of the most brilliant exploits of the War. Two thousand Boers sat down before the place on April 8th, and thereafter their number was steadily increased until it reached probably six or seven thousand. Colonel Dalgety, who commanded the British detachment, had from five hundred to six hundred men, and it is very improbable that he had thrown up any intrenchments prior to the investment. He nevertheless managed to hold out for eight or nine days, and finally the Boers seem to have beat a retreat, being warned of the approach of relieving forces. The odds against the Englishman were at least as great as those against Cronje on the Modder; namely, ten to one. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether Roberts' had more than twenty-five thousand men to attack Cronje's four thousand. But even supposing the odds to have been equal, Dalgety's feat is much the finer of the two, for that a force of six or seven thousand should compel five or six hundred to surrender is incomparably easier than that a force of thirty thousand should force the surrender of four thousand. The reason is simple. Four thousand men can deliver a volume of fire ample to hold off a very powerful attacking column, whereas the fire of five or six hundred men is comparatively insignificant, and should be insufficient to deter resolute assault. Moreover, five or six hundred men holding a position against six or seven thousand can take scarcely any rest. They must always be on the *qui vive*; always ready to repel an assault. Four thousand, on the other hand, are sufficiently numerous to relieve each other. Dalgety's losses, too, appear to have been far heavier than those of the Boers on the Modder. During the first six days of the attack, he had 18 killed and 132 wounded—a total of 150 out of six hundred, or 25 per cent. At the same rate Cronje should have lost a thousand, whereas his casualties do not appear to have aggregated even one half of that number. It is very unlikely, in fine, that Dalgety's detachment is supplied with medical aid to meet such an emergency. How his wounded have fared we do not like to think. Even the question of provisions may well have tried him severely, and he must have used his ammunition with remarkable judgment. Altogether he and his men have covered themselves with honour.

LAND TAX.

In Japan a land-owner pays a tax of 3⅓ per cent. of the assessed value of his land. He may not derive any income at all from the land. There may be a mortgage on it to the full extent of its value. Still, he has to pay as though the whole thing belonged to him. For example, *A* buys a plot of land for a hundred thousand *yen*, of which he puts up twenty thousand himself and borrows eighty thousand from *B*, giving a mortgage on the property. Nevertheless, *A* has to pay the full tax on the land just as though there were no mortgage, and *B* pays income tax on the interest of the money he has lent to *A*. Suppose, further, that *A* sub-lets the land so as to obtain a certain return from it yearly. Then he pays income tax on the whole of the rents collected, although a large part of them may have to be handed over to *B* as interest on the mortgage. So at least we read the law. But in truth this question of mortgages has perplexed legislators everywhere. We observe that it is provoking a great deal of discussion in America now. Some influential financiers of New York propose that a special annual tax of one-half of one per cent. shall be imposed on mortgages; but others contend that since the owner of the land has already to pay a tax assessed as though there were no mortgage, it can not possibly be fair to tax the mortgagee also. For example, if the land is worth ten thousand dollars, and has been bought for that amount, its new owner paying four thousand and borrowing six, then he has to pay tax on ten thousand, and if the lender has also to pay a tax on the mortgage, it follows that the land is taxed on the basis of a value of sixteen thousand dollars, which is obviously absurd. But let us see how things work in Japan. *A* buys a lot of land for ten thousand *yen*, borrowing eight thousand from *B* for the purpose. Then he borrows ten thousand from *C* and builds houses on the land, letting them for two thousand *yen* annually. What are the taxes? There is first the land tax on ten thousand *yen* worth of land; there is, secondly, an income tax on the interest accruing from *B*'s loan of six thousand; there is, thirdly, an income tax payable by *A* on the rents he collects; and there is, fourthly, an income tax payable by *C* on the interest he receives. Of course, the really just plan would be that *A* should pay two-fifths of the land tax and *B* three-fifths, and that *A* should pay income tax on only the residue of the rents after deducting the interest to *C*. That would be what is called taxing the equities, but unfortunately it has been found impracticable.

FINANCIAL.

Mr. Sakatani, of the Finance Department, who seems to be preeminent among Japanese officials for his clear ideas as to the country's fiscal condition, has explained that the revenue actually collected during the financial year just (March 31st) concluded, did not by any means fall short of the estimates to the extent anticipated by a section of the public. Exact figures will not be obtained before the end of July, but it is now possible to say that the actual receipts will not be more than a million *yen*, approximately, below the estimates. In four items the estimates proved over-sanguine, namely, land tax, customs dues, tobacco monopoly, and telegraphs. As for the land tax, climatic conditions were responsible, and these, of course, could not have been foreseen. In the case of the customs dues, imports made in 1898 in anticipation of the action of the new tariff were doubtless responsible. The falling off in the tobacco revenue resulted from a bad crop, owing to inclement weather, and a consequent decline in prices, the quality of the leaf being inferior. It can scarcely be said that the monopoly system is yet in full working order. Telegraphs yielded a considerably reduced revenue, but as the diminution was largely in connexion with foreign messages—so, at least, we interpret Mr. Sakatani, but he is somewhat obscurely reported at this stage—the country's assets did not suffer much. On the other hand, the returns from posts, income tax, stamp tax, and forests all showed increases. Thus the posts yielded a revenue 1,700,000 *yen* above the estimates, and thus the reduction of 2½ millions on the telegraph side was brought down to 800,000 *yen*. In the items of income tax, stamp duties, and forests and moors, the surpluses were 770,000 *yen*, 2,000,000 *yen*, and 1,200,000 *yen* respectively. On the whole, therefore, the record is not bad, but Mr. Sakatani justly observes that it is not altogether satisfactory to have to devote surpluses in certain sections to the purpose of filling up deficiencies in others, instead of using the former to pay off national debts.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS AND CORRUPTION.

The charges of corruption brought by the *Asahi Shimbun* against certain members of the House of Peers in connection with the Religions Bill have naturally caused indignation. Many of the nobles, as well as of the Imperial nominees sitting in the House, are strongly of the opinion that such accusations should not be suffered to pass unnoticed, and that legal action should be taken, for the purpose of either convicting or vindicating the accused. The *Sawa-kai* (or *Chawa-kai*) section of the House is making itself conspicuous in this crusade for publicity, and one of its associates, Mr. Nango, formerly in the Navy, a gentlemen of the highest reputation, is said to be particularly active in insisting that the House can not possibly allow the matter to remain uninvestigated. On the other hand, the members against whom the charges have been brought—we omit their names—are said to be endeavouring, with the aid of their friends, to create an impression that these demands for investigation are dictated, not by any honest desire to clear the reputation of the Peers, but by political scheming, which has for its objects the discrediting of the *Kenkyu-kai* section of the House to which the accused belong. It is scarcely necessary to observe that no well-informed person could suppose Mr. Nango to be associated with a political scheme of any kind.

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RUSSIA IN KOREA AND ELSEWHERE.

Russia is unfortunate at present in being the object of a great deal of attention and talk. If it be quite true that, in the interests of peace and amity, she withdrew her recent demands in Korea, she deserves much credit. But surely it would have been wiser to abstain altogether from making such demands if their satisfaction was not imperative or essential? There never could have been the slightest doubt about the reception accorded to them in Sōul and Tokyo alike. It is impossible that Japan should quietly acquiesce in the establishment of a Russian naval station on the southern coast of Korea. The most trivial estimate of her own safety must peremptorily forbid anything of the kind. She would be behaving with the short-sightedness of stultification if she adopted such a policy. The Russian Government does not labour under the smallest apprehension upon that subject, nor can ever have laboured under any apprehension. Of what use, then, the recent demand for a lease of land outside treaty limits at Masampho, and the subsequent demand for a guarantee that no part of the island of Koje should be alienated at any time in the future? As to the latter proposal, there is the shallow argument that if the guarantee be interpreted absolutely, it excludes Russia in common with all other States. But does any one pretend to think that guarantees of the kind are interpreted in that sense now-a-days? The guarantee obtained from China by England with regard to the Yangtsze Valley does not provide against alienation to any Power except England. There is no exception. So far as the letter of the guarantee is concerned, England participates in the common exclusion. Yet there is not an Englishman who does not regard the Yangtze valley as his country's sphere of influence in China. A guarantee of non-alienation given to one particular foreign State, invests in that State a special title to the guaranteed property whatever the exact nature of the title may be. That proposition is not to be denied. No rational person will think of denying it. Hence Russia's demand that the perpetual integrity of Koje island should be guaranteed, is nothing less than a method of ear-marking that portion of Korean territory, and no Japanese could be induced to believe, were such a guarantee granted, that Russia had not formulated in her own mind the deliberate intention of planting her foot permanently on Koje island so soon as a convenient occasion offered. The situation thus resolves itself into this, that the Russian Government is proclaiming to the world an intention of acquiring a naval station on the southern coast of Korea sooner or later. The effect of such a proclamation must be most disquieting to Japan, as Russia well knows. For that reason we find her procedure regrettable and apparently ill-judged. It assumes the form of abortive agitation, which creates a general feeling of uneasiness throughout the Orient, and is not calculated, so far as we can perceive, to procure any compensatory advantage whatever for Russia herself. Of course rumour may be entirely wrong in attributing such doings to the great Northern Power, but if that be the case Russian diplomacy has been particularly unfortunate. We have never supposed that Russia can disobey the natural law of expansion. She is still in her growing stage—a very vigorous stage in her case—, and it is probably inevitable that her progress should bring her into collision with some Powers lying in her path. But we have always given her diplomatists credit for seeking to remove factors of friction and elements of alarm. Indeed, her success in achieving great ends with a minimum of disturbance is a remarkable, and in some respects an admirable, spectacle. Her doings in Korea are therefore all the more difficult to understand. They are producing a feeling of deep unrest throughout the Orient, and their results are altogether incommensurate.

Rumour says that Russian officers have been making surveys at Yingkow (Newchwang), measuring and marking spaces, collecting statistics and otherwise behaving as though they harboured proprietary designs. Is there anything strange about that? We do not think so. Nothing that Russia does in Manchuria by way of asserting her ownership can surprise us in the least. If there be any folks who seriously imagine that Manchuria has not become a Russian province, they would greatly interest the public by giving a synopsis of the circumstances under which she is likely to surrender her title. We deem it to be within the range of much less remote possibilities that England should pack her Egyptian portmanteau than that Russia should do anything of the kind in Manchuria. And for the matter of that, it is in the interests of civilization that both Powers should remain where they are.

Disquieting telegrams continue to reach Tokyo from Korea. It is evident that M. Pablov has not desisted from his remarkable activity. He appears to be a gentleman gifted—some might say afflicted—with a superabundant store of energy, and an overwhelming ambition to make a *coup* of some kind. The latest statement is that he has asked to have an official despatched from Sōul in connexion with the purchase of land which he desires to effect at Masampho. There is no precedent for the special despatch of an official on such business, and we can only interpret M. Pablov's request as an indication that he desires to invest the transaction with exceptional significance. Whatever substantial success may attend his efforts, he has at all events succeeded in creating a great commotion. Solid achievements are seldom associated with such displays of vehement zeal. We do not know whether St. Petersburg approves the doings of its Representative, but we have not heard that it disavows them, though as feats of diplomacy they do not appear to rank high in a Russian catalogue.

CAMPHOR MONOPOLY.

Japanese newspapers state that Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company having complied with all the requirements in connexion with the Camphor Monopoly in Formosa, have now taken over seven hundred thousand catties of camphor, representing the stock held by the Authorities from last year, and are commencing to export it. We learn that the condition originally imposed as to the nature of the bonds to be lodged as security has been relaxed. Bonds of the new Formosa Bank were originally designated, but this provision has been changed so as to read that any officially recognised securities will suffice. The change is of much importance. It is stated in this context that Mr. W. F. Mitchell, the able representative of Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company in Japan, will make a journey to England towards the close of May for the purpose of consulting with the heads of the great House as to Japanese enterprise in general.

A MEAN THEFT.

In the last session of the Diet an attempt was made to pass a bill granting a sum of money to the inventors of the *jinrikisha*. Two of the men concerned in the invention are dead, but their sons as well as the third man, Takayama, seem to be worthy objects of public assistance, especially as they derived no pecuniary benefit from the invention and are living in penury. The House of Representatives, however, declined to sanction the proposed grant. Thereafter steps were taken to approach the Imperial Household Department, with the result that a present of 200 *yen* was made to each of the three men, or, to speak more correctly, was handed to the persons that professed to be acting in their behalf from motives of sweet charity. The sequel of the story is now reported by several Tokyo journals, Beginning, it is said, with Mr. Kobayashi, a member of the Diet for Ibaraki Prefecture, all those concerned in the affair helped themselves to a liberal share of the money, until finally Takayama and the sons of the inventors found themselves with a sum of ten or twelve *yen* each, plus the wrapper and parti-coloured twine that had enclosed the Imperial gift. There is a corollary about a memorial tablet for which subscriptions are to be solicited by the men that "managed" this affair, but the gist of the matter is that the Emperor's money was almost entirely stolen *en route* to the indigent folks for whom it was intended. If the tale be true, these wretched thieves ought to be hounded out of society.

TOKYO.

The Tokyo Municipality has decided, it is said, to raise a loan of seven million *yen*, for the purpose of rapidly carrying out certain improvements in the matter of roads, drains, and bridges, instead of proceeding by the slow process of small annual appropriations. The loan will bear interest of 6 per cent., and will be paid off at the rate of 450,000 *yen* annually, that sum being taken from the City Improvement fund.

The question of Street Railways is again upon the *tapis*, and most conflicting accounts are given as to the attitude of the authorities. The *Kokumin Shimbun*, which can generally be trusted to speak accurately, alleges that, at a meeting held two days ago, the Cabinet decided to give the charter to the Three Companies Union (*Sampa Godo*), some additional conditions being, however, imposed, which conditions are not yet definitely drafted. The *Mainichi Shimbun*, on the other hand, declares that Marquis Yamagata has officially announced his resolve not to grant the charter under any circumstances to a private company. This announcement is said to have been made through the Marquis' Private Secretary, Count Hirosawa, in answer to a deputation of gentlemen representing the Tokyo Municipality. The editor of the *Mainichi Shimbun* has always been a staunch advocate of granting the charter to the City, not to a private company, especially a company headed by his political opponents. His hopes, therefore, may have coloured his information in this instance. Yet it is hard to understand how two important journals can have received information so utterly contradictory. Nothing is more desirable than that this question should be quickly settled. It is becoming quite a burlesque.

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MARQUIS ITO.

Marquis Ito, speaking in Osaka, said something which will not be pleasant hearing to the politicians of the time. He charged them with being swayed chiefly by personal ambition—ambition for fame or ambition for money—, and he observed that, if they were really so anxious to amass wealth, they would be more likely to attain their object by becoming clerks, bankers, or manufacturers. He further remarked that any one aspiring to be an administrative statesman should have a knowledge of all branches of the administration. It would not do to know finance or local government only, and to have nothing to say when such topics as the army and the navy came upon the *tapis*. The days were past when a statesman might blindly place his signature on a document.

The Marquis spoke very plainly about the present cabinet also. He expressed the highest opinion of Marquis Yamagata's courage, integrity, and singleness of purpose; he declared that the cabinet was thoroughly united, and he declined to foresee any probability of its yielding to the demand of the Liberal leaders for portfolios. Administrators of State affairs did not repose on a bed of roses. The present Cabinet would gladly resign office at any time if it saw competent successors offer themselves. But the country did not want another *Kensei-to* Cabinet. As for the Diet, the Marquis could say little in its favour. Not more than one-third of the original members now retained their seats. Could it be said that the successive changes had been accompanied by improvements? Rather the contrary. Probably the next elections would see some good men returned under the operation of the new law. In the meanwhile, the Marquis saw little hope of any radical reform of political parties. Finally, he did not anticipate the dissolution of the Diet next session even though the Cabinet and the Liberals should fall out. The House of Representatives could not have any desire for dissolution.

RUSSO-JAPANESE RELATIONS.

A few months ago London received an impression that the relations between Japan and Russia were strained to breaking point. Shanghai now seems to labour under a similar misapprehension. The *North China Daily News* says:—

> There is a very general feeling, induced by numberless indications, some more, some less serious, that the relations between Russia and Japan will soon become so strained that war between the two countries will result. Russia has been hurrying out troops and munitions to the East for the last few months with ceaseless activity, and with them have come ambulance corps, nurses, and doctors, as though preparations were being made for an immediate campaign, the pretext being that the plague was the enemy they were sent to combat. Japan has been hurrying on the completion of her men-of-war in European dockyards, and importing munitions of war of all kinds with feverish activity. The preparations for supplying an army in the field have been going on energetically in her arsenals; and very extensive naval manœuvres are just about to take place in which the ships engaged, comprising the greater portion of Japan's fleet, are to be manned, armed, and provisioned as if for actual war. The naval reserves have been called out, a step that has never been taken at any previous manœuvres. All Japanese steamship owners have been ordered to send in a return of the number of passengers their steamers can carry. Finally, we learn that "two prominent American journals have sent a staff of correspondents and artists to Japan to be ready when hostilities begin."

Though apparently crediting all these assertions, our contemporary is careful to say that there is no certainty of war's breaking out this spring. Perhaps it may be well to point out, for the sake of persons disposed to lend credit to such rumours, that the greater part of the "indications" marshalled by the Shanghai journal are quite untrustworthy.

We do not pretend to deny or confirm any of the statements about Russia, but we do claim some knowledge of what is going on in Japan, and we therefore venture to make the following comments. Japan has not been "hurrying on the completion of her men-of-war in European dockyards." Japan has not been "importing munitions of war of all kinds with feverish activity." The "preparations for supplying an army in the field" have not been going on with any unusual energy in her arsenals, and, as for the naval manœuvres, they were planned last autumn, months before any of the "indications" catalogued by the Shanghai journal presented themselves to the imagination of any one. There remain thus two items out of the whole list. The first is that a return of the passenger accommodation possessed by the steamers of Japanese companies has been called for, which may or may not be true; the second that "two prominent American journals have sent out a staff of correspondents and artists to Japan to be ready when hostilities begin," a small part of which is true, we believe. Of such materials are war scares composed!

"ROMAJI."

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has an excellent article insisting on the unpractical and cumbersome character of the Chinese ideographs. It ridicules the idea that any sanctity attaches to the ideographs, and declares that many of the words formed with them as equivalents for terms in modern science and philosophy do not convey any clear idea to persons unacquainted with the original, while many indigenous Japanese words have to be written with characters which a Chinaman could not possibly interpret in the sense given to them by the Japanese. The *Nichi Nichi* alludes also to the strange argument of Mr. Nishimura Shigeki, an ex-member of the Privy Council, who challenges the advocates of the *Romaji* to indite with it an imperial rescript which shall secure the respect of the people. Mr. Nishimura's conception of the Japanese nation's mood towards the Throne must be very singular if he imagines that the Emperor's Rescripts would not be respected were they not written with Chinese ideographs. At the same time, we (*Japan Mail*) desire to propound a query to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. It is this—could the contents of its own leading columns be intelligibly transcribed in *Romaji*? The *Nichi Nichi* has the good fortune to be edited by a gentleman gifted with exceptional literary facility. We think we shall be borne out by all competent judges when we say that its leading articles reach a higher standard of literary excellence than those of any other journal published in Japan, the *Nippon* not excepted. But, at the same time, they make the largest drafts upon Chinese expressions and Chinese scholarship, and in nine cases out of every ten they are unintelligible when rendered phonetically. Why does the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, while advocating the abolition of the ideograph and the substitution of the *Romaji*—why does it adopt, in its own editorial columns, a style eminently calculated to demonstrate the difficulty of such a substitution? The continued use of the ideographs has begotten a special language which depends mainly on the ideographs for its intelligibility. The first step towards the abolition of the ideographs must be the abandonment of that special language, and it is here that we find our contemporary's practice at variance with its professions.

BANK OF JAPAN AND RATE OF INTEREST.

The Bank of Japan has again raised its rate of interest by 2 *rin* daily, so that the rate now stands at 9.49 per annum. The specie reserve is said to have fallen to 90 million *yen*, and, the issue of bank notes having reached the normal limit without any appearance of a falling off in the demand, the volume will now begin to pass the limit. Count Matsukata, speaking on this subject, is represented as having taken a somewhat gloomy view. His Excellency notes that during the first half of the present month imports exceeded exports by 12 million *yen* approximately, so that the total excess since the 1st of January is now 45 million *yen*. The Bank of Japan has consequently been obliged to raise its rate of interest again, and the question arises, what hope is there of the balance of trade's becoming redressed? Silk is the staple upon which Japan depends chiefly. But there is little prospect of the export of silk reaching such a figure as it did last year, when the approach of the Paris Exhibition created an extraordinary demand. European purchases are more likely to show a falling off this year, and experience shows that America is always a comparatively bad customer during the year of the Presidential election. From every point of view, therefore, silk can not be regarded with any confidence. Hence the quality of the rice crop assumes paramount importance. If the weather prove unfavourable, so that a large quantity of rice has to be imported, things will be serious.

THE SANITARY BUREAU.

An extraordinary story is published by the *Nippon*, to the effect that remonstrances have been addressed to the Sanitary Bureau by the Foreign Representatives, notably the United States Minister, on the ground that the recrudescence of the pest in Osaka was concealed from the public. The American Representative is supposed to have declared that such action on the part of the Bureau deprived his nationals of all confidence in Japanese officialdom, and exposed them to undue risks. The *Nippon* concludes by recommending Dr. Hasegawa, the head of the Bureau, to resign gracefully. It is scarcely conceivable that the *Nippon* can credit this story, or be so very naïve as to imagine that the United States Minister could take such a course. Dr. Hasegawa is not likely to feel the effects of any castigation with a stick so unsubstantial.

ECHIGO KEROSENE.

Some of the Echigo Kerosene Companies have declared fine dividends; e.g. the Takurada Company, 48 per cent.; the Zoo Company, 44 per cent.; the Takatsu-ya Company, 60 per cent., and so on. It is rumoured, however, that much of this Echigo petroleum is of exceedingly inferior quality, its flashing point being only some 65° or 70°, against 125° in the case of imported oil. We presume that the question has received official attention, for there can be no second opinion about the terrible danger of using oil so easily combustible. It is not impossible that some of the recent conflagrations have been due to the employment of Echigo oil.

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COUNT OKUMA ON FINANCE.

Count Okuma delivered an interesting lecture on Japanese finance in the Osaka Club on the 14th instant. He cited the various theories advanced by economists to account for what they regard as an unsatisfactory state of business affairs; the theories that extravagant expenditure in the sequel of the war is responsible; that the people are deficient in the efficient spirit of saving; that the excess of imports is impoverishing the country; that the gold standard is operating injuriously; that the duties on foreign manufactures are insufficient; that the large demands made upon the working population by the increased conscription is crippling the nation's productive capacities; that there is an absence of ability to form working combinations; that capital is too much divided, and so on. The Count did not deny that these various theories may have more or less to recommend them, but it was evident that he attached little importance to any of them. His view is that there is nothing to complain of; that things are going on very well; that the nation is prosperous; that its wealth has increased immensely during the past twenty years; that its manufacturing development is progressing quite as rapidly as can reasonably be expected; that the people are shrewd enough to manage their own affairs; that the steps taken by the Bank of Japan to raise its rate of interest in order to prevent the outflow of gold are quite illusory, since there is no such connexion between the money markets of Japan and the Occident as would enable such an operation to produce a sensible effect; that the people are quite capable of forming combinations if they see their account in doing so; and, in fine, that no artificial interference of any kind is needed, the wise course for financiers and statesmen being to refrain from meddling. The Count does not think that the time has come for trusts in Japan: she has yet to go through a long apprenticeship. People whose cupidity is excited by the spectacle of the results that trusts produce in America had better recall the advice of Mencius, "don't gloat over fish in a river but go home and make a net."

SLUMP IN SECURITIES.

There has been an extraordinary slump in Japanese securities, a slump both sharp and sudden. The following figures show the quotations of various important stocks on two consecutive days for deliveries in June:—

Name of Stock.	Quotation on the 17th instant.	Quotation on the 18th instant.	Fall.
Nippon Railway.....	72.90	70.70	2.20
Sanyo Railway	55.60	54.20	1.40
Kwansei Railway	42.60	41.00	1.60
Kyushu Railway.....	56.40	54.50	1.90
Tanko Railway	89.60	86.20	3.40
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	64.60	62.70	1.90
Toyo Kisen Kaisha	26.70	25.80	.90
Kanegafuchi Spinning	50.20	47.30	2.90
Rice Exchange	144.50	141.50	3.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange.....	182.50	175.50	7.00

This movement is attributed to the action of the Bank of Japan in raising its rate of interest, but the explanation seems scarcely sufficient. Undoubtedly there is a feeling of considerable uneasiness in the air, caused chiefly by the course of the country's foreign trade. Up to the middle of April, imports exceeded exports by 44 million *yen*, and the outflow of specie amounted to 14 millions, while, at the same time, there was an actual diminution on the export side to the extent of 3,200,000 *yen*. The statements attributed to Count Matsukata as to the prospects of the market for silk abroad and the importance attaching to a good rice harvest this year, have doubtless contributed to the alarm. The *Kokumin Shimbun* has an article on the subject, the writer of which lays much stress on the defects of Japanese methods of manufacture, and on the speculative spirit that leads men to look to temporary and rapid gains rather than to permanent and solid advantages. But for our own part, while we fully agree that there is immense room for improvement in that respect, as has often been pointed out in these columns by Englishmen of experience and competence, we really fail to see why the nation should be perturbed because it finds itself in a buying mood. People that make purchases are usually in a condition to do so; in other words, they have money to spend. We should not feel in the least alarmed though the specie reserves of the Bank of Japan fell to 70 million *yen*. When foreign products, raw or manufactured, are not required as largely as they are at present, the demand for them will decline. But in that day if it becomes apparent that lack of money—which after all, is quite useless except as a medium of exchange—drives the country to sell its goods and to refrain from buying others in their place, we shall be inclined to say that the time of real adversity has arrived. There would be nothing perturbing in the present situation had not Japan joined in the almost universal scramble for gold. She now feels it to be a vital necessity to cling to those piles of yellow bars stored in the vaults of the Bank of Japan. An altogether factitious value attaches to them in consequence of the insupportable strain that has been thrown upon gold by the world's irrational attitude towards it.

KUSUNOKI MASASHIGE.

The experts of the Fine Arts School in Tokyo have just completed a bronze statue of the celebrated soldier and loyalist, Kusunoki Masashige. The statue weighs 250lbs. and the intention is to erect it in the space opposite to Niju-bashi in Tokyo. We do not know what guides the modellers had for re-producing Masashige's figure and features. History, so far as we are aware, says very little on the subject, and although one wooden statue at least is believed to exist, purporting to be a likeness, it can scarcely claim a right to much reliance. However, it is an indisputable fact that the modern Japanese have succeeded remarkably in applying the skill of their ancestral metal workers to the requirements of the new school. Masashige's statue will doubtless add to their reputation.

BALL AT THE CHINESE LEGATION.

A most enjoyable ball was given by His Excellency Mr. Li, the Chinese Minister, on Wednesday evening. The salons of the Legation in Nagatacho were tastefully decorated for the occasion, and nothing could have been better than the arrangements of every nature. After supper, which was served in the upper storey, a cotillon was danced, the very original and valuable character of the favours adding not a little to the pleasure. The music was supplied by the Imperial Band, and owing to the presence of a number of French, American, and British naval officers from the ships now lying in Yokohama, dancing was kept up with unusual spirit until past 2 o'clock.

KANG YU-WEI.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo's* special correspondent, Kang Yu-wei has not left Hongkong. He made a pretence of leaving—actually went on board a steamer bound for Singapore and left the harbour in her, but he ultimately returned by the pilot's launch and is now lying *perdu* in the colony. The same authority further alleges that the uniforms ordered by Kang in Hongkong had on the breast of the tunic the legend "Honour the Sovereign, work for the country," and that when the news of this fact reached the Empress Dowager, she tearfully drew the attention of the Emperor—who happened to be present—to the words "Honour the Sovereign." Rumour adds that twenty-eight thousand stand of small arms have been imported at Macao to Chinese order, but whether the weapons are for Kang Yu-wei or for the Canton rebels does not seem to be known. We observe that our contemporary's correspondent endorses the opinion expressed by other writers in Chinese treaty-port journals, namely, that the *I Ho-Chüan*, or Shantung rebels, are not in any sense hostile to the Peking authorities. Their whole object is to oust the foreigner and extirpate Christianity. There is, therefore, a tendency in the capital to treat these insurgents gently, for it need scarcely be said that the reactionary party in Peking, headed by Jung-lu, Kang-yc, and the Heir Apparent's tutor, Hsü Tung, sympathise with everything anti-foreign.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The Russian men-of-war are reported to have left Chemulpho for Port Arthur.

The bridge over the Han River on the Sōul-Chemulpo Railway will be completed, it is expected, by the end of July, and will be opened for traffic at the end of September.

It is stated that sites have been selected for the terminal stations of the Sōul-Fusan Railway, and that they have been marked out with stone pillars, the consent of the Korean authorities having been duly obtained.

There is some talk of unrest in Korea. Insurrection has raised its head in Chollado and troops have been sent to quell it. The little empire has enjoyed an unusual spell of quiet. The record would be spoiled if something did not happen soon.

According to a telegram published by the *Jiji Shimpo*, Russia has concluded a secret treaty with Korea, pledging the latter not to alienate any part of Koje island to a foreign Power. The treaty is said to contain other clauses which have not been made public.

A company has been formed in Korea which in Japan goes by the name of Kankoku Tetsudo Yotatsu Kaisha, that is to say, a company for carrying on business in connection with railways. Capital is to be supplied from Japanese sources.

The Korean Representative at the Court of Japan, Mr. Li, who is expected to leave Sōul for Tokyo within the next few days, and who will act as his country's special envoy in connexion with the approaching nuptials of the Prince Imperial, is said to be the bearer of grand cordons which the Emperor of Korea is sending to the Emperor of Japan and to the Prince Imperial.

The Korean Government has appointed its Representative at the Court of Japan to be special

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ambassador in connexion with the marriage of the Prince Imperial.

It appears that the statement recently circulated with regard to a second sale of land at Masampho was incorrect. The sale has not taken place. It is fixed for the 30th instant, when 68 lots will be brought under the hammer. The number of lots in the first sale was 35, of which Japanese buyers secured 15 and foreign buyers 20. But all the choice sites were then offered. It is not expected that the competition will be keen at the next sale, and much of the land will probably come into the possession of Chinese subjects.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

It is said that the Emperor has decided to inspect the Naval Manœuvres about the 26th instant. His Majesty will probably visit Yokkaichi and Kobe, and ultimately proceed to the coast of Kiushiu.

It is stated by Tokyo papers that an action for assault and battery has been brought by a Japanese woman, Yasuda Kisa, aged 22, against the manager of Messrs. Moutrie and Company. The maid-servant claims to have been badly beaten, and even thrown down-stairs.

The ceremony of unveiling bronze statues of the late Prince Mori Keishin (Chiusei-ko), and four representatives of branch houses of nobility, took place on the 15th instant at Yamaguchi, Marquis Ito being the principal officiator and Count Inouye assisting. In spite of somewhat inclement weather a great crowd assembled, and the ceremony seems to have passed off most successfully.

The last, or seventh, issue of the Industrial Bank's premium bonds has not proved a success. The sum to be raised was two million *yen*, but only a million and a half has been subscribed, and the Bank itself will have to take up the remainder. With such rates of interest as those now ruling in the open market, five-per-cent. bonds, even though they carry a chance in a lottery, are not good enough to be tempting.

The latest argument in favour of abolishing the ideographs is advanced by the *Jiji Shimpo*, which says that the doctrine of Confucianism is inculcated insensibly in the process of teaching Chinese characters. It adduces some illustrations from the standard books used in the Middle Schools. It is evident that the ideographs are doomed. Nearly all the influential publicists of Japan are gradually joining in the attack on them.

Hokkaido is said to be extraordinarily prosperous this year. What with the gold fields, the fine take of herrings, and the anxiety to make the most of the Saghalien fisheries while the opportunity holds, things are booming. Some Tokyo journals, however, allege that the accounts of the herring fisheries must be discounted: there is probably a great deal of exaggeration in order to draw on the capitalists who give accommodation to the fishers every season.

The *Jimmin* gives an abstract of an agreement said to have been concluded between the representatives of the Tsukushi (Chikuzen-Chikugo) Railway and Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Company. The British firm is to supply material to the extent of a million and a half of *yen*, ten per cent. of the cost being paid over at once, and the remainder in installments spread over a year and a half, or three years should such an extension prove convenient in the interests of the Company. The engagement to pay is to be endorsed by either the Specie Bank or the Mitsui Bank. That appears to be a very practical manner of bringing foreign capital within reach of the Japanese.

The *Jiji Shimpo* strongly recommends the Prefectural Authorities of Tokyo, Kobe, and Nagasaki to follow the example of Governor Asada of Kanagawa, by issuing regulations for the control of guides. Our contemporary justly remarks that the chicaneries practised by these men on the unsuspecting stranger are injuring Japan's reputation and turning away the tide of tourists from her shores. This is a subject to which we drew attention years ago. Recognition of the abuses in question led to the organization of the *Kōhinkai* (Welcome Society), which has certainly contributed greatly to the comfort of tourists.

It is alleged that the Liberal leaders have proposed to the Ministry one of two courses: either that portfolios should be given to some of their number or that the Cabinet Ministers should enter the Party. The matter has been discussed in a perfectly amicable spirit, and Marquis Yamagata is said to have replied that no definite answer could be made pending the Prince Imperial's Wedding, but that due consideration would be given to the question. We can not, of course, vouch for the correctness of these rumours, but that some *pour-parlers* have taken place can scarcely be doubted.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha must have a heavy bill to pay for casualties every year. It seems to be very unfortunate. Another accident is reported. The *Miyashima* (1,200 tons), entering Kagoshima from Formosa on the 13th instant, ran into a man-of-war, the *Kasagi*, one of the new cruisers built in America, and barely escaped sinking by being beached. Most her cargo will be a total loss, it is said. The conjecture is that, owing to the Naval Manœuvres, the port was more crowded with war-vessels than usual.

The pest seems to have made its appearance again in Osaka. Two cases are reported, one of them a boy of nine, the other a youth of nineteen. The latter case has ended fatally. It does not seem to be quite certain, however, whether the disease is really pest, though the symptoms all point in that direction. There has not been any abatement of precautions in Osaka. Fully a hundred physicians have been constantly performing medical examinations and looking after the sanitation of the city. But it is probable that the germs of the disease were never completely eliminated.

The six principal emigration companies of Japan have just held their spring meeting in the Imperial Hotel, and have adopted various measures for promoting their business. They are said to have obtained official permission to increase the amount of security lodged by them, in order to exclude irresponsible enterprise. Apparently they do not anticipate any diminution of the demand for Japanese labour in Hawaii owing to the passing of the islands under American jurisdiction. They propose to leave in the hands of Hawaiian employers the sum of $350,000 already deposited with them.

Led by the Higashi Hongwan-ji, the Buddhist sects—the Nishi Hongwan-ji excepted—have decided that delegates shall be sent to welcome the relics of Shaka, which are to be despatched from Siam in a short time. A sum of two hundred thousand *yen* is to be spent on organizing a fitting reception. Count Otani (Koyen), the new High Prelate, will be the chief of the committee of welcome, and among his colleagues will be the celebrated priest, Nanyo Bunyu. The project excites some ridicule. It is declared that the money is to be chiefly spent on amusements for the priests. The bump of reverence is not strongly developed on the skulls of all Japanese.

A telegram from Aomori announces that on the 18th instant a considerable portion of the railway embankment between Nobechi and Otsutomo gave way, and a train was derailed. Traffic does not seem to have been yet restored. No casualties to life or limb are reported.

Marquis Ito, according to statements attributed to him by the *Chiio Shimbun*, has lost his faith in the probabilities of China's integrity being preserved. The Manchu Government is going from bad to worse, his Excellency thinks, and all hope of seeing it adopt an intelligent remedy must be abandoned. The more the pity, for—we still quote—a little enlightened and resolute statesmanship could still save the situation. Marquis Ito has always been a believer in his friend Li Hung-chang. But he seems to think now that Li's day is passed.

The first-class line-of-battle ship *Asahi*, constructed at Elswick to order of the Japanese Government, has been duly taken over by Captain Misu and the crew sent to England to bring her out. A telegram dated the 12th instant says that the transfer was completed on that day, and that the ship is now lying at Southampton.

The torpedo-destroyer *Oboro* reached Hongkong on the 13th instant, *en route* for Japan.

The first-class line-of-battle ship *Shikishima* passed Sada-no-misaki on the 16th instant at 12.06 a.m., and doubtless reached Saseho on the same day.

Two hundred and fifty Yokohama carpenters whose business is to make the fittings of houses, foreign and Japanese, struck work some time ago, their grievance being that they wanted their daily wage raised from 70 *sen* to 85 *sen* all round. Their forty-seven employers naturally objected that the rate of pay must depend upon individual skill, and it is stated that the men would not have held out had not one employer, Mr. Tanabe Daigoro, separated himself from the rest, and offered to employ the whole of the men at their own rate. The present situation is that the other employers are said to be contemplating legal action against Mr. Tanabe, but it is difficult to see how the law could be invoked in such a case.

Mr. Kondo Rempei, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, gave a farewell party at his new residence in Sanaizaka-machi, Ushigome, Tokyo, on the 15th instant. The guests were their Excellencies Baron d'Anethan, M. Harmand, Count Orfini, Colonel Buck, Sir Ernest Satow, Mr. Kato (Vice-President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha), Mr. Okubo, Vicomte de Bondy, Mr. T. B. Glover, Mr. Yoshitake, Mr. Tsuda, and Captain Brinkley. The house, which is a very beautiful structure in pure Japanese style, has just been finished, and the grounds have been laid out with exquisite taste so as to include in the range of the garden the broad slopes of the castle moats and the grand old trees crowning them, which lie in full view. The entertainment was in strict accord with Japanese fashions, and was enlivened by some excellent dancing and singing.

On the 15th instant two parties of eques-

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trians, numbering twenty-five each, proceeded to view the plum-blossoms at Kogane. They were the Provincial Governors, now assembled in Tokyo for their annual conclave, accompanied by some members of the Imperial Household Department. It appears that this picnic was organized in consequence of a suggestion of the Emperor's. When the Governors had the honour of dining at the Palace a few days ago, His Majesty recommended them to set the example of taking exercise, and they obeyed with alacrity, a visit to Kogane being among the delights of the spring. Two of the equestrians came to grief on the outward-bound voyage and one on the homeward-bound, but they were all able to present themselves at the Palace on their return, and to partake of a stand-up repast, at which the Emperor is said to have expressed lively satisfaction with their proceedings.

What newspapers have to suffer in some parts of the world is illustrated by the following statement :—

The Russian administration in Finland has just introduced some further restrictive and repressive regulations for dealing with the Finnish Press. A fine of 500 marks is be imposed for any attempt to elude a prohibition to publish; the Governor-General is given the right to demand a change of the responsible publishers on pain of suppression of the journal; and a consultative committee on Press affairs, composed of six members and a president appointed by the Governor-General, has been instituted. Furthermore, the Finnish newspapers may not publish Imperial decisions until they have appeared in the Government organs, nor the doings of scientific societies, conferences, public speeches, or commercial affairs without the authority of the Governor-General.

The Finnish Senate has received orders to draw up measures for punishing any infraction of these regulations.

There has been submitted to the Government a proposal which is likely to obtain approval. It is based on the fact that, owing to the uncertainty of the Diet's action towards the Budget from year to year, no work requiring a long time for completion can be safely undertaken. In Hokkaido, however, much of the most important work is of that nature; namely, the making of new roads, the construction of drains, the parcelling out of land, and so on. The proposal therefore is that a sum of 14 million *yen* should be voted at once for such purposes, the money to be appropriated in the form of a continuing fund extending over a period of 10 years. It is not surprising that all persons connected with serious public undertakings should desire to remove them beyond the range of the Diet's caprices.

In consideration of the rapidly swelling volume of the foreign trade transacted at Yokohama, it has been found necessary to elaborate an extensive scheme for increasing the accommodation at the Custom House. The basis of the plan is a work of reclamation which will expose a surface measuring 58,950 *tsubo*. The reclaimed land will not, however, be directly connected with the present foreshore. It will take the form of an island, which will be connected with the shore by means of bridges—one an ordinary iron bridge, sufficiently high to permit the free passage of barges and steam-launches; the other, a swinging bridge. A frontage of 1,820 yards will be obtained towards the sea, and of this a large portion will be prepared so that ships can come right alongside for the purpose of loading or discharging, as there will be 24 feet of water even at the lowest tides. Within the island a space, measuring 360 yards, by 100 yards will be available as a harbour for lighters and steam-launches. It is said that the plans and estimates of the work have been prepared, and that the consent of the Diet will be sought next session.

At their recent meeting in Osaka the representatives of the cotton-spinning companies forming the Union decided to increase the number of non-working days by 4 each month. We do not know what the total number of holidays thus becomes, but the fact indicates that another source of income derived from exports will be reduced this year. Cotton yarns now occupy the second place on the list of exports, silk standing first, and if, as seems probable, both of these staples are destined to have a comparatively bad season, the outlook is disquieting.

It is observed by the *Kokumin Shimbun*, in an analysis of the import trade for the first quarter of this year, that whereas the quantity of raw cotton brought to Japan exceeded the figure for the corresponding period last year by 14 million *yen*, the export of yarns showed a diminution of 3 millions, so that in this branch alone of the trade there was a difference of 17 million *yen* virtually in favour of imports, which accounts for a large part of the total excess of imports, namely, 32 million *yen*. Our contemporary does not draw any discouraging inferences from the diminution of exports. It thinks that the markets of Northern China will soon show a brisk demand, for, though there has been some talk of a bad barley harvest, the forecast does not seem likely to be verified by facts, and, by way of set-off, the bean crop, which closely affects the prosperity of the districts, is understood to show an increase of 20 or 30 per cent. above the normal figure. In Shantung, the insurrection doubtless checks demand, but that is only a temporary factor. Of course, in the Yangtsze Valley the products of the Bombay mills have hitherto been greatly preferred to Japanese spinnings, but out of the 80 Bombay factories, 30, representing 850,000 spindles, have ceased working for the moment, and among the remaining 50 (1,400,000 spindles) several are working short time. Thus, on the whole, there is nothing discouraging in the outlook for Japanese exporters.

During the past three months, newsmongers outside Japan have been busily endeavouring to persuade the world that Russia and Japan were on the verge of war, and people in Japan have been laughing at their prognostications. But the Japanese themselves are now responsible for a rumour which throws all its predecessors into the shade. The Imperial News Agency—an institution with a high-sounding title, but which has no connection whatever with the Government—gave out among its daily bulletins of intelligence an item to the effect that while a Russian Squadron of 27 vessels was manœuvering in Yashan Bay off the Korean coast, three Japanese men-of-war steamed in, the movement being connected with the naval manœuvres now in progress. Thereupon one of the Russian ships fired a ball cartridge in the direction of the Japanese, and the latter, much astonished, withdrew and reported the fact. Orders were at once issued to suspend the naval manœuvres and await the result of negotiations opened with Russia. The striking element of the story is that the Russian vessels supposed to have been in Yashan Bay at the time were really in Port Arthur, and that no Japanese men-of-war went near the Korean coast in connexion with the manœuvres. More interesting than these marvellous stories themselves would be some accurate information as to the manner of their concoction. That, however, the public seldom learns.

Mr. Shioten Nobutaka, the military cadet who has been charged with behaving rudely towards some foreigners travelling on the Japan Railway Company's line, has published in the *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* a statement of his version of the case, appending the name and address of a witness. It is a moderately worded account, and naturally it represents matters in a light somewhat different from the view taken by the foreigners. These troubles are nearly always due to misunderstandings, and no sensible person supposes that the right is entirely on one side. For our own part, the moral we deduce from the incident —a moral which is not suggested, but only strengthened, by this experience—is that foreigners travelling in Japan would be acting wisely if they refrained from insisting upon any right which their Japanese fellow-passengers do not claim. It is not judicious that the foreigner should make himself an exception. The result is that however warranted his attitude may be as a matter of theory, he inevitably gets the credit of being arbitrary and exacting. For the rest, the Oji incident is not worth five words of comment, except as an illustration of the carelessness of the railway officials in allowing people to crowd into a carriage which was already full.

The press has succeeded in completely changing the character that war bears in the eyes of the public. In former days battles were fought and the world heard only their result and the list of casualties; armies were moved in accordance with strategic plans, but the public learned the issue only. Now, on the contrary, everything is put under the microscope. So soon as an officer is appointed to a command, long stories of his career are published, and paragraphists vie in constructing a record which represents him as a hero and which he can scarcely hope to live up to. Petty victories are extolled and small defeats magnified or extenuated so that all sense of true proportion is lost. Even the letters of the common soldier are copied in the columns of newspapers, and his opinions about a general's strategy or the conduct of a campaign receive grave attention. But the strangest development of all is the professional puffer, who talks about the face and features of the thoroughbred fighter, the steel-trap jaw of the lion, the splendid intrepidity and bull-dog tenacity of the youthful warrior, and piles a Pelion of epithets on an Ossa of compliments until his readers begins to think that the age is one of heroism or of hysteria. Things certainly have not improved in these respects. There was more manliness and less talk in former times.

HABUTAE.

The *Habutae* market continues prosperous. The total stock in Yokohama, Fukui, Kanazawa, and Toyama, is said to have reached over 200,000 *tan*, but this is not considered a glut. During last month delivery was taken of some 80,000 *tan* by Japanese merchants alone. Negotiations with foreign firms can never, remarks the *Nichi Nichi*, be carried on smoothly without retaining 100,000 or 150,000 *tan* in stock. The actual stock, however, is of inferior quality, the amount available for foreign buyers being limited to 10 or 20 per cent. Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. have recently purchased at a price about 30 *sen* higher than the current quotation, but this is simply due, adds our contemporary, to their selection of finer qualities for export.

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COUNT OKUMA IN KYOTO.

COUNT OKUMA resembles Mr. GLADSTONE in the range and versatility of his tastes and intellectual pursuits. Politics, education, finance, art, orchids, *bonsai*, peony and chrysanthemum cultivation—it is difficult to exhaust the catalogue of his competences. He is at present on a visit to Kyoto, and we learn that, after a visit to the shrine of Kitano in that city, he delivered a two hours' lecture to a large audience in the hall of the municipality on the subject of SUGAWARA NO MICHIZANE, to whom the shrine is dedicated. The lecture is not reported, which is regrettable. We have always thought that the fate of MICHIZANE has been nvested by poste rity with romantic elements which cannot be found in the pages of sober history. He seems to have had no real aptitude for the functions of government. Profound scholarship, singular sweetness of disposition, and unswerving fidelity to justice and truth were his distinguishing qualities, but as a statesman he failed. Unfortunately for himself he accepted office at a time of extreme difficulty, when a wide interval separated the rich and the poor, when political power was the object either of usurpation or of abuse, when the arbitrariness and extortions of local governors had become a burning question, when nobles and princes were crushing the people with merciless taxation, and when the finances of the State were in extreme disorder. MICHIZANE'S placid conservatism was not fitted to cope with such difficulties, and his situation at Court was complicated by the favour of an Emperor who, though he had abdicated, still sought to take part in the administration, and by the jealousy of the FUJIWARA representative, TOHIHIRA, a young, impetuous, and arrogant nobleman. These two men became the central figures in a struggle, the forces on one side being the whole Fujiwara family and the unscrupulous but seasonable daring of the ambitious TOKIHIRA; those on the other, a few scholars, the love and respect of the lower orders, and the benevolent tolerance of the self-effacing MIDHIZANE. That MICHIZANE, under such circumstances, should have become the victim of slanderous accusations was in accord with the methods of the time, and at any rate his removal from office could not be considered a national misfortune. Posterity has lavished upon TOKIHIRA obloquy and on MICHIZANE sympathy, but TOKIHIRA was unquestionably a great man who deserves public gratitude rather than condemnation. One incident of his career forcibly illustrates his character. In conjunction with the Emperor DAIGO he earnestly sought to introduce economical reforms, but he departed from the spirit of his policy one day by appearing at court in sumptuous costume. The Emperor reminded him that practice was better than precept, whereupon he retired and changed his dress. That certainly was not the act of a man such as the average Japanese supposes TOKIHIRA to have been. We should greatly like to hear Count OKUMA'S views about MICHIZANE. In one respect the Count has special reasons for recalling the memory of MICHIZANE. The Waseda Semmon-gakko may be compared to the schools founded in remote times by the MINAMOTO, the TAIRA, the TACHIBANA, the FUJIWARA, and MICHIZANE himself.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The new battle-ship *Shikishima* reached Kure safely at 3.37 p.m. on the 17th instant. Her sister ship the *Asahi*, now lying at Portsmouth, is expected to sail at the end of June, and will reach Japan by the end of August.

The two contending squadrons in the naval manœuvres are now getting into close contact. Several minor engagements are said to have taken place, and the final battle will be fought in a few days. The inspection is expected to take place on the 29th and 30th.

All the principal officials of the Kiushiu Railway have resigned. They have taken this step, it is understood, in order to facilitate the carrying out of the recommendations made by Count Inouye in his capacity of arbitrator, one of which was that the staff should be considerably reduced. A special meeting will be held for the purpose of deciding which of the officials are to be reappointed.

Subscriptions to the Museum of Fine Arts in commemoration of the Prince Imperial's Wedding are beginning to be collected. Fourteen firms and individuals have put up 84,500 *yen*, the largest donors being the Iwasaki Family, the Mitsui Family, and the Japan Railway Company, whose contributions are 15,000 *yen* each. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha follows with 10,000 *yen*, and the remaining subscriptions vary from 7,000 to 1,000. The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes a drawing of the intended structure. It appears to be almost a replica of the Hakubutsu-kan in Uyeno Park, which was built after plans furnished by Mr. J. Conder.

A naval expert, talking to a representative of the *Jimmin*, takes a very confident view of his country's capacity for defence. He thinks that England is the only Power Japan need fear at sea. The Japanese fleet is much stronger than anything Russia could send against her, and, even if France joined in the fray, she dare not reduce her fleet in home waters sufficiently to be really formidable to Japan. He evidently has a great admiration for the methods pursued in the British navy and is convinced that no other service is in such a condition of efficiency. He is also persuaded that the Japanese fleet could easily seal the seas of China nd Japan if the occasion for such a measure arose.

Count Okuma made a strong political speech at a meeting of Progressist sympathisers in Osaka on the 15th instant. The text he took was the absolute necessity of a powerful opposition. In the absence of opposition the management of national affairs was sure to be disfigured by abuses and the conduct of party politicians by corruption. Nothing was more demoralizing than stagnation, a condition of contentment. The United States, appreciating that danger, had abandoned the Monroe doctrine, and adopted a policy of expansion. Spain, on the other hand, had allowed her strength to be impaired by long quiescence, so that when the crisis overtook her, she proved unable to resist it. England was now employing a million tons of shipping, two hundred thousand men, and a hundred million *yen* a month on her South African campaign. No other Power could possibly make such sacrifices. France could not do it. And if the conquest of South Africa required these colossal efforts, what would be the case with any attempt to conquer Japan? The contingency need not be apprehended. The Japanese were not wanting in any of the qualities that make good soldiers. That they were brave and patriotic no one doubted. That they possessed endurance — which some had doubted—was clearly established by their conduct in the Manchuria campaign. Blessed, thus, with a sense of security, Japan had the further advantage of being surrounded by countries offering an almost unlimited market for her productions. Energy and integrity were all that she needed, and to educate those qualities there must be active and vehement attacks on, and scrutiny of, all official and political doings. The reproach under which politicians and statesmen now laboured was due in great part to the fact that they were insufficiently criticized.

EASTER SERVICES AT UNION CHURCH.

The services in connection with Union Church on Easter Day were thoroughly appropriate, and harmonised with the joyous spirit of the occasion. The morning service was well attended, while the decorative shrubs and white flowers about the pulpit added to the brightness and beauty of the festival. Special music was rendered by a well-balanced choir, —two quartettes and two choruses being given from Handel's "Messiah," while during the offertory "I know that my Redeemer liveth" was played by the organist, and at the conclusion of the service the majestic strains of the *Hallelujah* chorus pealed forth with inspiriting fervour. The Pastor's sermon was eloquent and impressive, dealing comprehensively with the subject of the Resurrection.

In the afternoon a large gathering of children and adults filled Van Schiack Hall, which had been tastefully decorated with lilies and other flowers associated with Easter-tide. Suitable recitations and songs were excellently given by various Sunday scholars and six Easter carols charmingly sung by the whole school. All the little lads and lasses brought floral offerings, their faces looking the happier and brighter among the dainty blossoms. At the conclusion of the service the flowers were distributed to the four local foreign hospitals.

THE CHINESE IN KOREA.

An item of some importance is published in the *Keizai Zasshi* in regard to the commercial situation of the Chinese in Korea. It appears that the number of Chinese in Soul and Inchhon is 1,500 for each place, while for Mokpho, Chinnampho, Pyongsang, and Wonsan, the total is given at 500. The influence of China in the peninsular kingdom seems to have been lost immediately after the war with Japan, but the position was gradually restored so far as commercial prosperity is concerned, and some idea of it may be acquired if reference is made to the figures, given below, for the past two years :—

	Imports 1897. Yen.	Exports. Yen.
From Japan	2,742,000	2,941,000
From China	3,121,000	93,000
	Imports 1898. Yen.	**Exports. Yen.**
From Japan	3,389,000	1,279,000
From China	4,396,000	1,097,000

Thus the import trade of Korea is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese, Japan's ascendancy being limited to yarns and cotton fabrics. The causes of Chinese prosperity in Korea, as indicated by our contemporary, are somewhat interesting. They are ascribed to abundauce of capital; prevalence of transactions on credit; freedom from usury; mutual observance of commercial morality; cheapness of staples for export; absence of speculative enterprises: firmness in combination; perseverance and frugality; and moderation in unproductive consumption.

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OWNERSHIP OF LAND BY FOREIGNERS AND MINING PRIVILEGES.

The following is a translation of the declaration of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce in favour of conceding to foreigners individual ownership of land and mining privileges.

Since Japan, has in pursuance of a liberal and progressive policy, concluded treaties which place her on an equal footing with foreign Powers, and has opened the interior of the country to foreigners, it is not unreasonable that the latter should be granted the same private rights as subjects, without distinction in respect of nationality. The existing law does not allow foreigners to own land or work mines in the interior in an individual capacity. What can be the reason for such a restriction? It has now become a general principle of international intercourse that such privileges should be granted to nationals and foreigners alike. All the civilized countries of Europe have adopted this rule, and nothing can be more unreasonable than for Japan to withhold these rights—the more so when we consider that such concessions would bring upon the country, not the slightest injury, but considerable advantages.

It is true that the industry of Japan has made marked progress during the past few years; but it is equally true that many useful enterprises still remain undeveloped. Capital, the most important element in the development of industry, is wanting, and the country is seriously embarrassed by the lack of it. Under these circumstances the necessity for the introduction of foreign capital is fully recognised by the people, but unfortunately the law frustrates the realization of such a scheme. The barrier ought to be removed at once, and foreigners should be granted the privileges of owning land and working mines in the interior, so that they may, in perfect safety, invest their funds in domestic enterprises. In making such concessions it may of course be necessary for Government to place a limit in accordance with the necessities of the case, but it is the earnest hope of this Chamber that the concessions in question will be carried into effect without delay.

We take this opportunity to present the following facts for consideration, illustrating as they do the regulations adopted by the various nations of Europe in regard to the bestowal of privileges of land ownership and mining rights upon foreigners:—

France.

(1) In France foreigners are allowed to enjoy exactly the same rights as citizens in the matter of landed property. Article III. of the Civil Code, though possessing no express provision on this subject, takes cognisance of the principle, and no one has ever ventured to question it. Landed property owned by foreigners in France is always, however, under the control of the French law, as provided for in Article III. of the Civil Code. Foreigners there cannot secure for immovable properties any materjal rights or feudal privileges not recognised by French law: whenever foreigners desire to transfer rights over immovable property acquired in France, they must effect the transaction in conformity with French law. (Law issued on the 24th December, 1882). The question as to a foreign State owning land is still undecided, namely whether the Sovereign of a foreign Power or a foreign State itself is or is not able to own immovable property in France. Generally speaking, the positive view appears to be popular. See Leny's Remarks on Pages 280 of the *Private Diplomatic Magazine* of 1893 and the Reports of the Supreme Court on page 843 of the same magazine.

(2) Article XIII. of the Law enacted on the 21st April, 1810, which is still in operation, provides that "foreigners, though not naturalized as French citizens, may enjoy mining privileges." This provision, moreover, is applicable even to aliens not actually domiciled in France. In short, all foreigners are treated exactly as citizens in respect of mining privileges.

England.

(1) No distinction is made between subjects and foreigners in respect to the ownership of landed property in the United kingdom (Section II., Naturalization Law of 1870).

(2) Foreigners are allowed to secure possession of mines and mining districts.

Germany.

(1) In this country no express provision exists in regard to the ownership of landed property by foreigners. In Prussia a regulation was formerly in operation, placing certain restrictions upon foreigners with regard to the acquisition of land, but it is now entirely rescinded, what is still in force being only the law promulgated on March 3, 1846. According to this law the ownership of land by foreign companies or foreign juridical persons can only be effected with the sanction of the Sovereign, and any action for the acquisition of land without such sanction is invalid. With the exception of restrictions thus imposed, foreigners in Prussia enjoy the same rights as subjects in general. Foreigners acquiring land in the interior of the country have certain obligations in connection with their holding. In the case of independent districts not included in the municipal divisions under the Prussian local system of administration, where the regulations are of such a nature as to restrict privileges to subjects, a foreign owner of land is required to appoint representatives suitable for the discharge of such functions, and, upon failure to take such a step, the representatives are nominated by the Government at his expense. As for the franchise appertaining to the ownership of land, no representative of a foreigner is allowed to exercise it.

(2) With regard to the acquisition of mines no restriction whatever is imposed upon foreigners except so far as relates to the ownership of land in general. As to mining privileges the liberality of the Government is still more remarkable. The mining law promulgated on June 24, 1865, guaranteed an equal footing to foreigners and subjects. It was evidently based upon the fundamental principle of the freedom of mining enterprise. Any person, whether native or foreign, has a right to search for minerals or make trial borings in conformity with the provisions of law, at any place except public highways, railways, and cemeteries. He may undertake such operations even on land owned by another provided that compensation be paid, houses and gardens being excepted. Nor is a foreigner precluded from applying for the privilege of owning a mine at the place where he has discovered it. Whenever any such application has been received from a foreigner, privileges are granted him exactly on the same terms as are imposed upon subjects. The right of possessing the mine, however, must not be confused with the right of acquiring land. The former consists in obtaining ore at a fixed place specified in the licence, or constructing necessary buildings for the purpose, or demanding the cession of land from the owners thereof on payment of compensation prescribed by law. In these matters the Prussian law makes no distinction whatever between subjects and foreigners, while the Mining Office does not practically recognise the necessity of acquiring the royal sanction for mining privileges in the sense above indicated, even in the case of a foreign company, such sanction being considered necessary only for acquiring land on the part of the company. Again, no discrimination as to nationality is made in regard to the actual operations of mining and the relations between miners and the Mining Office. The only point worthy of special attention is that, although in the case of the death of foreign labourers through accidents connected with mining operations the family of the deceased is entitled to receive a certain amount of money in the form of insurance, yet, if the family in question is not living in the country at the time of the accident, no claims can be made for the delivery of such money in accordance with clause 3 of Article VI. of the Casualty Insurance Law promulgated on the 6th of July, 1884.

Italy.

(1) This country makes no discrimination between subjects and foreigners as to the ownership of immovable property. Foreigners are allowed to acquire, sell, transfer, or inherit immovables in accordance with provisions of law. Although no express provision of any positive character exists in connection with these matters, yet Article III. of the Civil Code entitles foreigners to enjoy the same private rights as Italians. So long, therefore, as no conflicting enactments are found to exist, it may be inferred that in Italy foreigners enjoy exactly the same footing as subjects in regard to the ownership of immovable property. These facts may be clearly ascertained by reference to the documents connected with the compilation of the Civil Code.

(2) With regard to the ownership of mines or mining districts, foreigners have enjoyed and are still enjoying precisely the same privileges as subjects. Article XXXVIII of the Mining Law, promulgated on November 20, 1859, clearly provides that both foreigners and natives may, without distinction, receive mining licences by complying with the requirements of law. This Mining Law, however, seems to have been established prior to the unification of Italy, and is not therefore carried into operation throughout the whole territory. Still in districts where it has no validity foreigners, in accordance with Article III. of the Civil Code, have enjoyed the same rights as natives.

Denmark.

(1) No law exists differentiating subjects and foreigners in respect to the ownership of immovable property.

(2) Foreigners are allowed to secure possession of mines or mining districts.

Austria.

In this country the general principle observed is that foreigners shall enjoy the same civil rights as subjects. It is practically applied in cases where the foreigner's own country has conferred upon the Austrians living in it all the rights enjoyed by its native subjects. (Article XXXIII. of the Civil Code). Whenever any doubt is entertained as to whether Austrian subjects in any foreign country are granted the same civil rights as natives, and in case no express provision is to be found in the laws, ordinances, or treaties, explanation of these points has to be made by the foreigner living in Austria.

(1) It is evident from the principle above mentioned that any subject of a country where Austrians are not forbidden to enjoy the possession of immovable property is also allowed possession of immovables in Austria. The subjects of Montenegro are not permitted possession of immovable property in Austria, simply because Austrians in Montenegro are precluded from such a privilege. (Imperial Ordinance, issued on June 23, 1825, and another issued on January 14, 1846). A similar veto is imposed for the same reason upon people from Turkey (See Ordinance of the Judicial Department of August 29, 1891) and upon non-Christian Romans (Imperial ordinance No 46 of June 28, 1865). In general, the question of ownership by aliens of immovable property is definitely settled in the provisions of the treaties of the country.

(2) The Austrian law does not impose any restrictions as to the acquisition of mines or mining districts on the part of foreigners. Any person, therefore, who is legally entitled to acquire or retain immovable property is also allowed to engage in mining enterprises, or to acquire possession of mines (Article VII. of the Mining Regulations, issued on May 22, 1854). In the case of a foreign company whose operations are recognised as compatible with the law of a district where it exists, it is not necessary to apply for any special permission for carrying on business in connection with a mine or mines held in Austria. (Page 9 of the aforesaid Regulations embodied in the Imperial Ordinance of November 29, 1865, published in *Official Gazette*, No 127). Other companies, however, pursuing a similar business in Austria, are required to apply for special permission. (Judgment delivered in the Administrative Court of January 5, 1881).

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PRIVATE RAILWAY LAW.

We translate the most important articles of this law :—

Art. II.—Any persons desiring to organise a private joint stock railway company must obtain a provisional charter from the Departmental Minister concerned, by presenting the following documents :—(1) Programme : (2) Provisional rules; (3) A statement showing the enterprise to be conducive to public benefit; (4) Preliminary surveys of the railway routes, with explanatory notes; (5) Estimates of necessary expenses; (6) Estimates of traffic receipts and expenditures, with explanatory remarks.

Art. VIII.—The projectors are required themselves to take up at least two-tenths of the total shares.

Art. IX.—The shares shall not be subscribed or secured except by means of currency. The first calls on shares may be as low as one-tenth of the shares.

Art. XVI.—If registration is not made within six months from the date of charter, the latter shall lose its validity.

Art. XXIV.—The company is forbidden to engage in business or occupations other than those specified without special permission of the Minister concerned.

Art. XXIX.—The sanction of the Minister is also necessary for the issue of debentures. No debentures can be issued until shares have been paid up to the extent of one-fourth.

Art. XXX.—The company cannot mortgage its lines or their appurtenances without special permission of the Minister concerned, and then only by the process sanctioned by Government.

Art. XXXI.—No dividend shall be declared without making provision for the redemption of debentures and loans, both principal and interest.

Art. XXXII.—The amount of loans shall under no circumstances exceed that of the shares paid up.

Art. XXXIII.—No line or any appurtenances thereof shall be pledged.

Art. XXXV.—The company shall not be allowed to amalgamate with another company without sanction of the Minister concerned.

Art. XLII.—Works connected with roads, bridges, rivers, ditches, and drains, must be sanctioned by the authorities concerned.

Art. LV.—In case any person engaged in agriculture, industry, or commerce, desires to connect his private railways with those of the company for the purpose of transporting his manufactures or merchandise, the company shall not decline without substantial reason.

Art. LVIII.—Third-class passenger fares shall in no case exceed 2 *sen* per mile, except for a distance of less than 2 miles, in which case the rate may be raised to 4 *sen*.

Art. LXXII.—The Government reserves the right of purchasing railways and their appurtenances after the lapse of 25 full years from the date of the delivery of the permanent charter.

Art. LXXIII.—In making the aforesaid purchases of railways the cost shall be determined by taking the average value of shares during the preceding five years. If the cost so ascertained shall exceed 20 times the average amount of profits distributed among the shareholders during the five years past, the same shall be taken as the purchase price.

Art. LXXXI.—In case of a charter being declared invalid or withdrawn, the Minister concerned may submit the railways and their appurtenances to public sale, and allow the buyer to complete the work.

Art. LXXXIV.—Any person attempting to organise a company or undertaking works without receiving a provisional charter, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 100 *yen* and not more than 2,000 *yen*.

Art. LXXXV.—In case of accidents or casualties any person wilfully deceiving the Government inspectors or refusing to answer enquiries, or giving false statements, shall be liable to a fine of from 5 to 500 *yen*.

Art. LXXXVI.—Violation of Articles XLV., XLVII., and XLVIII., prohibiting traffic or the use of buildings without Government sanction, shall render the Overseer of the company liable to a fine of not less than 100 *yen* and not exceeding 2,000 *yen*.

Art. LXXXVIII.—In the cases enumerated below the Projector, as well as the Overseer, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 5 or more than 500 *yen* :—

1. Failure to effect registration as prescribed by this law.
2. Publication of false advertisements or failure to make public intimations as required.
3. Failure to provide a railway ledger, or omission of necessary items from or insertiou of false statements in it.
4. Presentation of false reports or statements to the authorities, or withholding business reports, statistics, or other documents.
5. Violation of provisions, or instructions, or conditions imposed by laws and ordinances.

Art. LXXXIX.—Any of the proceedings or offences enumerated below shall render the Overseer liable to a fine of not less than 10 *yen* and not more than 1,000 *yen* :—

1. Adoption of measures without Government sanction where such is necessary.
2. Acceptance of other company's shares either s appreciable bonds or as the object of pledge.
3. Distribution of profits in contravention of Article XXXII.
4. Non-compliance with decisions that may be given by the Minister concerned, according to the provisions of this law.

FEES FOR BONDED WAREHOUSES.

The scale of charges for the use of Bonded Warehouses is now established as follows, in accordance with Article X. of the Regulations for the enforcement of the Bonded Warehouses Law, recently promulgated :—

Art. I.—Any person using the Bonded Warehouses shall be charged the following rates :—

1 For every cubic foot of goods deposited, from 5 *rin* to 2 *sen* per month.

2 For every *tsubo* of space occupied, from 40 *sen* to 75 *sen* per month.

Art. II.—In the case of goods enumerated below, every 100 *kin* (catties) shall be computed as one cubic foot :—Goods (and also Chinese timber) included in Nos. 215, 234, 240 and 259 of the scale of Import dues annexed to the Customs Tariff.

Art. III.—Fees shall be calculated by the month. For a fraction of a month not exceeding 15 days, half a month's fees shall be collected. After the lapse of 15 days a full month's rate shall be charged.

Any fraction of a cubic foot shall be regarded as one cubic foot, and any weight less than 100 *kin* shall be calculated as 100.

Art. IV.—Rin shall not be calculated in fees.

Art. V.—Any person desiring to have warehouses specially opened must pay the following fees :—

From sunrise to sunset, 1 *yen* per hour.

From sunset to sunrise, 1.50 *yen* per hour.

Art. VI.—Fees shall be paid at the time of removing goods.

EMBARRASSED BANKS.

The recent depression seems to have involved in serious embarrassment some of the minor banks in the capital. Rumour says that three of these institutions are shortly to be closed by order of the Finance Department. Should a rigorous scrutiny be made by the authorities not only these, but many other banks, remarks a vernacular paper, will have to be suspended or dissolved. Such a fate awaits the Business Savings Bank in Asakusa, and the Tokyo Agricultural and Commercial Bank in South Adachi district. The former has a capital of 100,000 *yen* and the latter 300,000 *yen*, and they have hitherto occupied the most conspicuous position among the minor institutions, but speculation in salt is said to have absorbed the entire funds of both banks. It is added that among the banks which are regarded with suspicion by other institutions of good standing are the Shusei Chochiku Ginko, the Toyo Chochiku, the Bansei, the Bancho Ginko, the Ontake Chochiku, the Kigyo Chochiku, the Honjo Chokin, the Tobu Chokin, and the Kwanto Chochiku.

"BLUEBEARD" AT THE PUBLIC HALL.

Believing that discriminating and intelligent criticism is the best compliment that can be paid to amateurs, we have not been in the habit of exhausting the superlatives of the language in speaking of local performances; but we must heartily congratulate all concerned in the production of "Bluebeard" at the Public Hall. It was an almost complete success artistically, and a quite complete success from other points of view. The hall was filled to overflowing, and the result should be a substantial addition to the War Fund, to which object the proceeds are to be devoted.

This particular version of "Bluebeard" is the production of Mrs. G. K. Dinsdale, and the lines are generally a good deal superior to the ordinary pantomime book. They are full of points, and local allusions are happily introduced here and there—the most elaborate being a lament on the subject of Treaty Revision and the altered conditions it has involved, by a member of the mercantile community in Japan. The lyrics, which in many cases have been "adapted" almost to the extent of being entirely re-written, are capital, and everything goes with a jaunty swing from beginning to end. Mrs. Dinsdale is to be congratulated on her performance.

As to the acting, it was on the whole excellent; indeed, if the performance were judged according to the standard of a high-class professional company, the same adjective might be applied to several of the performers. Mr. Brady was in his happiest vein. He is an actor of remarkable versatility, and has shown himself capable of creditable work in comedy and serious drama as well as in farce, but his true *métier* is certainly low comedy. There his high spirits and innate love of fun can show without any restraint, and he can create a roar of laughter out of patter which, less well done, would be an insult to intelligence. Last night he almost surpassed himself. As *Bakemono*, Prince Bluebeard's Secretary and General Factotum, he proved a humorous and ever-delightful Proteus. At one time he would come on dressed like an Irish comic man; at another as the stage policeman; on a third occasion as a Cook's tourist agent; then he transformed himself into a medical man, made up in sly imitation of a local practitioner; then he became the 48th *Ronin*, disguised as a Hatoba coolie; then a Japanese curio, and so on. His ready "gag" was exceedingly amusing, and his patter songs, especially "The Doctor, always in demand," and "The man from Cook's," fairly brought down the house. We speak of Mr. Brady first because he is really the life of the whole piece. Indeed, Yokohama is very fortunate in the possession of an amateur so free from the usual amateurish faults—quite self-confident, attentive to every tiny detail, and possessing the power to move laughter by every gesture and grimace, as well as by his words. But of the others most did well, and all creditably. Miss Thomas was particularly good as *Cyclona*, the volcanic sister-in-law of *Bluebeard*. Her songs were capitally rendered and the lovemaking between her and the sprightly *Bakemono* (in his coolie's garb) was one of the most delicious bits of fooling we have seen in Yokohama. Miss Thomas's make-up was splendidly gorgeous, and she cut an especially queenly figure by the side of the aspiring but low-statured *Ronin*. Miss Strome made a charming *Fatima*, and Miss K. Page was perhaps even more successful as *Sister Anne*, chiefly because she appeared to suffer less from nervousness than her companion. The lovemaking in the first act, and the duets and quartets with the Greek *beaux* of the two Turkish beauties, were extremely pretty. Mrs. P. de Tomkyns was capitally made up as the *Widow Kus-kus*, mother of *Fatima* and *Anne*, and both in her spoken lines and in her duet with *Anne*, "Listen to our Tale of Woe," she made a very favourable impression. Mr. Somerton was *Prince Bluebeard*, and few people could have looked the part better. In his voluminous trousers, his richly laced scarlet coat, his towering turban, and his immense blue beard, he was the most impressive of Oriental potentates, and would have graced the Court of Haroun Al

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Raschid himself. He spoke his lines well, and put sufficient of the ogre into his manner, but was even better in his songs. Nature has endowed him with a baritone voice of a very superior tone, and even in the trivial numbers which fell to his lot in this extravaganza he was able to charm the house. Mr. Eric Irwine and Mr. Edward Kilby were the Greek twins *Kartos* and *Kabos*, and were gorgeously made up in white skirts, glittering jackets, and tasselled caps, with curly-toed shoes and yataghans thrown in to add to the effect. Mr. Irwine was perhaps the more successful; Mr. Kilby was a little lacking in spontaneity—a not unnatural fault in so young a performer. Mr. H. Kilby filled the minor part of *O'Dearo*, a slave in Bluebeard's Household picked up at sea by the Prince while yachting in Japanese waters. The chorus was an admirable one, and consisted of the following young ladies, who were most tastefully dressed: Mrs. Murray, Miss A. Page, Miss H. Page, Miss M. Thomas, Miss N. Strome, Miss M. Sharp, Miss Merriman, and Miss B. Sharp. The ballet in Bluebeard's palace was an extremely pretty performance.

A line or so must be given to the stage management. It must have involved the greatest labour on Mr. E. Beart to present a piece so long, and involving such changes of scenery, in so elaborate a manner, and abundant credit is due to him for his untiring exertions. None but those who are familiar with the conditions prevailing behind the scenes, and particularly on a stage involving so many inconveniences as that of Yokohama, know the immense variety of details the stage manager has to see after, and we are fortunate in having a gentleman who possesses the inclination and capacity to undertake so arduous and too often so thankless a task. The scenery was capital, particularly that of the last act—the grand hall in Bluebeard's palace. Many an important provincial theatre in England could not show so pretty a set, complete and harmonious in every detail. An infinitude of pains and ingenuity must have been lavished upon it. It may be mentioned that the costly draperies for the stage were kindly lent by Mr. Ono, of Honcho-dori. Mr. F. J. Hall acted as property man, and Mr. B. R. Berrick played the piano accompaniments. By kind permission of Captain Warrender the band of H.M.S. *Barfleur* was present, and added much to the enjoyment of the audience.

The following were the airs (all, except one "No one in the world," being re-written or adapted) that were introduced into the piece:—

ACT. I.

Fatima and Kus-kus.....Air "Ten little niggerboys."
Anne and Kabos..Air "Sister Mary Jane's Top Note" (*Gay Parisienne.*)
Fatima and Kartos.Air "No one in the world like you" (*Runaway Girl.*)
Kartos.....Air "My girl's a highborn lady"
Fatima, Anne, Kartos, and Kus-kus ...Air "The Festive Continong"...*The Gay Parisienne.*)
Bakemono and Chorus....."Follow the man from Cook's"..(*Runaway Girl.*)

ACT. II.

Fatima ...Air "Trilby will be true"..(*Artist's Model.*)
Kus-kus and Anne.....Air "A little Peach in an orchard grew"
Bluebeard .....Air "Come into the Garden, Maud"
Fatima, Anne, Kartos and Kabos..."There is a tavern in the town"
Bakemono....."The Doctor"
Cyclona,.....Air "Star of my Soul" .....(*Geisha.*)
Bluebeard and Chorus.....Air "Ambolena Snow"

ACT. III.

Bakemono and Chorus .....Soldiers in the Park (*Runaway Girl.*)
Cyclona..."Just a little bit of String"...(*Circus Girl.*)
Cyclona and Bakemono ..."When we are married" (*Belle of New York.*)
Cyclona and Bakemono ....."A Hot time in the old Town to-night"
Ballad....."The Piccanninies"...(*Runaway Girl.*)
Fatima ....."Jewel of Asia".....(*Geisha.*)
Bluebeard ....."Barman's Song".....(*Circus Girl.*)
All....."Society".....(*Runaway Girl.*)

PICTURE EXHIBITION.

Mr. F. J. Basuke is giving an exhibition of pictures at Tamamura's Studio, Benten-dori. He has altogether some 40 or 50 water-colour studies, the work of the last two months or so. Mr. Basuke has spent many years in America studying European art, and his success is far greater than that of the majority of his compatriots who have applied their talents to the conquest of western methods. Generally speaking, the average Japanese artist in foreign style is too formal and constrained; his figures lack spirit and his landscapes are deficient in the touch of nature. Mr. Basuke, however, appears to have much natural aptitude for European methods, and both as a landscape painter and in his studies of Japanese figures he is very successful. His scenery is real Japanese scenery, invested with the peculiar atmosphere that is so characteristic of Japan; while his studies of the Japanese face and figure show the advantage of the instinct of a native coupled with the vigour and and expressiveness of a foreign artist. One of the best is a "Japanese Woman with Baby," full of feeling and expression. "A Girl with Needlework" is also very natural in pose, and shows good technique. "An Old Woman" is another capital study, replete with the suggestion of pathos such figures in real life have. The landscapes are also good. "A Scene by Moonlight" has rather a Rossetti-like softness in its impressionism. "A Spring Scene" is pretty and smiling, and another of a rural spot in summer time is equally pleasing. Altogether the collection is an attractive one, and many charming souvenirs of Japan may be picked up by the discriminating amateur of pictures.

CHRISTIAN WORK IN TOKYO.

The signs of Christianity in Tokyo are almost invisible to the casual observer. In taking a bird's-eye view of the city one is struck with the absence of those tapering spires which rise as indexes of the Christian life of Western cities. Impressive temples and Government buildings meet the eye at every turn, but the buildings of Christian organizations are mostly small or in unnoticed parts of the city. Hence not a few transient and permanent residents conclude that Christianity has hardly made a ripple on the life of the capital, much less become a strong current.

It is partly with the hope of dispelling such erroneous impressions that the following statistics have been compiled. It is manifestly impossible to register all the diverse agencies deriving impetus from Christianity and indirectly furthering the many-sided truth which it embodies. All those papers and lecture platforms, relief societies and reform clubs, which are animated to some degree by Christian principles, should not be left out of account, although necessarily omitted from a table like this, which comprises only the institutional work of the principal Christian churches in Tokyo. Among the auxiliary institutions omitted are:—the Young Men's Christian Association, with 420 members, varied activities, property worth 60,000 *yen*, and a budget of 2,600 *yen*, two-thirds of which is raised in Japan; the Salvation Army with its evangelistic and relief work; the Christian orphanages (3), hospitals (5), and industrial student homes (2); the publishing houses (3) and book-stores; and lastly, not a few chapels and evening schools conducted by independent workers.

The compiler has made estimates in a few cases where facts were not accessible. But in order that the table may have authoritative value it should be stated that it is based on special reports kindly furnished by the following representatives: The Reverends Topping, Guy, Webb, Voegelein, Wendt, Spencer, Aurell, Howard, Keirn, Snodgrass, Bishops McKim and Awdry, Doctors Greene, Scott, and Wyckoff, Bishop Nicolai and Father Evrard.

These figures would seem to show that at the focus and distributing centre of the higher life of the Empire, Christianity is firmly intrenched; that at this commercial emporium institutional Christianity has a plant worth 1,200,000 *yen*; that at the chief seat of education it is doing an educational work so extensive and valuable that no wise government would hamper it by intolerant religious restrictions. They would seem to show that Christianity is no longer a frail exotic but a hardy growth largely supported by the contributions of the Japanese themselves. One hundred and twenty-five preaching places, twenty academies and one hundred and forty pastors and evangelists may appear insignificant as compared with the thousands of Buddhist priests and temples or with the immense mass to be quickened. But the leavening and transforming forces of Christianity are so widely and permanently noted that they must continue increasingly to bring forth their inevitable and beneficent fruits.—*Communicated.*

ORGANISED CHRISTIAN WORK IN TOKYO CITY.
COMPILED MARCH, 1900.
BY GALEN M. FISHER.

	Protestant.	Russian Ecclesiastical Mission.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
1. Number of Church buildings	62	2	6	70
2. Value of Church buildings and land	¥231,482	179,550	100,000	510,982
3. Number of pastors or priests (Japanese)	61	7	—	—
4. Number of pastors who have studied abroad	11	—	—	—
5. Number of preaching places besides churches	39	16	1	55
6. Number of evangelists	36	16	6	58
7. Number of Bible women	55	—	1	56
8. Church membership (or communicants) enrolled	7,849	2,000	3,862	13,711
9. Church membership (resident)	—	—	—	6,000*
10. Average church attendance on Sunday	3,746	400	1,300	5,426
11. Largest single church membership	377	1,250	1,250	—
12. Annual current expenses (not including foreigners)	¥ 23,278	24,000	9,000*	56,278
13. Annual amount contributed by Japanese	¥ 10,230	720	500*	11,450
14. Annual benevolent contributions of churches	¥ 2,705	560	300*	3,565
15. Bona fide self-supporting churches	13	—	—	—
16. Number Sunday Schools.	109	3	—	112
17. Number Sunday School scholars	5,131	90	—	5,221
18. Number Christian Kindergartens	5	—	—	—
19. Number Christian Kindergarten children	295	—	—	295
20. Number Christian academies	14	3	3	20
21. Number Christian students	1,820	148	283	2,251
21. Theological schools, or schools having theological course	8	1	—	9
23. Industrial, poor and primary schools	29	—	16	45
24. Industrial, poor and primary school pupils	4,556	—	67	5,423
25. Periodicals published	16	2	1	19
26. Value of schools or convent buildings and land	¥570,003	20,000	180,000	770,000

* Estimated by compiler.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense) responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

THE "IRANIAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The shipwrecked crew of the *Iranian* return their hearty thanks to the many kind friends who responded so readily, and liberally, to the appeal for clothing made on their behalf, in your columns.

I am, yours gratefully, W. T. AUSTEN,
Seamen's Chaplaincy.
Yokohama, April 17th, 1900.

NIKKO NEWS.

Mr. Kobayashi Hachiroi, who is the biggest banker in Nikko, gave a dinner on the 12th and 13th. There were no fewer than 100 guests at each sitting, who were amused with conjuring, singing and dancing.

There will be a great Buddhist ceremony at Nikko, commencing on the 17th inst., and lasting until the 21st inst. Many priests will come from all parts of Japan, and it is said that the Tokugawa family will present gifts to the Iyemitsu Temple. Dancing, singing, and fencing will form part of the programme, and the treasures of the Tokugawa Shoguns will be exhibited. It is very seldom that anybody has the opportunity of seeing them.

Nikko is lovely just now. The plum and cherry blossoms are out and can be seen everywhere on the mountains and river banks. Many people are coming from all parts of Japan. The weather is splendid.

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FOREIGN TRADE OF KOBE.

With regard to the foreign trade of Kobe for the latter half of last month, the *Jiji* gives the following figures:—

Exports.	Catties.	Value in yen.
Yarns	1,304,791	447,072
Rice	1,728,000	99,664
Habutae	186,700	42,201
Tea	105,276	7,082
Sundries		2,690,600
Total		3,286,620
Imports.		
Raw cotton	26,439,600	6,991,024
Rice	22,631,000	813,566
Sugar	6,880,503	500,144
Yarns	290,602	185,860
Sundries		3,514,027
Total		12,004,621
Excess of imports		8,718,003
Export of specie and bullion		3,220,968
Import do. do.		26,166
Excess of exports		3,194,802

The figures for the month of March, compared with those of the corresponding period of last year, are as follows:—

Exports.	March, 1900. ¥	March, 1899. ¥	Increase. ¥
Yarns	531,542	2,621,795	2,090,253
Rice	140,055	1,055,294	914,839
Total of all exports..	5,658,906	8,119,132	2,460,216
Imports.			Increase.
Raw cotton	11,729,071	4,447,331	7,281,740
Rice	90,054	100,371	802,682
Yarns	26,121	10,082	326,039
Sugar	801,859	391,756	410,097
Total imports...	19,858,767	8,130,948	11,727,819

The above figures, together with those for Yokohama, Osaka, and Nagasaki, are tabulated in the *Shogyo* as follows:—

	Exports in *yen*.	Imports in *yen*.
Yokohama	8,025,431	9,187,443
Osaka	542,134	498,490
Nagasaki	599,568	1,287,565
Kobe	5,658,906	19,858,767
Total	14,826,039	30,832,265

The excess of imports up to February this year being 17,640,000 *yen*, the gross total by the end of March does not fall short of 33,650,000 *yen*.

THE SHARE MARKET.

The raising of interest on the part of the Bank of Japan, together with recent diplomatic complications, has had the effect of depreciating shares of all descriptions, remarks the *Osaka Asahi*. Prospects, however, are still more darkened by the necessity of still further increasing the scale of interest in the near future. The institutions of Osaka will be the greatest sufferers. The currency diminution scheme adopted by the Bank of Japan some years ago with a view to ameliorating the condition of the industrial community has almost crippled the share market, as may be clearly perceived from the following table:—

RATES OF INTEREST.

	Nippon Ginko.		Tokyo.
	On Loans.	Discount.	Loans.
	Sen.	Sen.	Sen.
April, 1897	2.1	2.0	2.73
July, 1897	2.3	2.0	2.74
September 1897	2.4	2.1	2.74
November, 1897	2.5	2.2	3.00
March, 1898	2.6	2.3	3.10
April, 1898	2.7	2.4	2.15

	Tokyo.	Osaka.	
	Discount.	Loans.	Discount.
	Sen.	Sen.	Sen.
April, 1897	2.74	3.01	2.60
July, 1897	2.75	2.74	2.74
September, 1897	3.01	3.01	2.74
November, 1897	3.01	3.01	3.00
March, 1898	3.29	3.01	3.01
April, 1898	3.29	3.27	3.18

Such were the rates of interest enforced by the Bank of Japan with a view to curtailing the volume of currency, and the extent to which they have affected the share market may be seen from the following figures:—

Shares.	April, 1897. Yen.	July, 1897. Yen.	Sept. 1897. Yen.
Consols	100.37	97.37	96.83
Nippon Ginko	386.04	372.88	369.38
Specie Bank	218.21	201.65	200.96
Japan Railway	98.07	97.55	97.80
Sanyo Railway	63.66	56.84	58.84
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	72.41	56.13	58.16
Tokyo Stock Exchange	378.	313.89	209,81
Kanegafuchi Spinning	57.67	56.78	54.53

Shares.	Nov. 1897. Yen.	Mar. 1898. Yen.	April 1898. Yen.
Consols	96.90	91.53	90.31
Nippon Ginko	370.22	392.50	370.37
Specie Bank	180.42	183.37	165.78
Japan Railway	78.35	69.25	68.48
Sanyo Railway	55.05	58.62	57.30
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	54.88	54.49	50.56
Tokyo Stock Exchange	177.46	165.56	146.27
Kanegafuchi Spinning	49.24	46.10	43.54

In the above table a few prominent shares only are given, but that the enhancement of interest has caused a general depreciation of shares is certain. If the Bank's interest is to be raised to 2.7 *sen*, as was the case in March, 1898, various shares will probably suffer as serious a depreciation as was experienced in April of that year.

AMERICAN NOTES.

Many Indiana Republicans believed, when the last mail left, that if the National Republican Convention should call on Gen. Harrison to lead the party this fall he would not decline the nomination.

According to the annual reports of the Indian agents which have just been received at Washington and compiled, the aboriginal population of the country at the close of last year was 267,805. Of these 42,597 can read and 53,314 can speak English well enough to hold an ordinary conversation. Over $325,000 has been contributed by religious societies and individuals for their instructions, which is carried out by 407 missionaries.

Admiral and Mrs. Dewey are going to make an extensive tour of Europe. They may be gone a year. They are to sail on May 25th. This will not interfere with the Admiral's visit to Chicago on the 1st of May, but it will prevent his attending the Grand Army encampment in Illinois in August.

Four towns in Indiana—Marion, Muncie, Anderson, and Indianapolis—will soon be joined by an electric railway nearly one hundred and sixty-five miles long, all of which will be operated by one power station located at Anderson. It will be the longest electric railroad in the United States up to date.

Here is a delicious bit of news from Chicago:—

Chicago, March 21.

Histories of England were dropped from the list of supplementary reading for the public schools at the meeting of the Board of Education to-night. None of the histories will contain a mention of the English, except as an incident in connection with the war of independence. For three months Trustee John T. Keating, who is the national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, has been fighting the use of histories of England, which he declared were prejudiced in favour of England.

The district superintendents decided to eliminate English histories, and nothing but American history will be included in the supplementary reading.

The Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, the elder and last surviving brother of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, died at Elmira, New York, on March 14, aged 81 years. Mr. Beecher was stricken with paralysis while on his way home from church. Mrs. Mary Foote Beecher Perkins died the same day at the home of her son, Charles E. Perkins, aged 94 years and 9 months. She was the daughter of Rev. Lyman Beecher and his wife, Rosalia Foote.

Of the two Pacific Mail steamers now being built at Newport News, one will be completed in December, 1900, and the other early next year. They are the largest steam vessels ever contracted for in the United States, being considerably larger than the *St. Louis* and *St. Paul* of the American line, which are the largest now flying the flag. They will cost $2,500,000 each. The length is 575 feet, the beam 63 feet-depth 40 feet, tonnage 18,400 tons, speed 18 knots, and there will be accommodation for 150 cabin and 1,200 steerage passengers. The actual cargo capacity will be about 12,000 tons.

The Carnegie Steel Company (limited) has become a stock company with a capital variously estimated at from $200,000,000 to $250,000,000, the famous "ironclad agreement" is wiped out, all litigation between the partners in the Carnegie Company is dropped, and H. C. Frick, the former president of the company, virtually secures all he has contended for. These facts are embodied in an authorized statement issued by the Carnegie Steel Company Limited).

The rush to Dawson and Cape Nome is being repeated in miniature in Leadville. Word came to the city of a rich discovery in an old prospecting shaft that was sunk to a depth of eighty-five feet many years ago. The ore is sylvanite and resembles that of Cripple Creek. Assays have been made and it shows forty-eight ounces of gold to the ton. How much of it there is up to the present there are no means of finding out, but the vein lies in a high ridge at what is known as "Two-bit gulch."

At a recent meeting of the Yale corporation a gift was announced of $150,000 to Yale for the purpose of founding a school of forestry. The donors are Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pinchot, of New York city, and their sons, Gifford Pinchot, Yale, '89, and Amos R. E. Pinchot, Yale, '98. This school will be a new departure at Yale. The founding of it has been due to President Hadley and to Gifford Pinchot, who is at the head of the division of forestry in the department of agriculture at Washington.

President Caroline Hazard at the close of the chapel service at the Wellesley College on March 20th announced that Mr. John D. Rockefeller had promised to give Wellesley $100,000 when the college debt should be raised. The debt is about $96,000. By efforts of the alumnæ during the last two years more than $60,000 has been raised or pledged toward wiping out the incumbrance. It is hoped that the conditions of Mr. Rockefeller's gift, which will be used to establish a permanent endowment fund for the college, will be met by next commencement.

Lieutenant-Commander Seaton Schroeder, at present Secretary of the U. S. Naval Inspection Board, has been selected to succeed Captain Leary as Naval Governor of the island of Guam. Commander Schroeder had applied for and been promised the Governorship of the island of Tutuila, but the administration of the affairs of Guam is believed to be more desirable, and many of the difficulties in the establishment of government have already been removed through the energy of Captain Leary. It is stated at the Navy Department that Captain Leary is going home in conformity with the policy laid down to make frequent changes in the command of naval stations in the interest of the health and spirit of the officers.

Indications point to the probability that Mr. Grover Cleveland, who heretofore has not lent his aid to the candidacy of Mr. William Jennings Bryan, is about to come out in support of the Nebraska silverite. Many of Cleveland's followers, who in the campaign of 1896 held aloof from Bryan and his 16 to 1 issue, already have come into line for the candidate, and now that the gold-standard bill is law and the money question is largely removed from the position it occupied in 1896, it is argued that there is nothing to keep Mr. Cleveland in the background. His friends are so certain that he will indorse Bryan that they declare he soon will come out with a signed statement advising Democrats to act together in the coming campaign.

Mr. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, expects to establish a shipyard of his own at New London, Conn., where he proposes to build four big cargo steamers, designed for him in England, which are run between the terminus of the Great Northern railway on Puget

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Sound and the ports of China, Japan,and the Philippine Islands. These ships will be the largest in the world with the exception of the new ones recently built for the Atlantic trade by the Hamburg-America and White Star lines. They will be over 600 feet long, 70 feet broad, and have five decks, capable of carrying 20,000 tons of cargo and 200 passengers. They are not built for speed, although they are expected to average twelve knots an hour under ordinary pressure and fifteen or sixteen knots in an emergency. The engines will develope 8,000-horse power. Mr. Hill expects to commence two of the ships this spring and have them completed within eighteen months. As the *Lucania*, the *Campania*, and the other *Cunarders* carry only 2,800 tons of cargo, the magnitude of these new ships will be appreciated.

Brig.-Gen. Henry Harnden, famous as the Union-army soldier who captured Jefferson Davis, died of pneumonia at his home in Madeson, Wis., on March 18. He had a brilliant army record and at the time of death was department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic of Wisconsin. He leaves a widow and four children. Gen. Harden was born in Wilmington, Mass., March 4, 1823. He received a common school education and at the age of 18 ran away to sea on a sailing vessel bound for Africa. He remained on the ocean several years, during which time he doubled Cape Horn twice and visited the present site of San Francisco in 1839. He lived at Ripon, Wis., where he was operating a saw mill when the civil war broke out. On Lincoln's call for troops Harnden enlisted as a private in the 1st Wisconsin cavalry, July 15, 1861. He was promoted to sergeant in Jan., 1892, then to captain. He was in the campaigns in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Georgia, and participated in many battles and skirmishes. In January, 1865, he was made major, then lieutenant-colonel, colonel and brigadier-general. He was wounded in several battles and had numerous narrow escapes from death. In May, 1865, Gen. Harnden was selected by Gen. Wilson to take a detachment of the 1st Wisconsin cavalry and cross the country toward Savannah and head off Jeff. Davis, then a fugitive. Gen. Harnden rose from a sick bed, suffering from a wound, but performed his duty so well that it resulted in the capture of the confederate chief at Irwinsville, Ga. Gen. Harnden was mustered out July 19, 1865. On his return home he was immediately elected to the Wisconsin legislature from Jefferson county. In 1873 he was appointed internal revenue collector, which office he held for ten years. In 1899 he was elected department commander of the Grand Army for Wisconsin.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

It seems that the M.M. *Ernest Simons* broke the couplings of her shaft between Saigon and Hongkong. The couplings having been renewed, the steamer is now on her way to Japan.

A big fire broke out at Matsugasaki, Uri district, Akita Prefecture, early on the morning of the 18th inst. Fifty-two houses and two telegraph posts were destroyed. Another fire broke out the same day at Nagasawa-mura, Kubiki district, Takata, Niigata Prefecture, and 20 houses were burnt.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 7th inst. gives the settlement of the Brooks murder case. One man has been beheaded, one strangled, one sentenced to imprisonment for life, and six others have had lesser punishments. The village elders are to put up a memorial at the scene of the murder at a cost of Tls. 500; and the Chinese authorities have paid Tls. 7,500 for a memorial chapel, with 6 *mow* of land, and Tls. 1,500 for a memorial in Canterbury College.

There was a large and representative gathering at All Saints' Church on Wednesday afternoon, says the *Kobe Herald*, to witness the marriage of Mr. Herbert Grimble to Miss Florence Peace. The ceremony was conducted by the Chaplain—Rev. G. H. Davies—assisted by the Rev. C. Graham Gardner. Mr. Whymark, brother-in-law of the bride, gave the bride away, and Mr. F. Grimble performed the duties of groomsman. The Misses Annie, May, and Marguerite Whymark were the bridesmaids.

The *Hongkong Maru* brought to Yokohama the new Commander-in-chief of the U.S. Asiatic Squadron, Rear-Admiral Remey, and his staff; and the second in command, Rear-Admiral Kempff. During the forenoon of Wednesday, Rear-Admiral Watson shifted his flag from the *Brooklyn* to the *Baltimore*. In the course of the afternoon Rear-Admiral Remey's flag was hoisted on the *Brooklyn* and Rear-Admiral Kempff's on the *Oregon*, the events being signalised by the usual salutes.

Trooper Morris, belonging to the Australian contingent on service in South Africa, has been recommended for the Victoria Cross for rescuing an officer while under fire. Morris is the first Australian to receive this coveted decoration, which carries with it an annual pension of £10 from the British Government. He will also receive £52 annually for life, this sum having been offered by an Australian insurance company to the first Australian winning the Victoria Cross.

On January 1, 1898, the merchant marine of Russia was made up of 604 steam and 2,294 sailing vessels. The steamers of the Russian merchant marine are principally screw steamers, with one engine, but a few are of larger dimensions, with two engines, chiefly on the Caspian and Black seas. Sixty-one per cent. of the entire fleet of sailing vessels are of less than 100 tons, 16 per cent. has from 100 to 200 tons, and only 131 vessels have a tonnage exceeding 500 tons, chiefly on the Caspian sea.

The India Office has issued its annual financial statement. This shows a surplus for 1899-1900 of £2,553,000 and an estimated surplus for 1900-1901 of £160,000. The famine expenditure for 1899-1900 worked out at £2,055,000. It is estimated that the famine expenditure for 1900-1901 will be £3,335,000. Except for the famine expenditure the budget is regarded as healthy. The gold standard has been successfully introduced, and all demands have been met without borrowing. The surplus of £160,000 is, however, only a paper surplus for a temporary loan of £500,000 to be incurred in England, and it is estimated that a temporary loan of three crores of rupees will be necessary for ways and means.

An official account has been issued of the victory of the French troops over the Arab army at Inrahr, which assembled with the object of attacking the French expedition which recently occupied the oasis of Insalah, southwest of Algeria. The French learned of the scheme and decided to storm the enemy's position, which was successfully carried March 19th by a column led by Lieut.-Colonel Eu. The town was first bombarded and then stormed, the Arab warriors making their last stand in the mosques. They left 600 men killed and a hundred wounded on the field. In addition 450 prisoners were taken. The French losses were nine native soldiers killed, thirty-eight wounded, and two officers wounded.

Mitchell's Newspaper Press Directory. The fifty-fifth issue of this valuable book of reference, sold at the extremely moderate price of 2/-, more than maintains the standard of previous years. It contains the latest reliable information concerning newspapers and magazines in all parts of the world. We gather from it that there are 472 papers published in London, 1,475 in the English provinces, 110 in Wales, 233 in Scotland, 181 in Ireland, and 20 in the British Isles. Magazines number 2,328; 543 of them being of a religious character. Of all these journals full particulars are given as to day of publication, politics, proprietorship, area of circulation, aims, etc. Of the foreign press, of course, less is said, but what information is given is remarkably accurate and valuable. To newspapers and firms having a large advertising connection the volume is simply invaluable. Among the special articles is one by Mr. Hugh Fraser, LL.D., on "Decisions affecting the Press, with special reference to the Law of Libel," another by Miss Laura Smith on "Women's Work on the Press," and an illuminative review by Mr. E. Williams of "The South African Settlement and Imperial Trade." In regard to the information given as to principal towns in the British Colonies and India the book has almost the value of a gazetteer as well as a directory.

Paris journals state that the report that the Duke of Orleans was injured by a wild boar is untrue. The *Aurore* states that the Duke's indisposition is really due to a sound thrashing he received from an Englishman on account of his letter of congratulation to M. Willette, the artist who caricatured the Queen in *Le Rire*.

The *Osaka Asahi* states that the Mitsubishi Dock-yard continues to receive new orders to such an extent that the existing organisation proves inadequate. A scheme was formulated two years ago to acquire a piece of land (some 7,000 *tsubo*) by reclaiming the shore of Tomiwan, which borders the yard. A hill was demolished, and with the earth thus obtained a small island was formed over the hidden rocks in front of the bay, and a bridge was constructed there. These works were undertaken with great speed, and were lately completed. The expenditures incurred are said to have amounted to 110,000 *yen*, and the area of reclaimed land extended over 2,000 *tsubo* in Tomiwan and 3,000 in the new island. In Tomi a sawing machine is about to be fitted up, while as to the island four rails were laid over the bridge for the transportation of shipbuilding materials. The place is surrounded on all sides by sea, about 20 feet deep even at low tide, and thus large vessels can come alongside. Simultaneously, however, orders for two vessels have been received from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and for one from the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and the new yard is still found insufficient for the execution of the work on hand. A fresh reclamation is now being undertaken to enlarge the yard.

THE "TOKYO MARU."

The following particulars of the wreck of the *Tokyo Maru* in the Gulf of Pechili are taken from the letter of the Tientsin correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*:—The wreck of the *Tokyo Maru* is the event of the week. Captain Jones had given orders to be called on sighting Howki light. Just after changing watch at midnight on Saturday, in fact the moment the relief officer came on the bridge, the latter heard breakers on the port bow. The helm was put hard-a-port and the Captain instantly called, but before he could get on the bridge the ship struck. Her bow slewed off to starboard with the forward plates badly torn, but the stern held fast. There was little or no panic, and the crew behaved well, working admirably under the second officer and the bo'sun. A bit of a rush was made for the first boat, and in the somewhat selfish hurry-skurry of the native passengers she swamped with, it is feared, a loss of three (? two) Chinese and two Japanese (? three). Happily the sea was smooth, and when one boat went off to search for a landing place, there was little danger beyond that caused by the darkness and the fog. A good landing-place was not found, so the boats returned and lay close to the ship until daylight. At day-break a landing was made, and Captain Jones sent ashore awnings with which a tent was made: signals of distress were shown, but from the peculiar position of the vessel they were extremely unlikely to be seen by vessels passing to the southward 3 or 4 miles distant. Only one such ship did pass, and she did not see the *Tokio Maru*. Meanwhile the second officer, Mr. Staats, had sailed for Tengchoufu in Hope Sound, in one of the ship's boats. He made it in due course, and informed the Chefoo agent of the accident by telegraph. Help was at once sent, but as it did not arrive till late, Sunday night was spent on the Island.

The passengers speak highly of the conduct of the officers and the Japanese sailors, but the reports of the behaviour of the stewards are far from satisfactory. Some of these fellows partially looted the cabins, stole money, tried to monopolise the biscuits and bread, were rude and insolent, and looked exclusively after their own precious selves. The two European ladies on board, and the Japanese lady passengers, all behaved admirably; the three little children of Mr. Hancock seemed to regard the whole thing as a fine picnic. Capt. Jones and the officers got invaluable aid from Dr. Morrison and the Rev. F. Norris, the male European passengers. Mr. Norris' linguistic services were indispensable in getting supplies and courteous treatment from the natives of the island, who did the right thing throughout.

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HYOGO AND OSAKA CONSULAR REPORT.

The trade of Hyogo (including Osaka) during 1898 maintained its normal steady increase, as is shown by the following figures:—Imports, £14,456,548 against £11,906,651 in 1897, and exports £6,330,038 against £5,386,578, being an increase in value of the total trade of more than 20 per cent. As usual the imports were more than double the value of the exports and the rate of increase of imports was greater than that of exports, being over 23 per cent. in the former as against 17 per cent. in the latter. More than half of the entire increase in the year's trade was due to an upward bound in the import of rice. A special interest attaches to last year's trade as marking the close of the era of the 5 per cent. Conventional Tariff, which secured to Japan for a whole generation the benefits of what was virtually free trade. The new Statutory Tariff came into force on Jan. 1, 1899, and in view of that momentous change there was a great rush of imports at the close of 1898. Of the six leading staple imports four—namely, rice, railway materials, raw cotton, and sugar—showed a marked increase over the preceding year; whilst two—namely, spinning machinery and cotton yarn—showed a no less marked decrease. In exports the greatest advance took place in cotton yarn, matches, and copper. As the total trade of Osaka is less than one-thirtieth of that of Kobe, I shall use the latter term as including both ports, unless where the two are expressly dealt with separately towards the end of this report.

Imports.

Raw cotton is the leading staple import, being more than a quarter in value of the whole import trade. The increase in the quantity imported, about 127,000 tons, was about 14 per cent. increase on the quantity taken during 1897; but the point of most interest in connection with the staple is the change which has taken place in the source of supply. At first the imported cotton came mainly from China, now most of it comes from Bombay; and whereas the American cotton was, a few years ago, a negligeable quantity, it now comes next to the Indian in quantity and value, and tends more and more to drive the Chinese article out of the market.

As was to be expected, the increased import of raw cotton caused a decreased import of cotton yarn to the extent of nearly £100,000 worth, entirely at the expense of Great Britain. The small importations from Germany and France, though insignificant, showed a marked upward tendency. And the fact that the drop in cotton manufactures in general was only £55,000, shows that the import of cotton fabrics is not falling off like that of yarn. Grey shirtings, in spite of the prolonged tightness of money, more than held their own, whilst white and other shirtings doubled in value. There was an advance of nearly 50 per cent. in handkerchiefs and thread, and the only marked decline was in Victoria lawns and duck.

Whereas in 1896 rice was the leading item in the list of exports. Primarily, this change was undoubtedly due to short crops in the two last years, a shortage which for 1897 was estimated at 800,000 tons below the average, but the fact is that Japan is steadily tending to become more and more dependent on foreign supplies for its staple grain.

Third on the list of imports comes metals, amongst which bar iron, displacing rails, took the leading place with 30,000 tons, value £175,000, as against 22,000 tons, value £130,000, in 1897. Pig iron shows a similar advance, being over 35,000, tons, value £80,000, as against 6,000 tons, value £60,000, the preceding year. Plate and sheet-iron made even a greater stride, rising from 7,500 tons in 1897 to 11,000 tons, in 1898. The most marked decrease was in rails, of which hardly 3,200 tons were taken, value £118,000, being only two-thirds of the amount imported the year before, the drop being mainly at the expense of the British manufacturer, the United States having now ousted us from the leading place. The average import of rails for all Japan during the last three years has been something over £250,000 sterling, of which half was taken by this port. Up till 1896 American rails were unheard of in this country, but in that year they made a promising first appearance, forming nearly a sixth of the total import. In the following year they reached more than a third, and last year more than a half, being double that of the British share, which fell from over £200,000 in 1896 to £80,000 in 1898. Belgian and German rails were not of much account, but they too have suffered from the American competition. As showing the vigorous forward tendency of the American article, I may mention that a few months ago an order was settled in Kobe for some 8,000 tons of rails, value close on £60,000, for which Carnegie's underbid the lowest British offer by 13s. 6d. per ton.

On the other hand, in locomotive engines British imports have in 1898 somewhat recovered ground from the American, as the following figures (for all Japan) show:—

Country.	Value.		
	1898.	1897.	1896.
Great Britain	£204,150	£180,600	£115,940
U. S. A.	200,000	239,400	45,760
Other countries.....	23,000	3,500	16,500
Total	£427,150	£423,500	£178,200

In imports of machinery there was a decided falling off, but the competition of other countries was but slightly felt by the British manufacturer. The value of spinning and weaving machinery brought into this port was barely £200,000, as against more than double that amount in 1897; but 89 per cent. was British—Germany and France being the only competitors. In electrical, mining, printing, paper-making, sewing, and other miscellaneous machinery the total of £255,000 shows a decrease of only 6 per cent. from the preceding year's amount; and while the British share fell from 56 to 51 per cent., the American share fell from 28 to 20 per cent., the German share advancing from 12 to 24 per cent. As indicating one of the causes of the British falling-off, I may here mention an incident relative to bicycles. An important British company which manufactures that article recently wrote to me, saying they were desirous of appointing an agent for the sale of their goods here, enclosing copy of their catalogue, and asking me to recommend a desirable firm competent and willing to look after their interests. Here is the gist of the reply I received from the firm to whom I communicated the application:—"Must decline with thanks; for the English make of cycles there is no great 'show' in Japan. . . . The British maker is by far too conservative and in every way unaccommodating; we are at present importing machines from America, and can get two smart-looking articles for the price of one English cycle. Of course, the finish is not to be compared, but the main thing is the Americans are willing to adapt themselves to the peculiar 'extras' wanted by the Japanese; whereas the British maker puts too many obstacles in the way, and even in cases where he does adapt himself to the local requirements' the prices for 'extras' are prohibitive altogether. We may say this does not refer to cycles alone; it is our general experience."

The import of sugar last year amounted to the value of close on £1,000,000, the preceding years import being only £750,000. In woollens there was a slight decrease, cloth being the only fabric which made any considerable advance, over 1,000,000 yards being taken, value £108,000; as against 600,000 yards, value £63,000, the year before.

Probably no staple in either the import or export trade presents the same steadiness from year to year as petroleum. The normal annual increase, keeping pace with the movement of population, may almost be predicted in advance. In 1898 import was 31,000,000 gallons, as against 25,000,000 gallons, the preceding year. Such fluctuation as took place was between the various brands in the market. Chester and Anchor brands declined, but the increase in the Atlantic made up the deficiency. The Russian oil imported in bulk amounts, as before, to about a fifth of the total, and the Langkat article has made no advance on the figures of the preceding year.

Exports.

The leading exports during the year were, in the order of their importance: cotton yarn, matches, rice, copper, matting, tea, and straw-braid. Just as raw cotton is now the leading import, so cotton yarn has become, definitely, the leading export. How rapid has been the development of this manufactured staple will be apparent from the following figures:—

Quantity and Value of Cotton Yarn Exported from Hiogo.

Year.	Quantity. Tons.	Value £
1895	1,610	87,875
1896	6,407	360,130
1897	22,005	1,213,525
1898	37,565	1,889,431

As yet the whole of this export goes to the neighbouring Empires, China and Korea, and to Hongkong. Thanks to the financial assistance rendered by the Government, as noted in last year's trade report, the trade is almost entirely in the hands of native merchants. As the import of foreign cotton yarn during the year amounted only to some 3,500 tons, less than one-tenth of the home production, it is manifest that the mills of Japan are now producing far in excess of the requirements of the home market, and that if their prosperous career is to continue they must retain and even extend their hold on the markets of Eastern Asia. It may be doubted, however, if the Government will ever repeat the subvention of the year before last. The fact is that the change of the monetary standard in that year from silver to gold reduced the spinning industry to a most trying position. So severely was the change felt that many of the weaker companies had either to dissolve or incorporate with other companies owing to the dearth of money, and some of those which stood the strain had to forego dividends altogether. Nevertheless, five new companies were established in the course of the year, aggregating over 55,000 spindles. Yet the monthly returns of the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association for December last show that the spinning mills in that month numbered 48, working 823,317 spindles, a number only about 30,000 in excess of the number of spindles in operation at the close of 1897. As regards the quality of the goods, the coarser counts turned out are pronounced by foreign experts to be satisfactory, though in some instances the spinnings have proved deficient in weight. In two-fold yarns the quality is moderately good, but the best work is shown in plain brown Egyptians. Gassed yarns are as yet not up to the mark, being deficient in gassing and by no means free from snarls.

For the third year in succession matches occupy the second place amongst exports. In 1898 over 21,500,000 gross, value £625,000, were sent out, being an advance of 2,500,000 gross in quantity and £65,000 in value over 1897.

Owing to the shortage of the rice crop of 1897 the export of 1898 was less than for previous years, only 48,500 tons, as against 53,000 tons in 1897, and 80,000 tons in 1896. The export of copper shows a steady increase, over £444,000 worth in 1898, as against £340,000 the previous year. The light, cool, and tasteful floor-covering made of the Japanese rush continues to displace in the American market the old-fashioned but much more durable Canton matting. £397,000 worth was exported last year, as against £322,000 worth the preceding year. Although the tea-crop was of very inferior quality, the export of 1898 was only about 10 per cent. lower than that of the year before. Porcelain-ware is the only other export worth notice which shows an increase. Camphor, vegetable wax, straw-braid, isinglass, dried fish, and coal all show a falling-off.

General.

As compared with 1897, the gain of the total British imports was less than 8 per cent., whilst the imports from the United Kingdom itself fell off about 15 per cent. The United States made a huge stride. Last year, for the first time in the history of its foreign trade, this port received more imports from the United States than from Great Britain; the advance on the American import of the preceding year being over 68 per cent., nearly treble that of 1896. German imports exceeded those of 1896. German imports exceeded those of 1897 by 40 per cent., or, to put the facts in another form, whilst the imports from the United States and Germany put together were in 1897 barely equal to four-fifths of the import from Great Britain, in 1898 Great Britain's import was only about two-thirds of the aggregate imports of the United States and Germany, and in previous years the British preponderance in the import trade was much greater.

In exports, as in imports, whilst there has been a respectable gain in the "total British" figures, the exports to the United Kingdom show a falling-off, whilst those to the United States, to Germany, and, most of all, to China, show an advance.

It is abundantly clear that whilst the trade with the British Empire as a whole continues to advance, that with its two great commercial rivals, the United States and Germany, is advancing at a much more rapid rate.

The tonnage entering the port during the last two years was:—

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1898	1,464	2,651,160
1897	1,438	2,452,503
Increase	26	198,657

being an increase on the total tonnage of the prior year of over 8 per cent. The increase in the British tonnage was only 3.3 per cent., the increase in the Japanese tonnage was 20 per cent., in the German 9 per cent.; but the British tonnage was fully one-half of the total, the Japanese 30 per cent., and the German less than 8 per cent. of the total.

There were at the end of the year 1,080 foreigners residing in the two ports, not counting Chinese, who were nearly double that number. Of the Europeans, 598 were British, 158 German, 49 Portuguese, and 46 French, but the United States' citizens came next to the British, being 160. There were 81 British firms, an increase of six over the preceding year; 82 German firms, and 29 American, being an increase of one and three respectively.

I have to express my regret for the delay in forwarding this report, the compilation of which has been twice interrupted by attacks of illness.

J. C. Hall.

An auction sale was held at Ladysmith on February 21, about a week before the arrival of the relieving column. The following prices were realised:—Tin of milk, 10s; eggs, £2 8s a dozen; a fowl, 18s; one pound of marmalade, £1 1s; a plate of potatoes, 19s; a plate of tomatoes, 18s; pound of tomatoes, 18s; a pound of coffee, 17s; half a pound of tobacco, 65s.

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TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

GENERAL GATACRE'S RECALL.

Shanghai, April 13.

General Orders state that General Chermside is to replace General Gatacre, who has been ordered to England owing, it is believed, to the Reddersberg disaster.

GENERAL HUNTER.

General Hunter is to command the Brigade going from Durban to join Lord Roberts.

WEPENER.

The garrison at Wepener numbers only 500 men, with seven guns.

FRANCE AND BEIRA.

M. Delcassé, speaking in the French Chamber of Deputies, refused to discuss the question of the passage of British troops to Beira. He said that France was not concerned in the matter.

A TIMELY WARNING.

In view of symptoms of unrest, which have displayed themselves in the north of Cape Colony, Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation, warning the inhabitants against further hostility, and telling them that no leniency will be shown them in future, but that rebels will be treated with the utmost rigour of military law.

THE REPUBLICS AND PORTUGAL.

Later.

The Boer Governments have formally notified Portugal that they consider her permission for the passage of British troops through Beira tantamount to hostile action.

ASHANTI.

The news from Ashanti continues to be serious. Letters from the interior state that five British officers and forty Houssas (negro troops specially raised for service on the West Coast of Africa) have been killed.

WEPENER.

Lord Kitchener has arrived at Aliwal North and has heliographed a sympathetic message to Wepener, where the attack seems to be slackening.

NEWS FROM WEPENER.

Shanghai, April 14.

The Times' correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that General Dalgetty occupies a position outside Wepener and the Boers hold the town.

Various telegrams refer vaguely to fighting at De Wets' Dorp. It is inferred that this is the column from Bloemfontein, which is advancing to Wepener.

WEPENER RELIEVED: THE BOERS RETREAT.

Later.

Reuters' agent, telegraphing from Bloemfontein under date of Friday, says it is reported that the Boers at Wepener have been repelled with great loss, have relinquished the attack, and are returning north.

GENERAL CHERMSIDE.

General Chermside, with the Third Division, has arrived at Reddersburg from Bethany.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AHEAD.

The censorship is strict and exciting developments are expected.

LEYDS' PROCEEDINGS.

Shanghai, April 15.

Dr. Leyds met a Boer deputation at Milan and had a long conference with them. He proceeds to the Hague to-morrow. The German Consul at Milan called during the Conference and the newspapers state that he was present during the latter half. They also announce that Count von Buelow, who is staying at Pallanza, went to Milan yesterday, presumably to see the delegates, and stayed some hours. The *Daily Mail* adds that Leyds had a long conference with Buelow this morning.

A CONTRADICTION.

Later.

It is untrue that Count von Buelow has seen the Boer delegates.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

The Paris Exhibition has been opened. The ceremony was simple but imposing. President Loubet, surrounded by the Foreign Ambassadors and Commissioners, delivered an address.

GENERAL CARRINGTON.

Shanghai, April 16.

General Carrington has sailed from Cape Town to Beira, with a further force of Australians and with the Scotch Gillies Corps.

WEPENER.

No shelling was heard at Wepener yesterday.

BRABANT ADVANCES.

Brabant and his head-quarters with all the mounted troops have left Aliwal North for Rouxville.

FIGHTING AT WEPENER.

Later.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Aliwal North, says that it is officially reported that the British losses at Wepener during four days of fighting were 18 killed and 132 wounded. The besiegers are apprehensive of being themselves surrounded.

ON THE BASUTO BORDER.

Three thousand men are posted on the Basuto border to prevent the Boers from crossing.

ROBERTS PREPARED.

Reuter's agent telegraphing from Bloemfontein, says that Lord Roberts is now in a position to concentrate an overwhelming force at any point.

HORSES.

Shanghai, April 17.

Horses continue to arrive at Bloemfontein in great numbers, but they are in low condition and require nursing.

WEPENER.

The losses hitherto telegraphed from Wepener were anterior to the 14th instant. The losses since that date are unknown. The garrison signalled on Saturday that all was well.

BOERS RETIRING NORTHWARD.

There are persistent reports that the Boers in the South East of the Free State are retiring northward, being short of ammunition and disheartened. It is said that Kruger has been down to Brandford, and that he was recently visiting the South. The continual exertion of his personal influence appears to be becoming a significant necessity.

MAFEKING.

Later.

Lieutenant Smithman, of the Rhodesian Regiment, reached Mafeking through the Boer lines and returned to Colonel Plumer's camp on the 8th of April. All was well at Mafeking on the 4th of April.

THE BOERS AT WEPENER.

Shanghai, April 18.

The *Standard's* correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that the commandos investing Wepener are in full retreat. The majority have retired north but six thousand are still reported to be approaching Bethulie.

MAFEKING.

Snyman resumed the bombardment of Mafeking, on the 6th of April.

WEPENER.

Reuter's agent telegraphing from Maseru, wires that the Boer scouts report the approach of forces to relieve Wepener from Reddersburg and Rouxville. The majority of the Boers favour raising the siege, but Olivier is reluctant to move while there is a chance of capturing Dalgety, who is determined to hold the position.

BEIRA.

Three transports of Bushmen landed at Beira on the 14th instant, and twenty-two transports are expected during the month.

THE QUEEN.

The Queen leaves Dublin on the 27th instant.

LORD ROBERTS' CRITICISMS.

Shanghai, April 19.

Despatches from Generals Buller and Warren regarding the Spion Kop affair, with a covering despatch from Lord Roberts, have been gazetted. Lord Roberts severely criticizes Buller, Warren, and Thorneycraft.

The Times refers to the great services rendered by Lord Roberts in exposing impartially and severely the costly errors and omissions committed in high quarters.

MAFEKING.

News from Mafeking says all was well on the 11th inst.

WEPENER.

Reuters' agent, telegraphing from Maseru on Tuesday, reports that five of the enemy's guns at Wepener had been disabled, and that the leaders were still disputing.

ROBERTS'S CRITICISMS.

Later.

There is no news from South Africa. The War Office declines to give any information regarding the report that General Warren has been recalled. The papers generally approve of Roberts's outspokenness. They observe that his criticisms inspire misgivings regarding the training of officers.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE CABINET.

Saigon, April 13.

During the discussion on the Budget in the French Chamber of Deputies, M. Cochin criticized the general policy of the Cabinet. M. Waldeck-Rousseau defended the Government's policy, which, he said, had restored to the country tranquillity and moral peace. The Chamber, by 286 votes to 211, recorded its endorsement of the President of the Council's discourse.

THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE BUDGET.

The Chamber of Deputies has rejected some modifications made in the Budget by the Senate.

THE BOERS IN NATAL.

The Boers, on Tuesday and Wednesday, bombarded the British camp at Elandslaagte. A brisk cannonade took place between the two sides.

THE FRENCH BUDGET.

Saigon, April 14.

The French Budget has been definitively voted and Parliament is adjourned until the 22nd of May.

A PRETORIA STORY.

It is announced from Pretoria that after the

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eombat at Elandslaagte the English retired in the direction of Ladysmith.

WEPENER.

The combat continues at Wepener and is favourable to the Boers. Fifteen hundred English are surrounded.

[It is scarcely possible that the English can have had a force of anything like 1,500 men at Wepener. The British version of the number is 500, which is much more probable. For the rest, our latest news is that the Boers have been heavily repulsed.—ED. *J.M.*]

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION.

Saigon, April 15.

Yesterday, the 14th instant, in the afternoon, the President of the French Republic inaugurated the Universal Exhibition in the *Salle des Fêtes* of the Palace of Machines. The President was surrounded by the French Authorities, and by the Ambassadors and Commissioners of foreign countries. There was great enthusiasm.

M. Loubet expressed the conviction that the Exhibition will develop sentiments of concord and solidarity among the nations, and that the twentieth century will see more fraternity and less misery.

The President, warmly applauded, traversed the Champs-de-Mars and ascended the Seine to the Pont Alexandre and the Elysée. The weather was beautiful and the crowd enormous. There was great enthusiasm, and the whole city was decorated.

Saigon, April 16.

On the occasion of the opening of the Exhibition, the President of the Republic received numerous telegrams of congratulation, notably from the Emperor of Russia and President McKinley.

The President of the Council of Ministers, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, received, on his side, numerous congratulations from the provinces and from abroad.

THE EXHIBITION.

Saigon, April 17.

Enormous crowds visited the exhibition yesterday and to-day. The success has been brilliant, notably for the French Colonial Section. Most of the installations will be completely terminated by the end of the month. Paris is *en fête*.

WEPENER.

Saigon, April 18.

20,000 English are marching to relieve Wepener. The Boers have retired towards an unknown destination.

(FROM THE "CHINA MAIL")

PLAGUE IN AUSTRALIA.

Melbourne, March 20.

There have been five deaths from suspected Plague at Adelaide.

Adelaide and Sydney have been declared infected with the Plague.

Advices from Sydney state that stringent measures are being taken to eradicate the Plague, and citizens are being inoculated.

BRITISH CAVALRY.

Colombo, April 9.

The immobility of the British force at Bloemfontein is explained by the fact that the cavalry has broken down under the great strain of the last few weeks.

The operations of the British are confined within a limited area, it being impossible to cover a radius from the town of thirty miles.

It is not expected that Lord Roberts will attempt any further advance until the arrival at the front of ten thousand Sauth American horses which are landing this week at Cape Town.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, April 14th:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders...	15,606,204
Amount of convertible notes issued ...	211,802,736
Government deposits	61,646,236
General deposits	7,812,099
Exchange liability	9,190
Total	326,876,466
CR.	
Discount notes	73,011,199
Foreign discount notes	8,367,394
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,508,409
Exchange liability	2,308,781
Government bonds	55,280,546
Property	2,038,686
Bullion and Specie	95,361,441
Total	326,875,466

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	210,770,566
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	90,753,554
Silver	4,000,000
Total	94,753,554
Securities:—	
Government bonds	19,522,921
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,606,581
Commercial notes	62,890,510
Total	116,020,012

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	938,110
Silver	—	—
General loans	1,195,108	—
Government deposits...	1,081,138	—
General deposits...	1,168,991	—

PARIS AND "LE DUM-DUM."

On the boulevards on Mardi Gras confetti was sold everywhere. Stalls of it stood at every corner; anæmic youths flourished it by the bag; old women hawked it about in wooden measures—and all three did well in spite of the rain. White lilac was to be had, and nougat. A Turk passed to and fro, with Sujat carpets; behind him came another pedlar, loudly calling attention to a new toy. It consisted of two figures, the one large, the other small; it represented a Boer and an Englishmen, and it was worked by a string. "Voici Kronje et Roberts," announced the man, then holding his puppets up, made them bow and dance, made Cronje pick Roberts up eventually, made Roberts shake, totter, fall, "Kronje wins," cried the pedlar. "See Kronje victorious, see Roberts defeated, see the triumph of the Transvaal over England—only fifty centimes." Soon, another cry rose, and it was, "Here's the dum-dum, the dum-dum, the dum-dum," and it came from a brother pedlar, equipped also with a new toy. His was a card-board bullet out of which an Englishmen jumped when a spring was touched, and this was Roberts again, or Buller, or Macdonald, or Kitchener, now one, now the other, yet all three alike. No one heeded these pedlars, however, because everybody was buying or exchanging confetti; and both men were pushed and proclaimed to be a nuisance and persuaded at last to get out of the way. Grumbling, they took to the terraces of the cafés, and made Cronje throw Roberts; or Buller, or Macdonald, or Kitchener jump out of their "dum-dum," again and a bourgeois, surrounded by his family, held forth on the war. "Le dum-dum," he said, "is the most terrible bullet employed in the war, and it has been used now for the first time. It can kill twenty men, one after the other. It will blow them to pieces, and into the air. It can ——" "Merci, mon ami," replied his wife. "Get Jeanne some confetti, and let's walk. Never mind your dumdum: we shall never see one in France." And so Jeanne threw confetti, handfuls of it; and so others pelted her; and so Jeanne was soon bathed in colour; and so the pavements became purple and yellow and pink and green; and so a mud of confetti was made because it rained; and yet the crowd grew and passed on patiently, gaily, amiably, without a word that was rude or a gesture that was rough. "Voici Kronje," shouted the pedlars, "Voici Roberts." "La Patrie," cried a camelot suddenly. "Défaite du Général Kronje par les Anglais." But—the battle of confetti continued and the camelots, twenty or thirty of them now, all hastening, were rarely stopped. Time passed; and the crowd, the confetti grew thicker and thicker. Here and there, a camelot still announced the news; occasionally, some one would say, "Les Boëres sont en fuite, tu sais." The mud of confetti got sticky now, and ran in coloured streams. There were purple splashes, green splashes, yellow splashes, pink splashes of it everywhere. Towards six o'clock apéritifs were taken; and then only did the Parisian discuss the news of the day. "Ce pauvre Kronje," was his favourite remark, "sa pauvre femme! Parait qu'il y'a 3,000 prisonniers. C'est la fin. C'est la triomphe du dum-dum." When the "Petit Bleu" appeared with a photograph of Cronje, the Parisian studied it and called the heroic General "a fine man" and "a big man," and sympathised with his wife who was "a brave woman" and "a good woman," and drew pictures of them both in their camp, surrounded by their men. It stirred him to think that the General had been followed by his wife throughout the campaign; and there was almost more sympathy for her than for him, while President Kruger's name was not even mentioned. "London will rejoice," said a portly little bourgeois. "Chamberlain will become a hero," replied another. "C'est le dum-dum." And when the Parisian had finished his absinthe, he went forth on to the boulevards once more, and exchanged more confetti on his way to dinner, and shook it off as he entered his restaurant, and dined well, and laughed in a theatre afterwards, and did not mention the matter again.

On the Rive Gauche, the "dum-dum" had won both Roberts' and Buller's victories. Kimberley and Ladysmith have been saved by it and Cronje would be at large if there had been no "dum-dum." Mr. Rhodes—according to Bohemia—must rejoice; Mr. Rhodes, indeed, should give the inventor of that particular bullet the richest of his gold mines—for, without it, he would be a prisoner or, worse still, careering about South Africa in a balloon. Queer birds might attack him; a storm might drive him straight into the enemy's camp; a perverse wind might blow him across the ocean, upset him, and he—in spite of his nuggets—would be obliged to strike out for his life and swim. Then, mes amis, Rhodes would become a Robinson Crusoe, and wear skins instead of a frock coat and sandals in the place of boots, and sip water and cook sparrows and cry for crusts; or, finding no island, he would seek refuge on a rock and stare at the sea all day, and have no one to speak to and no companions but silent oysters and sentimental seals. All this might have happened to Mr. Rhodes. Now he must respect, now he must admire, that "chose effrayante, le dum-dum." And then "ce pauvre Kronje," and, "sa pauvre petite femme," how they must condemn the cause of all their troubles, that sinister object, "le dum-dum"! Weeks ago they were side by side in the trim camp, the one smoking his pipe, the other reading the Bible to him, or bathing their grandson, or knitting. Both were certain of success, then; both dreamt, no doubt, of returning to their farm in a month or so, when the war had been brought to a triumphant close. And then, suddenly, all their hopes are shattered, all their dreams dispersed, not—"Hear me, Mimi"—by an honest cannon, but by that frightful monster, "le dum-dum." "Is it big?" asks Mdlle Mimi. Like a petit pain," answers Paul. Is it in a shape of a croissant?" goes on Mdlle. Mimi. "No," replies Paul, "it is straight. It could travel from here to Amiens killing everybody it met on the way, and even then have power enough to shatter the Théâtre Municipale, the Cathedral, aud the Hotêl de Ville, and afterwards——" "Assez!" cries Mdlle. Mimi. "It has killed enough." Paul, however, is bent on showing his knowledge of military matters, and attributes many an odd power, many a strange merit, to that outrageous assassin, "le dum-dum." "It is at once bizarre," he goes on. "It never smokes and it can scarcely be seen. It does not travel straight like other bullets but is on the ground now and then in the air, or turning somersaults or cutting figures, waiting always for a favourable opportunity to drop. It has marked its man—the biggest in the field. One would say that it can *see*." "Diabolique," observes Pierre. "And then," continues Paul, "it strikes. It enters an arm or a leg. It travels; it goes everywhere, and then it comes out and strikes another Boer and explores him also, and then it treats a third Boer in the same manner, and a fourth, and a fifth, and a six—"Assez," cries Mddle. Mimi, "it has killed more than enough." "When," concludes Paul, "it is exhausted, it shrieks and gives up smoke which suffocates everybody and which, sinister detail! is green!" Still, Paul admits that the Boëres also use the "dum-dum," a kind of their own. It is not so successful, because it cannot kill as much. After it has "explored" three Englishmen, it is spent. Why? Because it is bothered by khaki, a mysterious stuff. "You," declares Paul, pointing to Mdlle. Mimi, "you might wear khaki and no one would know that yours was not an ordinary dress. The Quarter would say, 'Mimi is wearing fawn.' The Quarter

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would never know that you had, in reality, a suit of armour on, as strong as steel, as sound as the costumes of the ancient Moors, Mohammedans, and Crusaders." And as Mdlle. Mimi is still sceptical, Paul explains that khaki is a preparation of india-rubber almost impossible to penetrate, and that it blunts bullets and swords, and that the Boères do not know this because it looks like an ordinary and innocent suit of yellow. What wonder then, that Cronje should be a prisoner! What wonder that thousands of his men should be also helpless to attack. Khaki and the "dum-dum" have been too much for them; khaki and the "dum-dum" have saved Kimberley and Ladysmith; khaki and "dum-dum" will destroy South Africa very soon, and put an end to the war.—*The Saturday Review.*

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 468.

Kt Kt7	Q B4 ch	Q QB7, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
K Q3	K K2 or Q2	
.....	Q Q4 ch	Kt R5, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
Kt moves	K B5 must	
.....	Q Kt3 ch	Kt B6, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
P B7	K×P must	
.....	Q Q4 ch	P K5, mate
1 ———	2 ———	3 ———
P Kt6	K B5 must	

PROBLEM No. 470.

By R. H. SEYMOUR.

Black.

White.

White mates in two moves.

GAME 581.

White—Charousek. Black—Other man.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—K Kt to B 3	2—Q Kt to B 3
3—B to B 4	3—B to B 4
4—P to Q Kt 4	4—B takes Kt P
5—P to B 3	5—B to R 4
6—Castles	6—P to Q 3
7—P to Q 4	7—B to Kt 3
Should play P takes P.	
8—P to Q R 4	8—Kt to R 4
9—B to R 2	9—P takes P
10—P takes P	10—B to K 3
11—Kt to B 3	11—B takes B
12—R takes B	12—Kt to K 2
13—K to R sq	13—Castles
Now for a grand push.	
14—P to Kt 4	14—Kt to Kt 3
15—P to R 4	15—R to K sq
Observe if Kt takes P, B to Kt 5 follows.	
16—P to R 5	16—Kt to B sq
17—B to Kt 5	17—Q to Q 2
18—Kt to R 4	18—Kt to K 3
19—B to K 3	19—Kt to Q B 5
20—Kt to B 5	20—Kt takes B
21—P takes Kt	21—P to QB3
22—P to Kt 5	22—B to Q sq
If Kt takes P, then Q to Kt 4, menacing Kt and also Kt to R 6 ch to win the Queen.	
23—Q to Kt 4	23—P to Q 4
24—P to Kt 6	24—B P takes P
25—R P takes P	25—P to K R 3
Now for Charousek's grand stroke!	
26—Kt takes Kt P	26—B to Kt 4
If Q takes Kt then R to K B 7, followed by doubling of Rooks.	
27—R to B 7	27—Q to B sq
28—Kt to B 5	28—Kt to Q sq
29—Q takes B and wins, for if Black takes Queen he is mated in two.	

GAME 582.

A MUZIO GAMBIT.

From *Wiener Schachzeitung*,

(REMOVE WHITE'S Q KT.)

White—C. Darasil. Black—Dr. Wolff.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	7 P Q4	Q B3
2 P KB4	PxP	8 P K5	Q QKt3
3 Kt KB3	P KKt4	9 P B3	P Q4
4 B B4	P Kt5	10 BxQP	Kt BB4
5 Castles	PxKt	11 BxPch	KxB
6 QxB	B R3	12 BxP	BxB

And White announced mate in nine moves.

INTERNATIONAL CHESS.

The international chess match, by cable, which was commenced on Friday, March 23rd, was brought to a close the next evening, and resulted in a victory for the American team by a score of six games to four, the same as last year. The handsome trophy given by Sir George Newnes now becomes the permanent property of America. The score of the match follows:—

AMERICA.	Won	GREAT BRITAIN.	Won
Pillsbury	½	Blackburne	½
Showalter	½	Lee	½
Barry	1	Atkins	0
Hodges	1	Bellingham	0
Hymes	½	Mills	½
Voight	1	Lawrence	0
Marshall	0	Jackson	1
Bampton	0	Jacobs	1
Newman	½	Ward	½
Delmar	1	Trenchard	0
Total	6	Total	4

The contest was spirited throughout. England scored the first blood, but at that time it looked as if America would achieve an overwhelming victory, yet later it was a question whether America would be able to win the match even by one narrow point. The whole issue hinged on the game between Pillsbury and Blackburne and the contest between Bellingham and Hodges. Blackburne, by very fine play, regained a pawn lost in the opening and finally secured the better position, but not sufficient to win. Hodges was put on the defence for a day and a half, but finally, by excellent play, succeeded in establishing a won game. Seeing that the match would have been won for America anyhow, he offered a draw, which, however, was not accepted, the gallant Englishman resigning instead.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru 1	M. April 23
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. April 23
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons 3	W. April 25
America	P. M. Co.	China 4	Th. April 26
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen 5	Sa. April 28
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 30
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	M. April 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. May 3
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 6	Su. May 6
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th. May 10
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	M. May 14

1 Left Shanghai on the 18th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 15th inst.
3 Left Shanghai on the 20th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 7th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 18th inst.
6 Left San Francisco on the 17th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Prinz Heinrich	Sa. April 21
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. April 25
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	W. April 25
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	F. April 27
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	F. April 27
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. April 30
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. May 2
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. May 2
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. May 4
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. May 7
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. May 12
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. May 15

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese stermer, 1,894, De Le Lande, 13th April,—Otaru via ports, 7th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, I. Miyagi, 13th April,—Kobe, 11th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 13th April,—Shanghai via ports, 7th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Krisha.

Victoria, British steam yacht, 1,018, Lunham, 13th April,—Kobe, 12th Adril.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 14th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 13th April, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 14th April,—Yokkaichi, 13th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, W. W. Greene, 14th April,—Otaru via ports, 9th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nanyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,670, K. Tomita, 15th April,—Seattle, Wash., Flour.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

St. Andrews, Norwegian steamer, 2,009, H. S. Horgen, 15th April,—Saigon, 4th April, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,682, W. Townsend, 15th April,—London via ports, and Kobe, 14th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ixion, British steamer, 2,299, Thompson, 15th April,—Liverpool via ports, and, Kobe, 14th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Kawahara, 15th April,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 15th April,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Ynsen Kaisha.

Prinz Heinrich, German steamer, 3,902, H. Supmer, 16th April,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 15th April, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, Y. Yamanouchi, 16th April,—Kobe, 14th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 16th April,—Kobe, 14th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma, American steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 17th April,—Kobe, 15th April, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 17th April,—Otaru via ports, 12th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Calabria, Italian cruiser. 2,800, Count A. Contelli, 17th April,—Honolulu, 2nd April.

Konigsberg, German steamer, 3,135, Christiansen, 17th April,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 11th April, French Mail aud General.—C. Illies & Co.

Yosemite (10), U.S. cruiser, 6,179, Capt. G. E. Ide, 17th April,—Guam.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 17th April,—Yokkaichi, 16th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, W. F. Filmer, 18th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 31st March, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 19th April,—Kobe, 17th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, H. Fraser, 19th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 17th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dalny Vostok, Russian steamer, 2,265, Alex. Gove, 19th April,—Kobe via Uraga, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Eric, American schooner, 498, Chas. Roos, 19th April,—Port Blakely, 14th Feb., Lumber.—Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 19th April,—Kobe, 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Indra, British steamer, 3,923, F. L. Burkhill, 12th April,—Kobe and Moji, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Benledi, British steamer, 1,481, Robt Farquhar, 12th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 12th April,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,182, A. E. Moses, 13th April,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Varna, French steamer, 2,084, Rogliano, 13th April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 13th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibold, 13th April,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 13th April,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Serbia, German steamer, 2,377, Sachs, 13th April,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, A. Scherbinin, 14th April,—Nagasaki, General.—Capt. P. H. Powers.
Bobrik, Russian schooner, 119, Yanovsky, 14th April,—Hakodate, Flour.—Capt. P. H. Powers.
Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 14th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Bingo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,677, F. Davies, 14th April,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,652, R. Mumezono, 14th April,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, J. Miyagi, 15th April,—Hakodate via Oginohama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 15th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 16th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Saint Regulus, British steamer, 1,999, C. W. McMullen, 16th April,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Machaon, British steamer, 4,276, W. T. Hannah, 17th April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 17th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.
Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 17th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tacoma, Americân steamer, 1,661, A. Dixon, 17th April,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Drummond, British steamer, 1,794, W. T. Chubbl 17th April,—Moji via Kobe, General.—Samue, Samuel & Co.
Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Kawahara, 17th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 17th April,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Sidra, British steamer, 2,033, A. Atkinson, 17th April, —Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Ixion, British steamer, 2,299, Robt. C. Thompson, 18th April,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Yejo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, Yamanouchi, 18th April,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 18th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 18th April, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 18th April,—Otaru via ports, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Malacca, British steamer, 2,615, E. G. Andrews, 18th April,—London via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, W. E. Filmer, 19th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 19th April,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 19th April,—Yokkaichi, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steam yacht *Victoria*, from Kobe :—Prince Auirdie de Broglie, Princess Marie de Broglie, Prince Robert de Broglie, Mme. la Contesse Blanche Chandon de Braillers, Mr. Henry Say, Mr. Noel Goldsmith, M. le Conte Jean de Marsay, and 13 servants, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Mrs. R. Moriapwa, Miss T. Morikawa, Lieut. M. Yoshida, Mr. T. Isahaya, and Mr. S. Kamiya, in cabin; Mr. C. Aslit, Mr. Y. Kate, Mr. G. Miki, Mr. Kozuma, Mr. S. Fujikatsu, and Mr. Y. Hon Kan, in second class; 50 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mr. J. Hance, Mr. C. H. Fearon, Mr. W. M. Hunphreys, Mr. B. Roth, Mr. J. Orange, Mr. A. McMillan, Mr. J. Briggs, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Mr. F. Becker, Mr. C. Gibbens, Mr. Jas. Whittall, Mrs. C. B. Harris, Mr. R. F. Humphreys, Mr. S. R. Bomanji, Mr. G. Murray, Mr. A. M. Forbes, Mr. Vehling, Mr. R. H. Woolfalt, Mr. Skeel, Mrs. Skeel, in cabin. For San Francisco :—Mr. C. F. Hodde, Mr. C. P. Hawes, Mr. J. Longworth, Mr. Longworth and 2 children, Mr. John Hastings, Mr. O. Stenickmeyer, Mr. A. B. Johnson, Mr. R. M. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Miss B. Campbell, Miss I. Campbell, Mrs. E. E. Fulkerson, and 4 children, Rev. and Mrs. Hope and 2 children, Mr. F. A. Jacobs, Mr. O. Heiskell, Mrs. A. M. F. Pitcher, Miss Daisy Pitcher, Master Albert Pitcher, Mr. C. Bois, Mrs. Bois, Miss F. Krouse, Mr. P. Borkowsky, Mr. L. Philip, Mr. D. L. Anderson, Mrs. D. L. Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Koushevnikoff, Jr., Mr. A. E. Tileman, and Mr. Frederick Green in cabin; Mr. F. Dougherty, Mr. E. Lavroy, Miss M. Worley, and Mr. J. M. Rockfeller, European steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru*, from London via ports :—Mrs. Hirouchi, and Mr. Ogata, in cabin; one in steerage.

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen via ports :—Mr. A. H. Dare, Mr. E. Orlik, Mr. L. E. Sperry, Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, Mr. O. H. Jales, Dr. Meyer, Mr. L. Goetschel, Mrs. E. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Esch, Mr. S. Komor, Mr. C. Kipp, Mr. F. Frerichs, Mr. F. G. Scheffer, Mr. F. C. O. Ribeiro, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Brendenberg, Mr. E. Meregalli, Mr. S. Hanay and servant, and Obermatrose Schultze, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Rear-Admiral Geo. C. Remey, Rear-Admiral Louis Kempff, Lieut. J. H. Shipley, Lieut. R. McLean, Lieut. R. R. Belknap, Mrs. Belknap, Lieut. Victor Blue, Mrs. Blue, Mr. Alexander Hamilton, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Edna Hamilton, Mr. T. Albert, Mr. Otis A. Poole, Mr. W. F. Provan, Miss Eleanor Poole, Chaplain L. P. Reynolds, Mr. H. C. Graves, Jr., Mr. D. E. Mead, Mr. Henry Joy, Mr. Geo. G. Shaw, Mr. D. McIntyre, Mrs. McIntyre, Mr. K. Yamashita, Mr. T. Fujiwara, Mr. H. Masuda, Mr. H. Suzuki, Mr. H. Kamada, and Mr. A. H. Seng, in cabin. For Nagasaki :—Mrs. C. A. Caw, and Mr. L. W. Merrett, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Dr. G. R. and Mrs. Moore Graham, Miss Vere Moore Graham, Miss Sibyl Graham, Miss Mary Rogers, Mr. V. N. McGee, and Mrs. La Wheat, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Mrs. H. Sutherland, Mrs. Sutherland, Capt. E. T. Strong, Mr. Wang Lap, Mr. Lee Chee Shun, Mr. Sam Chee, Mr. D. S. Kan Ting, and Mr. L. T. Laing, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tosa Maru*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mr. N. A. Jensen, and Miss Bodecker, in cabin; 685 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mr. John N. Boyd, Mr. G. S. Beebe, Mr. C. W. Clifton, Mr. Geo. P. Colbert, Mr. Lew Lung Chia, Mr. Leon Chin, Mr. James Cunard, Mrs. L. L. Day & daughter, Mr. J. C. Epperley, Mr. G. E. Fraser, Mr. F. A. Courley, Mr. W. J. Gorham, Mr. W. A. Hoppin, Mrs. W. A. Hoppin, Mr. John Hinkel, Mrs. John Hinkel, Lt. W. N. Little, U.S.N., Mr. W. P. Lambe, Mr. Y. F. Leon, Mr. C. F. Mowedel, Mr. H. Mitchel, Mrs. B. McAllister, Mr. W. Margallis, Lieut. L. M. Nulton, U.S.N., Mr. H. T. Paul, Miss Grace Starr, Mr. A. Simon, Mrs. L. Wheaton, and Mr. A. J. Walsh, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Varra*, for Marseilles via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. Ratard, Mr. S. Hirayama, Mr. E. Oishi, Mr. J. H. de Reus, Mr. and Mrs. Chausson, child and governess, Miss Moses, Mr. Griffin Jones, Mr. O. Lord, Mr. P. Voges, Mr. K. Sawa, Mr. K. Haseba, Mr. K. Aawazu, Mr. Shin, Mr. J. S. Cockburn, Mr. and Mrs. de Grubissicth, Mr. and Mrs. Pfeiffer, Mr. and Mrs. Stenberg, Mr. G. Reiffinger, Mr. E. Marques, Mr. J. Marques, Master Marques, Mr. Son Tong, Mr. Kai Sang, Mr. S. D. Hilles, Mr. Martinelli, Mr. Jida, Mr. A. Toyama, and Mr. Leost, in cabin; 7 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Vancouver :—Mr. Ward Ames, Mrs. Ward Ames, Mr. C. M. Beecher, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mrs. D. E. Brown, Mr. F. Brown, Rev. T. H. Bovill, Mr. J. Chikazumi, Mr. Justice Chubb, Mrs. Chubb, Mr. A. Donald, Mr. W. C. Fowler, Mr. R. Fraser, Mr. F. C. Grove, Mr. A. Hacking, Mr. W. Hartman, Mr. Hugh Hill, Mr. W. H. Holland, Mr. S. L. Holland, Mr. Y. Ikeyama, Sir Thomas Jackson, Miss Jackson, Miss A. Jackson, Miss H. Jackson, Mr. L. Kiene, Mr. T. Kobayashi, Mr. Kong Ying, Mrs. Kong King, Mr. R. Laidlaw, Mrs. R. Laidlaw, Mr. Arthur Lawton, Miss Lawton, Miss Jessie Lawton, Dr. Lowry, Mrs. Lowry, Miss Lowry, Mr. J. Marshall, Mr. R. B. Mauchaw, Mr. O. Meuser, Mr. S. Mihara, Mr. S. Mori, Mr. McDonald, Mrs. McDonald, Miss McDonald, Mr. A. McConachie, Baron A. de Neufville and valet, Mr. F. J. Newman, Colonel Newman, Mrs. Newman, Mr. G. Noma, Mr. S. Ogawa, Mr. R. Paridant, Mrs. Pitkin and child, Miss Reifsnyder, Mr. A. H. Roe, Mr. M. Sasamura, Mr. W. J. Smith, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. J. E. Stewart, Master Stewart, Mr. M. Takaki, Mr. Geo. Taylor, Col. A. H. Turner, Mr. W. E. Townsend, Rev. F. W. Warne, Captain Wells, Mr. E. S. Whealler, Rev. Geo. E. Whitman, and Mrs Whitman .and 4 children, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Victoria Maru*, for Australia via ports :—Miss Gibson, Mr. W. Walsh, Mr. E. Espenham, Mr. A. Marks, Mr. F. S. Moses, Mr. and Mrs. Hayer, Miss Cooper, and Mrs. Switzer and child, in cabin; Mr. K. Hipa, in second class.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no improvement in yarns. Japanese buyers are apparently in want of money and wish to sell rather than to buy. All quotations are nominal. Shirtings are also flat and dull, and in fancy cottons and woollens there has been a retail business only. In metals there is nothing doing.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
T. Cloth—7lb, 24 yards, 32 inches ...	2.05 to 2.25
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	270.00 to 275.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	335.00 to 345.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	440.00 to 450.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	340.00 to 350.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	400.00 to 410.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 530.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$29.00
Indian Broach	28.50
Chinese	28.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward ...	6.50 to 7.00
Iron Plates, assorted	6.40 to 6.90
Sheet Iron	6.90 to 7.50
Galvanised Iron sheets	13.00 to 14.50
Wire Nails, assorted	8.50 to 9.00
Tin Plates, per box	8.70 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.50 to 7.90

KEROSENE.

The market is weak, with a slight decline in prices.

American	$3.04 to 3.05
Russian	2.90
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.90 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Holders have got tired of keeping their goods and lowered prices to the following rates. Some little buying has begun on this basis, and probably more orders will soon come in at these or similar values. Prices are now down to the nominal quotations of 16 June, 1899.

QUOTATIONS.	
Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,090 to 1,100
Filatures—Extra, Coarse...	1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse...	1,020 to 1,030
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine...	1,030 to 1,040
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	1,000 to 995
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse...	Nominal
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½	990 to 1,000
Re-reels—No. 2	970 to 980
Re-reels—No. 3	940 to 950
Kakedas—Etra...	1,030 to 1,040
Kakedas—No. 1	1,010 to 1,020
Kakedas—No. 1½	950 to 960
Kakedas—No. 2	None
Kakedas—No. 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

Very poor market, prices in Europe being from 5 to 10 per cent. lower than what the Japanese have been asking. They now show some inclination to meet buyers, but there are few orders in hand, and those require a quality that is not at present available.

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QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	

TEA.

Nothing to report. The total settlements for the season up to the middle of the month were 212,780 piculs against 208,143 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	
Finest	
Fine	
Good Medium	
Medium	
Good Common	
Common	

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 19.

Silver from London $\frac{1}{16}$ higher, and discount quoted 4 per cent. in the open market without affecting local rates of exchange.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 $\frac{3}{4}$
— — Bills on demand	2/0 $\frac{1}{4}$
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 4 months' sight	259 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 60 $\frac{1}{4}$
— — 6 months' sight	261 to 62
America—Bank sight	49 $\frac{1}{4}$
— Private 4 months' sight	50 $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$
Germany—Bank sight	206 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74 $\frac{1}{4}$
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151 $\frac{1}{4}$
— Private 30 days' sight	153 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bar Silver (London)	27 $\frac{3}{8}$

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, April 19.

Breweries can be placed at *yen* 150. Offers of shares are wanted. Engine and Iron Works are steady at *yen* 212.50. Langfeldts—offers of shares are wanted for cash and for delivery at the end of June. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 157.50. *Yen* 12.50 is offered for the right to new ordinary shares. Grand Hotels are steady at *yen* 240. Helms have sellers at par. Laundries have sellers at par.

Debentures.—Breweries are steady at *yen* 110. Y. U. Clubs can be had at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	212.50 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	150 B.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 S.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	157.50 B.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	450 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	107.50 Sa.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	Nominal

N.B.—S.=Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, W.=Weak, E.=Enquiries

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, April 19.

Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 150. Oriental Hotels have buyers at *yen* 155; *yen* 12.50 is offered for the right to new ordinary shares. Langfeldts have sellers at *yen* 110. Helms have sellers at par.

Kowloon Wharfs have been purchased from Hongkong at $86, and Humphreys Estates at $11.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works	212.50 Steady.
Grand Hotel	240 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	155 Buyers.
Langfeldt & Co.	110 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	150 Buyers.

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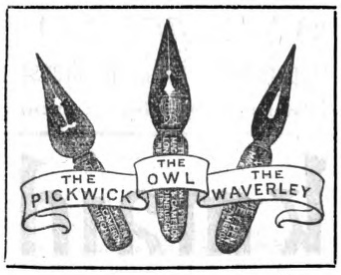

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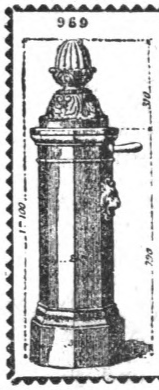

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

On April 20th, at No. 8, Tsukiji, Tokyo, the wife of Richard J. KIRBY, of a daughter.

DEATH.

At Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A., on March 31st, 1900, General FRANCIS H. CAMERON, father of Duncan H. Cameron, of Yokohama.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Duke of Argyll is dead.

SIR NICHOLAS HANNEN died at Shanghai on Thursday.

THE Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China opened an Agency at Madras on the 29th ult.

YOKOHAMA Bluff Lot No. 140-B, containing 550 *tsubos*, and buildings consisting of dwelling house, outhouses, kitchen, and lodge, was put up for sale on Monday morning by Messrs. Eyton and Pratt, but was not sold. The highest bid was 3,000 *yen*, against a reserve of 7,000 *yen*.

COMMANDER ROBERT B. S. WREY, H.M.S. *Brisk*, has become Sir Bourchier Wrey, Bart., by the recent death of his father.

GENERAL SIR A. P. PALMER, K.C.B., Indian Staff Corps, commanding the Punjab, is to be provisional Commander-in-Chief in India.

THE U.S.S. *Albatross* has been docked by the Ishikawajima Shipbuilding and Engineering Co., at Uraga, to have her hull painted and for necessary repairs.

THEIR Excellencies Sir E. Satow and Count Orfini were on Monday received in audience by the Emperor to say farewell in view of their approaching departure for Europe.

THE sailor who robbed a Chinaman of 1,000 *yen* on board the *Empress of India* at Yokohama was arrested in Hongkong. The prosecutors left Yokohama for Hongkong on Saturday.

TWENTY lots of land—33 to 52 inclusive—at the new settlement of Kunsan in Korea, were put up for sale on the 5th instant. Seventeen were purchased by Japanese and three by Chinese.

THE situation in South Africa has changed slightly. The British have caused the Boers to retreat from the neighbourhood of Wepener. Mafeking can hold out till the middle of May on one ration a day.

A FRENCH engineer is said to be engaged surveying the route of the Sōul-Wiju Railway, and the Emperor of Korea is to entertain the chief promoters of the Sōul-Fusan Railway on the 25th instant.

DURING the gale on Friday afternoon a lighter towed by a steam-launch was swamped at the entrance to Yokohama harbour and sunk. A *sendo* was thrown into the water but picked up by the launch.

MR. JUSTICE WILKINSON, who left here at the end of February for London, is now on his return journey to Yokohama and Shanghai, having left Queenstown on the 22nd inst. He is due in Yokohama on May 21.

IT is stated that the official Committee appointed in connexion with the approaching marriage of the Prince Imperial has fixed the date of the ceremony, but no public intimation of the time has yet been made.

THE wreckage and cargo of the *Iranian* were sold at auction on Monday by Messrs. Eyton & Pratt. The cargo brought *yen* 3,000 and the ship *yen* 450, the purchaser being Mr. Sasawo Shojiro. No trace of the vessel is at present visible, so that the purchase is quite a speculative character.

ON Saturday evening, a stabbing affray occurred in Chinatown in front of the Star Saloon, No. 133. The affair was between two sailors, named William Painter and Douglas Gulgor. The latter slightly wounded his opponent's back with a knife. They were taken to the Kagacho Police Station.

STATISTICS published in the *Official Gazette* show that the receipts from posts, telegraphs, and telephones for January this year amounted to 1,320,838 *yen*, showing a decrease of 1,098,453 *yen* as compared with 2,419.311 *yen* for the previous month, but an increase of 288,747 *yen* in comparison with the corresponding period of last year.

MR. C. B. RICKETT, of Foochow, has presented the bird department of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington with a magnificent collection of over 1,100 birds, collected during his travels in Southern China. The series contains many valuable types of species new to science, discovered by him in various parts of China, and comprises a complete collection of the birds of Foochow and the province of Fukhien.

PROVISIONAL charters have recently been granted for the following railway lines projected by the Hoshiu and Hansen Railway Companies :—

Hoshiu Line.	Miles.	Chains.	Capital. Yen.
Kawasaki-Soeida section ...	3	13 ...	220,000
Ida-Ikari section ...	1	45 ...	180,000
Hansen Line.			
Ichinoseki-Ofunada section..	62	25 ...	4,300,000

IT is announced that the Naniwa and Kyoritsu banks have amalgamated, and their joint capital amounts to 3,700,000 *yen*. The Osaka Railway Company and the Kwansei Railway Company have taken a similar step, the basis of agreement being that each share of the Osaka Company shall be considered equivalent to two shares of the Kwansei Company together with a sum of 13½ *yen*.

A RUSSIAN sailor, who deserted from the *Admiral Korniloff*, appears to have given some trouble to the police. He was first arrested at Shinagawa, but escaped. The whole police force of the district, 90 constables altogether, then directed their energies to his re-arrest, and he was at length seen lying under a tree. On the approach of a constable the man drew a knife and sprang at the policeman, but he was finally captured, though with difficulty, and taken to Yokohama.

REPRESENTATIVE Japanese members of the foreign and Japanese newspapers of Yokohama assembled at the Nagoya-ro, Kanagawa, on Sunday, and after a short discussion decided to enroll themselves under the name of *Shimbun Kyokai* (Union Newspaper Society). There will be two general meetings a year and the affairs of the society will be managed by a committee of five elected from the sixteen newspaper offices. After this business had been conducted, dinner was served and the evening was spent in the usual fashion at Japanese entertainments.

STATISTICS published in the *Shogyo* show that the customs receipts during the 32nd fiscal year amounted to 15,487,135 *yen* for imports and to 399,346 *yen* for exports, making a total of 15,886,481 *yen*. This amount is less than the estimates, by 224,840 *yen*, but is an increase of 9,259,652 *yen*, or 130.97 per cent., over the figures for the previous year. The augmentation is due to the enforcement of the revised tariff.

THE new Hongwan Temple in Tsukiji, Tokyo, now in process of construction, will have a main hall measuring 129 feet by 126 feet, its area consequently being 960 "mats," according to the Japanese style of measurement. Mr. Ito Heizayemon is the architect. The roof, being of the comparatively colossal dimensions peculiar to Japanese religious structures, will have a spread of 700 *teubo*, or ⅞ of an acre. The vernacular journal giving these figures does not say anything about the estimated cost.

THE Mitsui firm, working in conjunction with some Chinese capitalists, has made arrangements for constructing a horse tramway in Tientsin. The line will run through the British, German and Japanese settlements, and will have a length of about 4 miles. This will be an interesting object-lesson, if it becomes an accomplished fact. There is a strong tinge of novelty in the idea that Chinese and Japanese should step in to take up an enterprise which Europeans and Americans have been looking at listlessly for some years.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Thursday, April 26.

The Boers are certainly not too lavish of the truth. Their last exhibition was quite quaint. Roberts defeated them on the 10th March at Driefontein; advanced 12 miles beyond that place on the 11th; 16 miles further on the 12th, and took possession of Bloemfontein on the 13th. Meanwhile General Delarey had made the following report with regard to the fighting on the 10th:—

"The English forces, which I estimate at 40,000, approached our positions from two directions. They first shelled the positions occupied by General Cellier's artillery and this attack was followed by a musketry engagement, during which two of our men were wounded. The British discovered that the attempt to break through at this point was hopeless, and a second assault was made upon our left flank, which was scattered in a position covering the top of the road where I and 300 men were stationed.

"To gain possession of these hills was of considerable strategic importance to the British, and, the Federals appreciating this, a heavy engagement occurred. It lasted from 9 o'clock in the morning till sundown. The burghers fought like heroes, and three times repulsed the masses of the enemy which were thrown against them. The British kept relieving their tired men, but each and every attempt to storm our position was defeated. At sundown there were not 50 yards between us.

"The British lost heavily. No accurate return of our losses is available, but I will report later."

That was a singularly unlucky "break" on the part of Delarey. His falsehood might have passed muster had it not been so quickly exposed by the fall of Bloemfontein, but he certainly ignored the first principles of successful lying when he left Bloemfontein out of his calculations. The Boers are losing caste. Perpetual abuse of the white flag; constant firing upon ambulances; deliberate cannonading at the quarters occupied by women and children, inveterate lying and the free use of explosive bullets—that is an ugly catalogue of offences.

MARQUIS ITO ON ECONOMICAL TOPICS.

In the speech delivered by him at Yamaguchi, Marquis Ito took for his theme the necessity of cōoperation in industrial and commercial enterprises. He instanced the case of the Chōshiu clan at the time of the Restoration. In spite of its comparative insignificance, and in spite of the great forces at one time arrayed against it, it had succeeded in strongly influencing the course of national events; a success entirely attributable to united methods. The Marquis entered minutely into statistics relating to the wealth of England and its development in recent years. He pointed out, among other things, that her foreign investments are supposed to aggregate five thousand millions sterling, from which, even at 3 per cent. interest, she derives an annual income of 150 million pounds. But in that context he made a point which will attract considerable attention. It amounted to a warning against too great a desire for the importation of foreign capital. The bringing-in of foreign capital, the Marquis is reported to have said, is another name for contracting a foreign loan. Interest and principal have to be paid out of the pockets of the people. It is therefore better, if possible, to invest domestic funds and to keep the interest at home. We suspect that the reporter has done Marquis Ito an injustice here. Certainly there is nothing like working with one's own money if, by that process, it can be turned to best account. But the question in Japan's case, we take it, is not one of preferring her own money, but of either obtaining foreign capital or going without capital altogether. There can not be much hesitation about a decision of that nature. Suppose, for example, that a railway is to be built, either with foreign money or not at all. Suppose that foreign money is obtained and the railway built. Then, after a few years, the earnings of the line suffice to pay back the principal and interest and the railway remains a permanent asset of the country, apart from all the collateral advantages it has meanwhile conferred. It is true that the money used in liquidating the indebtedness has come out of the pockets of the people using the line. But they have an ample equivalent: the facilities afforded by the road have fully compensated them directly, and have indirectly contributed to their prosperity and wealth. A railway is a particularly simple illustration. But the same argument applies correspondingly to all useful enterprises.

JAPANESE FINANCE AND INDUSTRY.

Count Inouye delivered an interesting address at the recent unveiling of Prince Mori's statue in Yamaguchi. His subject was finance and industry in Japan, and the gist of his speech related to the points he has so persistently brought before the public of late, namely, the tendency of the country to buy more than it sells and the great need of organization and cooperation in industrial and commercial circles. Taking the customs returns for the past four years, the Count found that there had been the following excesses of imports:—

	Yen.
1896	53,830,000
1897	5,600,100
1898	111,000,000
1899	5,970,000
Total	276,410,000

The greater part, if not the whole, of that large total must have left the country; and there is no sign of improvement this year, for, up to the middle of the current month, imports exceeded exports by 44 millions. Last year, too, Japanese cotton-spinners were able to sell 28½ million *yen* worth of yarns in the markets of China, but this year, owing to various causes, no such sales can be anticipated. The Count went on to say that the investigations recently undertaken by him in connexion with the Kiushiu railway trouble showed that there is a tendency on the part of Japanese industrials to think of immediate profits only, and to neglect ordinary economical principles. Repairs, for example, are effected in such a cursory and temporary manner that, although large outlays are avoided for the moment, a time comes when very great expenses have to be incurred and when work may even have to be suspended. It is the same in all directions. Rolling stock and machines are strained to the utmost capacity of their power, with the certain prospect that they must break down badly and prematurely. There is not a factory in Tokyo that the Count has not visited and inspected, and there is not a factory among them all which can be said to satisfy all the requirements of economy. The most flagrant need everywhere is cō-operation. In Yamaguchi Prefecture, where the speech was delivered, there are over forty petty banks with small capitals, and by their want of union their working expenses swallow up a great part of their profits. This theme has occupied much of Count Inouye's attention lately, and we observe that Marquis Ito spoke much in the same strain, avowing his endorsement of Count Inouye's views.

CORRESPONDING VIEWS.

It really seems as though some matters presented themselves less expeditiously to the intelligence of critics in Europe than they do to out-of-the-way folks like ourselves. At the close of February and just before the relief of Kimberley, the *Militär Wochenblatt* of Berlin published an article which is thus epitomized in the *Literary Digest*:—

Whether it be because the Boers are anxious to save lives, or because their organization does not suffice for a decisive attack, they do not seem to be able to inflict a crushing defeat upon the enemy. They can not hold White and Methuen in check with forces so small that a large army remains for decisive engagements. Yet a decisive battle, though bloody and dearly won, would have changed entirely the aspect of affairs. The Cape Boers would have risen, and the question whether South Africa is to be Dutch or English would be placed in the foreground. At present, the Boers must hope that international complications will turn out to be in their favour, or that England is tired out by her efforts. In that case, peace would really be only an armistice, and the struggle would soon break out again. But things may turn out worse than that for the Boers. If England is given time to use her inexhaustible resources for the increase and proper training of her forces, then the heroic resistance of the Boers must gradually collapse. *The lesson to be learned from this war is that the offensive is still necessary to make strategical defense effective.* In the future as in the past, we Germans must be ready to strike quick, decisive blows. If we are attacked by a combination of powers, we must crush the most dangerous enemy ere others can develop their resources.

With reference to the above, the *Literary Digest* says:—

The *Militar Wochenblatt* (Berlin), even before the relief of Kimberley, predicted that the Boers will ultimately be crushed, owing to their inability to take the offensive. The article has influenced many German and German-American papers, and we condense it here.

But on January 13th, we (*Japan Mail*) wrote:—

If any one considers carefully the operations of this South African war as hitherto reported, he will see that the Boer is in a most anomalous position; strategically he is on the offensive but tactically he is on the defensive. He has invaded British territory, but he never attacks. He simply sits down and waits to be attacked. He defeats an English column sent to attack him, but he never makes any resolute attempt to reap the fruits of his victory. We confess that after the news of Maggersfontein we held our breath. Cronje had the game in his own hands then. He could have converted Methuen's position into a second Ladysmith, and we should have had the pleasant spectacle of the Guards and the Highland Brigade "held-up" by the Boers just as Sir George White's Division is held up beyond the Tugela. But the *Boers had become slaves to the necessity of acting on the defensive.* They shrank from undertaking a movement which would have placed Methuen almost at their mercy. The feat at Ladysmith did not constitute an exception to the rule. Ladysmith is invested completely. There was not the least apprehension of White's assuming the offensive even if he succeeded in beating back his swarm of assailants. *That this anomaly in their military methods will ultimately tell against the Boers, we can not doubt, and if our readers will take the trouble to think out the position at Magersfontein, they will probably agree that the first serious discomfiture of the Boers will take place there, supposing that they hold their ground a little longer.*

The portions of the two articles italicized by us show a curious parallelism of thought, but our remarks were published six weeks earlier than those of the Berlin journal, and as a reason for the Boers' disinclination to attack we assigned what we believe will ultimately be recognised by military critics to be the true cause, namely, that mounted infantry, unless strongly supported by cavalry, horse artillery, and regular infantry, will always tend to the defensive. It will be observed, also, that these considerations led us, on January 13th, to predict that the first great disaster to the Boers would occur at Maggersfontein, which prediction was literally verified by events in the opening week of March.

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THE JAPANESE JUDICIARY.

The commission of judicial experts sent recently to Europe and America to inspect and report upon the working of judicial affairs in the Occident, has embodied the results of its observations in a document which must commend itself to the approval of very careful observer. The commissioners found nothing more remarkable than the absolute confidence felt by the European and American public in the integrity and competence of the occupants of the bench, and they were astonished to observe the high social status accorded to a judge and the splendid emoluments he received. It is natural, they say, that under such circumstances the Bench should command the services of the best men the country possesses. They draw a comparison very unfavourable to Japan, where a majority of the judges do not receive more than 50 *yen* a month by way of salary, and where a position on the bench is so little respected and its rewards so insignificant that good men do not care for the appointment, and it is found necessary to fill the vacancies with unsuccessful barristers. Another point to which attention is drawn is the discrimination shown by judges in the West. In minor cases they dispense with formalities and render judgment rapidly, whereas in Japan the full length of red tape has to be measured out however trivial the question at stake.

This very outspoken report is attracting much attention. We observe that an attempt is being made to discredit it by attributing purely selfish motives to its compilers, who are said to be working for the improvement of their own status and emoluments without any serious thought of the country's requirements or capacities. It is not to be imagined, we presume, that personal considerations had no part in moulding the opinions expressed in the report. Human nature remains human. But, on the other hand, it is equally undeniable that the Japanese judiciary, as at present constituted and remunerated, is very far from being what it ought to be. There is immense room for reform, and since the most vital interests of the public are concerned in obtaining really competent judges, we trust that no silly slanders or petty jealousies will be allowed to impede the measures which the report recommends.

The members of the Japanese Bench and the officials of the Judicial Department seem to be perturbed about the report compiled by the Judges and Public Procurators who recently visited Europe and America. It is evidently thought that a report of such a character ought not to have been published, as its nature required its previous presentation to the Departmental Authorities, by whom the question of publicity should have been determined. We are inclined to agree with that view, but it is not so easy to endorse the opinions attributed to some official critics, who contend that to increase the salaries of the occupants of the Bench would not increase their dignity or add anything to the public's confidence in them. Naturally the mere question of the amount of an official's salary does not finally determine his social status or the attitude of the public mind towards him. But there can be no second opinion that the quality of the men presenting themselves for the judicial service depends, to a great extent, on the rewards offered by such employment. From that point of view, the compilers of the report are unquestionably right, and their statements seem to be misconstrued when a critic interprets them in the bald sense that salary determines dignity and trust. It is further claimed, we observe, that special factors have combined to raise the emoluments of American and English judges to their present high figures, and that the salaries of Japanese judicial officials do not offer a very vivid contrast with those of judicial officials in some European countries. Certainly there is not such a flagrant discrepancy between the pay of Japanese and French Judges, for instance, as between the pay of Japanese and English. But as to the broad questions whether Japanese Judges are sufficiently remunerated, whether society accords to them the rank that a Judge ought to have, and whether their status in the official organization is what it should be, surely there cannot be any second opinion?

THE PEST.

Another case of pest has occurred at Osaka, and much uneasiness is felt lest the disease should spread at this most dangerous time—just on the verge of the wet, warm season when climatic conditions will be specially favourable to the cultivation of the bacillus. The *Nippon*, we may observe, continues its violent crusade of accusation against the Sanitary Bureau, on the ground that cases of plague have been concealed. Our contemporary now alleges that no less than eleven persons perished of pest, that their remains were cremated and their property disinfected, but that the public were carefully kept in ignorance of what was happening. The name of the physician chiefly concerned in the concealment is given, but there appears to be an impression that this campaign is dictated not so much by genuine solicitude for the common weal as by considerations of party politics. It is, indeed, a humiliating reflection that in present-day Japan party politics have come to be counted a sufficient motive and explanation of everything that is false, corrupt and vindictive.

A novel and most disquieting discovery has been made, or is alleged to have been made, in Tokyo. It was recently stated in these columns that in the sequel of a flooding of the Castle moats after heavy rain, a quantity of dead fish—*funa*, *koi*, *kingyo* and *dojo* —were found floating on the water, and were eagerly collected by the poor people, to whom the origin of such an incident made little matter in comparison with the supply of food that it brought within reach. The suspicions of the Sanitary authorities being, however, excited, investigations were undertaken, with the result that a bacillus closely resembling that of the plague was found in the dead fish. Parts of them were then fed to healthy rats, and the animals quickly sickened and died, the autopsy showing the veritable bacillus in their carcases. It is said to have been shown by investigations in Germany that crabs are affected by the pest, but this is believed to be the first instance of the disease attacking fresh-water fish, so far as science knows. The announcement has naturally caused much uneasiness in Tokyo, where it is feared that the arrival of the plague must now be regarded as an accomplished fact.

Dr. Kitasato reassures the public with reference to the subject of the pest among fishes. He says that European nations have given the name of plague to many maladies by which animals are attacked, but that none of them is identical with the pest so fatal to human beings, except the form that affects rats. Cattle plague, fish plague, swine plague, crab plague—all these do not injure human beings. The rat is the only known creature that shares with man the unhappiness of being liable to bubonic pest. Concerning the statement that portions of the dead fish recently found in the moats were fed to rats with fatal results, the eminent investigator explains that the so-called rats were in reality *Nankin-nezumi*, or marmots, and that the experiment does not furnish any ground for uneasiness.

By way of set-off to these comforting utterances we have news from Osaka that the pest has undoubtedly reasserted its presence. Four new cases are reported, one a child of two years of age, and there are fears that others have been concealed.

It is now alleged that medical investigations with regard to the possibility of the pest's being propagated by fishes have not been carried so far as was stated recently. The doubtful point is whether, or to what extent, salt-water fishes are secure against the malady. The impression is that they enjoy complete immunity, but in connexion with this a pertinent point is raised as to the fish in a place like Shinagawa Bay, where the percentage of salt in the water is comparatively small. It appears that one of the big carp found floating in the moat during the recent freshet, was carried home by a lad who, together with the members of his family, partook freely of the fish, without any bad results being experienced by any of the party.

Two fresh cases of pest are reported from Osaka, one a child under a year old. Since the recrudescence of the malady, three males and one female have been attacked, and all have perished.

The *Kobe Herald* says another case of Pest was reported from Osaka on Thursday. The victim, a woman, succumbed. This is the fifth case since the recrudescence of the plague in Osaka.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The news from Korea is that no truth attaches to rumours recently circulated as to Russia's having preferred eleven categorical demands in consequence of the Korean Government's refusal to make the territorial concession proposed by her at Masampho. It is alleged, however, that a convention has been duly concluded providing that, in consideration of Russia's having withdrawn her claim to Koje Island, it shall not be ceded to any other power. This allegation still rests on non-official information and consequently calls for no comment.

Further intelligence from Sōul is to the effect that the Japanese Representative is very strongly pressing the claim of Mr. Asano to the Chukshan mine. The Korean Government had rejected this application, but there are prospects that the decision will be re-considered, since it would amount to an unfriendly discrimination against Japan.

Telegrams from Korea published by the *Asahi Shimbun* say that nothing in the shape of a written agreement has passed between Russia and Korea with regard to Koje island. There has been merely a verbal intimation that no part of the island shall be alienated to any foreign Power. It is possible that this understanding will be reduced to writing, should the temper of the various Powers be found placable.

The same journal has a telegram to the effect that shares of the Sōul-Chemulpo Railway to the value of a hundred thousand *yen* are to be acquired by the Korean Household Department.

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TOKYO DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

The piece chosen by the Tokyo Dramatic and Musical Society for their performance on the evening of the 26th was "Charley's Aunt," a farce in three acts, which has the great merit of being farcical from first to last. Two Oxford students invite to luncheon two young ladies with whom they are in love. One of them expects the arrival of an aunt whom he has never seen, and they count on her for chaperone. But she fails to put in an appearance, and they induce a third student to personify her. To this fictitious old lady two proposals of marriage are made for the sake of her supposed wealth, and the resulting incidents, together with various complications naturally arising out of such circumstances, make a thoroughly amusing comedy, happily not dependent on vulgarity for its humour. The chief role, that of *Lord Fancourt Babberley*, the fictitious aunt, was taken by Mr. Davis. who also discharged the difficult duties of stage manager. Mr. Davis is Mr. Bayne's successor in Yokohama as representative of the North China Insurance Company, and it is an interesting coincidence that two men of such histrionic ability should occupy the same post in succession. The part of "Charley's Aunt," however, needs more than excellent acting: it needs exceptional farcical expression. In both respects it found everything necessary in Mr. Davis, who rendered it the most mirth-provoking performance we have hitherto seen on the stage in Tokyo. He had to go through the ordeal of receiving two proposals of marriage, and, strange to say, he acquitted himself excellently. We call it strange because the perennial contrast between the conduct of the male and the conduct of the female on these occasions remains a psychological puzzle. No one has ever detected any gaucherie or gracelessness in a lady's manner of receiving an offer of marriage on the stage; no one has ever seen a man make the offer without awkwardness and embarrassment. Apparently the solution of the problem is in the petticoat, for Charley's male aunt showed entire freedom from the usual male defects. *Jack Chesney* and *Charley Wykeham*, the two collegians whose love affairs are responsible for all the complications, were personified by Mr. Pattison and Mr. Vickers. These parts are entirely lacking in any of the elements of caricature that so greatly help the amateur actor. The collegians had to be perfectly rational and normal individuals throughout, and when we say that they succeeded, we offer a tribute which need not be elaborated. Mr. Conder, as *Colonel Sir Francis Chesney*, made another of his many hits, and Mr. Gardiner as *Stephen Spettique* showed that the management had done wisely in assigning to him a role much more difficult than any of those previously taken by him. Mr. Kirby, in the part of *Brassett*, a typical college butler, unscrupulous and obsequious, won, and deservedly won, a great deal of applause, nor should a word of congratulation be omitted in the case of Mr. T. Mason, victim of a playwright's tyranny, who had to make up as a gorgeous footman all for the sake of a forty-seconds' appearance and the utterance of three sentences, two of them consisting of the formula "Yes, Sir." Concerning lady's roles, three were taken by *débutantes*, but the fourth, *Donna Lucia d'Alvadores*, had Miss Hayes for representative, and we need scarcely say that the rendering was capital. Miss Hayes' elocution is so clear, and her demeanour so natural and self-possessed, that it is always a pleasure to hear and see her. Of the fair *débutantes* the palm must be given to *Amy Spettique* (Miss Helen Takayanagi), who not only presented all the attractions of appearance that the part demanded, but also acted with delightful ingenuousness and grace. *Amy Spettique* (Miss Lay), had a more colourless role, but she made the most of her opportunities and showed herself a decided acquisition. *Ela Delahay* (Miss Maude Nishikawa) is a part that would break the heart of the best actress, for, as written by Brandon Thomas, there is absolutely nothing in it. The audience had to be grateful to Miss M. Nishikawa for the good will she brought to the rendering of such a colourless role. We offer our compliments to Mr. Conder on the scenery, which displayed his often-proved artistic taste and ingenuity. Mrs. Vickers performed the irksome duties of prompter, and the Imperial band played some pretty music between the acts.

TAX ON BICYCLES.

The tax on bicyles being local, its amount varies in different places. Apparently it has been raised to 6½ *yen* per cycle in Yokohama, and many complaints are made about the figure, which, it must be confessed, seems out of all proportion to the value of the object taxed. We are surprised that the Authorities should think it expedient to levy heavy rates upon bicycles. If the bike be viewed simply as a luxury such a policy would be comprehensible. But the bike is not a luxury in Japan; it is a necessity. The Government should do everything to encourage its use. What the youths and men of this country need above all things is physical exercise, and the bicycle promises to supply just the incentive that is required for that purpose. Besides, it immensely increases the productive capacity of the mercantile and manufacturing classes by enabling them to get about from place to place in one half of the time and at a fraction of the cost incurred where a *jinrikisha* is used. The Authorities must know very well that a tax of 6½ *yen* will prove prohibitive to hundreds, if not thousands, of persons. As a general rule, young men in Japan can not afford to pay such an impost. They will have to give up riding bicycles, and the Local Authorities will then have the satisfaction of losing the revenue they might have collected had their ideas been moderate. and of having put an end to one of the most valuable customs ever introduced into Japan. It is further alleged, we observe, that in Yokohama the same rate is charged on bicycles which ply for hire and bicycles in private possession. That seems incredible. In all branches of taxation there is discrimination in favour of the tradesman.

THE IMPERIALISTS.

The death of Viscount Shinagawa having deprived the Imperialists of their leader, they are about to hold a meeting for the purpose of electing a successor. Marquis Saigo is spoken of, with Mr. Kiyoura Keigo as Vice-President. But doubts are expressed as to whether these two gentlemen will agree to accept the positions. We should think it more than doubtful. Cabinet Ministers have not hitherto allowed themselves to be enrolled as members of political parties in Japan, and neither Marquis Saigo nor Mr. Kiyoura is likely to make a new departure in that respect.

KOREAN DECORATIONS.

The Korean Government is said to have entrusted to a Japanese artist, Mr. Sugimura, the duty of manufacturing the new decorations which have been instituted by the Court in Söul. Our readers are aware that Mr. Li, Korean Representative in Japan, who is now *en route* for this country, is commissioned to offer the grand cordon of the new order to the Emperor and the Crown Prince. This cordon is reported to bear a close resemblance to that of the Japanese chrysanthemum, but we fail to understand how the "imperial flower" can enter with any propriety into a Korean decoration.

With reference to the chrysanthemum and the almost universal part it plays in the scheme of Japanese ornamentation, we have often speculated whether it had not its origin in the work of Hippodamus of Miletus, who, having planned and embellished the Pirœus at Athens, was subsequently employed as architect of Camirus in Rhodes, where his achievements were supplemented in later times by those of Protogenes, the painter, and Chares, the sculptor. It is certain, at all events, that in early gold ornaments from Camirus, preserved in the British Museum, a prominent place is occupied by a flower which no Japanese would hesitate in calling a chrysanthemum, and that the same ornaments show the "cord-and-tassel" design, so common in China and Japan. Archæologists would, doubtless, identify these many-petalled flowers as representations of the rose from which Rhodes is believed to have derived its name, but had the scheme of ornamentation come into Japanese hands without any explanation as to the nature of the flower, the latter would surely have been regarded as a chrysanthemum. Pindar tells us that Rhodes was raised from the depths of the ocean by the Sun-god Helios, who always continued to be its tutelary deity, and whose image is depicted on all the Rhodian coins. This legend bears as close a resemblance to that which describes the origin of Japan as do the *rodion* and fringe of Camirus to the *kiku* and *yoraku-de* of the Eastern islands.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

The famine in India has evidently assumed the dimensions of a terrible catastrophe. According to the latest telegraphic intelligence no less than five millions of persons are receiving governmental relief, and there must be millions whom the official arm does not reach. We can not doubt that the occasion calls for a strenuous effort on the part of every charitable subject of the Queen, and the disposition to relieve distress is strengthened in this instance by the fine spirit of loyalty to the Empire that the Princes and people of India have shown in connexion with the South-African war. Large sums have already been collected in England, and already in Hongkong the list of subscribers, both British and Chinese, has reached to considerable length. In Japan, however, nothing seems to have been done as yet, and our readers will probably agree that it is time to make a commencement. Doubtless the Banks will be glad to take charge of subscriptions, as they did on a previous occasion; but should any one find it more convenient to send a donation through the office of this journal, we will receive and forward it, with due acknowledgments.

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THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Several promotions and transfers are gazetted in the Army. Four Major-Generals become Lieut.-Generals and fourteen Colonels become Major-Generals, among the latter being Colonel Fukushima, of trans-Asian fame; Colonel Arisaka, inventor of the new gun; and Colonels Tamura Iyozo and Iseji, two officers who are regarded as men of quite exceptional military ability. General Nozu, hitherto Commander of the Eastern Division, becomes Superintendent General of Military Education; and the Educational Department of the Army is placed under the direct control of the Emperor; Lieut.-General Oku, its former Superintendent, being appointed to the command of the Eastern Section, *vice* General Nozu. Lieut.-General Terauchi becomes Assistant Chief of the General Staff; Major-General Fukushima is gazetted Chief of Staff of the Western Section; Major-General Tamura Iyozo, chief of Staff of the Eastern Section; and Major-General Arisaka, President of the Artillery Council. Lieut.-General Nagayama, hitherto in command of the Seventh Division (Hokkaido), is placed on the Seconded List, and is succeeded in the command of that Division by Lieut.-General Oseko, hitherto Assistant-Chief of the General Staff. This last change is taken to mean that the organization of the Seventh Division is to be vigorously pushed.

As a matter of organization these changes indicate greater centralization, the headquarters of the three *Totoku-bu* (Eastern, Middle, and Western) being transferred to Tokyo; and they indicate also that greater attention is to be paid to military education. For the rest they are merely promotions and shiftings in recognition of merit and suitability. Colonel Tamura's name has been frequently mentioned of late. He seems to be regarded as an officer of great promise.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The Economical Society has decided to invite the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce to hold a special meeting for the purpose of considering the financial situation. Several members of the Society are also members of the Chamber, and in that way a connexion can be established. The position taken by the Society is that whereas the Government's attitude towards the post-bellum expansion programme is positive, its attitude, as reflected by the Bank of Japan, is negative. On the one hand it is making large outlays for non-productive purposes, drawing great quantities of labour and material from the industrial field and thus enhancing the price of commodities in general; on the other hand, the Bank of Japan is raising its rates of interest, thus depriving the mercantile and manufacturing classes of accomodation, and causing a state of depression. The Society thinks that these proceedings are irreconcilable, and that if the post-bellum programme is to be pushed, the only rational course is to introduce foreign capital. On these lines the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce is invited to debate the situation.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following sums towards the funds now being raised for the relief of the sufferers by the great Indian Famine:—

H.K.	5
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THE HAWAIIAN AFFAIR.

There seems to be much dissatisfaction in connexion with the tribunal appointed by the Hawaiian authorities to consider the claims of the Japanese and Chinese whose property was recently destroyed by order of the sanitary officials. The tribunal is said to be organized with second-class barristers in whom the claimants can not repose any confidence; there is to be no appeal from its decision; its procedure is not governed by the assumption that compensation is due or that any responsibility rests on the Authorities, and it is directed to attach prime importance to documentary evidence furnished by the sanitary officials, although the claimants and their witnesses are to be examined upon oath. The Chinese and Japanese sufferers have come together, we read, and are devising measures to protest against being entrusted to the jurisdiction of such a tribunal.

According to telegrams received in Tokyo, after the above was written, the Government of Hawaii has suspended *sine die* the discredited tribunal. The reasons presumed to underlie this step are remonstrances addressed by the Japanese and Chinese Consular Authorities in Hawaii and Washington, and demonstrations of dissatisfaction publicly made by the claimants for compensation. But the proximate cause of the Government's action is the refusal of the Privy Council of Hawaii to approve the appropriation required for the tribunal's expenses. This indemnity affair, it must be confessed, reflects very little credit on the Hawaiian Authorities. We have never previously heard of any civilized Government's refusing to grant due compensation to individuals who are required to suffer losses in the interests of the community at large. That is a fundamental principle of justice and sociology, and the delay that has taken place in obeying it seems most unaccountable.

CHINA, MANCHURIA, AND KOREA.

There is said to have been an engagement between the forces of the Chinese Government and the insurgents at Paoting-fu in Chihli. Sixty of the insurgents were killed and a great number captured. The Chinese Authorities are reported to have sent troops to protect the persons and properties of missionaries in that district.

The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes telegrams saying that the Russian railway in Manchuria will be opened for traffic between Vladivostock and Port Arthur by next October, and that strenuous exertions are being made to complete the Manchurian connexion with the Siberian line by next year. A number of Chinese labourers have been engaged.

The plot of land acquired by Russia at Chupok-poh, near Masampo, is said to measure 100,000 *tsubo* (83 acres). That is a wide area; wide enough for almost any purpose.

THE MEIJI ONGAKU-KWAI.

The Meiji Ongaku-kwai is singularly fortunate in having for its conductor a musician of such ability and learning as Mr. E. H. House, who devotes to a labour of pure love his literary as well as his musical capacity. The Association's last concert was rendered remarkable by a brochure, which has only just come under our notice, as we were unfortunately prevented from attending the concert. It is evidently from the pen of Mr. House, and it consists of a collection of notes analysing the great artists from whose works selections were made for the purposes of the concert. Not only the erudition and research displayed in this little work of eight pages—which, we are glad to see, has a good Japanese translation attached—but also the admirable literary style, render the brochure very agreeable reading. We presume that the idea of such an adjunct to the concert was conceived by Mr. House himself, but, however that may be, few could have carried out the conception so successfully, and we can not imagine any more effective method of enhancing the delights of a concert and developing its intellectual aspects. We make one or two quotations:—

> Among the names of eminent European composers, a very few—not more than five or six—stand absolutely supreme. Several are associated with great productions, but the greatness of these is comparative, not superlative. The necessity of observing this distinction forbids us to include Schubert in the highest rank of creative musicians, though the beauty and grandeur of his best works bring him very near the foremost grade. To many he is known chiefly as a writer of lovely songs, but his finest orchestral achievements—some of which were not discovered till after his death—are second in strength and dignity only to those of Beethoven, who was his contemporary, and whose matchless reputation over-shadowed that of all competitors. Schubert, who died in 1828, at the age of thirty-two, was a remarkably prolific composer, all varieties of music having been treated by him with the hand of a master. * * *
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> The position of England in musical history is very imperfectly understood, even by the majority of Englishmen themselves. It is commonly asserted and believed that the development of modern harmony originated with the Dutch writers who founded their scientific school in the fourteenth century. But it is proved by authentic manuscripts that an equally advanced school existed in England at least one hundred years earlier. That its influence did not extend to other countries is accounted for by the isolation of England, due to internal disorders and to long-continued war with continental powers. It was perhaps owing to this restriction of intercourse that English music acquired its strong national character, which was preserved unchanged down to a very recent period, and which may again be worthily revived. The progress of the art was sure and steady until it was brought to a remarkably high standard in the seventeenth century by Purcell, who in learning and skill was inferior to none but the great German master, Bach, whose career began after Purcell's death. The work in England was carried on by Handel, a German by birth, but a thoroughly English musician from the moment he adopted that country as his home. All that he wrote thereafter was in strict accordance with the English method and spirit. It has been mentioned, in a preceding paragraph, that very few composers are acknowledged to hold the highest rank. The right of three to this distinction—Bach, Mozart and Beethoven—is undisputed. In the judgment of many, Handel may be classed with them, but this judgement is not quite universal. He certainly had extraordinary gifts, and in addition to great scientific attainment possessed a varied and fertile power of invention. In one branch of composition he was without a rival. The choruses of his oratorios are the finest works of their kind ever produced. The most popular of these—though not necessarily the best—is the chorus from "The Messiah," of which an orchestral arrangement is given by the Ongaku-kwai. Much of the favour bestowed upon this superb work is due to the precision with which the music fits the words,—a rare merit, which Handel was not always careful to aim at. Even without the aid of voices, the exultant cry "Hallelu-Jah" (Hail-Jehovah) may be heard almost as if it were sung in triumph; as may also the resonant syllables —"King of *kings*, and Lord of *lords*"—near the close. There are few compositions more famous or more deservedly honoured than this splendid inspiration.
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> The peculiar national character of English music, referred to above, is nowhere more perceptible than in the old part-songs, madrigals and glees which were formerly produced in profusion. Many of the best of these were written toward the end of the eighteenth century and in the beginning of the nineteenth. A favourite example, which has always held the highest place in public regard, is the pastoral glee, "Ye Shepherds Tell Me," the sweet and gentle melody of which deeply touches all who hear it. Again, it may be observed that the author of this piece bore a name indicating a foreign origin, but his music is purely English in every tone and phrase. It is a common occurrence in Europe for composers to adopt the musical spirit of the land in which they dwell, and to identify themselves with its methods. This has happened even more frequently in France and Italy than in England.

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SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

An interesting article in the *Atlantic* shows the amounts paid by the British Government in the form of subsidies to steamship companies. The following are the figures :—

For the United States, divided between the Cunard and White Star lines, outward to New York only, £130,00.

For India, Straits Settlements, Ceylon, China, and Japan, paid to the Peninsular and Oriental Company outward and homeward, £245,000.

For Australia, divided between the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient companies, out and home, £170,000.

For the West Indies, to the Royal Mail steam packet company, out and home, £19,000.

For South Africa, divided between the Union and Castle mail lines, out and home, £90,000. After September, 1900, this will be increased, under the new contract, to £135,000.

There is a further annual payment made to four companies, amounting to £50,000, for the right to call upon certain steamers as armed cruisers in the event of hostilities between Great Britain and a foreign Power. There is another important service, namely, with Canada, for which £60,000 per annum is paid; but this has undergone so many changes of late, and is even yet so subject to change, that it is difficult to discuss, particularly as it includes the overland service via Vancouver to China, Japan, and Australasia. There are one or two smaller contracts, like those of West Africa and South America, the latter being regulated strictly by weight of matter carried.

This shows a present total of £835,000, to be increased to £870,000 next September. The writer of the article contends that the British mercantile marine owes practically nothing of its development to State aid, and that the withdrawal of all these subsidies would affect the tonnage only very slightly. His argument is that the Government expects to get, and does get, full value for all that it pays, and that the conditions necessary to secure its patronage are most costly. He concludes thus :—

These facts are well worth consideration before an attempt is made by any other Government to build up, by wholesale subventioning, a mercantile marine to compete with the British. France has tried the experiment, at an enormous cost, with anything but satisfying results. The stimulus to the great expansion of German shipping has been from within, and not from heavy grants of taxpayers' money; and though two or three of the larger companies do receive mail subsidies in excess of those paid for like service by the British Government, their success is in much greater degree attributable to their independent efforts. The shipping industry is, in its very essence, an international one, and the application to it of principles which may have proved successful in the internal industries of a country may be found to end in very disastrous results.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

It happens that Sir Ernest Satow, Dr. Baelz and Mr. Montague Kirkwood are all about to leave Japan for Europe. Marquis Yamagata therefore invited the three gentlemen to a farewell entertainment at his beautiful villa in the Mejiro suburb of Tokyo on the 20th instant—*Chinzan-so*, or *Camellia Villa*, as it is called.

The Japanese Consul in Montreal is said to have addressed to the Government in Tokyo a telegram recommending strongly that some steps should be taken to limit the number of emigrants to Tacoma He says that Japanese subjects are crowding thither in such abundance that public opinion will inevitably become excited unless some restrictive measures be adopted.

The Japanese Consul at Vancouver is said to have addressed a strong caution to the Foreign Office with reference to the recent influx of Japanese labourers at Victoria. No less than 1,542 have landed there, he says, since the middle of January, and one lodging-house-keeper has been fined $25, at the instance of the Sanitary Bureau, for overcrowding his inn with these men. The newspapers have taken up the question vehemently, and the Consul predicts that although the Canadian Parliament has declined to pass restrictive legislation this session, it will probably prove less tolerant by-and-by, unless some limits are set to emigration from Japan.

There have been so many instances lately of thefts committed on the Tokaido Railway that the Authorities have decided to attach a special guard to various trains, whose duty will be to pass from carriage to carriage and watch the doings of suspicious characters. Strange to say, the Tokyo newspapers publish an exact statement of the trains on which this official is to travel. We presume that he has no intention of adhering to any such cut-and-dried programme.

Mr. and Mrs. Sonoda gave a very pleasant garden party at their suburban villa in Tokyo on the 21st instant. The weather was somewhat gloomy, but the extensive and prettily laid-out grounds presented a most attractive appearance, and a great number of guests assembled. Music and legerdemain were the amusements provided, and refreshments were served *al fresco*. It was noteworthy that a number of exceptionally tasteful Japanese costumes brightened the scene.

There is a clever but somewhat sketchy article on the subject of by-products in the columns of the *Shogyo Shimpo*. The writer's contention is that one of the causes which contribute to impede the development of industrial enterprise in Japan is want of due appreciation of the value of by-products. Very likely the suggestion has much importance, but to render it convincing it ought to be accompanied by concrete example, and the only one furnished by our contemporary is that of the waste resulting from the manufacture of *mousseline de laine*.

In 1896 the Japanese Military Authorities decided to organise a railway corps. They selected the material from first-class soldiers of the Guards and the First Division, and they formed apparently, one battalion. The results of the operation have been so satisfactory that a large addition is now about to be made to the corps, so that it shall include balloon companies, telegraph companies, and so forth. Nothing is stated as to the numerical strength contemplated.

Judgment has been given against Mr. Morse in the Yokohama Court of First Instance. The statement of reasons has not yet been published. We are therefore unaware of the grounds upon which the Court based its decision, but the only conceivable explanation is that the Japanese text of the bonds was taken as the original, and that, as it did not contain any engagement with regard to the rate of exchange, Mr. Morse's plea had to be rejected. If that be the basis of the verdict, the letter of the law may perhaps be satisfied, but beyond question a very great and flagrant injustice will be done. It is necessary, however, to reserve any full expression of opinion. We apprehend that this case may do irreparable injury to Japan's credit unless it be settled on an equitable basis.

Among the directions which economical reform ought to take in Japan, according to some critics, the most necessary is the encouragement of a spirit of thrift. In connection with this there is said to be a project on foot for organizing what a called a *Chochiku Shorei Kaisha*, or company for promoting saving. The idea is to receive small sums on deposit and allow 6 per cent. interest on them; 2 per cent. to go to the depositor, 2 per cent. to the company and 2 per cent. to a prize fund. The scheme sounds a little audacious. It seems better calculated to promote the interests of the company than to educate a spirit of effective economy. We are not surprised to learn that the Authorities have pricked up their ears on hearing of the lottery element included in the programme, and that the inadvisability of allowing a private company to take up such an enterprise is freely discussed.

The *Osaka Asahi* is surprised that Germany does not intervene at the present stage and induce England to make peace with the Boers. Our contemporary seems to think that such a course would draw Germany and England closer together, and ensure their cooperation in the Far East, while it would certainly earn the gratitude of Holland, a result that Germany is supposed to be very desirous of achieving. The Osaka journal has apparently failed to observe that England has publicly declared two things; first, that she will not brook interference on the part of any foreign Power, and secondly that she can not possibly consent to recognise the independence of the two Republics. In the face of such declarations there is no room for the friendly intervention of Germany, so far as we can see.

The population of Fukui in Echizen is forty-five thousand. Thus it can not have more than ten thousand dwellings at most. Of that number 1,571 have just been destroyed by fire, or nearly one-sixth of the whole town. In the suburbs 44 houses were burned, and the list is swelled by 20 shrines, 28 temples, 143 fire-proof godowns, 46 goods-stores, 1 school, 1 company's office, and some official buildings. Two persons were burned to death, 3 suffocated, 6 severely hurt, and 67 slightly injured. There was of course, some insurance; chiefly in Osaka, the Tokyo companies not being heavily hit. Nothing is yet known, apparently, as to the origin of the fire, but we trust that it will be strictly investigated, for there is reason to believe that the petroleum of the Echigo wells is exceedingly inflammable and quite unfit for domestic use. Possibly the unusual number of fires that have taken place recently may be attributable to that cause.

A remarkable work has just been published. The title is "*Sciin-sensei Rokujunen-shi*," or "Sixty years history of Mr. Shibusawa," but in the two portly volumes of which it consists, only a small part relates to that well known gentleman's personal career, nearly all the chapters being filled with information about the development of Japanese enterprise, commercial, industrial, railway, shipping, banking and so on, during the past thirty years. The principal author is Mr. Sakatani, of the Finance Department, but he has been assisted by the members of the *Riyomon-sha*, an association of financiers, merchants, and business men in general who seem to sit, figuratively speaking, at the feet of Mr. Shibusawa. The book is a perfect encyclopedia of information, but it will serve for purposes of reference rather than of perusal. No subject connected with Japan's material development during the *Meiji* era appears to be absent from its pages, and all are treated in an exhaustive manner, indicating the fullest and ablest research.

We have noted that there is a movement in the air with reference to some change in the manner of writing the Japanese language, but that it declines to take definite form and

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can scarcely yet be said to have entered the region of really practical politics. The *Nippon* is one of the contributors to the permanency of the ideograph by publishing articles that are quite unintelligible phonetically. It now gives us an essay on the necessity of linguistic reform, but truly after perusal of the writer's views we find ourselves more perplexed than ever. He advocates the study of Chinese for philological reasons, and for historical reasons, and for ethnographical reasons, and for international reasons; but whether he really intends to champion the cause of the ideograph or to assail it, we are unable to perceive. Of course very great deliberation must be exercised before meddling with a national script which has been in use since the country's infancy and which informs much of the popular life. It appears certain that there will at all events be no precipitancy on Japan's part.

We observe that a local contemporary in its editorial columns speaks of Japan's "rapid evolution from what was really a barbaric stage to the present intermediate period of semi-civilization." Before admitting the justice of such a statement, one wants to have a definition of "barbaric" and "semi-civilized." Our own memory of Japan in pre-*Meiji* days and our acquaintance with her history render it impossible for us to accept the term "barbaric" as in any sense applicable to her condition before the abolition of feudalism in 1867. Her civilization certainly differed in many respects from the civilization of Europe. It was a civilization *sui generis*. But to speak of it as barbaric is a total misnomer. It presented features of the utmost refinement, and the thoughtful annalist has difficulty in determining whether the Japanese social system of former days did not excel that of Europe on the whole. The serene self-satisfaction which betrays some Occidentals into the use of expressions such as we have quoted above would disappear if they had leisure or materials for studying the subject more closely.

The head of the Yokohama Customs denies that Yokohama harbour is a small port. The part within the breakwater has an area, he says, of 1,570,000 *tsubo* (1,308 acres), which is a figure not surpassed by many of the well known harbours in Europe, where accomodation is afforded to a mass of shipping greatly larger than that frequenting Yokohama. The real troubles are two, in this official's opinion; namely, first, that owing to want of pier facilities, ships are obliged to lie at anchor, thus requiring about fifteen times as much space as they would need if fastened to a wharf; secondly, that considerable portions of the so-called harbour are too shallow to serve for shipping purposes, and, at the same time, cannot be used for building. Deepening and reclamation are the operations most needed so far as the harbour itself is concerned, and no time should be lost in providing additional wharf accommodation. Only 58 ships can now find space within the breakwater unless there is inconvenient crowding, whereas three times 58 could easily find space if the suggested improvements were effected.

It is said that there is much distress in Osaka business circles. The cotton-spinners find themselves with large stocks of yarns which are unsaleable at figures even approximately remunerative. They seem to have laid in stores of cotton anticipating a steady rise in the staple, whereas the price has depreciated of late with disastrous results. To close the mills temporarily, or work short time, would be the best remedy, but the mill-owners can not reconcile themselves to the idea of throwing a large number of operatives out of employment. They are thus in considerable perplexity. Speculators in rice are also threatened with very heavy losses. Seeing that their operations in margins threatened to be disastrous, many of them laid in large stocks of the cereal, hoping for an appreciation. But the market has gone against them steadily ever since. Another class of capitalists appear to have been heavily hit in connexion with railway shares. Believing in the reality of the railway-nationalization scheme, they made big purchases, and are now confronted by the certainty of heavy losses. The well-known capitalist Mr. Washio, who bought up the greater part of the Nishi-nari line's shares, stands to lose about a million *yen*, it is alleged. Osaka is therefore passing through a period of sharp depression.

It is well to be sure of one's own position before appealing to the principle of reciprocity. We observe that a correspondent of one of our Yokohama contemporaries, writing from Vancouver, lays stress on the fact that land-owning and mining privileges are not granted to individual foreigners in Japan, and seems to contend that this want of liberality on the part of the Japanese may justly be met by the imposition of similar restrictions on Japanese immigrants in British Columbia. We have not the least sympathy, of course, with the illiberal policy pursued by Japan in these matters, but it appears to us that any one appealing to the principle of reciprocity invites a very effective rejoinder. For the Japanese may reply that their nationals are subjected to invidious distinctions in Australia and the United States, free ingress being denied to them, and that if reciprocity holds good in one direction, it must be valid in others also. To withhold from the individual foreigner the privilege of working mines or owning land can scarcely be called so illiberal as to shut the door in the face of the foreign labourer altogether.

Certainly they do things in a big way in America. It is asserted by New York journals that a sum of over three million dollars—six million *yen*—is paid annually to the police and certain municipal officials by gambling-house keepers in that city for the purpose of purchasing immunity to ply their trade. This revelation has made a sensation, as is very natural. There has been a spasm of reform, but it is predicted that the city officials and the police authorities who have thus connived at the protection of the law-breakers will escape scot-free, and that the punishment will fall solely on the heads of a few dive-keepers and gamblers. One of the dive-keepers made the following remarkable statement with reference to his refusal to admit a patrolman :—

> Sure, I snapped my fingers in the "copper's" face and sent my regards to Chief Devery. What do I care for him? I'm running inside the law, ain't I? Besides, I pay enough for protection. The men who are behind me are big enough to put Devery and York out of office at the same time. I care for none of them. Men come here to spend their money. If they are robbed they will be ready to go home to their families all the earlier, won't they? So much the better, then. Men should stay at home, where they belong, or not kick if they are robbed.

The Imperial Garden Party took place at the Shiba Detached Palace on the 20th inst. The Emperor and Empress arrived at a little before 3 o'clock and remained until half-past four. His Majesty was accompanied by Marquis Tokudaiji, the Empress by Lady Anegakoji, and their Majesties were received by their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princes Arisugawa, Prince and Princess Kuji, Princess Kanin, Princess Kacho and Princess Yamashina. All the Ministers of State present in Tokyo attended, as did the Members of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique. To the latter the Emperor addressed some words expressive of the satisfaction it gave him to share with them the pleasures of another spring. The weather was decidedly unfavourable, for though rain held off until nearly 5 o'clock, the wind blew with exceeding violence, enveloping Tokyo in clouds of dust. The total number of invitations issued had been 2,266, but it is estimated that not more than 1,500 were present. Among the guests were the officers commanding the French and American naval squadrons on this station.

Japan is in a position somewhat similar to that occupied by the United States two years ago. The specie reserve is diminishing, and its reduced dimensions begin to cause uneasiness. Last week, the exodus of gold from Japan amounted to 2,310,000 *yen*, and the reserve fell to 94¾ millions. The latter figure has now changed to 91,600,000 *yen*, and will probably be less than 90 millions in a few days. It was when the index pointed to 90 millions of dollars that the American people began to talk of the necessity of selling Treasury Bills or resorting to some other extraordinary measure for swelling the stock of gold.

It is alleged that the marriage of the Prince Imperial is to take place on the 6th of May, as originally intended. We are inclined to doubt the truth of the statement, as only ten days separate the present time from that date, and no public announcement has yet been made. Rumour says that, in connexion with the happy event, a considerable sum of money will be distributed to the relatives of the soldiers who lost their lives in the war with China.

H.I.H. Prince Kanin has left Paris, whither he went for the Exhibition.

A new and most imperative reason for silence has been discovered. Speech means that a multitude of bacteria are ejected in little bubbles of saliva from the mouth of a person in company with his words. They remain suspended in the air for a time and are then scattered through the surrounding atmosphere. This suggests a new fashion. In the ideal world of the coming by-and-by we shall all wear antiseptic masks! One begins to realise that the increase of knowledge does not add to the sum of human happiness.

The people who insisted that, as a matter of course, Formosa came within the purview of the Japanese Constitution from the day of its annexation; that consequently the judicial officials serving there must enjoy all the rights secured in the Constitution, and that the *Japan Mail* was at once ignorant and corrupt because it denied the truth of any such proposition, should be edified by observing the action of the United States towards its new territories. The United States has not brought Cuba within the scope of the Constitution. The United States does not intend to bring the Philippines within the scope of the Constitution. And the United States has incurred the condemnation of its best citizens because it proposed to bring Puerto Rico within the scope of the Constitution. These citizens truly and justly point out that England's colonies are successful because she leaves them to be

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managed by the executive under general laws, principles and precedents.

With regard to microbes, the following account of the influenza bacillus is given by a French authority :—

"It is not the microbe itself that does the harm, but a poisonous liquid it excretes. A measure of consolation is afforded by the fact that this poison is even more deleterious to the microbe than to the human being in whom it is deposited, for the microbes end by being destroyed by their own horrible exhalations, whereas their victim, of course, has many chances of recovery. The microbe is an egg-shapped thing, but gifted, in spite of its roundness and smoothness, with an extraordinary capacity both for adhering to any conceivable surface and for passing from one resting-place to another. Its goal is a human nose or mouth, and once in the vicinity of these organs its future is assured, for the mere act of breathing is sufficient to draw it into the system. Arrived there it propagates itself with amazing rapidity. It lengthens out, and, after twenty minutes of this process, it breaks in twain, and there are two fully fledged microbes in the place of one. It twenty-four hours the original invader will, in this way, be surrounded by a progeny of over sixteen millions of his poison-producing kindred. In short, the doctors know almost everything about the influenza microbe except an effective method of exterminating it."

Surely hatred was never blinder than it has shown itself in connection with the present struggle in South Africa. Consider the following extracts, the first from the *St. Petersburg Zeitung*, the second from an essay by the French publicist, M. Pauliott :—

"We are deeply pained by the surrender of General Cronje, for more is at stake than his own fate and the fate of his people. It seemed for a while as though the fiery love of liberty and country, as though firm faith in the ultimate victory of a just cause, would overcome even the most tremendous odds ; for did not an astonished world see the colossus which has grown great by mere robbery tremble before this handful of noble men? . . . The cause of the Boers is not necessarily desperate, but the blow it has suffered is a hard one!"

"Thanks to this war, Germany will have an imposing fleet two or three years hence. Russia has taken hold of Persia, and will next take possession of Afghanistan. In China, in Abyssinia, in the Ottoman empire, in Egypt, troubles will arise which England can not overcome. The sons of the two republics are suffering and shedding their blood for the whole human race."

The trouble is that such writers as these have access to type and a compositor. Vindictive lunatics have never been wanting in the world, but in old times they had no opportunity of finding an audience. Now the press offers itself as a ventilator of all their hatred, malice, and raging jealousy. There is nothing for it but to laugh. Their time will come, and we trust that England will then be magnanimous enough to sympathise with them.

The latest astronomical theory is that Venus, instead of closely resembling the earth and being inhabited by beings like ourselves, was born later than our globe and is now in a condition similar to that of the latter untold millions of years ago. A corollary to this view is that Venus exceeds the earth in comparative density, and therefore contains, in all probability, a greater quantity of the denser elements, as gold, lead, and mercury. Somebody suggests that, under these circumstances, Venus, when she is "good and ready" to be inhabited by folks like ourselves, will be a scene of greater crimes and sorrows, since the yellow metal will exert a larger influence. We should think that things will tend in precisely the other direction. At all events, if the Venusites want to be monometallists, the strain upon gold will not be too severe.

There is some apprehension that one effect of the adoption of the gold standard in the United States may be a large inflation of the currency. The statement sounds paradoxical, but the train of reasoning is simple. The Bill provides that the Government bonds which, under the old system, would have paid in a few years, are to be replaced by new bonds which will run for 30 years, and that national banks depositing the new bonds in the Treasury may issue a greater volume of notes than was permitted on deposit of the old bonds, while, at the same time, an opportunity is given for the establishment of new national banks with small capital and note-issue power. If these privileges are exercised to the full, it is believed that there will be "an inflation of the currency such as has not been witnessed since the Civil War."

A remarkable article on the subject of what the English eat appears in the *Westminster Review*. The gist of the matter is contained in the following extract :—

In 1888 we expended in England £46,000,000 on wheat, £80,000,000 on meat, £31,000,000 on tea and sugar, making a total of £157,000,000, or £4 5s. per inhabitant. In 1887 we expended £189,000,000 on food out of a total of £481,000,000, showing an increase over 1888 (ten years earlier) of £30,000,000, which sum is far in excess of the requirements of the increased population during that period. Value of food, imports, common necessaries of life, such as wheat, sugar, meat, butter, cheese, tea, coffee, rice, eggs and potatoes, fresh fruits, spirits and wine, was in 1860 £69,000,000; 1870, £91,000,000; 1880, £160,000,000; 1889, £153,000,000; 1897, £189,000,000. In tons, the total amount of food per year from 1860 was 3,500,000 tons rising to 19,010,000 in 1889, or 640 pounds of food per inhabitant, and, allowing for a corresponding rise from 1889 to 1899, we should have something like 12,000,000 tons of food for which we are depending on foreigners.

THE GOVERNMENT AND FINANCIAL EMBARRASSMENT.

It is undeniable, says the *Nippon*, that trade and finance have fallen into serious embarrassment. The exodus of specie has not only necessitated the Nippon Ginko's recent raising of interest, but has also brought about a serious depreciation of public bonds and shares. This tightening of the market has crippled enterprises of all descriptions. Indeed, the evil to-day is far more virulent than that by which the country was afflicted two years ago. At that time the failure of the rice crop was the main cause of distress, which could be relieved in a large measure by appropriations from the Indemnity and the introduction of foreign capital. But no hope of the kind can be indulged in at present, the root of the evil being entirely different. The excess of imports since January has already reached 40 millions of *yen*, and this fact alone is sufficient to show the existence of some other and more conspicuous factor in the financial pressure. The abuses arising from the *post bellum* programme and the unnecessary extension by Government of the financial system have to be noted in this context. On the plea of furthering two great principles indispensable for the extension of the empire, namely, armament expansion and the encouragement of practical enterprises, the so-called "ten years programme" was inaugurated in the 29th and 30th fiscal years of *Meiji*. It is to be observed that prior to the war with China, namely in the 26th year of *Meiji*, the annual expenditures of the country did not exceed 64 million *yen* in the ordinary and 20 millions in the extraordinary section, making a total of 84 millions. The figures for the 30th year, however, swelled to 107 and 117 millions respectively, showing an increment in the ordinary section of 43 millions and in the extraordinary section of 97 millions. Of the ordinary expenditures thus increased, those relating to national loans and war expenses of the Army and Navy are to be regarded as the amount absolutely needed for post bellum arrangements. In the 30th year the figures in this respect had reached 64,660,000 *yen*, showing an increase of 28,770,000 *yen* over the amount for the 26th year. Subsequently the amount steadily increased in proportion to the expansion of armaments and the augmentation of national loans, so that it reached 68 millions of *yen* in the 31st year and 82 millions in the 32nd, while a tendency to increase is still noticeable. As to continuing expenses, the amount is still more remarkable. The following table shows the gross total of such expenses from the 29th to the 38th fiscal years of *Meiji* :—

I.—PRODUCTIVE OUTLAYS.

	Yen.
1. Subsidy for water works	3,431,000
2. Subsidies to the Industrial Bank and to the various Agricultural and Industrial Banks	20,600,000
2. Aids to sericultural corporations	420,000
4. Subsidies for steamship service to Yangtze-kiang	1,182.000
5. Outlays for the construction of a new Consulate in China	80,000
6. Tobacco monopoly offices	8,214,000
7. Expenses for periodical inspection of weights and measures	121,000
8, Paris Exposition expenditures	881,000
9. Reconstruction of class rooms for Medical College	560,000
10. Establishment of Iron Foundry	4,096,000
11. Civil engineering expenses	19,736,000
12. Improvement of Government railways	26,553,000
13. Extension of Government railway	79,782,000
14. Extension of telephone exchanges	12,802,000
15. Increase of lighthouses and telegraphs	1,560,000
16. Establishment of Imperial Library	280,000
17. Establishment of Kyoto University	730,000
18. Construction of pier at Kobe	74,000
19. Harbour building	7,869,000
20. Investigation of forests and fields	528,000
21. Inspection of horses	24.000
22. Sericultural Training Institute	49,000
23. Agricultural Experimental Gardens	348,000
Total	190,054,000

II.—OUTLAYS FOR ARMAMENT EXPANSION.

1. Reconstruction of Kure Dockyard	169,000
2. Gunpowder manufactory at Shimose	225,000
3. Shipbuilding materials	1,110,000
4. Hydrographical survey	47,000
5. Saseho Admiralty	488,000
6. War vessels the construction of which was undertaken in the 26th year	11,366,000
7. Expansion of the Navy	213,101,000
8. Military survey	736,000
9. Rewards to the Navy and Army	10,000,000
10. Fortifications	9,408,000
11. Repair of the same	863,000
12. Extension of arsenals	1,249,000
13. Special Military Construction Department	118,000
14. Extension of the Army	78,983,000
Total	327,961,000
Grand Total	518,015,000

Thus, the total outlays for ten years from the 29th year do not fall short of 518 millions of *yen*, which, added to supplementary funds allowed to Formosa, makes a total of 600 millions approximately. The Government being the greatest consumer of commodities, as well as the greatest employer of labour in the empire, is in itself the most powerful factor in bringing about fluctuations in prices and wages. It has already deprived the youths of their productive power by the system of conscription and is now working havoc by its *post-bellum* programme in utter disregard of the interests of the industrial community.

THE RATE OF INTEREST.

According to investigations made by the Finance Department the average rates of interest throughout the empire during the month of February were as follow :—

	Maximum Annual Interest. Per cent.	Minimum. Per cent.	Average.
Fixed loans	18	7	10.7
Fixed deposits	7.5	3.8	6.3
	Daily Interest in Sen.		Sen.
Temporary loans	4.5	2.3	3.1
Temporary deposits.	2.3	0.6	1.4
Discount	6.2	2	3.13

Compared with the corresponding period of last year the figures stand as follows :—

	Loans		Deposits		
February.	Fixed. Per cent.	Temporary. Sen.	Fixed. Per cent.	Temporary. Sen.	Discount. Sen.
This year	10.7	3.1	6.3	1.4	3.3
Last year	11.3	3.37	6.6	1.56	3.4

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RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

THERE is a good deal of discussion of a more or less desultory character in Japanese newspapers at present with regard to the relations between Russia and Japan. The usual anonymous statesman makes his appearance in the columns of one journal, and expresses an opinion that Great Britain is so deeply engrossed by affairs relating to India and Africa that anything like a working contract between her and Japan with regard to the Far East in general and Japan in particular, can not be hoped for. The question then arises whether an understanding can be effected between Japan and Russia. The statesman thinks it possible. He does not place much credit in the earnestness of Russia's intentions *vis-à-vis* Japan. He does not believe that she has any mind to draw the sword. The time is most unsuitable for such a step. Her fleet is not strong; the Siberian Railway is not finished; her finances are in disorder; her potential ally, France, is busied with the affairs of the Exhibition; her former confederate, Germany, is not likely to join hands with her again. She would have to enter the lists single-handed, and the task would be very heavy, considering the distance of the battle-field from her base of operations. The inference is that her recent doings at Masampho were not serious. She did not really think of establishing a naval station on the south coast of Korea. What she hoped was to obtain some advantage which might be exchanged for concessions better adapted to her purpose. It is probable, too, that in all these performances M. PABLOV was trying to make a *coup* on his own account. If he succeeded, he would have had the approval and applause of his Government. If he failed, well, it didn't much matter. The outcome of a careful review of the situation is that Japan and Russia could come to a very simple and effectual arrangement, Japan promising to leave Russia a free hand in Manchuria, and Russia similarly pledging herself *vis-à-vis* Japan with regard to Korea.

That is a very brief epitome of the anonymous statesman's views. Unfortunately he does not explain clearly what Russia's real object is—the object which she hoped to further by obtaining a privilege at Masampo and subsequently exchanging it for something else. But we gather that his reference is to complete control of Manchuria. If so it appears to us that under two aspects his argument does not carry conviction. In the first place, Russia probably thinks, and has good reasons for thinking, that her feet are already firmly planted in Manchuria, and that, if she can have a few years peace to consolidate her position, there will be no necessity for her to consult any one's convenience about staying there permanently. In the next place, the question arises, can she, or could she, agree to let Korea fall into Japan's hand? We think not. We think that unless she herself abandon either Vladivostock or Manchuria, she cannot possibly allow Korea to be held by a Power which would thus be in a position to cut her in two. The geographical situation is most unfortunate from the point of view of those that desire to see Japan and Russia remain at peace.

Another and much more singular contribution is made to the discussion by a newspaper which sets out by declaring that the Progressists under Count OKUMA have changed their foreign policy, and that they now advocate an agreement with Russia on the lines of dividing Korea, Russia to have the northern part and Japan the southern. That convenant duly concluded, Japan might reduce her armament and sit down in tranquillity. We need scarcely say that the journal which attributes such a view to the Progressists, condemns them strongly. It justly points out that nothing secures peace now-a-days except strong armaments, and that a country taking off its panoply could not rely for a moment on the forbearance of its neighbours, whatever covenants they had subscribed. In our (*Japan Mail's*) opinion, this new version of the Progressists' policy is entirely mistaken.

ECONOMY AND SAVING.

WE are glad to see that the *Jiji Shimpo* raises its voice in support of the commonsense principle that to preach economy to a nation because its scale of living shows signs of improvement and because it buys from foreign countries more than it sells to them, is a futile performance. A nation consists of individuals, and we must take it for granted that each individual composing it knows his own business a great deal better than any one else knows it. Speeches made by politicians from platforms and articles penned by economists in magazines will never turn a private individual from purchasing sugar for his family or textile fabrics for his household if he can afford to do so. If he cannot afford it, then his own impecuniosity becomes a restraint incomparably more potent than the exhortations of statesmen or the homilies of financiers. Publicists are very apt to be inconsistent in these matters. If they visit a town and observe that its buildings are fine, its citizens well clad, and its general style of living free and open-handed, they stand up and deliver congratulatory speeches, praising these signs of enterprise and prosperity. Presently statistics come into their hands, and they discover that the town is buying a great deal more than it sells, whereat they become alarmed, and talk of the necessity of thrift, the duty of cultivating the efficient spirit of saving, and so on. Doubtless if the Japanese nation could be induced to desist from purchasing foreign sugar, foreign piece-goods, foreign fertilizers and so on, the balance of trade would be speedily redressed. But how can such a mood be educated? The individual wants his sugar, wants his piece-goods, and wants his fertilizers, and since he can afford to pay for them, he is going to have them, whatever effect his determination may produce on the customs returns. It is certainly a fine thing for a country to be self-supporting in every respect; to grow its own food-stuffs, manufacture its own clothing, and construct its own machinery. But there is a proviso, namely, that none of these domestic productions should be more costly than foreign goods of the same quality. If there are in Japan—as we do not doubt there are—undeveloped opportunities for the economical production of many articles now procured from abroad, and if it be true—as we have no doubt it is—that, by coördination of labour and improved organization, energy and capital now absorbed in a comparatively small productive effort could be freed for larger purposes, then the nation is certainly in need of light and leading. But the direct utility of preaching sermons on the virtue of frugality must always be insignificant unless the persons preached to are living beyond their means, which is a kind of recklessness very unlikely to overtake a nation, except in the matter of armaments. It can not be doubted that Marquis ITO and Count INOUYE apprehend all these things quite clearly, and that in putting themselves at the head of a crusade against extravagance in living the real object of their attack is extravagance in manufacturing, agricultural, commercial, and financial methods. When they draw attention to customs' returns, it is not because they hope to induce farmers to desist from importing superphosphates, merchants from buying silk surcoats, or children from eating candies, but because they wish to rouse the nation at large to a sense of the necessity for reform in all matters that pertain to money getting. We ourselves believe that at the root of the habits of present-day Japanese lies the fact that the earning power of labour has enormously increased. History shows that during the Tokugawa Regency labour was assessed at 5 *mon* per day, and 5 *mon* then bought 5 *go* of rice, which was precisely the ration of an able bodied man. At present a labourer's daily wage, taking the lowest figure, is 30 *sen*, which will buy 20 *go* of rice, or four days' rations. That fact is eloquent. The effect of such a change can not but be widely felt. Thus, what may well perturb the economist is the question whether labour does not command a fictitious value—a question which resolves itself into two forms of inquiry; first, whether enterprises creating a demand for labour have not been started in excess; and secondly, whether, while absorbing a large quantity of labour with apparent profit, they are not in reality kept going in defiance of sound economical principles. Count Inouye is evidently directing his attention closely to this problem. He is, perhaps, somewhat pessimistic as a financier. The view he took of his country's finances in 1873, when he retired from office in company with Mr. SHIBUSAWA, was less hopeful than the circumstances seemed to warrant. But we believe that men like him are greatly needed at the present time, and that his crusade will produce most beneficial effects.

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BIG BUILDINGS IN TOKYO.

THE most pretentious building erected in Tokyo during the *Meiji* era has now been commenced. It is the new palace for the Prince Imperial. The site chosen is within the grounds of the Akasaka Detached Palace, the old Kiushiu Yashiki, a very beautiful and extensive park which happily escaped the iconoclastic tendency of this era's early days. The edifice is to cover an area of 1,800 *tsubo* (1½ acres). It will have an iron frame weighing some 3,000 tons, by way of protection against earthquakes. There will be an underground storey, which, as well as the second storey, is to be built of Joshiu granite, the upper storey being of fire-bricks, three-and-a-half bricks thick. The roof will probably be sheeted with copper, and the architectural style is to be Italian renaissance. From the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which publishes these details, we learn that the cost is estimated at from four to five million *yen*, as against two millions spent upon the EMPEROR'S present palace, and 1,800,000 spent upon the buildings for the Bank of Japan, which are generally said to have been extraordinarily costly. A comparison between the new palace and the present palace as to mere figures is, of course, misleading, for the latter is built entirely of wood whereas the former will be of granite and brick. Besides, there is a great difference between the expense of building now and the expense twelve years ago when the present palace was constructed. Mr. KATAYAMA TOYU is the fortunate architect of the important building now commenced. Doubtless the contemplated expenditure is regarded by many Japanese as very large, but the history of this country shows that in mediæval days very much greater sums were devoted to similar purposes. In the second half of the fifteenth century, for example, the Ashikaga *Shogun* YOSHIMASA spent six hundred thousand *kwan* upon the "Flower Palace," and it is recorded that one of the series of sliding doors in the Takakura mansion, which he built for his mother, cost five thousand kwan. The sterling equivalent of six hundred thousand *kwan* is 2½ million pounds, and the sterling equivalent of five thousand *kwan* is twenty thousand pounds; figures which, expressed in the *yen* of our time, are represented by twenty-five million *yen* and two hundred thousand *yen*, respectively. The Flower Palace of the dilettante *Shogun* thus cost five times as much as the sum allotted for the palace of the Prince Imperial, and as to a sliding door upon which two hundred thousand *yen* was lavished, either history exaggerates enormously or they do things on a very small scale, comparatively speaking, now-a-days. We really can not undertake to say how so much money could be spent on a sliding door. Supposing that it were made of pure gold, the weight of the precious metal would be between three and four hundred pounds; and supposing that it were made of the finest gold lacquer, which is a material even more costly than gold, fifty thousand *yen* is about the limit of hypothetical expenditure. Still, it is scarcely possible to accuse history of such hyperbole as to suppose that it does more than treble the actual cost of the Flower Palace, and on that supposition we have still a figure of eight million *yen*. Not a stick or stone of the palace is now in its place. The business of mankind in all ages has alternated between constructing and destroying.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The extraordinary changes of temperature which occurred within the past few days, and the general lateness of the season, are causing some uneasiness. Frost is reported to have fallen in the central and northern provinces, but it did no special damage to either the mulberry trees or the tea plants.

A number of assetless cheques—seven or eight it is said—were found among the paper received by the Tokyo Clearing House at its last settlement, and it is anticipated that several more documents of the same nature are in circulation. The *Chuo Shimbun*, in publishing this news, attributes it to the existence of petty banks which do not command confidence, but surely the fault is with the drawers of the cheques, not with the banks on which they are drawn.

Seven of the principal Buddhist Sects have decided to send delegates to receive the Buddhist relics from Siam. We observe that both of the Hongwan temples are now concurring in the movement. It seems to provoke a great deal of ridicule in some circles in Japan, but we foreigners can not afford to laugh at it, and considering that the Japanese Diet never hesitates to vote sums of money for the restoration of shrines or the conservation of edifices commemorating events of the "semi-divine" age, we really fail to see how the Buddhists are out of touch with popular sentiment in this matter.

The final operations in the naval manœuvres will be finished in two or three days, and the inspection of the squadrons engaged will take place on the 28th and 29th. The Emperor will embark in the line-of-battle ship *Fuji*, and will have his shore quarters at Prince Arisugawa's Maiko villa. It is stated that the Foreign naval attachés of Russia, France, Germany, England, America, and Italy will be present at the inspection, as will also some of the officers of the foreign men-of-war now in Yokohama.

Two Ainu delegates have arrived in Tokyo. They represent a community of 300 families in Hokkaido, who complain that they are about to be evicted, or transferred to some other locality, in order to make room for a speculative purchase of 400,000 *tsubo* of land by Messrs. Okura Kihachiro and Yao Shinsuke. The land in question is near Kamikawa, where an Imperial detached palace is likely to be constructed, and where the headquarters of the Seventh Division will also be situated. The Ainu are said to complain bitterly, and we need scarcely say that they have found a Tokyo journal to espouse their cause, without any regard to the other side of the question, whatever that may be.

During the first three months of this year the quantity of raw cotton imported into Japan was 1,188,593 piculs, against 843,565 piculs for the corresponding period last year, the values of these quantities being 26,633,053 *yen* and 14,333,165 *yen* respectively. On the other hand, the market for cotton manufactures has been so dull of late that the mills are obliged to reduce their time of working, and mill-owners show great reluctance in taking delivery of the cotton imported to their order. It is stated that re-export is the only resource offering. The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are alleged to have already re-sold in Bombay a considerable consignment of cotton brought over by them, the loss of the freight in each direction being less than that likely to be incurred by holding the cotton here. There is also talk of re-exporting cotton to the United States.

The Committee appointed to revise the penal laws are now engaged upon the Code of Criminal Procedure, having completed the Criminal Code. It is stated that the two questions chiefly occupying attention are the advisability of introducing trial by jury, and the advantage of holding preliminary investigations in public. We do not understand that there is any idea of adopting the jury system as it exists in Europe and America—namely, taking any ignorant man from the by-ways and high-ways and asking him to decide a question often of the most intricate character, and affecting the liberty, if not the life, of a fellow-national. Japan is rapidly drifting towards that pernicious outcome of Western systems, party cabinets, and she will do well to avoid the other deformity, trial by a jury selected hap-hazard. The proposition now on the tapis is, to have juries composed of legal experts. That, we should imagine, would be an excellent thing. It would secure the fine features of the jury system without adopting its defects. But we regret to learn that the balance of opinion seems to be against publicity in preliminary trials. The opponents of the measure declare that it would require recasting of the whole Code of Criminal Procedure. What if it does? Can any such argument be said to possess the smallest validity? It is as though a statesman should say, "Yes, our laws are bad, but truly we must be content with them since to amend them would involve their re-drafting."

THE NAVAL REVIEW AT KOBE.

The following is a list of the warships which will take part in the naval review at Kobe:—

FIRST LINE.	SECOND LINE.
Shikishima	*Kasagi*
Yashima	*Chitose*
Fuji	*Takasago*
Tokiwa	*Yoshino*
Chinyen	*Takachiho*
Fuso	*Akitsusu*
Matsushima	*Izumi*
Itsukushima	*Chiyoda*
Hashidate	*Tatsuta*
THIRD LINE.	FOURTH LINE.
Toyohashi	*Shinonome*
Ikazuchi	*Murakumo*
Inazuma	*Yugiri*
Hayabusa	*Shiranui*
Fukuriu	*Kotaka*
Topedo Boats and Destroyers	Torpedo Boats and Destroyers
No. 29	No. 25
31	30
33	32
35	34
12	36
17	13
	26

EMPEROR'S ESCORT.

Asama
Yayeyama
Akashi
Miyako
Kagero.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

Mr. Kawada Tetsuya has been discussing Japanese national propensities in the *Nippon Shimbun*. There is not much that is new in his articles, but the sentiments expressed, we have reason to think, are held by a large number of Japanese thinkers. The views of Mr. Kawada are, it will be seen, very pessimistic. Briefly stated, this is what Mr. Kawada has to say about his own nationals:—In Japan the climate is temperate and the scenery good. The country is a pleasant one to live in, so much so that foreigners have called Japan the public garden of the world. The Japanese character in the course of centuries has doubtless been much affected by climate and the physical peculiarities of the country. It is a fact that for a very long time we as a people have been satisfied with small attainments and temporary gain, and that the ambition to enter on great enterprises has been very rare in our midst. Our energies and our thoughts seem to be divided among a large number of small things. This characteristic appears even in our mythology. Like the Greeks we worshipped many gods, and like them amused ourselves with admiring nature's many beauties. Our religion had no set purpose connected with it, but was a desultory affair with no deep convictions as its foundation. . . We are, moreover, an emotional people. Our feelings change rapidly. We are naturally suspicious and are apt to harbour malice, as is shown by the length of time that the vendetta was practised by our forefathers. . . . There is a good deal of insincerity among us. There is a want of agreement between what we say and do and what we really think. This comes from our borrowing largely from China plausible speech that expresses fine moral sentiments, which it is our custom to utter on all occasions, though the feelings which these words presuppose are absent from our hearts. This language too often is used as a veil of thought instead of a vehicle. Our words and our acts are apt to become mere forms without any real meaning and to give no clue to our real characters. . . . . Work is distasteful to most of us. We work in order to be able to enjoy ourselves later on in life and the time of retirement is looked forward to with eagerness. Even the young are told that it is necessary for them to work in order to gain the means to enable them to live at leisure later on, so that the one idea of life is apt to be, how soon can I retire? . . . In seeking to improve national character, care has to be taken that all life and individuality are not crushed out of us in the process. There is such a thing as killing the cow in trying to straighten the horn.* But an endeavour ought to be made to suppress the emotional and to strengthen the rational side of our nature. The desirable proportion of the mental constituents would be 7 parts emotional to 13 rational. As we are now constituted we find it difficult to judge any question calmly. We are constantly led astray by our excited feelings. What is needed to improve our character may be briefly summed up under 6 heads. (1) The enlargement of our capacities. (2) The creation of religious feeling. (3) Greater interest in foreign affairs. (4) An enterprising spirit. (5) Greater strength of will. (6) More dogged persistence in the carrying out of undertakings.

* The proverb referred to is: *Tsuno wo tamete ushi wo korosu.*—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

In the *Kyôiku Kôhô*, Mr. Yokoi Tokio has a good deal to say on "The principal object of learning," of which the following is the purport:—If students generally are asked what is the object they have in view in study the majority would reply, "We are preparing ourselves to serve the State." This is the orthodox answer, but does it represent the truth? Rather should we say that in nine cases out of ten the motive of study is either personal gain or personal reputation. And with a view of enabling students to realise these objects all manner of schools exist. Japanese education to-day aims at supplying the demands of the age, and is not endeavouring to carry out any one definite purpose connected with the welfare of the State. From this prostitution of learning to temporary interests we should expect the Imperial University at least to be free, but in reality it is not so. . . . As a proof that among the majority of students there are no fixed principles or ideas respecting the real object of education, I may refer to the recent renewal of interest in books that were discarded thirty years ago. These works are again being studied and quoted as authorities. Those who mourn over the country's shortcomings do so in language that was suggested by an entirely different situation to that in which we find ourselves. All this tends to show how few there are that have any definite idea of what is the chief function of education. Undoubtedly the chief object of education is full development of individuals, and all the prating about the existence of any other final object is delusive in the extreme.

* * *

Under the title of *Gwaikô no Shinkyokumen* (A new Aspect of our Foreign Relations) a writer in the *Sekai-no-Nihon* expresses some very sensible opinions regarding Japan's attitude to Russia. He begins by observing that most of the writing met with on the subject of Japan's foreign policy is utterly unpractical and reveals great ignorance of existing conditions. The controversy as to which country we should regard as friendly to us and which hostile and the talk about our allying ourselves with this Power or that are too academical to engage the attention of real statesmen. And as for many of the proposals made by irresponsible writers, there is no Power in existence that possesses the wherewithal to carry them out. . . The great thing it behoves us to do is to study the real situation of foreign affairs in their bearing on the future of the Far East. The salient features of the present situation are the great predominance of England and Russia and the attitude of Germany to each of these Powers. A few years ago Germany combined with Russia against us, but quite recently she has come to a special understanding with England. The question is, does this understanding include Far Eastern affairs? Report says, no. It is generally considered that both countries are to have a free hand in China. Now there is great talk in some quarters about our checkmating Russia by making an alliance with England. But those who know what is England's policy in foreign affairs realise that she will never consent to be a party to any such alliance. Her chief interests are connected with Africa and India. China occupies a very subordinate place in her Imperial affairs. England has far too big an empire to defend to allow of her taking part in quarrels of other nations. It is true that she combined with Europe against Napoleon and that she allied herself with France in the Crimean war and for the purpose of chastising the Chinese, but she is averse to offensive and defensive alliances that may involve sacrifices on her part in the interests of other nations. If Russia were to overrun Japan, we could hardly expect England to interfere. She would give us moral support, but she would not go further. The idea of relying on England had better be given up. Another and, in our opinion, a far better policy remains, which is to cease regarding Russia as our enemy and rival and to seek to make a friend of her. Our interests in China and Korea may not be the same, but why not arrange matters on the principle of give and take? And why not endeavour to look beyond China and Korea and think of the general relations of the two countries? The world is big and there is room enough for both States to develop to the full. By conciliating Russia we should draw France closer to us—a much to be desired achievement. The new way of looking at our foreign relations which I recommend, says the writer in the *Sekai-no-Nihon*, consists of regarding Russia no longer with suspicion. England is already our friend. Let us proceed to make Russia and France our friends also. Then we shall only have Germany to deal with, and her we must fight. It is my belief that we shall have to do so. (*Nihon wa Doitsu to tatakawazaru wo yezaru ni itaru; kaku shinzezaru wo yezu*). She is double-tongued (兩舌 *ryôzetsu*) and double-hearted and her manners when dealing with other countries are those of a low-class coolie (*kumosuke gaikô wo shu to suru*). It is not unlikely that occasions will arise which will make it impossible for us to remain at peace with her. In that case there is no reason why our Government should give way. We should proceed to turn her out of Shantung and take the Caroline Islands from her. England, France, and Russia all have an historical connection with the Far East, and it is reasonable that they should occupy a certain amount of territory. But Germany is an intruder. With no history to back her, she has by a high-handed policy obtained a footing in the East. That which she has won with the sword she may lose with the sword. She sows the seeds of strife wherever she goes. . The disturber of the peace of the Far East is not Russia, but Germany. And she is a foe that we can crush; she has only ships amounting to 35,000 tons. Whatever efforts she may make she can not increase her navy by more than 20,000 tons. The German Eastern fleet could be swept from the seas by Japan in 12 hours.

The essay concludes thus:—Some readers may be astonished at the open way in which I discuss such a stalwart policy as the above. But if there is one thing that the international intercourse of recent years has revealed it is, that in dealing with other countries there is everything to be gained and nothing to be lost by adopting a bold policy and letting the world know that it has been adopted.

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To the *Shakai Zasshi*, Mr. Kure Bunsô contributes an interesting article on "The State of Society and Crime." He sets out by stating a well-known difficulty connected with human responsibility. The punishment of crime goes on the supposition that all members of society are equally responsible, that they all have free wills. But statistics go to show that this is by no means the case, that certain states of society are decidedly conducive to crime, and in the natural course of things the individuals who breathe polluted air

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contract moral diseases therefrom and end by committing crime. Mr. Kure publishes tables of statistics to show that certain states of society produce about the same amount of crime from year to year, and among criminals the proportion of men to women is remarkably uniform. To quote a few of the figures given by him bearing on crime in Japan between 1874 and 1897, the annual number of betrayals of trust were committed by about 400 or 500 men and by about 300 women. Offences against the usages and customs of society were committed by about 5,000 men and about 300 women, while the figures for misappropriation of property stand at 80,000 or 90,000 men against 10,000 women. The regularity is very striking, says Mr. Kure, and the same thing occurs in the case of suicide, the proportion being about 62 males to 38 females every year. It would seem then, proceeds Mr. Kure, as though society were responsible for the amount of crime produced year by year, but this in no way absolves individuals who are under an obligation to obey the laws of the land. The fact is, responsibility is divided between the individual and society and the apportioning to each its share is a very delicate business. The theory on which all law is based is that men have freedom of will, but this theory requires modification to a certain extent. But the idea that crime is likely to be lessened by the diminution of punishment is contradicted by statistics. The proposal to abolish capital punishment in this country should find no support. For the fear of punishment is after all the great preventive of crime with a large class of people.

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A series of articles on "The Fox in Japanese Literature," is appearing in the *Teikoku Bungaku*. The writer is Mr. Haga Yaichi. The general conclusion which Mr. Haga reaches is that in the main the qualities attributed to this animal and the symbolic expressions which Reynard has given to literature are the same in the East and the West. Mr. Haga gives a large number of examples, a few of which we quote:—Just as in English the fox is used as a symbol of craft in "foxy, fox-like, foxish, and foxiness," etc., so we have 狐疑 *Kogi*, suspicion, *lit.*, to suspect like a fox. A lattice door, because in Japan things are often hidden behind it, is called *Kitsune-do*. An arrow that glances off into the air without striking the object aimed at is called *Kitsune-ya*. False fires are called *Kitsune-bi* in Japan and "fox-fires" with us. Weather that is made up half of sunshine and half of rain is called in Japan *Kitsune no yome-iri* (a fox's wedding) and "fox-weather" in England. The word is used to describe certain plants in both England and Japan. There is in Japan the *Kitsune-bana*, the *Kitsune-mame*, the *Kitsune-azami*, the *Kitsune no chabukuro*, and others, as there is in English the "fox-glove, the fox-grape, the fox-tail," and so on. Æsop's fable about the fox deceiving the lion has its counterpart in the Japanese tale (borrowed from China) about the fox that made use of the tiger in the same way. Hence the Japanese expression *Tora no i wo karu kitsune*. Where the East differs from the West is in the wonderful transformations that are ascribed to the fox in China and Japan and the power to bewitch people said to be possessed by it. As far as my knowledge goes, says Mr. Haga, there is no instance in Western literature of foxes transforming themselves into human shape for the sake of obtaining human offspring. But this practice has constantly been resorted to by our Japanese foxes according to certain authorities. Mr. Haga is of opinion that most of Japan's fox lore is borrowed from China. In that country, however, Mr. Haga observes, the fox is by no means exclusively used as a symbol of various types of wickedness. It is often spoken of in terms of praise and a very high destiny is assigned to it. After 50 years it is said to transform itself into a woman and to beget children; at the age of a hundred it assumes the form of a very beautiful woman or becomes a man, according to fancy. It is said to have great foresight and in all matters to be far more knowing than man. At the age of 1,000 it is transformed into a god. Mr. Haga explains that in very ancient Japanese literature, though there is mention of almost every conceivable kind of transformation, there is no instance of a fox being described as transforming itself into a human being with a distinctly sexual object in view in the way that it is habitually said to do in China. This abomination of literature, ancient Japan was free from, according to Mr. Haga. But in later days these revolting transformations are constantly said to have taken place in Japan, and all the supernatural powers attributed to the animal in China were ascribed to it here. Religious teachers helped to perpetuate the superstitious awe felt for the animal and often represented themselves as possessing power to counteract its influence. Serious incurable diseases are often called *Kitsune-tsuki yamai*, originating with the story of a fox whose spirit entered the body of the man that had killed it and caused the man to contract a mortal disease. Mr. Haga has collected a very large amount of material bearing on the subject and his essay is well worthy of being published in pamphlet form.

* * *

The *Tenchijin* has an article on "The Future of China," in which various forecasts of the future are reviewed. The writer is of opinion that neither of the would-be reformers, San Yih-sien and Kan Yu-wei has the means at his disposal to effect anything of importance, and even if either of them should decide to head a revolution, it seems unlikely that he would have a large enough following to insure success. The writer we quote thinks that before very long the present dynasty will be confronted with a formidable rebellion and that the general who succeeds in quelling it will attempt to dictate his own terms to the astute old lady on the throne. She, as a last resort, will fall back on Russia, and Russia's armed intervention will give the two above-named reformers a chance of appealing successfully to the patriotism of provincial governors to combine against the foreign foe. Conjecture is heaped on conjecture in the article before us. To follow the writer further into the haze that enshrouds the future would tend to no profit.

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The *Kyôiku Kôhô* reviews a new work by Captain Horiuchi, an Army Officer, on "The Mental Education of Military Men." From this notice we extract the following particulars concerning Captain Horiuchi's volume. It is now some eight years since the attention of the Japanese authorities was turned to the subject of the mental training of troops. It is fully realised that it is highly important that soldiers should be something more than machines, that they should to a certain extent think for themselves and should be actuated by the best motives and feelings in the performance of their work. The subjects treated are thus classified. (1) The responsibility of instructing the men should lie with the officers. (2) In developing the minds of soldiers the individual peculiarities of each should be considered. (3) Special care should be taken to develop the faculty of judgment. (4) Cheerfulness of spirit in all work undertaken should be enjoined. (5) Soldiers should be taught to be hopeful and should ever be reminded that upon their efforts the credit of the nation depends. (6) Emotion should be encouraged rather than repressed. Much is to be accomplished by strength of feeling and the cultivation of sympathy with fellow soldiers is highly important. (7) The idea of united responsibility in which every individual must take his full share must be instilled into the minds of troops. (8) Soldiers must regard their lives as having been put at the service of the country, and whether they live or die in that service should be a matter of no concern. (9) The deeds of ancient warriors should be recalled to the minds of the troops, and not their deeds only but the motives by which they were actuated in performing those deeds.

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In the *Gwaikô Jihô*, Dr. Ariga calls attention to the great success attending Dr. Takahashi Sakuye's work on international law cases during the Chino-Japanese war. It has been reviewed in all the literary centres of Europe and has met with great favour everywhere. Dr. Ariga published some time ago a French work on the same subject. Dr. Ariga's treatise is on cases connected with the movement of troops on land, while Dr. Takahashi deals with naval movements.

A history of modern China has just been published in 4 vols. at the office of Hayashi Heijirô, Nihonbashi, 3-chôme, Tôkyô. The authors are Messrs. Ishimura Teiichi and Kôno Mitsuyuki. The title *Saikin Shina-shi* is misleading as Vol. I. deals with the Wan period (A.D. 1280—1367) and Vol. II. with the Ming dynasty, (1368—1661). Only the last 2 vols. treat of modern China. Dr. Ariga says that the work, though not without shortcomings, proceeds from the pens of scholars well versed in the subject on which they write, and contains a large amount of information on events which need to be specially studied by the Japanese at the present day.

Dr. Ariga publishes in the *Gwaikô Jihô* an epitome of a lecture delivered at Cambridge by Professor Westlake on the Transvaal war, in which the learned professor deals with the essentially legal aspects of England's demands prior to the outbreak of the war. He holds to the opinion that the convention on which England relied in pressing her claims did not in any way support those claims and adds that that was the reason for the Government's falling back on the rights England possessed in the capacity of a suzerain.

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The *Shigaku Zasshi* announces that a society has been formed called the *Kosho hozonkai* whose object it is collect and republish old books. The members are required to subscribe 10 *sen* per month and at the end of the year the proceeds are to be used in publishing books, which will be distributed gratis among members and, we imagine, sold to the public. Whether such a scheme will succeed seems very doubtful. The idea seems to have originated with a Tôkyô bookseller called Yoshikawa Hanshichi.

A well-known dictionary called *Wakan Sansaizuye* is about to be issued in modern style by Hayashi Heijirô, Nihonbashi-dôri, 3 chôme, Tôkyô. It is a valuable book of reference that

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hitherto has only existed in the old style of printing, in numerous volumes.

Two new magazines have made their appearance within the last few weeks. The *Kokuhon* (國本) and the *Kokuryoku* (國力). The first is a monthly, selling at 10 *sen* per copy. Its leading principle is the oneness of Oriental Countries. Agriculture and Politics are the chief topics to be discussed and special attention will be given to colonisation. The *Kokuryoku* is a weekly, selling at 5 *sen* per copy. The subjects treated in the first numbers are chiefly political.

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The *Bungei Shimbun* has an article entitled "Newspapers and Literary Taste" which contains the following comments:—Some 5 years ago the chief newspapers all paid special attention to literature and regularly devoted considerable space to the discussion of purely literary subjects. But the practice has gradually been discontinued. In its place one or two of the newspapers have begun to publish articles on science or social subjects. The *Yomiuri* used to be noted as a literary organ in addition to discussing politics, but it too has changed and now only devotes a supplement published on Mondays to the discussion of literature. Even the punctilious *Nihon*, whose columns used to be so sedate, has of late condescended to discuss tea, checkers and animals. The recently issued *Niroku* (二六) *Shimpô*, although it devotes a good deal of space to social topics, pays more attention to literature than most of its contemporaries. The *Yorozu Chôhô* still professes to a large extent to be a literary organ, but its light seems to us to burn dim when we compare the present issues with those of the days when Morita Shiken and Hara Hôitsu were regular contributors. Coming to provincial newspapers, the *Osaka Mainichi Shimbun* in a quiet but very persistent manner endeavours to cultivate among its readers a taste for literature. The *Osaka Asahi* devotes a supplement on Mondays to a notice of books, but does it in a most perfunctory manner. The reviews all read alike and are evidently penned by the same men week after week as an onerous task. Now and again we find in these columns a few interesting remarks on current literature, but as a rule there is nothing to relieve the dull monotony of the duty columns. Compared with Tôkyô, however, Osaka at the present time accords a place of honour to literature. But low long this will last is another question.

The *Bungei Shimbun* calls attention to the fact that women are beginning to be employed in newspaper offices. It is said that both the *Jiji Shimpô* and the *Hôchi* have women on their staffs. The *Bungei Shimbun* welcomes the change and says that some of the writers employed have a great command of language and in descriptive writing are far more minute and impressive than men. Although if it were known by general readers that women were the authors of the paragraphs they were perusing, silly prejudice would destroy their effect, says the *Bungei Shimbun*. As things now are, however, it is not known, and the plan adopted is proving a success. If women were allowed a free hand in newspaper offices much of the indecent writing now indulged in would be discontinued, paragraphs dealing with women's affairs would possess value of their own, and newspapers would lose much of the bluntness that now disfigures them, concludes the *Bungei Shimbun*.

The deficiency of Middle School teachers is so great that at last the Mombushô proposes, says the *Jiji Shimpô*, to act on the advice given to it years ago, and admit outsiders to the ranks of Middle School teachers: by outsiders is meant the graduates of private schools. Middle School teachers are divided into two classes, namely, those who are appointed after examination and those who are appointed without examination (*Shiken Kentei* and *Mushiken Kentei*). Hitherto only graduates of the Science or Literary Departments of the Universities, High Schools, or the Komaba College have been allowed to take up appointments in Middle Schools without examination. It has been decided to extend the privilege to the literary graduates of certain private schools. The Waseda Semmon Gakkô, the Kokugaku-in, and the Tetsugakkwan are specially mentioned, but we imagine that several other establishments are likely to be included. This measure, it is worthy of note, when adopted will mark a new departure in Mombushô policy, which hitherto has consisted of the discouraging of private educational effort as much as possible.

THE LATE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

By the death of the Duke of Argyll, Scotland loses one of her most representative and distinguished sons. George Douglas Campbell was the only surviving son of the seventh Duke. He was born at Ardincaple Castle, Dumbartonshire, in 1823, and, before he succeeded his father, in April, 1847, had become known as an author, politician, and public speaker. As Marquis of Lorne he took an active part in the controversy in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland relating to patronage, and was looked upon by Dr. Chalmers as an important and valuable adherent. As early as 1842 he published a pamphlet which exhibited considerable literary ability, under the title of "A Letter to the Peers from a Peer's Son." His *brochure*, "On the Duty and Necessity of Immediate Legislative Interposition in behalf of the Church of Scotland, as determined by Considerations of Constitutional Law," was an historical view of that Church, particularly in reference to its constitutional power in ecclesiastical matters. In the course of the same year he published "A Letter to the Rev. Thomas Chalmers, D.D., on the Present Position of Church Affairs in Scotland and the Causes which have led to it." In this pamphlet he vindicated the right of the Church to legislate for itself; but condemned the Free Church movement then in agitation among certain members of the General Assembly; maintaining the position taken up in his "Letter to the Peers," and expressing his dissent from the extreme view embodied in the statement of Dr. Chalmers, that "lay patronage and the integrity of the spiritual independence of the Church have been proved to be, like oil and water, immiscible." In 1848, the Duke published an essay, critical and historical, on the ecclesiastical history of Scotland since the Reformation, entitled "Presbytery Examined." It was a careful expansion of his earlier writings, and was favourably received. His Grace was a frequent speaker in the House of Peers on such subjects as Jewish Emancipation, the Scottish Marriage Bill, the Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, the Sugar Duties, Foreign Affairs, the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, the Scottish Law of Entail, and the Repeal of the Paper Duties. During the administration of Lord John Russell he gave the Government a general support, at the same time identifying his political views with those of the Liberal-Conservatives. His Grace actively interested himself in all questions affecting Scottish interests brought before the Legislature, especially in the affairs of the Church of Scotland. In 1851 he was elected Chancellor of the University of St. Andrews. In 1852 he accepted office in the Cabinet of the Earl of Aberdeen, as Lord Privy Seal. On the breaking up of that ministry, in February, 1855, in consequence of the secession of Lord John Russell, and the appointment of Mr. Roebuck's Committee of Inquiry into the state of the British Army before Sebastopol, his Grace retained the same office under the Premiership of Lord Palmerston. In the latter part of 1855 he resigned the Privy Seal, and became Postmaster-General. In Lord Palmerston's Cabinet of 1859 the Duke resumed the office of Lord Privy Seal, which he exchanged for that of Postmaster-General on Lord Elgin being sent, in 1860, on his second special mission to China. He was re-appointed Lord Privy Seal in 1860, was elected Rector of the University of Glasgow in Nov., 1854; presided over the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Glasgow, in September, 1855; and was elected President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1861. On the formation of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet, in Dec., 1868, he was appointed Secretary of State for India, and he held that position till the downfall of the Liberal Government in Feb., 1874. In the ensuing session he warmly supported the measure introduced and carried by the Conservative Government for the transfer of the patronage in the Church of Scotland from individuals to congregations. He was appointed Lord Privy Seal for the third time in May, 1880, on Mr. Gladstone returning to power. That post he held till April, 1881, when he resigned it, in consequence of a difference with his colleagues in the Cabinet concerning some of the provisions of the Irish Land Bill. In announcing the circumstance to the House of Lords (April 8), he stated that in consequence of certain provisions of the Bill which in, his view, put the ownership of Irish property in commission and abeyance, he had felt obliged to resign his office in the Government, and his resignation had been accepted by Her Majesty. After that time he look an important part, by speech and pen, in political controversy, taking the Whig side; especially on the questions of Home Rule and those arising out of the Crofter agitation. His Grace was Hereditary Master of the Queen's Household in Scotland, Chancellor of the University of St. Andrews, a Trustee of the British Museum, and Hereditary Sheriff and Lord-Lieutenant of Argyllshire. In 1866 he published "The Reign of Law," which passed through numerous editions; in 1869 "Primeval Man; an Examination of some Recent Speculations"; in 1870, a small work on the History and Antiquities of Iona; in 1874 "The Patronage Act of 1874 all that was asked in 1843, being a reply to Mr. Taylor Innes"; in 1877 (for the Cobden Club) observations "On the important Question Involved in the Relation of Landlord and Tenant"; in 1879 "The Eastern Question, from the Treaty of Paris to the Treaty of Berlin, and to the second Afghan War," 2 vols.; and in 1884 "The Unity of Nature," a work on the Philosophy of Religion; being a sequel to the "Reign of Law"; "An Economic History of Scotland," 1884; "The Unseen Foundations of Society," 1893; Irish Nationalism, 1893; Volume of Poems, 1894; Philosophy of Belief, 1896; and a host of controversial tracts, pamphlets, essays, and articles. He married, first, in 1844, the eldest daughter of the second Duke of Sutherland (she died May 25, 1878); secondly, in 1881, Amelia Maria, eldest daughter of Dr. Claughton, Bishop of St. Albans, and widow of Colonel Augustus Henry Archibald Anson; and thirdly, in 1895, Ina Erskin, daughter of Mr. M'Neill, of Colousay. He was a member of the Privy Council; K. T., and K. G.; bore the Celtic title of MacCailean Mhor (from an ancestor knighted in 1286), while his Scottish and other titles were Marquis of Lorne and Kintyre; Earl Campbell and Cowal; Viscount of Lochow and Glenisla; Baron Inverary, Mull, Morvern, and Tiry, 1701; Baron Campbell, 1445; Earl of Argyll, 1457 Baron of Lorne, 1470; Baron Kintyre, 1633 (Scotland), Baron Sundrige, 1766; Baron Hamilton, 1776; Duke (Great Britain), 1892. By his death the husband of Princess Louise succeeds to the title.

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RAILWAY TRAFFIC LAW.

In the sequel of the Private Railway Law another enactment for the control of railway traffic has been promulgated. It contains 45 articles, of which the most important are as follows :—

Art. III.—Measures relating to the increase of dues or alteration in the manner of transport shall not be carried into effect unless they have been advertised for more than two weeks at the station concerned.

Art. IV.—No person affected by a contagious disease shall be allowed to enter a railway carriage, except in conformity with the rules established by the Minister of State concerned.

Art. VI.—No railway company shall decline the transport of goods if the following conditions are complied with :—

1. The consignor shall adhere strictly to laws and ordinances, and other enactments relating to railway traffic.
2. No terms involving special responsibility can be enforced by the consignor with regard to the transportation of his goods.
3. Goods shall not be transported contrary to the provisions of laws or in a manner prejudicial to public welfare or morals.
4. Goods shall be of a character suitable for transport in accordance with the established rules.

Art. XVI.—In case of passengers abandoning their intended journey before entering the train, repayment of fares may be claimed by them in conformity with the Railway Traffic Regulations.

Art. XXIV.—Any railway official or employe guilty of indecent conduct towards passengers or the public, while on duty, shall be liable to a fine of not more than 25 *yen*.

Art. XXV.—In case any railway official or employe acts contrary to or neglects his duties, or commits acts dangerous to passengers or the public, he shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding 500 *yen*, or with major imprisonment for a term of not more than 3 months.

Art. XXVI.—Any railway official forcing passengers to enter the carriage, beyond the prescribed number, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*.

Art. XXVII.—Any railway official attempting to evade a part or the whole of freight dues in collusion with a passenger, or consignor or consignee, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years and to a fine not exceeding 500 *yen*.

Art. XXVIII.—Any railway official or employe failing to open a crossing, or suffering any car or utensils to be placed thereon, in such a way as to obstruct traffic or communication, shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*.

Art. XXIX.—Any person committing the following acts, with intent to evade freight dues or fares, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen* :—

1. Entering a carriage without proper tickets.
2. Entering a car superior in class to that indicated in the ticket.
3. Failing to alight at the station mentioned on the ticket.

Art. XXX.—Any persons making a false statement as to the class or quality of goods to be transported or committing fraudulent acts with intent to evade the dues, shall be punishable with major imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months, or with a fine not exceeding 500 *yen*.

Art. XXXI.—Any person entrusting to the company for transportation gunpowder or explosives or other dangerous substances, or carrying the same into a carriage, in contravention of the Railway Transport Regulations, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XXXIII.—Passengers committing any of the following acts shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding 25 *yen* :—

1. Entering or alighting from a train while in motion.
2. Opening a side door while the train is in progress.
3. Entering a car other than those provided for passengers.

Art. XXXIV.—Any person committing the following acts in contravention of regulations shall be punishable with a police fine :—

1. The use of tobacco in a station or train or any part of the railway compound where smoking is prohibited.
2. Entry by a male into a carriage or waiting room exclusively provided for women.

Art. XXXV.—Any person guilty of indecent conduct in a carriage or station shall be liable to a police fine.

Art. XXXVI.—Any person altering, damaging, or removing signs or notices in the train, or station, or any part of the railway premises, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*. Damage to signals is punishable by major imprisonment for a term of not less than three months and not more than 3 years, and a fine of from 5 to 50 *yen*.

Art. XXXVIII.—Any person obstructing railway officials or employes in the discharge of their duties, either by menace or acts of violence, shall be punishable by major imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 year and a fine not exceeding 100 *yen*.

Art. XLI.—Any person allowing a person suffering from epidemic disease to enter a train shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 *yen*.

The same penalty attaches to patients concealing the fact that they are suffering from contagious disease.

LAW RELATING TO ASSOCIATIONS OF DEALERS IN THE PRINCIPAL STAPLES OF MANUFACTURE.

The following are some of the most important articles embodied in this law :—

Art. I.—Persons engaged in the manufacture or sale of staple products, or dealers having close business relations, may form themselves into a corporation according to the provisions of this law.

Art. II.—The corporation shall have for its object the extirpation of abuses and the promotion of mutual advantages among members by means of co-operation and combination.

Art. III.—In organising such a corporation the limits of the district in which combination shall be effected shall first be determined, and with the consent of more than two-thirds of the dealers of the same class, a general meeting shall be held to draw up regulations to which the sanction of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce is necessary.

Art. IV.—In a district where a corporation is established any person engaged in the same occupation may be required to become a member except when specially released by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

Art. VII.—In a Corporation or a Union of Corporations there shall be appointed one Director and a number of Assistant Directors and Councillors.

Art. XIII.—A Corporation or Union shall not refuse inspection by officials despatched by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce or by a local Governor, and shall answer accurately questions put by such inspectors.

Art. XV.—In case the decisions of a Corporation or Union or the proceedings of the officials are contrary to laws and ordinances, or prejudicial to the public interest or inconsistent with the aims originally indicated, or in case the orders of the authorities are duly complied with, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce may enforce measures as specified below.

1. Dissolution of a corporation or Union, or suspension of its business.
2. Dismissal of its officials.
3. Withdrawal of its decisions.

Art. XIX.—Violation of Articles IV. and XIII. shall be punishable by a fine of not less than 2 and not more than 100 *yen*.

Art. XX.—Any person who fraudulently affixes to his own articles of trade any labels or certificates used by the Corporation or Union, or who alters or counterfeits such labels or certificates, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to a fine of not less than 10 or more than 100 *yen*.

Art. XXI.—These Regulations come into operation from the 1st of April, 1900.

Art. XXII.—Any corporation or union previously organised in accordance with the Law relating to Associations of Dealers in staples of Export shall be regarded as established according to the Law.

CATTLE PLAGUE REGULATIONS.

Following are the rules regarding cattle plague promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce :—

Art. I.—Any hides of cattle or sheep, bones, or other articles imported from the various ports of Korea, China, or Siberia as to which apprehension is entertained on the ground of cattle plague, shall be landed only after medical inspection.

Art. II.—The inspection shall be undertaken in Kobe and Nagasaki.

Art III.—Inspectors shall have access to ships, and may, if they deem it necessary, inspect the ship's log. The captain or his agent is required to sign a document in which all facts relating to the enquiries made are mentioned.

Art. IV.—The Inspectors, if they deem it necessary, may direct the owners of cattle or sheep, or their agents, or the captain or crew, to transport these animals to a place of detention, and to confine them for a proper period.

Art. V.—Any cattle or sheep attacked or suspected of having been attacked by plague, or any hides, bones, or other articles suspected of being infected, shall be dealt with according to the provisions of the Law for the Prevention of diseases of animals.

Art. VI.—Inspectors are required to give certificates on the completion of their inspection.

Art. VII.—The local Governor of a district where offices for inspection are established shall appoint subordinate officials or veterinary surgeons to act as Inspectors.

Art. VIII.—When inspection is to be made, the place of inspection shall be notified.

Art. IX.—These regulations come into operation from the 1st of April, 1900.

The rules regarding cattle plague as embodied in Ordinance No 18 of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, issued in the 30th year of *Meiji*, shall be rescinded from the date of the operation of this law.

AMENDMENTS IN MINING REGULATIONS.

The following amendments have been introduced into the Mining Regulations now in operation :—

In Article II. the term bismuth is added after "lead mine;" "chromide of iron" next to "sulphate of iron;" "phosphorus" to "arsenic;" "sub-coal to "coal;" bitumen" to "petroleum."

Article III. is altered as follows :—No person other than a Japanese subject or a company organised in accordance with the laws of the empire is allowed to engage in mining enterprises.

Article XLVII. has had the 4th paragraph altered as follows :—"For the construction of a refinery or other buildings, or the laying of telegraph wires, iron chains or pipes, all necessary for the working of the mine."

The following three articles are added after Article XCII :—

Art. XCIII.—If any person who has been working mines of bismuth, chromide of iron, phosphorus, crude coal, or bitumen, prior to the 30th November 1899, shall apply for a special licence for the above mines not later than the 30th June 1900, he can obtain the licence in question exclusively for the limits under operation, in disregard of the provisions of Article XVI., and also of Article XLI. relating to the area of mining districts. Any person who has forwarded the aforesaid application for a special licence by the 30th June, 1900, shall be allowed to continue his mining operations without regard to the provisions of these regulations, until the date of receiving the Government's directions in connection with his application.

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Art. XCIV.—Applicants for the special licence in conformity with the foregoing provisions are required to obtain sanction as specified in Articles XXII and XXIII.

Art. XCV.—When the area of a mining district for which a special licence has been obtained in accordance with Article XCIII. does not exceed 3,000 *tsubo*, the licence in question shall lose its validity after the lapse of five years.

APPENDIX.

These regulations come into operation from the 1st of April, 1900.

JAPAN INDUSTRIAL BANK LAW.

The following is a translation of the above law, which was recently promulgated over the signature of the Premier and the Minister of Finance:—

Chapter I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Art. I.—The Japan Industrial Bank shall be a join stock corporation, with head offices in Tokyo.

Art. II.—The capital of the Bank shall be 10 million *yen*. This amount, however, may be increased or decreased with the sanction of the Government.

Art. III.—The shares of the Bank shall have a face value of 100 *yen* each.

Art. III.—The period of operation of the Bank shall be 50 years, which may, however, be prolonged with the sanction of the Government,

Chapter II.—PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS.

Art. V.—The Bank shall appoint one President and not less than four Managers and three Inspectors.

Art. VI.—The President shall act as the representative of the Bank. The President and Managers shall superintend the affairs of the Bank, and the Inspectors are charged with the duty of scrutinising the Bank's transactions.

Art. VII.—The President shall be appointed by the Government from among holders of more than 100 shares, and the term of his service shall be five years. Managers shall be nominated by Government from candidates elected at a general meeting of shareholders selected from persons holding more than 50 shares, and the term of their service shall be fixed for three years. The inspectors shall be chosen at a general meeting of shareholders from among persons holding over 30 shares each, and their term of service shall not exceed two years.

Art. VIII.—The President and Managers shall not engage in other occupations or commercial transactions.

Chapter IV.—BUSINESS.

Art. IX.—The following business shall be conducted by the Bank:—

1. Issue of loans on the security of national loan bonds, local debentures, company's debentures, or shares.

TEMPORARY CUSTOMS STOREHOUSES.

The above law, passed by the Diet and sanctioned by the Emperor, is published in the *Official Gazette* as follows:—

Art. I.—Bonded warehouses shall be established in Custom Houses for the temporary storage of foreign goods. The Custom Houses where such warehouses are to be established shall be determined by imperial ordinance.

Art. II.—The Minister of Finance is empowered to limit the class of goods to be stored.

Art. III.—Goods stored in the aforesaid warehouses shall not be regarded as imported.

Art. IV.—Alterations may be made in the packing or classification of goods, or they may be otherwise handled in the warehouses.

Art. V.—The period of storage shall not exceed three months, unless application is made for an extension of time and its necessity is recognised by the Customs Superintendent.

Art. VI.—The Customs Superintendent may, if he deems it necessary, direct the removal of the goods or adopt other measures.

Art. VII.—In case the prescribed time shall have expired or in case the removal of goods has not been effected within the period specified by the Customs Superintendent in accordance with the foregoing Article, the goods may be confiscated in accordance with the Customs Regulations.

Art. VIII.—The Customs Authorities are empowered to search the person of, or examine articles carried by, persons coming in or out of the warehouses.

Art. IX.—The government shall in no way be responsible for compensation for damages sustained by goods stored.

Art. X.—Any person desiring to transport goods to the customs warehouses must give notice to the Custom House.

Art. XI.—Goods stored shall not be removed or transferred to other places without special permission from the Customs Superintendent, or a permit for their importation, reshipment, or transportation by sea or for their storage in a bonded warehouse.

The following is a translation of rules promulgated for the enforcement of the above law:—

Art. I.—Warehouses for the temporary storage of goods shall be established in the districts within the jurisdiction of the Customs Houses of Yokohama and Nagasaki.

Art. II.—The limits of a district where warehouses are to be established shall be determined by the Minister of Finance.

Art. III.—Notice as to the transportation of goods into the aforesaid warehouses shall always be forwarded in the shape of a written statement showing the name and nationality of the ships on which the goods are loaded, together with marks, numbers, names, and amount or quantity, and value of the articles to be stored.

Art. IV.—If any person desires to secure an extension of the period of storage in accordance with the provisions of Article V, of the law relating to Bonded Warehouses, he must obtain special permission from the Custom house by forwarding a written statement showing marks, numbers, names, amount or quantity of goods, and the period of, as well as the reasons for, the extension.

Art. V.—The aforesaid warehouses shall be closed between sunset and sunrise, and on holidays observed by the Custom House. The Customs Superintendent, however, is vested with power to grant special permission for opening the same at any time.

Art. VI.—Any person desiring special permission to have the warehouses opened between sunset and sunrise or on Customs holidays, must forward an application to the Custom House, stating the period as well as the reason for such special opening.

Art. VII.—Applicants who have secured special permission as specified in Articles IV. and VI. must pay the specified fees.

Art. VIII.—Any person using the Bonded Warehouses must pay rent for the same.

Art. IX.—The amount of the aforesaid fees and rents shall be determined by the Minister of Finance.

Art. X.—Fees may be paid in revenue stamps. Any person desiring to pay fees in revenue stamps shall affix the same to the document connected with payment, and present it in that condition.

APPENDIX.

These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st May, 1900.

FEES FOR MINING OPERATIONS.

The revised scale of fees in regard to mining enterprises is published in the *Official Gazette* as follows:—

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE No. 150.

Any person desiring to engage in mining enterprises of any kind must pay the following fees in revenue stamps, which must be affixed to the application or petition:—

		Yen.
1	Alteration of the name of applicant for mining privileges	10
2	Application for an official certificate with regard to plans prepared after a practical survey of mines	10
3	Application for survey	5
4	Renewal of special licence	5
5	Special licence as specified in Article X. of the Mining Regulations	10
6	Renewal of a map of mining district or of a district licensed for trial borings	5
7	Correction or alteration of the same	5
8	Application for taking sand	10
9	Combination or division (?) of a district where sand is to be taken	5
10	Extension of such district	10
11	Alteration of a plan for the extension of the district	10
12	Relinquishment of place where sand is taken	10
13	Combination of persons for taking sand	10
14	Alteration of names of applicants for taking sand	10
15	Renewal of plans of the place where sand is taken	5
16	Alteration of such plan	5
17	Application for obtaining judgment of the Director of the Mines Superintendence Office	10
18	Application for judgment of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce	10

With regard to applications specified in clauses 8, 10, and 11, additional fees must be paid for every two *ri* in extent in the case of river beds, and for every 100,000 *tsubo* in other places.

The above rules shall come into operation from the 1st of May in the 33rd year of *Meiji* (1900).

LAW FOR THE CONTROL OF DEALERS IN MILK.

The following is a brief translation of the law recently promulgated for the control of dealers in milk:—

Art. II.—The specific gravity of milk shall be from 1.028 to 1.034 in the case of new milk and from 1.032 to 1.038 in the case of skimmed milk; in both cases a temperature of 15° centi-grade shall be taken. In new milk the quantity of fat must exceed 2.7 per cent. and in skimmed milk it shall be not less than 0.5 per cent.

Art. V.—Dealers in milk are not allowed to obtain milk:—

1. From cows affected by contagious diseases, such as cattle plague, rabies, jaundice, dysentery, fever, &c.
2. From cows being medically treated with powerful or poisonous drugs.
3. From cows which have calved within the space of one week.

Art. VI.—Dealers in milk are forbidden to use porcelain vessels glazed with zinc, copper, bronze, or others injurious materials, or vessels of iron coated with materials containing lead.

Art. VII.—No milk dealer shall undertake the sale, transport, or preservation of:—

1. Sour milk.
2. Milk what is curdled or of bitter taste, or is of blue, red, or other unusual colour.
3. Milk mixed with other materials.
4. Milk obtained from cows as specified in Art. V.
5. Milk specified in the provisions of Article II.

Art. XII.—Dealers in milk shall not allow persons suffering from consumption, leprosy, syphilis, or other contagious disease, to handle milk or milk products or vessels used for holding or measuring the same, or to enter into the place where such articles are handled.

Art. XIV.—The local Governor may despatch officials to inspect the cows owned by milk dealers, and, upon finding any diseased animal, may brand or mark its horn or affix a ring to its ear.

Art. XVIII.—Offences enumerated below shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding 25 *yen*:—

1. Dealing in milk without obtaining official permission.
2. Contravention of Article V.

Art. XII.—Any person failing to inscribe the quality of milk on the vessels containing it, or to segregate a diseased cow or cows, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 10 *yen*.

Art. XX.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of July in the 33rd year of *Meiji* (1900).

2. Subscription to, or acceptance of, national loan bonds, local debentures, or company's certificates.
3. Receipt of deposits.
4. Operations of trust in connection with local debentures, or company's certificates or shares.

Art. X.—The Bank, whenever possessed of surplus funds, may undertake the purchase of national loan bonds, local debentures, or company's certificates.

Art. XI.—The Bank is not allowed to enter into any business not provided for in these regulations.

Chapter IV.—DEBENTURES.

Art. XII.—The Bank may issue debentures to five times the amount of its paid up capital. But the amount of issue shall in no case exceed the actual amount of loans issued, together with local bonds and company's debentures in its possession.

Art. XIII.—The Bank's debentures shall be over 50 *yen* face value each, with coupons, but not bearing the names of owners. The names, however, may be mentioned at the request of subscribers or owners.

Art. XIV.—In issuing debentures the Bank must obtain the sanction of the Minister of State concerned. The rules with regard to the issue of debentures in foreign markets shall be established by special law.

Art. XV.—The interest on debentures must be paid at least twice a year, while the principal must be redeemed by lot within 30 years from the date of issue.

Art. XVI.—The Bank need not necessarily conform to the restrictions named in Article XII. in case it undertakes the issue of debentures at a low rate of interest by way of a substitute for original debentures. In this case, however, the original debentures corresponding in amount to the total face value of new debentures must be redeemed by lot, within 3 months from the date of the issue of the latter.

Chapter V.—RESERVE FUNDS.

Art. XVII.—The Bank shall set apart as a reserve for each business year more than 8 per cent. of its profits for supplying the loss of capital and over 2 per cent. for equalization of dividends.

Chapter VI.—SUBSIDY AND SUPERVISION OF GOVERNMENT.

Art. XVIII.—The Government shall exercise control over the Bank's transactions.

Art. XIX.—The Bank must obtain the sanction of

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the Minister of State concerned whenever it desires to alter its regulations.

Art XX.—The sanction of the Minister is also necessary on the establishment of a branch or agency.

Art. XXI.—The Bank must obtain the sanction of the Minister concerned for the declaration of dividends.

Art. XXII.—The Minister concerned may suspend the transactions of the Bank when the same are considered to be in contravention of laws and ordinances or of its own regulations, or prejudicial to public interests.

Art. XXIII.—The Bank is required to forward reports of various accounts and transactions in conformity with the directions of the Minister concerned.

Art. XXIV.—The Minister concerned shall appoint special Inspectors to scrutinize the Bank's transactions.

Art. XXV—The Inspectors so appointed are empowered to examine at any time safes, strong rooms, account books, and documents. They are also entitled to express their views at general meetings of shareholders, or other assemblies.

Art. XXVI.—In case the dividends of the Bank do not reach the rate of 5 per cent. each business year, the Government shall grant a subsidy sufficient to supply the deficiency, for 5 years from the close of the period fixed for preliminary arrangements. In no case, however, shall the amount of subsidy exceed 5 per cent. of the capital paid up.

CHAPTER VII.—PENAL PROVISIONS.

Art. XXVII.—In case the following offences have been committed, the President and managers, with the exception of those not directly implicated in the offence, shall be liable to a fine of not less than 100 *yen* and not exceeding 1,000 *yen*.

1. When sanction of the Minister concerned has not been obtained in cases where such sanction is necessary.

2. When business not specified by this law is undertaken in contravention of Article XI.

3. When debentures have been issued in contravention of Articles XII. and XVI.

Art. XXVIII.—Violation of article XIV. on the part of the President or Managers shall be punishable by a fine of from 20 *yen* to 200 *yen*.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES.

Art. XXIX.—The Government shall appoint a committee of organisation for adjusting all the affairs relating to the institution of the Bank.

Art. XXX.—The Organisation Committee shall draw up the regulations of the Bank, and, after obtaining Government sanction adopt measures to secure subscribers.

Art. XXXI.—The committee shall forward to the Government all applications for shares, and on receiving official sanction shall adopt measures, without delay, for securing the first calls.

Art. XXXII.—The committee shall transfer its business to the President on the completion of the preliminary arrangements.

TELEGRAMS TO KOREA.

The *Official Gazette* publishes an Ordinance of the Communications Department to the effect that with regard to telegrams received at, or delivered from, Japanese Post and Telegraph Offices in Korea, the rules concerning Japanese inland telegrams shall apply from the 1st of May, with the following additional provisions:—

1. For telegrams written in Japanese, every seven characters in *katakana* shall be regarded as one word.

2. A fee of ten *sen* shall be charged for one word.

3. Any Government messages relating to military affairs shall be transmitted in precedence of other official telegrams.

4. No fees shall be collected for telegrams to be delivered in districts where Japanese Post and telegraph offices or Post Offices dealing with telegrams are established. This provision, however, does not apply to telegrams the delivery of which is to be effected by boat.

5. The names of places where telegrams may be transmitted by special messengers, and the rate of charges for the delivery by special messenger or by boat or other means, shall be indicated by a separate notification.

6. The sender of telegrams intended for delivery by boat must pay fees for such means of delivery.

7. Telegrams addressed to men-of-war at anchor in Fusan or Inchchon, but for which no method of delivery is clearly indicated, shall be transmitted as non-paid messages.

A MISUNDERSTOOD MAN OF LETTERS.

[READ BEFORE THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY SOCIETY BY MR. A. BELLAMY BROWN.]

Popular fallacies die hard. This hoary truism takes a well-earned place among the eternal verities. Long before Thackeray died the world had quite made up its mind that he was a cynic; and it has gone on thinking so ever since—perhaps the more shallow-memoried among us will continue to do so until the end of time. And yet nothing could have been farther from the truth, as the biographical edition of his works which his devoted daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, has just completed, very fully demonstrates. Perhaps it was excusable that those who only knew the man through the more famous of his writings should have formed this misconception of his character. The literary world has long known that it was Thackeray's half-expressed wish that no official biography should be written about him: he dreaded the fulsome flattery of the too fervent admirer as much as he disliked the irreverent airing of family skeletons by the unfeeling, unsympathetic scribbling ghouls who occasionally work such havoc among "the literary remains"—as our fathers pedantically loved to call them—of the world's famous men. So we have had to be content with occasional anecdotes and appreciations of a few intimate friends, with here and there a fragmentary sketch such as Trollope wrote for the "Men of Letters Series," or Menzies for another set of similar design; and consequently the ancient charge of cynicism has been perpetuated in the minds of the great majority. Mrs. Ritchie's reminiscences of her father and Mr. Lewis Melville's more recent "Life of William Makepeace Thackeray" will do much to dispel the wrong impression, however, for each in its separate way shows what manner of man he was—the true, gentle-hearted Thackeray, with almost a child-like soul and love for the good and pure and honest—who only donned a cloak of sardonic cynicism to hide from curious outsiders the fine, sensitive nature within.

I do not intend in the short space at my disposal to enter into any critical discussion of Thackeray's works, my wish is merely to drew attention to a few letters and stories of his home life which have lately been given to the world by his daughter, alluding necessarily here and there to his more famous books, and seeking thereby to make clear to you the sources of his melancholy, his sardonic humour, and his assumed cynical outlook on life. The main facts of his story are fairly well known. Born in Culcutta, July 18, 1811, the son of an East Indian official, he went home to England five years later with his young widowed mother, and at an early age was sent to the Charterhouse School in London. He had not very grateful recollections of that famous academy and in his earlier writings we find him referring to it as the Slaughterhouse, Smithfield. But as he became famous and the sun of prosperity shone more benignantly upon him, the memories of childhood softened and Slaughterhouse changed to Grey Friars and eventually became the setting for one of the finest pieces of prose in the English language—the death of Colonel Newcome. Thackeray's residence at Cambridge was short, but the University left its influence upon him, and, in the opinion of Leslie Stephen, his son-in-law, "fixed his social status." After he lost his fortune—principally in unfortunate newspaper speculations (of which he makes such good use in *Pendennis* and other quasi-biographical work)—and after he found that in the pursuit of art at Paris and Weimar, he could not realise his expectations, he turned to the profession of letters. While at Cambridge he had written some parodies for the ephemeral University Magazines—the poem in which he "took off" Tennyson's *Timbuctoo* is one of the neatest burlesques in the language—and at Weimar also he turned his pen to account; besides which he had done occasional editorial work of a lighter kind. Still, for all that, he entered the world of letters with everything to learn and no one to render any very influential assistance. *Fraser's Magazine* was his principal means of support when he married, in 1837, at Paris, an Irish lady, Isabella, daughter of Colonel Matthew Shaw. As we now know, the fond hopes formed of this union were but partially realised—or rather, after opening brightly, the marriage ended in gloom and cruel sorrow, for within a few years Mrs. Thackeray fell ill and the blight of insanity came upon her, to cloud and embitter the rest of her husband's days. It was one of the saddest of life's little ironies—the phrase seems sadly inadequate in his case—that this man, overflowing with the domestic affections, should be deprived of the hope of a happy home-circle just at that period of life at which a man generally makes a happy exchange in preferring his wife's drawing-room to the smoking-room of the Club, and assuming those domestic ways of living which are so becoming and pleasant as one tops the hill and begins to see the plain below across which the evening shadows will soon be falling.

That Thackeray's life was a happy one while his wife was with him is borne out by a letter which was written by him to her during a brief absence. It runs in part:—

"Here have we been two years married and not a single unhappy day. Oh, I do bless God for all this happiness which he has given me. It is so great that I almost tremble for the future, except that I humbly hope (for what man is certain about his own weakness and wickedness?) our love is strong enough to withstand any pressure from without, and as it is a gift greater than any fortune, is likewise one superior to poverty or sickness, or any other worldly evil with which Providence may visit us. Let us pray, as I trust there is no harm, that none of these may come upon us; as the best and wisest man in the world prayed that he might not be led into temptation. * * * I think happiness is as good as prayers, and I feel in my heart a kind of overflowing thanksgiving which is quite too great to describe in writing. This kind of happiness is like a fine picture; you only see a little bit of it when you are close to the canvas; go a little distance and then you see how beautiful it is. I don't know that I shall have done much by coming away, except being so awfully glad to come back again."

Was there already any foreshadowing of the evil days that were so soon to come? It almost seems like it. Mrs. Thackeray lived in entire seclusion up to within a few years ago, and her death then occasioned some surprise in many circles that had long since forgotten her. Thackeray had the best work of his life to accomplish when this disaster befel him. Such a blow would have completely crushed a smaller-hearted man. But Thackeray took up his burden without complaint, and did his best to keep the world from intruding upon his private griefs. In one of his ballads, he makes a pathetic reference to his loneliness:—

Ah me! How quick the days are flitting!
I mind me of a time that's gone,
When here I'd sit, as now I'm sitting,
In this same place—but not alone.
A fair young form was nestled near me,
A dear, dear face looked fondly up,
And sweet lips spoke and smiled to cheer me!—
There's no one now to share my cup.

To resume our brief story of his career. It proved for a considerable time uphill work; his connexion with *Punch* did not bring him fame, though some of his brightest work is enshrined in its pages, and we find him complaining to Mr. Fields, the American publisher, that he was nearly forty years old before he was recognized in literature as "belonging to a class of writers at all above the ordinary Magazinists of the day." But it must be remembered, when we read this complaint, that Thackeray was the most diffident of men; though aware of his own powers, he was always, to the very last day of his life, afraid that his deficiencies would be too strong for him, and while turning out the very best of his life's work, he "never felt certain of his market." In this he was the very antithesis of Dickens, the ever confident and self-reliant. Then again, he was seldom ready with his "tale of bricks," even in his most strenuous days, the printers' "devil" had often to wait in the hallway while the monthly instalment of copy for Messrs. Smith and Elder was being written; the most unmethodical of men, he was always putting off till to-morrow what should have been done to-day. He railed at the public for not recognising his genius earlier, forgetting the number of aliases under which he first

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appeared. But the discovery was not to be much longer delayed. It was in 1846 that the first number of *Vanity Fair* appeared, and when the last of the 24 numbers was out the literary world knew something of the full breadth of his genius. The book took Thackeray into the foremost ranks of English men of letters and his title to the proud position then given him has never been challenged. He was just 37 years of age and full of thought for the future of his little ones, to whom he refers so lovingly in the *White Squall*:—

I thought, as day was breaking,
My little girls were waking,
And smiling and making
A prayer at home for me.

The great object of his life was to acquire a provision for his children, to replace his lost patrimony, and this was the principal cause of his appearing as a public lecturer. He made his first bow in Willis'-rooms in 1851, when he delivered his lectures on the *English Humourists*.

In the winter of 1852-53, our author visited America on a lecturing tour. A few years later he repeated his visit, and his letters home to the girls are full of interest. In one he comments upon the effect of the American air:—

"I have a difficulty in forming the letters as I write them down on the page, in answering questions, in finding the most simple words to form the answers. . . . I hardly know what is said, am thinking of something else, nothing definite, with an irrepressible longing to be in motion. . . . There is some electric influence in the air and sun here which we don't experience on our side of the globe; people can't sit still, people can't ruminate over their dinners, dawdle in their studies; they must keep moving."

In many letters he speaks of the kindness of the American people, who never tired of devising new means for his entertainment. As he laughingly told a friend on his return, he went out to dine so frequently that the tour "was one long indigestion." Another of his letters gives this picture of his visit to Washington Irving in December, 1855, during his second trip to the States.

"One day I went out to Yonkers, fifteen miles from here, on the Hudson river, and spent the pleasantest day I have had in the States; drove from the pretty village, a busy, bustling new place lying on the river banks, thrice as broad as the Rhine and as picturesque, to Irvington, nine miles, where good old Washington Irving lives with two nieces, who tend him most affectionately, in a funny little in-and-out cottage surrounded by a little domain of lawns not so smooth as ours, and woods rather small and scrubby—in little bits of small parlors, where we were served with cakes and wine—with a little study not much bigger than my back room, with old dogs trotting about the premises, with flocks of ducks sailing on the ponds—a very pleasant, patriarchal life. He is finishing the second volume of the life of Washington; he has other two to write; it's a bold undertaking for a man of 74. I don't know whether the book is good or not; the man is, and, one of the pleasantest things I have noted in American manners, is the general respect and affection in which this good old man is held."

Of Longfellow we read in another letter that "he is a kindly, pleasant gentleman, has pretty children; I liked him." In another communication, Thackeray says he has been reading "The Holly Tree Inn," which he regards as "in Dickens's best manner," "I am very glad to think," he adds, "that his girls and mine are friends." In one of the latest letters, dated April, 1856, he says:—

"How weary I am of this lecturing, I shall do no more of it, I think. What dreary journeys I have had. Forty hours from Cincinnati without stopping. . . . . How pretty the country was, albeit so wintry, coming to New York. But Europe is a prettier country still for me, and I long for it."

Thackeray had great success in the United States with his lectures on the *Four Georges*, but he records that his American audiences liked best the lecture on George III., because of the pathos in it. His American triumphs were all the more pronounced in that he visited the States at a time when Dickens had stirred them to wrath with his ill-natured American Notes and the caricatures in "Martin Chuzzlewit." Out of Thackeray's study of the Georges, by-the-bye, grew the novel of *The Virginians*. The book was begun soon after Thackeray's return to England, and Mrs. Ritchie gives a pleasant description of her father's joy over his pretty title and of his search for the hero's name in the Court Guide. Finally he found what he wanted in Lambert. She declares that much autobiography went into General Lambert, "who lived in the reign of Queen Anne, who loved Montaigne's Essays and Burton's Anatomy, and who enjoyed a kindly dallying and gentle joking at life as it flowed by." The *Virginians*, in a manner, is a continuation of *Esmond*, one of the finest things Thackeray ever did.

Though Thackeray tired of lecturing in America, with its long distances between place and place, he had no such objection to lecturing within the brief limits of the United Kingdom, and after the American letters which Mrs. Ritchie prints, come others from towns in Scotland, where, as he says, people who had old-fashioned notions about Church and King "had to listen to a sceptical Londoner's sneering at loyalty, courts, and king worship."

It was about this time that he sought a seat in Parliament, by contesting the University of Oxford. Concerning the prospect he writes to his mother:—

Just when the novel-writing faculty is pretty well used up, here is independence, a place in Parliament, and who knows what afterwards? Upon my word, I don't seem much to care, and Fate carries me along in a stream somehow. . . . . I shan't be happy in politics, and they'll interfere with my digestion; but, with the game there, it seems faint-hearted not to play it. "Retire and paint pooty little pictures," says Ease; perhaps Conscience, "Retire and work at literature, at history."

Mr. Melville prints some of Thackeray's speeches, but I have only space for his valedictory remarks after his defeat:—

Let me tell you a little story, but a true one. Some years ago, when boxing was more common in this country than it is at the present time, two celebrated champions met to fight a battle on Moulsey Heath. Their names were Gully and Gregson. They fought the most tremendous battle that had been known for many long years, and Gregson got the worst of it. As he was lying on his bed some time afterwards, blinded, and his eyes shut up, he asked a friend to give him something to drink. A person in the room handed him some drink, and grasped him by the hand. "Whose hand is this?" asked Gregson. "'Tis Jack Gully's," was the reply. Now, Gregson was the man who was beaten, and Gully was the conqueror, and he was the first man to shake him by the hand to show him that he had no animosity against him. This should be the conduct of all loyal Englishmen, to fight a good fight, and to hold no animosity against the opposite side. With this feeling, I go away from Oxford.

At Oxford Thackeray seems to have been a fluent orator. There were, however, occasions when he broke down. One of these is recorded by Mr. Melville in the words of Mr. James T. Fields, the American publisher and friend of authors. Thackeray was to make a great speech at the founding of the Manchester Free Library Institution, and Mr. Fields accompanied him thither. On the journey the novelist talked about nothing but the oration he intended to deliver, by which he would, he declared, totally eclipse the other speakers, Dickens, Bulwer Lytton, and Sir James Stephen. Mr. Field's story continues:—

Sir John Potter, who presided, then rose, and after some complimentary allusions to the author of "Vanity Fair," introduced him to the crowd, who received him with ringing plaudits. As he rose, he gave me a half-wink from under his spectacles, as if to say, "Now for it; the others have done very well, but I will show 'em a grace beyond the reach of their art." He began in a clear and charming manner, and was absolutely perfect for three minutes. In the midst of a most earnest and elaborate sentence he suddenly stopped, gave a look of comic despair at the ceiling, crammed both hands into his trousers pockets, and deliberately sat down. . . . He continued to sit on the platform in a perfectly composed manner, and when the meeting was over, he said to me, without a sign of discomfiture, "My boy, you have accidentally missed hearing one of the finest speeches ever composed for delivery by a great British orator."

Thackeray did not permit such accidents to trouble him. On the contrary, he made use of them. "The discomfiture will make a good chapter for *Pendennis*," was his philosophical comment.

In his 48th year, the *Cornhill Magazine* was started, with Thackeray as its editor. Thackeray did not take kindly to revising manuscripts and the rejection of articles was a great cross to his kindly spirit. The first number showed that he had a good idea of what people like to read, for it contained travel, reminiscence, fiction, and, what was a novelty in those days, popular science. Sir Henry Thompson, the foremost surgeon of his day, contributed a paper descriptive of the cutting off of a man's leg. In it was a detailed account of the new anæsthetic, and Thackeray very happily gave it the caption "Under Chloroform." Other articles in this initial number were "The Search for Sir John Franklin," from the private journal of an officer of the *Fox*; "The Chinese and the Outer Barbarians," by Sir John Bowring; "Our Volunteers," by Sir John Burgoyne; and the two serials, "Lovell, the Widower," by Thackeray, and "Framley Parsonage," by Anthony Trollope.

The new magazine proved a great success at the outset, no less than 120,000 copies being sold when the publishers only counted on selling an edition of 10,000 copies. One of the curious features of his editorial life was his letter conveying to Mrs. Browning the intelligence that he was forced to reject one of her poems, because it gave a strong picture of the lawless passion of a man for a woman. The conclusion of this letter is very happy and characteristic:—"To have to say no to my betters is one of the hardest duties I have, but I'm sure we must not publish your verses, and I go down on my knees before cutting my victim's head off, and say, 'Madam, you know how I respect and regard you, Browning's wife and Penini's mother; and for what I am going to do I most humbly ask your pardon.'" In a later number Thackeray published Mrs. Browning's poem, "The North and the South." It proved to be her last work, as it was printed the very month of Mrs. Browning's death. It was not editorial worries, his biographer thinks, that induced him to resign in April, 1862, the editorship of the magazine, but failing health. "I have taken too many crops out of my brain," he said to his cousin, and there was some truth in the remark.

About this time he wrote that charming little poem, from the German, of which I can quote only the closing verses:—

My hair is grey, and my sight nigh gone;
My sword is rusted upon the wall;
Right have I spoken, and right have I done,
When shall I rest me once for all?

Oh blessed rest, oh royal night,
Wherefore seemeth the time so long,
Till I see yon stars in their fullest light,
And list to their loudest song.

Thackeray had many warnings that life was not long for him, but he always wrote of death with peaceful resignation. The concluding sentences of a letter on Death, which he wrote to Mrs. Procter in 1856, are worth quoting here:—

"Thinking of it is thinking of God, inscrutable, immeasureable, endless, beginningless, supreme, awfully solitary. Little children step off this earth into the infinite, and we tear our hearts out over their sweet cold hands and smiling faces that drop indifferent when you cease holding them, and smile as the lid is closing over them. I don't think we deplore the old who have had enough of living and striving and have buried so many others, and must be weary of living—it seems time for them to go—for where's the pleasure of staying when the feast is over, and the flowers withered, and the guests gone? Isn't it better to blow the light out than to sit on among the broken meats and collapsed jellies and vapid heeltaps? I go—to what I don't know—but to God's next world, which is his and he made it. One paces up and down the shore yet a while—and looks toward the unknown ocean, and thinks of the traveler whose boat sailed yesterday. Those we love can but walk down to the pier with us—the voyage we must make alone. Except for the young or the happy, I can't say I am sorry for any one who dies."

Many incidents are now printed by his daughter referring to her father's last years. Sleeplessness increased, and the books which Thackeray was wont to keep by his bedside to while away the time and woo sleep were Montaigne and Howell's Letters. Of these he said:—

"If I wake at night I have one or other of them to prattle me to sleep again. They talk about themselves forever, and don't weary me. I like to hear them tell their old stories over and over again."

Thackeray cared nothing for the dress of his books. His Montaigne was shabby, and he pre-

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ferred an old, battered Boswell with double columns; and shabby, worm-eaten copies of Johnson's Poets. Milton's sonnet to Shakespeare in Johnson's Poets was one of the last things that he read.

His affection, spasms of the heart, had been contracted shortly before he finished *Pendennis*. But he had so many recoveries from illness that even in 1863 his daughters could not believe he was so near the end. Death came to him on the eve of the Christmas of that year, perhaps as he would have wished it, just as it came to good old Colonel Newcome—peaceful as the close of a ripe autumn day. Though he was often prevented from writing by physical weariness, yet in those last years he produced the best of the *Roundabout Papers*, and he began an historical romance, *Denis Duval*, which makes one regret that it was left unfinished. Many anecdotes are given by Mrs. Ritchie of Thackeray's great pains to be accurate in his history and to give the very spirit of the age which he wished to bring out before his readers. He read a mass of documents and reports before beginning *Denis Duval*, and his daughter records the enthusiasm with which he described the fight of the *Serapis* and the bravery of her commander. Dickens regarded the few chapters of this last romance as the best work that Thackeray ever did, and Leslie Stephen has said that if completed it would have been the rival of *Esmond* in the finish of its style, its broader humanity, and the perfection of its art in making a past age real to us.

A few words more on the topic with which this short sketch opened—the charge of cynicism. I am glad to find that Mr. Melville refuses to take it seriously. "If it be cynical," he says, "to believe that 'wherever shines the sun you are sure to find Folly basking in it; and Knavery as the shadow at Folly's heels'; if it be cynical to declare that grief for a departed relative will not last for ever, or that if the deceased had left you a fortune you would be in some degree reconciled to your loss after the first mometary pang of grief is over—why, if these truisms be cynicism, then, and then only, Thackeray was a cynic." While writing of the world as he knew it—and he may have been unfamiliar with some sides of it which would have enabled him to take at times a sounder view—it is pleasant to remember that Thackeray never thought lightly of his influence and responsibility as a writer. "What man," he said, "holding such a place and knowing that his words go forth to vast congregations of mankind—to grown folk, to their children, and perhaps to their children's children—but must think of his calling with a solemn and a humble heart! May love and truth guide such a man always! It is an awful prayer and may heaven further its fulfilment!"

I will conclude by quoting a few verses from the poem of Shirley Brooks, which *Punch* printed as its tribute to the memory of its distinguished contributor:—

He was a cynic! By his life all wrought
Of generous acts, mild words, and gentle ways;
His heart wide open to all kindly thought,
His hand so quick to give, his tongue to praise!

He was a cynic! You might read it writ
In that broad brow, crowned with its silver hair;
In those blue eye, with child-like candour lit,
In that sweet smile his lips were wont to wear!

He was a cynic! By the love that clung
About him from his children, friends and kin;
By the sharp pain light pen and gossip tongue
Wrought in him, chafing the soft heart within.

ACCIDENT TO THE "KAGOSHIMA MARU."

The N.Y.K. Bombay steamer *Kagoshima Maru*, 4370 tons gross, formerly known as the *Port Albert*, ran on the shoal Misumi in Hizen Province on her way from Moji to Hongkong on Wednesday morning. She sustained some injury to her hull, her cargo being also more or less damaged.

The Hanyang correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* alleges that a local edict has been published, over the signature of the Viceroy Chang, condemning the reading of Shanghai newspapers.

GERMAN AFFAIRS.

The attitude of the German public towards the naval-extension Bill is developing some interesting phases. The agrarian interest has detected in the scheme an opportunity for making capital on its own account, and has declared that unless the Government agrees to impose prohibitory duties on all imported meats, it will oppose the Bill. This declaration has not been embodied in a special measure for presentation to the Diet. What has happened is that the Government having introduced a Bill providing for the better inspection of meat, in the interests of sanitation, the agrarians proposed an amendment in the sense of prohibiting the import of meat from abroad in any and every form, whether fresh, preserved, canned, or what not, and are believed to be adjusting their treatment of the navy bill to the acceptance or rejection of the amendment. Of course such action on Germany's part would provoke a tariff war with the United States. That, however, does not disturb the agrarians in any degree. They denounce as craven and pusillanimous the idea of being deterred by any apprehension of the kind—cheap courage on their part, seeing that the war would not inflict any casualties on their own enterprise. On the other hand, the representatives of German commerce, industry, and shipping take a very different view of the outlook. The value of German trade with America in 1898 was 1,212 millions of marks, or 12½ per cent. of her total foreign commerce. It consisted largely of imports, but the exports totalled 334½ millions of marks, thus exceeding Germany's aggregate exports to Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia, Turkey, Canada, and Mexico added together. Besides, while America could easily dispense with, or procure elsewhere, the porcelain, toys, cement, leather goods, millinery, and various products of textile and chemical industries which she gets from Germany, the latter could not do without American petroleum, copper, maize and cotton. As for the shipping interest, the United States, under the Dingley Tariff, could immediately impose a differential duty of 10 per cent. on goods coming in German ships. Despite these considerations, and despite various protests formulated by German industrials and shipowners, a majority in the Reichstag seem to favour the prohibition policy. We cannot for our own part see, however, that the lines of resistance to the naval-extension programme coincide with the lines of support of the agrarian proposal, for whereas the National Liberals, the Conservatives, and the Centre are united in demanding the prohibition of foreign meat, the National Liberals and a great part of the Conservatives are said to be in favour of the Naval Bill. There does not appear to be much doubt that the Government could push the latter successfully if they would clearly indicate some acceptable source from which to defray the outlay. But they keep silence on that important point, and meanwhile the psychological moment for passing the Bill seems to be slipping away *pari passu* with the sentimental ebullition excited by the South-African war at the outset.

The correspondence that passed between Germany and England with reference to the seizure of the *Bundesrath* and other German vessels, on suspicion of carrying contraband of war, reveals German diplomacy in a very unfavourable light. Count Hatzfeldt, the German Representative in London, acting under instructions from Berlin, commenced by presenting a note to Lord Salisbury, in which he declared that "according to the recognised principles of international law there cannot be contraband of war in trade between neutral ports." Then in a second communication demanding the immediate release of one of the ships, he said:—"I am further instructed to request your Excellency to cause explicit instructions to be sent to the commanders of British ships in African waters to respect the rules of international law and to place no further impediments in the way of trade between neutrals." It would be difficult to be more dictatorial or more discourteous. Lord Salisbury's reply was this:—"I received with some surprise a communication from the representative of a Power, with whom Her Majesty's Government believe themselves to be on the most friendly terms, worded in so abrupt a manner, and couched in language which imputed to Her Majesty's naval commanders that they had shown a disrespect to international law and placed unnecessary impediments in the way of neutral commerce. There is no foundation for these imputations." The British Foreign Secretary had already shown that never before in the history of war had there been a case of a belligerent without a sea-port receiving supplies through neutral territory, and that, consequently, the principle of international law to which the German Government so confidently appealed, had not received the sanction of practice, whereas, on the other hand, the right of a naval Power to seize and search vessels suspected of carrying contraband to a neutral port for the use of an enemy had been emphatically asserted by high authority. Lord Salisbury maintained this view of England's rights as a sea Power, but, at the same time, he expressed regret for the inconvenience caused by the stoppage of ships which had not been found to be in the wrong. The German Government capped its strange action when Count von Bülow, ignoring Lord Salisbury's reservations, paraded his concessions only before the Diet, leading his hearers to believe, as *The Times* says, that the British Government had made a complete, not to say au ignominious, surrender." He added, "We trust that the British naval authorities will not again proceed, without sufficient cause, in an unfriendly and precipitate manner against our ships." *The Times* discusses this correspondence in an altogether unwonted tone. "We have always felt," it writes, "that this country and Germany ought to be good friends and that their amicable relations tend not only to promote the interests of both nations, but to secure the peace of the world. If the maintenance of such relations has been rendered difficult, it is not the fault either of the British Government or of the British people. International intercourse between civilized States is not possible without some respect for good manners and good feeling. Count von Bülow's admirers boast that he is the reviver of the Bismarckian tradition. But to imitate the *Grobheit* of the great Chancellor does not give his disciple any claim to the power or the insight of the original. At any rate, the Germans who think that unmannerly and dictatorial rudeness is the proper method of dealing with this country had better make up their minds that they are on the wrong tack altogether." There can be doubt that Lord Salisbury did not allow Count von Bülow's speech in the Reichstag to pass unnoticed, but the correspondence does not extend to that phase of the incident.

FRENCH AFFAIRS.

The Times has deemed it advisabie to write a leading article deprecating the idea which apparently prevails among a certain class of Frenchmen that, after disposing of the South African Republics, England intends to turn upon France. Such an idea is ridiculed by the great journal. It speaks with contempt of the Boulevard press of Paris, which is "as foolish and as ignorant as it is malignant"; it treats with equal indifference the "journals in the pay of the enemies of the Republic," and it emphatically differentiates the chatter of these newspapers and of the whole tribe of political adventurers from the sentiments of serious thinkers in France, and of the statesmen now in power, whose attitude towards Great Britain has been not merely "correct," but has "contrasted by its friendliness with that of other Powers." "We appreciate and are not ungrateful for the conduct of M. Waldeck-Rousseau and his colleagues," writes *The Times*. "They know quite well that we have no quarrel with them and that we have no wish to have any quarrel with them. They know, as we know, that a war between the two countries would be ruinous to both and that it is the *tertius gaudens* who would profit by it. The way in which both Governments have acted over the

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unpleasant but trumpery incident at Bordeaux the other day shows that both desire to preserve the existing good relations between them undisturbed. So long as M. Waldeck-Rousseau's Cabinet remain in office, good citizens, we believe and trust, may sleep in peace on both sides of the Channel." These utterances of the leading British journal were well received in Paris. The *Débats* especially referred to them with satisfaction, and other journals, though more reserved in their tone, were frankly pleased to see that Englishmen distinguish between the organs of real French opinion and the gutter sheets which have been screaming in such malignant tones for the past few months.

Lord Salisbury's reply to the two Presidents' proposals for peace—if their extraordinary note can be properly called a proposal—elicited various expressions of opinion in Paris. The underlying tone was, as usual, hostile to England. There were exceptions, however, and we prefer to quote them. The *Débats* wrote:—

"We regret the reply of England doubtless, but the logic of British patriotism required it. This logic, also, is just what makes us sceptical of any pacific intervention. . . . The Afrikanders are trying to interpose, and their deputation is going to London to endeavour to smooth matters over. England is certainly conscious of all the difficulties which the discontent of the Cape Dutch might hereafter create, but she disregards them. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof, and the task of the moment is to enforce on the two Republics the authority and unshakable resolution of the country."

M. Yves Guyot, writing in the *Siècle* with reference to Boer threats, said:—

"If the Boers fancy they can make the English flinch by such measures of intimidation they show a simplicity equalled only by that of the newspapers which defend them. The Boers will not destroy the mines, for that is impossible. They may destroy the plant and put them out of order, but this damage will be speedily repaired. The cost of this will be known, whereas it was impossible to foresee the extent of the exactions in which the Boers might indulge. Such measures, moreover, worthy of the confiscation decree of December 25, clearly indicate their character. The destruction of private property ashore in time of war is condemned by all European countries. The champions of the Boers, in saying that they will resort to them themselves, show that they are at the low-water mark of the civilization of white races."

The *Temps* and the *Liberté* endeavoured to strike a chord not unlikely to find an echo in many French breasts. They suggested that the subjects and citizens of neutral States might be seriously injured if the Boers were driven to desperation. "French thrift," wrote the latter journal, "has invested a good milliard in South Africa. What would become of it? Here are moral responsibilities for a great Power like France, and we really do not see how she could take no concern in it." These fears certainly were not without justification, looking to the tendency shown by the Boers to wantonly destroy private property, as in the case of the Natal coal mines.

The *Figaro* of March 11th contained an article which contrasts pleasantly with much that has appeared in French journals since the war began, It is thus epitomized by the Paris correspondent of *The Times*:—

"France for some weeks has been incurring a great danger, and the Press should have the courage to point out this danger in order to prevent cruel disillusions or terrible surprises. The war now being waged in South Africa, which might have been avoided, no doubt, by just concessions on both sides, has created in France for one of the belligerents a current of sympathy which proves how our chivalrous and loyal country is aroused at the contact of noble ideas. . . But we should avoid intemperate zeal in our expressions of sympathy, offensive remarks, obscene caricatures, or drawings in bad taste. This, unfortunately, is what has been done too often during the last few months. It is this noisy attitude that we should abandon . . ."

The article goes on to urge the propriety of the Queen being placed entirely outside all discussion. No doubt, it adds, in Germany the attacks on England have been just as violent as in France, but the Germans, being subjects of the Sovereign, are not in a position to give their anti-English demonstrations the same significance or weight as similar demonstrations inevitably obtain in France. William II. alone has the right to think, to speak, and to decide for his people, and whatever the Germans may do they cannot compromise the foreign relations of their country so long as the Emperor wishes otherwise. Not so in France.

"France is a Republic, and its citizens are responsible. That is why, as a reply to the obscene caricatures posted and sold everywhere under the shelter of impotent laws, the Queen one day ordered her Ambassador to absent himself from Paris. This order, it is now known, was given by the Queen herself to her representative. Sir Edmund Monson has since returned to his Embassy. But the Queen, who last year facilitated the settlement of the Anglo-French difficulties in Africa, has during the last few weeks considerably charged her view and wishes. The fact is indisputable and known everywhere in Europe. Was the lecture delivered at Bordeaux by M. Lorin, Professor of Colonial Geography at the University of that city, any better . . . ? Sir Edmund Monson, it is said, sent yesterday to the French Government the report of the British Consul with an expression of the hope that these manifestations, which had been reproved by the entire population of Bordeaux, will not be renewed at other points on French territory. Thus may M. Delcassé, our Minister for Foreign Affairs, be faced with new difficulties, although his loyal and prudent speech, applauded in December last by the entire Chamber, has already reassurred all good spirits across the Channel?

"Why all these pin-pricks? Are we going to smash windows, as they did those of the Consulate at Bordeaux, or do we want war without being able to select a favourable opportunity, without having prepared the means, and against a people already rendered stronger by the lessons just learnt in Africa? . . . . Let us reserve and husband our energy. Let us stand together and, confident in our own strength, confident in our superb army, as well as in the ties formed and recently made closer between two friendly nations, work without ceasing until the day when some just cause calls for action on our part."

CHINESE NOTES.

At last some perceptible progress seems to have been made in the work of river improvement at Tientsin. So much has been accomplished that that lighters can now ascend the river with a full cargo whereas hitherto they could not get up with more than half a load. It is expected that the next freshet will restore the river to the navigable condition of by-gone years.

A most interesting statement is made by a correspondent of the *North-China Daily News*. He declares, on the evidence of a Chinese employé, that a military B.A. having been killed in a recent faction fight near Wuchang, his slayers considered it necessary that two men should be handed over to the Authorities as the murderers. In order to procure the necessary individuals a sum of a thousand dollars was offered, and it speedily produced an opium-smoker who had squandered all his property and an invalid whose life did not seem likely to be much longer. These men were perfectly willing to die for the purpose of providing for their families. Certain complications have thus far prevented the consummation of the design, but the striking fact remains that in China a man can easily be found to lay his head on the block for five hundred dollars. The Chinaman who made the revelation seemed to think the performance quite as natural as that a thief who stole with his hands should pay with his buttocks, and he moreover alleged that there would not be the least chance of the Authorities' finding out the deception since perfectly clear and convincing testimony would be provided to accompany the two men's confession. The moral suggested by the correspondent is, how much was paid for the two men that have been put forward as the murderers of Mr. Brooks?

As to Mr. Brook's murderers, however, the above correspondent seems to be labouring under a false impression. The latest news is that fifteen men were arraigned on the charge of killing the unfortunate missionary, and that three were convicted of having actually done him to death. Of these three, the man that dealt the final fatal blow was sentenced to be beheaded and has already suffered the penalty. Another, whose guilt was scarcely distinguishable from that of the first, would have escaped capital punishment under Chinese law, but the British Consul, who was present during the trial, urged that he should expiate his crime with his life. He was therefore sentenced to strangulation. The execution is deferred, however. Two others among the fifteen were found guilty in a lesser degree. One was condemned to 10 years' incarceration, and has since died in prison—probably he suffered more than if he had been beheaded—and another was sentenced to two years' banishment. Everything seems to show that this was a *bonâ fide* trial. The further penalties were that four headmen from the villages to which Mr. Brooks had been taken should be flogged and dismissed perennially from office; that two village elders should pay Tls. 500 for a memorial tablet to be erected at the scene of the murder; and that the Governor should pay Tls. 2,000 to build a memorial chapel at Pingyin, Mr. Brooks' station; to place a memorial in his school in Canterbury, and to cover the losses incurred by the native Christians in the district.

The Boxers are very far from being quelled in Shantung. Everything tends to confirm the statement recently circulated that Peking is not anxious to deal severely with these men. The Governor, Yuan, is hampered on one side by Peking's instructions and on the other by a local judge who persists in passing lenient sentences on the Boxers brought before him.

The German commissioners now visiting Shangtung in the interests of the railway say that the line can not be finished before three years. As the same thing was said two years ago, people now conclude that the delay will be five years.

There is a very clever letter from "A Hankow Resident" in the *North-China Daily News*. The theme is ancient, the failure of Her Majesty's Government to assert and protect British rights in China. But the writer, instead of confining himself to general declamations, as is usually the case, gives chapter and verse in support of his views. He alludes to the case of the *Kowshing*, which, after six years' delay, remains still unsettled, and he very pertinently asks whether there would be any doubt about the responsiblity of the British Government if one of the ships chartered by it for the conveyance of troops to South Africa was sunk by the Boers, and if the disaster was due to the conduct of the British troops on board. It is indeed very wonderful and inexplicable that the Chinese Government was not compelled long ago to make due compensation to the owners of the Kowshing. The writer further adduces the case of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s land at Hankow which, after it had been in possession of the firm for 40 years, the Russian Government was allowed to include in its new concession; and he describes how the Russians, after themselves employing Cossacks to prevent Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. from fencing the land, made diplomatic representations because English marines were ultimately used to protect the fencers. With such experience before them, the subjects of the Queen in China cannot be blamed, says "a Hankow Resident," if they hesitate before launching out upon new enterprises. But we are disposed to think that neither the land question nor the *Kowshing* question is quite so simple as this writer appears to believe.

The German steamer *Sibiria*, *en route* from Kobe to Shanghai, picked up 12 Koreans from a disabled junk. A high sea was running at the time of the rescue, and the operation presented grave risks, the chief officer having to make several trips to bring off the men.

It is stated that the salaries given to certain members of the Imperial Chinese Customs on the occasion of their recent promotions to the rank of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner were fifty per cent. below the sums hitherto granted, and there is much uneasiness lest this should prove the beginning of a new system.

Colonel Denby, formerly United States Representative in Peking, says, at the conclusion of an article headed "Our Relations with China":—"The Empress Regent in all her actions is influenced solely by what she conceives to be the welfare of China. She is one of the great

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women of the world, and will go down to history as the compeer of Catherine, Elizabeth and Victoria." Elsewhere he writes about the Emperor Kangsii, "he has always been a devoted son to her, and she has repaid him with a mother's affection. It is not conceivable that she is influenced toward him by any other sentiments than those which are friendly and kindly."

The Boxer movement is reported to be spreading to northern Chihli. It is anticipated that the insurgents will find many recruits there, since the slaughter carried out by the Chinese Government in 1889 at the instance of a foreign Power, has never been forgotten.

Two British gunboats, the *Woodcock* and the *Woodlark*, left Ichang on the 15th of April, bound for Chungking. There is much curiosity as to whether they will succeed in making the voyage.

The *North-China Daily News* characterizes these statements as impudent, and winds up a strongly denunciatory article with the following words:—"This ignorant, timid, self-willed, avaricious, sanguinary usurper the compeer of the best and greatest queen that ever reigned! Colonel Denby, nothing that you have done in the past or can do in the future will atone for such a gigantic—misstatement as this." There are two sides to every story. Our Shanghai contemporary may be interested to learn that more than one Japanese statesman would endorse Colonel Denby's verdict in preference to that of his Shanghai critic. The Empress-Dowager is an enigma. We do not believe that any one has fully solved her character yet, and still less do we believe that the materials furnished by rumour are sufficient for the purpose.

It is alleged that secret instructions were recently sent to the Viceroy Li from Peking desiring that Admiral Yeh of the Peiyang squadron should proceed with two of his fastest ships to cruise in the neighbourhood of Singapore in order to assist the men sent to assassinate Kang Yu-wei, and that, in spite of Li's objections, the cruisers were sent. It is exceedingly difficult to credit such a story, for the cruisers could not possibly have been expected to render any assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense, responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—On behalf of the above Society I beg to inform you that a T.T. for £180=¥1,781.45 at ex 2/-0¼ has been remitted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to-day to the *Daily Telegraph* Fund in aid of our soldiers' widows and orphans.

The members of the St. George's Society contributing ¥875 to this amount in lieu of their annual ball.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

HARRY J. SHARP,
Honorary Secretary.

St. George's Society of Yokohama and Tokyo.
April 23rd, 1900.

THE FUKUI FIRE.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Please allow me to present to your readers some facts concerning the fire which destroyed one-fifth of Fukui city on the morning of the 19th inst. Several days without rain preceded and on the night of the calamity there was a strong wind. From about midnight on Wednesday, for five hours, the fire raged, cutting a wide swathe through the south-western part of the city extending even to adjacent villages, four of which were partially destroyed. For the city itself, more than two thousand houses, two hundred *godowns*, thirty temples, twenty-two shrines, and one school building were totally destroyed. Nine pesons were killed; fourteen seriously and three hundred and forty less seriously injured. Some of the stories we hear of the suffering are heartrending.

Of the buildings destroyed, not one in twenty was insured. This catastrophe following so closely the floods of last September, when four-fifths of the houses of the city were innundated, certainly calls for sympathetic consideration. This need is emphasized by the fact that the silk industry, upon which a very large proportion of the people rely for support, has been for some time in a greatly depressed condition.

In view of this need, should anyone feel like contributing to the sufferers, Mrs. Jones and myself will gladly personally superintend the distribution of any monies that may be sent.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM YATES JONES,
Amer. Pres. Miss.

Fukui, Echizen, April 21st, 1900.

XXXIII. YEARS OF JAPANESE FINANCE.

A member of the *Nichi Nichi* staff recently interviewed a well-known statistician in the capital, and has been furnished with various tables which show clearly the financial position of Japan from the 1st period till the 33rd fiscal year of *Meiji*. One of these gives the gross total of revenue and expenditures for 33 years at 3,287,827,022, *yen* and 3,019,892,489 *yen* respectively, leaving a balance of 367,934,532 *yen*. The table given below shows clearly the ratio of expansion up to the current fiscal year:—

A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR 33 YEARS.

Period.	Revenue. Million Yen.	Expenditures. Million Yen.	Rates borne to the 30th years account (1,000). Revenue.	Expenditures.
1st	33	30	146	136
2nd	34	20	152	92
3rd	20	20	93	90
4th	22	19	98	86
5th	50	57	223	258
6th	85	62	378	280
7th	73	82	324	368
8th	86	66	381	296
Fiscal year.				
8th	69	69	307	309
9th	59	59	263	265
10th	52	48	231	227
11th	62	60	276	272
12th	62	60	275	270
13th	63	63	280	282
14th	71	71	316	318
15th	73	73	325	329
16th	83	83	367	372
17th	76	76	339	343
18th	62	61	275	273
19th	85	83	377	372
20th	88	79	389	355
21st	92	81	411	364
22nd	96	79	427	357
23rd	106	82	470	367
24th	103	83	456	374
25th	101	76	448	343
26th	173	84	503	378
27th	98	78	434	349
28th	118	85	523	381
29th	187	168	826	755
30th	226	223	1,000	1.000
31st	220	219	972	282
32nd	252	252	1,116	1,127
33rd	254	254	1,124	1,138

REDEMPTION OF PUBLIC BONDS.

During last month the Government purchased 5 per cent. Imperial bonds to the amount of 1,422,400 *yen* face value, at 90.50 *yen* per bond. This is the first attempt made by the Government, remarks the *Keizai Zasshi*, for the redemption of bonds by purchase. The accounts now stand as follows:—

	Yen.
Amount of issue (for public undertakings)	41,129,050
Same (for railways)	17,907,350
Same (for Hokkaido railways)	1,419,950
Total	60,456,350
Redemption by purchase	1,442,400
Balance (unredeemed)	59,013,950

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A man fell from the third story of the Kabukiza, Tokyo, on the 24th inst. He was picked up dead.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha's steamer *Miyajima Maru*, which was sunk in Kagoshima Bay, was floated on the 23rd instant, and will be taken to the Mitsu Bishi Dock at Nagasaki for repairs. Six thousand tubs of unrefined sugar were salved.

The last meeting of the Yokohama Literary Society for the present season, is fixed for Friday, May 4, when Mr. Otis A. Poole will deliver a lecture entitled Wakai Japan. Mr. Poole will illustrate his remarks with stereopticon views taken by himself.

Mr. H. J. Sharp, Manager of Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., No. 60, Yokohama, has instituted a an action in the Chiho Saibansho against a man calling himself Hilton, for the recovery of a sum of money loaned to the latter a few weeks ago. Mr. Sharp gave his evidence on Thursday before a Procurator.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Thursday, judgment was given in the case of Kato Shimazo *v.* Messrs. Oppenheimer Frères, No. 13, Yokohama. Plaintiff claimed the delivery of a certain quantity of alcohol, alleged to have been purchased by him. Judgment was given in favour of the defendants, Messrs. Oppenheimer Frères, the costs to be borne by the plaintiff.

Another case of plague was reported on Wednesday morning from Osaka. This is the case of a child of one year who died on the 21st inst. Plague germs were located in the blood and the case was established as one of plague. This is the fourth, says the *Kobe Herald*, since the renewal of the plague this month.

One goes abroad to learn news of home. A writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* says that the Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce are taking the lead in an endeavour to cut down the tiffin interval to half an hour and to restrict Saturday half-holidays! And on this strange perversion of the facts, he naïvely draws a moral.

A bill to construct a large hotel in Okaka out of city funds will shortly be introduced in the City Assembly. The reason given for the introduction of the bill is that it is necessary to make preparations for an influx of visitors when the exhibition is held in the city in 1902. As it is held to be impossible for a private individual to undertake the work, it is proposed that the city funds shall be drawn upon for the purpose.

The Nippon Bicycle Club road race for the Kirin Beer Cup and other prizes takes place at 2.30 p.m. to-morrow. The route is from Fujisawa to Kodzu, a distance of about 19 miles, under sealed handicap, all riders starting at scratch. In case of rain the race will be postponed till Sunday. The following is a list of entries:—W. N. Wright, E. Powys, Jr., W. B. Mason, H. Y. Irwine, J. Helm, Jr. The cup, which has to be won thrice to become the absolute property of a competitor, has already been won once by Irwine and Mason.

We have received the Report of the Commissioners of Education, 1897-98, of the United States, a most voluminous volume packed with statistics and articles dealing in an interesting fashion with every subject having connection with the science of education, both in America and elsewhere in the world. The late Mr. Consul-General Gowey has an admirably lucid article in the book, on the "Practise of Professions in Japan," dealing with lawyers, veterinary surgeons, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, etc.

The *Shogyo* says on the 21st instant a conference was held of representatives of the various steamship companies in Yokohama engaged in the American trade and it was decided that freights for tea should be raised to 1½ cents (American currency) per pound. Competition had reduced freights so low as not to yield a profit, and the rate has now been doubled. It is said that some

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of the American railway companies are also contemplating a conference in order to further lessen the excessive competition. The Yusen Kaisha is said to have signified its willingness to join this conference. The revised scale of freight will be enforced in Yokohama from the 1st of June.

The Italian Government has purchased the Borghese Museum and Gallery of Pictures for a hundred and forty-four thousand pounds, which is to be paid to the family in ten years by annual instalments. Every great collector in the world has been urging the Borghese trustees to sell these collections for many years past, and twenty-four thousand pounds was offered for a single picture. The law forbids the trustees to sell the collections outside of Italy, and if a foreigner had purchased any of the pictures they could not have been removed from the country. It is therefore a forced sale, and the Government has made a wonderful bargain, for if the collection had been disposed of at Paris or in London they would have realised at least three hundred thousand pounds.

LAW CASES.

The hearing of the case of Hosomi Gentaro v. W. Schroth was resumed the other day in the Kobe Chiho Saibansho. The question was as to whether a bargain relating to 35,000 lbs. of tea had been arrived at. Plaintiff claimed that the bargain had been completed as the godown man had given the receipt for the tea, but defendant protested that the man was only entitled to receive or send for goods by order, and was not authorised to make a bargain.

Counsel for defendant admitted that delivery had been taken of the tea, but said a disputed point was as to whether the tea was sold or sent in to be sold on commission. He contended that the latter was the case. He said, moreover, that plaintiff was about to become a bankrupt, and was not able to offer a guarantee to meet any deficit that might result on the sale.

The Judge announced that judgment would be given on the 30th inst.

Judgment in the case instituted by Mr. Yegawa Chojiro against Mr. H. Lucas, claiming payment of a promissory note for *yen* 300, was delivered at the Kobe Chiho Saibansho on Thursday.

The defence was that the note was untransferrable, and that plaintiff, who had obtained it from the person to whom it was originally given, was therefore debarred from suing on it. It was also claimed that the note was invalid, as bearing no address. The Court gave judgment for plaintiff, with interest at 7 per cent. and costs.

The hearing of a case instituted by Mr. Ishihara Inosuke, a wholesale dealer in clocks, at Osaka, against Mr. F. E. Barto, Manager of Messrs. Vantine & Co., No. 112, Kobe, took place before Judges Oshima, Kamada, and Hiyama at the Kobe Chiho Saibansho recently. Counsel for the plaintiff stated that he claimed *yen* 2,930.77. On the 27th June, 1898, plaintiff entered into an agreement with the defendant for the supply of clocks to the value of *yen* 2,930.77. Delivery was to be made in two lots, the first shipment being due at Kobe in November.

Counsel for defendant admitted that the contract was made, and said the matter was reported to the head office in the United States immediately. The head office wrote out saying that the Kiston Clock Co. was very busy and was not able to fulfil the order, and the matter was thereupon referred to the plaintiff, but he refused to listen to the representation made and instituted this action. Plaintiff knew well why defendant had been unable to carry out the contract, the 2nd clause of the contract containing the explanation. The clause states:—"Delivery of the goods may be delayed if due to a strike or other unavoidable cause." That being the case, he submitted plaintiff could not insist on his client carrying out the contract.

Evidence was called on both sides, and the case was adjourned.

A case instituted by Mr. Shinagawa Chojiro, Kobe, against Mr. H. Lucas, No. 24-A, Harima-machi, claiming payment of a promissory note for *yen* 300, came on before Judges Oshima, Kamada, and Hiyama in the Kobe Chiho Saibansho, on Aprli 18th.

It appeared that plaintiff had the note from a party named Ueda, to whom defendant had given it. Defendant now refused to pay.

Defendant's counsel pointed out that it was definitely stated on the back of the note that it was not transferable. Plaintiff had therefore taken it over at his own risk, and defendant was not liable to be sued by him. He also pointed out that the note bore no address, and was therefore invalid.

Judgment will be given next Wednesday.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, on Tuesday, Judge Fujise resumed the hearing of the claim instituted by F. N. Upton against H. Ahrens & Co., No. 29, Yokohama, for the payment of *yen* 742.96 salary. Mr. Akiyama asked the judge if the plaintiff had furnished security for costs, as ordered. Judge Fujise replied in the negative. Mr. Akiyama asked that the case should be dismissed at once, as plaintiff had failed to comply with the order of the Court. Judgment was given in favour of the defendants, costs to be borne by the plaintiff.

Judgment in the case of Kaneko v. Koch and Co. was also delivered by Judge Fujise. The petition of the plaintiff was dismissed with costs.

Judge Fujise further delivered judgment on the claim brought against Messrs. Oppenheimer Frères, by a Japanese merchant, for the fulfilment of a contract concluded with the merchant by a Japanese *banto* of the firm, without obtaining formal permission of the firm's representative. The case was dismissed, the costs to be borne by the Japanese merchant.

THE LOSS OF THE "IRANIAN."

Naval Court of Inquiry.

A Naval Court of Inquiry was held on Tuesday morning in the British Consulate, Yokohama, into the circumstances attending the loss of the British ship *Iranian* and the death of William Smith. The Court consisted of the following:—Mr. E. M. Hobart-Hampden, H.B.M's. Vice-Consul; Lieut. P. Nelson Ward, H.M.S. *Barfleur*; Mr. Tocque, master of the P. and O. steamer *Rohilla*, and Mr. W. S. Thompson, master of the *Argyll*; Mr. Hewlett, acting as clerk.

The order for the opening of the Court, issued by Rear-Admiral Bruce, second in command of H.M. Squadron on the China Station, and other formal documents were read, including the protest of the master and his written statement of the facts.

Andrew Watt, master, was then called. He said that between noon and 5 p.m. on the 3rd April he steered a northerly course. From 7 a.m. to noon it was calm; shortly after noon it came on to blow from west north west. He had good observations, and found it to be 138.51:30 East. He then steered north by east half east by the compass. About 8 p.m. he shortened sail, and about 8.30 p.m. sighted Redfield Rocks, about half a mile to the west. He ran the ship off to East about two miles and then hauled her up again, to N. E. by N. He then went in the charthouse to lay out the course, and as he was in the act of doing so the man on the look-out reported a rock on the port bow and one on the starboard bow almost at the same time. He got on deck immediately, but by that time she was on the rocks. In about a minute afterwards the current swung the ship round south and west, bringing the wind about two points on the starboard quarter. He ordered the lifeboats out, as the ship was settling down quickly. The starboard watch manned the starboard lifeboat, which was put out first, the second and third mates being in charge. The port lifeboat was then got out. He then went to the cabin to get the papers, but found the place full of water and could not get hold of them. He immediately went on deck again and found all the men in the boats except William Smith, an able seaman. Witness told him several times to jump into the lifeboat, but he did not make any attempt to do so. By that time the water was in the lee scuppers of the poop, and witness had to jump into the port lifeboat himself. He passed Smith an oar from the port lifeboat, and called to him to catch hold of it, saying he would pull him on board, but he did not make any attempt to do so, or even get over the railing. As the sea was very rough he considered it not safe to stand by the ship, as they could not do anything and were in danger of getting the boat broken. It was then dark. They pulled away from the ship a little distance, and witness then went from the port to the starboard lifeboat, giving the mate instructions before he left to steer north. He then took charge of the starboard lifeboat and proceeded on a northerly course. About 7.30 a.m. they landed at Shikimajima. During the night they had experienced a very rough sea running about 15 feet high, water coming into the life-boat occasionally. He had only been able to save the ship's register, a chart, epitome, work book, and a few other books, and two chronometers there were in the chart house. The official log was in the cabin, and he could not get it, as the place was full of water. He had taken up the chronometers from the cabin at the first alarm. There was a difference of 3 seconds between the two chronometers. The ship was five miles to the westward of the position given by the chronometer. He had read in the Admiralty Sailing Directions all about the Redfield Rocks and the set of the current. This was his third time this way. He thought he was sailing a safe course. There was a clear moon at the time and any land of any height five miles off could have been seen easily. The moon set about 10 o'clock as far as he would tell. They were with the wind abeam when he altered his course, and they were going about 10 or 11 knots an hour. The rocks might have been 11 feet high when he saw them last Sunday week. He did not see the rocks before the accident, but there was a heavy sea breaking after she struck. The fore part of the ship was on the rocks, and she was then swung round. She listed over perhaps six or seven degrees to port. He expected the bottom forward was greatly damaged, for the hold was full of water within five minutes. There was only one water-tight compartment forward. He expected the damage extended aft of that. He did not think the stern touched the rocks at all by the feel of it. He believed the ship was torn from before the foremast nearly as far as the main mast, about sixty or seventy feet. The man Smith would not move at all. Witness had seen him in the starboard boat before she left the skids, but he apparently got out again, and witness could not get him to jump in again. He was fairly active and a very quiet man. Witness supposed he might have been afraid of the boats being swamped. After witness was on the boat he held out an oar to Smith. He remained there three or four minutes. When he left the boat was not shipping much water; but it would not have been safe to remain there longer.

By Mr. Hobart Hampden—The crew behaved well. He did not think the rocks struck were properly marked in the chart.

By Mr. Thompson—He had told the men to keep a sharp look-out for rocks in case there should be any error. He was on deck from six o'clock till the vessel struck. Witness described the amount of sail he had on and the speed and course. From noon up to the time the vessel struck nothing had been seen. The witness was further closely questioned by Mr. Thompson with regard to various technical points. He had corrected his chronometers the last time he saw land. He thought the islands were placed too much to the eastward on the chart.

By Lieut. Ward—The ship was not heavily laden. She was drawing about 23 ft. 5in. aft. It was quite impossible to save any more of the papers than he did save. The look-out man's name was Nash. When he revisited the rocks he could see no trace of the ship. There was a smooth place near the most northerly rock which looked as if there might be oil escaping from below. This spot was about 30 feet across. When he left the ship all hands were sober. Smith was sober. He had no idea why Smith did not leave the ship; he might have been afraid that the lifeboat would be swamped. Witness had never had occasion to find fault with him.

The Court then adjourned for tiffin.

The evidence given by the first mate, John Jameson, was taken at length, and was practically to the same effect as the Master's. The second and third mate and the boatswain also gave evidence. The boatswain, questioned about the man Smith, said very emphatically that no member of the crew was under the influence of liquor.

The ship's carpenter, named Otto, said the starboard bilge was ripped open about 50 feet when the vessel went on the rocks.

Michael Nash, the look-out man, said the man he relieved told him to look out for rocks. Witness soon after reported a light, and the Captain came forward to look at it. He said it was a burning mountain, and that he (the Captain) knew where he was. The Captain went down the ladder, and had hardly got down when witness reported a rock on the port bow. The Captain ran up, and shouted out for the helm to be put hard up. The ship was kept before the wind a little and then brought hard up to the wind again. Witness then reported another small rock on the port bow, and they were almost on top of it directly afterwards. The Captain again shouted for them to put the helm hard up, and witness almost directly after reported another rock on the starboard bow, and

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shouted for the helm to be put down again, thinking they might pass between them, as they were striking the other one. The vessel then struck. He ran aft, where the crew were getting the boats out. The vessel was going down by the stern.

By the Court—The light which the Captain said was a burning mountain was very high up. It looked like a furnace.

Another able seaman named John Lehy also gave evidence, and the inquiry was adjourned till this morning.

JUDGMENT.

The Naval Court of Inquiry into the loss of the British ship *Iranian* and the death of William Smith, able seaman, was resumed at the British Consulate on Wednesday morning.

Charles Richardson, the third mate, was recalled, and said the Captain was sober throughout the voyage. Witness had never seen him under the influence of liquor on board ship.

This witness was given leave to take a position on board the *Sikh*.

John Tunny, able seaman, gave evidence as to the circumstances of the wreck, but did not add much that was new. He said Smith appeared dazed and looked frightened. He had "funny ways."

During this witness's evidence several of the crew interrupted from time to time, and the Chairman had to order them to withdraw.

The Captain was recalled, but had practically nothing to add to his previous statements. He was quite sure he had had no drink on the day of the wreck. This was his first ship as master. He had joined her as mate, and had been in command a little over three years.

The Court adjourned, and on reassembling at 4 o'clock judgment was delivered as follows:—"That the Master of the *Iranian* made an error in judgment when he elected to stand on towards the Redfields Rocks after dark, instead of putting the ship on the other tack for a few hours to thus prevent the chance of nearing this dangerous locality during the hours of darkness.

The strong currents which may be experienced in this vicinity make it a dangerous proceeding to approach the rocks unless absolutely certain of the ship's position, and under most favourable circumstances.

That the loss of the *Iranian* was due to overestimating the strength of the current and its direction in the neighbourhood of the Kedfield Rocks.

That owing to the speed of the vessel at the time of the accident, the Master's decision to instantly abandon her was amply justified. That it was extremely unfortunate that the log and other ship's records were unavoidably lost, as their corroborative evidence would have been of considerable value.

The discipline appears to have been very good, and to have been maintained throughout.

The vessel was apparently well found, and in all respects seaworthy.

The death of William Smith, A.B., which must be presumed, is a question of great importance.

It appears that the responsibility rests entirely with the man himself, and yet the Court cannot but express its regret that more strenuous efforts were not made to save him from what must have appeared to them all as almost certain death.

The apparent lack of interest evinced in the fate of their missing shipmate can only be explained by imagining all present over-estimated the danger of remaining a little longer by the vessel.

Finally, the Court decides that the certificate of the Master will not be dealt with, but recommends that more cautious practice be pursued in future.

The Court is of opinion that the officers and crew are entirely free from all blame in connection with the loss of the vessel and cargo.

The mates' certificates are accordingly returned."

The Master was also ordered to pay the costs of the Court, fixed at £12 5s. 1d.

The President of the Court, for the information of the Master of the *Iranian*, stated that the Japanese Naval Department had despatched two vessels to the scene of the disaster. The *Yokosuka Maru* was prevented by the state of the weather from reaching the spot, but at 9.20 on the morning of the 16th instant the *Takao Kan* arrived within a mile or so of the Sambontake rocks and made a circuit of them. No traces of the vessel were seen. Broken water here and there revealed the existence of sunken rocks, some of which were not on the chart, and the vessel therefore did not venture to approach nearer; but a cutter was sent to make a closer inspection and reported no vestiges of the wreck.

RUSSIA.

The Odessa correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs, under date of March 11th:—

Last week upwards of 1,500 men left here for the Far East by one of the Volunteer Fleet cruisers, and we are informed that next week another contingent will leave in the same manner from this port for the Far East. Some time ago, when the British were meeting with reverses in South Africa, orders arrived here from St. Petersburg countermanding the previous order for the departure of these cruisers to the Far East during the current year and ordering that of the five fastest cruisers the only one to keep its engagements would be the *Saratoff*, while the *Orel*, *St. Petersburg*, and *Kherson* were to perform only one voyage to the Far East and back and then to lie up for the rest of the year in order to be ready for emergencies. The *Moscow*, the latest addition to the fleet of cruisers, has been ordered to remain at Sevastopol. Much comment on this order arose, and it was generally believed that these cruisers were to be employed, if necessary, in transporting men from this port, Sevastopol, and other ports of the Black Sea to Batoum *en route* for the Transcaucasus. In previous despatches I have called attention to the extensive transport of men from this part of Russia to her Asiatic possessions in the Far East, and the despatch of troops is likely to be still more considerably increased, especially since the late dispute between Russia and Japan respecting Korea, when the position became so acute that in St. Petersburg an outbreak of hostilities was quite expected.

We quote the following from the St. Petersburg correspondent of *The Times*:—

The Russian Press continues, in a helpless and hopeless sort of way, to mislead its readers with the idea of intervention. The observation of *The Times* that no responsible statesmen in Europe are prepared to turn the South African war into a world-wide conflagration is taken up by the *Russia*, which replies by asking if there is any responsible statesman in Europe at the present moment with power and authority enough to attempt to stem the seething tide of popular indignation. This query, as far as it applies to Russia, is easily answered. A mere scratch of the pen, with no more power than that which is wielded by the ordinary Russian authority in such matters, would be quite sufficient, as the *Rossia* well-knows, to put an end to the newspaper agitation against England, and no one would dare to raise a murmer. The fact that this has not yet been done, in view of the official correctness of the Government, is a plain proof that the latter does not regard the agitation in question with any degree of displeasure. Journals are gagged and reprimanded here every week for much less important and even trivial matters. The Press is not allowed to attack other European Powers, with which this Government is on friendly terms, when it does not suit the purposes of the Russian Foreign Office, as more than one case in point goes to prove. Not long ago the editors of the St. Petersburg newspapers were forbidden to agitate against Austria, and the desired result was, of course, immediately attained. There is a still more recent and more striking case in connexion with the Press propaganda against England, which clearly discloses the attitude of the Imperial Administration. The other day the editor of the Jewish organ, the *Voskhod*, was severely taken to task by the chief of censorship because his paper formed the sole exception among its contemporaries in being strongly pro-English. The answer, I am told, was that England had been too good to the Hebrew race, all the world over, to allow of any anti-English sentiment in a Jewish paper. The incident is an instructive one which clears away almost the last vestige of doubt.

The effects of the newspaper agitation against England are beginning to show themselves in many absurdities. A letter to the *Novoe Vremya* from Saratoff makes a proposal to boycott English manufactures, and another correspondent writes to advise readers to boycott English literature by purchasing only Russian translations. The translation of English works is to be encouraged in order to restrict as much possible the sale of the originals. "Hatred of the English and parallel sympathy with the Boers," says to-day's *Northern Courier*, "is spreading ever wider and wider in Russian society and is now making its appearance in forms of higher culture." The office of this newspaper has received many letters on the subject from different parts of the interior. One epistle, signed by "nineteen haters of the English," insists upon Russian theatres and actors striking out of their *répertoires* all the plays of Shakespeare and other English authors. Seven booksellers of Moscow send to say that the detestation of England is so great that the sale of English books has almost ceased and sharing this feeling they strongly recommend their fellow tradesmen to do no more business in English works, which will redound to the benefit of their own native writers and publishers. Another correspondent actually wishes to propose a monument in St. Petersburg to General Cronje, instead of sending him a loving cup, for which a subscription list has already been opened.

SILK PROSPECTS.

The *Jimmin* publishes reports received in Yokohama from silk producers in various localities. Their gist is as follows:—

Tatsugasaki, Joshiu, and neighbourhood.—Silk rearing was commenced on about the 20th ultimo and the total output is expected to be 20 per cent. larger than last year. The weather continues chilly, but the supply of mulberry leaves is abundant. They are now quoted at 1.50 *yen* for 36 *kwan*.

Hamatmasu, Enshiu.—The fickleness of the weather this year has considerably obstructed the growth of mulberries, though the climate is now somewhat more settled. Wages of rearers are fixed at 35 *sen* for men and 18 *sen* for women.

Okawamachi, Mikawa.—The number of silkworms reared is estimated at 30 or 40 per cent. higher than the previous year, The appreciation of silk has induced speculators to engage in sericulture in a larger scale than usual, in some cases to a dangerous extent. The difficulty of procuring good silkworm egg cards is experienced in all parts of the district.

Yamada, Ise.—The season is some 7 or 8 days behind last year, and the mulberries have just begun to sprout. An increase of 20 per cent. in worms is noticeable in comparison with the previous year. The price of mulberries has risen by 10 per cent.

Makawa, Enshiu.—The thermometer stands at about 60 at noon, the weather generally being a little colder than last year. Still a 30 per cent. increase is anticipated in the rearing of worms this year. Mulberry is 20 per cent. higher than it was last year, 15 *kwan* being delivered for one *yen*.

DREGS.

The fire is out, and spent the warmth thereof,
(This is the end of every song man sings!)
The golden wine is drunk, the dregs remain,
Bitter as wormwood and as salt as pain;
And health and hope have gone the way of love
Into the drear oblivion of lost things.
Ghosts go along with us until the end;
This was a mistress, this, perhaps, a friend.
With pale, indifferent eyes, we sit and wait
For the dropt curtain and the closing gate;
This is the end of all the songs man sings.

ERNEST DOWSON.

RAJAH BROOKE.

Reviewing the Life of Rajah Brooke, by Sir Spencer St. John, G.C.M.G., which Mr. Fisher Unwin has brought out in that admirable series, "Builders of Greater Britain," the *Spectator* says—The benevolent despot has long been the dream of political enthusiasts. The very best of Governments, as we know to our cost, does but hinder the administration of a country, and the truth that liberty and order cannot be assured without a free and representative Parliament is the heaviest indictment of human frailty. Man is a creature only to be trusted with efficient safeguards. Give him untrammelled power, and he either falls below it or uses it unworthily. Yet now and again the impossible happens; there have been a few benevolent despots, and of these none was more benevolent, and at need more despotic, than Rajah Brooke.

James Brooke was born in 1803, and educated at Dr. Valpy's school at Norwich where George Borrow and James Martineau were among his contemporaries. His ambition was clearly defined even in his youth. "Could I carry my vessel," he wrote, "to places where the keel of European ship never before ploughed the waters; could I plant my foot where white man's foot had never before been; could I gaze upon scenes which educated eyes had never looked on, see man in the rudest state of Nature, I should be content without looking to further rewards." This ambition was fulfilled to the letter. Rajah Brooke planted his foot on the secret, unexplored places of the world, and so little reward did he win, that he ended his life in a house purchased by the meagre result of a public subscription. But from the beginning he followed his destiny without thought of the future, and the work that he did was never prompted by any other motive than philanthropy and self-sacrifice.

For a while he took service in the East India Company, which, he knew well, would never afford him the career he wished. And no sooner did he come into his patrimony—it was in 1835—than he purchased a ship, and, after a three years' trial, he equipped an ex-

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pedition to Borneo. The ship was the "Royalist" and here is Brooke's own description of the craft:—"She sails fast; is conveniently fitted up; is armed with six six-pounders, and a number of swords and small-arms of all sorts; carries four boats, and provisions for four months. Her principal defect is being too sharp in the floor. She is a good sea boat, and as well calculated for the service as could be desired." In this boat, then, he paid his first visit to Sarawak—the first of how many!—and before long he had joined Muda Hassim's army, and brought the civil war to an end. Even with his small experience he knew perfectly well how to deal with savage races. "Good temper, good sense, and conciliatory manners are essential," said he, "to the good government of natives," and with these qualities he was richly endowed. He ameliorated the condition of the people, he suppressed piracy, he encouraged trade of all sorts, he devised a practical method of despotism, and he enriched everybody but himself. Indeed, after the chief rebel Makota had been sent away, Brooke was the only true Governor of the country. But so scrupulous was he of honour, that he forbade even a tinge of exaggeration in his agent's reports. "I will become no party," said he, "to a bubble; or gain, or accept any negotiation from Government upon false grounds." Unhappily, the Government did not treat him with the same fairness which he extended to the Government. No sooner was he firmly established in Sarawak, than the politicians at home began their intrigues, and henceforth the life of Rajah Brooke was marred by harassing suspicion and unworthy reproach.

The intrigue was contrived by a discarded agent named Wise, to whom Messrs. Hume and Cobden lent a too willing ear. These gentlemen neither attempted to discover the truth, nor do we hear that when the truth was discovered to their discredit that they offered the smallest apology to their victim. Cobden's account of Rajah Brooke's position is a masterpiece of disingenuousness:—"Sir James Brooke," said he, "seized on a territory as large as Yorkshire, and then drove out the natives, and subsequently sent for our fleet and men to massacre them." Every point in this vague indictment is false, but the politicians did not deem it their duty to inquire; on the contrary, they listened at home to the slander of a discharged servant, while Brooke was doing his country's work abroad. And when at last the Government did issue the commission of inquiry, which the Rajah demanded at the first breath of suspicion, it was issued secretly, and Brooke himself heard of it by accident.

The inquiry was held, and Brooke was entirely cleared. But, as we said before, Messrs. Hume and Cobden offered no public apology. Indeed, no man comes well out of the difficulty, save the victim of Radical narrow-mindedness. And Rajah Brooke's protest remains an eloquent condemnation of Parliamentary intermeddling. "Do not disgrace your public servants," said he in the thick of the agitation, "by inquiries generated in the fogs of base suspicion; for, remember, a wrong done is like a wound received,—the scar is ineffaceable. It may be covered by glittering decorations, but there it remains to the end." But if at home he was regarded as a criminal, his return to Sarawak was hailed with universal enthusiasm. Was he not the country's saviour? And had he not suppressed those terrific pirates, who threatened Sarawak with their huge boats, eighty feet long, propelled by seventy oars? Of course Mr. Hume neither knew nor cared aught of the Rajah's exploits. The pirates were pronounced harmless fishermen, done to death by the avarice of an English adventurer. Nor did Brooke's splendid conduct in a war with the Chinese endear him to his countrymen, though he drove back the invaders with his own troops and his own money. But he did not bring the war to a successful termination without incurring a debt of £5,000. And then, indeed, his plight was serious. He had spent every penny of his fortune, and all that was left him was a pension of £70, given for a wound received in Burmah. Truly, it seemed like a triumph for Messrs. Hume and Cobden.

"I am weary," he wrote, "weary of heart, without faith, without hope in man's honesty." Nor was the most foolish step taken yet. Merely to prove a bold distrust in Brooke, the Consul-General in Borneo was directed "to send to the nearest English Colony all British subjects accused of crimes and misdemeanours within the Sultan's dominions, including Sarawak." Not only was this order in direct opposition to existing treaties, but it proved that the Government know not where Sarawak was situated. But rather than support the rule of Rajah Brooke, the English statesmen would have spent hundred of pounds in sending prisoners and witnesses to Singapore, that the theft of a shilling should be avenged! However, the Government received correction, and the benefits of Rajah Brooke's rule are not yet abolished.

Sir Spencer St. John's biography, an admirable number in an admirable series, is a proper panegyric of a great man. The biographer's enthusiasm is heart-whole and loudly expressed. And not a word of praise is forced or misapplied. Sir James Brooke was not only a great ruler he was a man of singular taste and charm. His library, unhappily destroyed by the Chinese, was sufficient proof of his many-sided learning; his house was a miracle of elegance. "I like couches," he once wrote, "and easy chairs, and newspapers, and clear streams, and sunny walks." And that which he liked himself, he would have put within the reach of his subjects. Nor did intrigue wholly destroy his pleasure. He said at the end: "I have been a happy man, and can pillow my head with the consciousness of a well-spent life and devotion to a good cause." Upon such a conscience as that not even the memory of Joseph Hume could throw more than a passing shadow.

NAVAL SQUADRONS IN THE FAR EAST.

The *Jimmin* gives the following comparative figures showing the strength of the Oriental squadrons of Japan, America, and other Powers:—

JAPAN.

Classification.	Number.	Tonnage.
Battleships	5	50,894
Cruisers	16	72,176
Vessels for coast defence	14	18,044
Gunboats	14	10,665
Despatch boats	3	4,273
Torpedo boats	7	4,113
Torpedo destroyers	7	2,049
Total	66	162,214

GREAT BRITAIN.

Battleships	3	35,900
Cruisers	8	55,890
Gunboats	9	5,763
River gunboats	4	404
Sloops	3	3,240
Despatch boats	1	2,200
Torpedo catchers	4	1,105
Store vessel	1	1,640
Surveying ship	1	620
Guard ship	1	5,650
Vessel for coast defence	1	2,750
Total	36	113,662

RUSSIA.

Battleships	3	29,316
Cruisers	7	58,666
Gunboats	7	7,148
Torpedo boats	2	800
Total	19	95,930

AMERICA.

Battleship	1	10,288
Cruisers	3	17,265
Gunboats	13	14,482
Vessels for coast defense	2	8,128
Cruiser, unarmed	2	6,095
Transports	5	14,113
Sloop	1	1,020
Distliling ship	1	2,716
Total	28	74,507

As to Germany, the numbers of cruisers and gunboats are given at 6 and 2, with a gross tonnage of 33,784 and 1,760 tons respectively. Italy is represented as possessing 5 cruisers, aggregating 18,518 tons; Portugal has only 1 gunboat, 558 tons. Austria has only 1 cruiser of 4,064 tons.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER WAR.

HEAVY RAINS.

Shanghai, April 20.

Torrential rains in the Free State are delaying transport work, though securing the water supply.

SICKNESS.

The *Standard's* correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that there are 1,000 sick in the field hospitals.

CARRINGTON.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent telegraphs that a force of Boers have started to intercept Carrington.

THE WEST COAST TROUBLE.

A force of bluejackets and Houssas has landed at Accra. The Governor asks for all available forces. Coomassie is closely invested.

THE BOER DELEGATES.

Later.

The Boer delegates are still at the Hague. They have had an audience of the Queen. It is understood that their mission is futile, and that no Power will intervene.

AWAITING A BRITISH ADVANCE.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Ladysmith that Boer commandos, estimated at 15,000, are scattered over the fortified ridges between Sunday's River and Dundee, vainly awaiting a British advance.

THE CHINA SQUADRON.

The *Argonaut* has been commissioned to replace the *Undaunted* on the China Station.

BRABANT.

Shanghai, April 21.

Gen. Brabant has arrived at Aliwal North.

ROBERTS READY.

The *Daily Chronicle's* correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that the remounts and equipment have arrived, and that Roberts is ready.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, speaking at Bristol, said that if the war did not extend beyond the natural life of Parliament the Government would not appeal to the constituencies before they were able to judge of the Government's policy.

Shanghai, April 21.

The statement that Brabant had arrived at Aliwal North is contradicted. The censorship is temporarily increased in consequence of the movements of troops.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales, on his return to London, had a great ovation all the way to Marlborough House. While he was passing Altona the Kaiser arrived unexpectedly for the express purpose of greeting the Prince. The German papers regard this as a renewed evidence of the Emperor's Anglo-phile sentiments.

FOR VALOUR.

Surgeon Galtie has received the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the Battle of Colenso.

FIGHTING NEAR DEWETSDORP.

Shanghai, April 22.

The Eighth and Third Divisions encountered the enemy at noon yesterday near Dewetsdorp. Fighting continued until dark. It was principally an artillery engagement. Two of the enemy's guns were temporarily silenced. The British command the hills for miles around. It is stated that the Boer position is strong. The casualties were slight.

WEPENER.

News from Maseru, dated the 10th,* says that the Boers were then moving freely round Wepener, and that parties of them were proceeding in all the directions whence British re-inforcements were expected. There were desultory cannonading and rifle-firing all day. The besieged were almost silent. Boer reinforcements had arrived.

[* On the 18th April, Reuter wired that the losses hitherto telegraphed from Wepener were "anterior to the 14th instant." Two days later we had news, presumably up to the 17th, as Tuesday was specially mentioned, that "5 of the enemy's guns were disabled." The above message therefore seems belated.—ED. *J.M.*]

THE WEST COAST TROUBLE.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Accra that H.M.S. *Widgeon* has left Fetoh with an additional force of Houssas.

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The Governor telegraphs that other tribes are rising, and again asks for assistance. The loyal Bekivais have been attacked by the Ashantees and 500 of them were killed.

FIERCE FIGHTING NEAR BOSHOF.

Shanghai, April 23.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Boshof on Saturday, says that Methuen's Field Force, occupying an advanced position at Dwarkokjef-fontein, was ordered to return to Boshof. While his force was retiring, 2,000 Boers, with 3 guns, fiercely attacked the column. The Colonials and Yeomanry occupied a kopje and held the enemy in check till the column and convoy passed safely. There were some British casualties. It is believed that the enemy's losses were heavy, as they advanced within 300 yards of the kopje.

DEWETSDORP.

The fighting near Dewetsdorp was renewed on Saturday under the command of Gen. Rundle, who expelled the enemy from the heights.

WEPENER.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Maseru on Saturday, says that Wepener is still closely invested.

ELANDSLAAGTE.

There was desultory fighting all Saturday at Elandslaagte. A thousand Boers crossed the Sunday River bridge, and advanced to a crest which our Infantry had recently occupied. They retired on seeing the British Mounted Infantry. The enemy afterwards shelled the collieries.

DEWETSDORP.

Later.

General Rundle's divisions continued the fighting at Dewetsdorp on Saturday. It was mainly an artillery engagement. The Boers are tenaciously holding their position, which is well entrenched. Our casualties were light.

WEPENER.

The Boers heavily cannonaded Wepener on Saturday and the garrison replied.

BRABANT'S FORCE.

Gen. Brabant has reached Bushman's Kop, 20 miles south of Wepener, and the Boers are preparing to resist him.

RUNDLE'S DIVISION.

Shanghai, April 24.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Wakkerstroom, under date of the 22nd inst., says that the Boers on that day attempted to turn Rundle's right flank. The Yeomanry and the Mounted Infantry detected the movement and their guns drove off the enemy. Many of the Boers are moving southward.

THE BOERS' STRENGTH.

Later.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Lorenzo Marques that the two Republics had at one time 105,000 men in the field and that they still muster 80,000. The lists of burghers were deliberately falsified for the purpose of deceiving the British Intelligence Department.

BRABANT.

Brabant is engaging the Boers at Bushman's Kop. There was cannonading for several hours.

WEPENER.

Dalgety reports all well at Wepener.

THE BRITISH ADVANCE.

Shanghai, April 25.

The Boers have evacuated Bushman's Kop, and Brabant and Hart are pushing on. They are now within 8 miles of Wepener.

NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN.

On the 22nd inst., Pole-Carew's Division advanced, the two portions starting simultaneously from the E. and S. of Bloemfontein, with the object of driving the Boers from the line of defence on the South of the Water-works, which Dewet is reported to be holding strongly.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

The Duke of Argyll is dead.

DALGETY REPORTS ALL WELL

Later.

Roberts telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 24th that Brabant and Hart yesterday turned the position of the enemy, who tried to prevent them moving northward. They opened telegraphic communication with Dalgety, who reported that all was well.

POLE-CAREW.

Pole-Carew's Division and French's two brigades reached Tweedegeluk yesterday afternoon without encountering any serious opposition.

AFFAIR AT SANNASPORT.

The mounted infantry under Ian Hamilton yesterday occupied the waterworks at Sannasport. As the enemy were holding neighbouring hills in some strength the Brigades of Smith-Dorrien and Macdonald were despatched to support Hamilton.

AN IMPORTANT POINT.

Maxwell yesterday seized without loss two hills covering the wagon bridge at Kranzkraal over the Modder River, an important line of communication much used by the Boers.

WEPENER.

Shanghai, April 26.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Maseru under date of the 24th that, under the covering fire of four guns, the Boers made a determined attack on Dalgety that morning. They were repulsed. Thereafter they maintained a fusillade at long range for several hours.

A later message from the same source says that the Boers who retreated before Brabant yesterday, advanced several miles during the night and occupied a good position at Strauss Farm, while Brabant was awaiting Hart's Brigade, which was still some miles distant.

DEWETSDORP OCCUPIED.

Later.

Chermside has occupied Dewetsdorp unopposed. Pole-Carew's Division has reached Rooneskop. It is unlikely that there will be more trouble round Wepener now that Dewetsdorp has been occupied.

HART AND BRABANT.

Intelligence from Maseru dated the night of the 24th says that Hart and Brabant encountered determined opposition that day and made small progress. There were no signs of Rundle's column.

MAFEKING.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Gaberones under date of the 14th, says that Mafeking is provided until the middle of May, but that there is only one ration daily.

THE CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The City and Suburban has been won by Grafter. Innocence second and Goblet third.

BOER RETREAT FROM WEPENER.

Later.

The Boers have retired from Wepener and fled northeastwards along the Ladybrand road.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France.)

THE EXHIBITION.

Saigon, April 20.

The Minister of the Colonies has given a gala dinner in honour of the Exhibition Commissioners.

SOUTH AFRICA.

It is stated in London that Warren has been recalled. The Boers are still surrounding the English at Wepener. General Brabant is marching to the relief of the place, but his advance has been arrested by De Wet.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

Saigon, April 21.

It is announced from Simla that the suffering increases in India. Five millions of natives are receiving aid from the English Administration.

THE WAR.

News from Bloemfontein says that two thousand of the English are sick in hospital.

THE EXHIBITION.

Saigon, April 22.

The final installations at the Exhibition are being rapidly achieved.

The daily average of visitors is a hundred thousand.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Saigon, April 24.

Two thousand Boers attacked the convoy of Lord Methuen's column as it was returning to Boshof.

The English continue their attempt to relieve Wepener, but their advance is retarded by the rain.

There have been some combats of an unimportant character.

THE FRENCH NAVAL STAFF.

Saigon, April 26.

Vice-Admiral Bienaimé has been nominated Chief of the Head-Quarter Staff of the Navy in place of Rear-Admiral Caillard, who has been appointed to command of the Divisions of the Mediterranean Squadron.

WEPENER.

Skirmishes continue around Wepener. The Boers prevent the British columns from advancing.

SERIOUS EXPLOSION AT KOBE.

FIVE COOLIES INJURED.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Kobe, Wednesday evening.

This afternoon a serious explosion occurred on a lighter alongside the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer *Preussen*. The lighter was loaded with cases supposed to be full of chemicals, and one out of nine discharged suddenly. A terrific explosion resulted, seriously injuring five coolies and setting fire to the lighter, besides doing other damage. Luckily the fire was soon extinguished. The injured men were taken to the hospital. It is feared that in the case of two the injuries will prove fatal.

At a general meeting of the shareholders of the Osaka Railway Company, held on the 22nd instant, at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, the following accounts were presented and passed :—

Net profit for the current term	¥196,832
Rewards to officials	8,200
Reserve	10,000
Dividends (at the rate of 11.2 per cent. per annum)	178,080
Carried over to next account	552

The question of alteration of the Company's regulations was held in abeyance. The contemplated amalgamation with the Kwansei Railway was opposed by many on the ground of the serious disparity between the shares of the two Companies.

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CHESS.

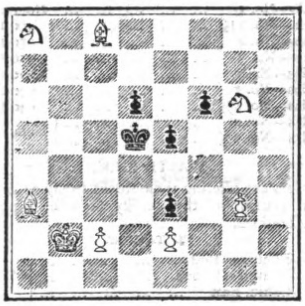
(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 469.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to R 2	1—P to K 3
2—B to K 3	2—Any move.
3—Mate	

If Black 1 K takes Kt, then 2 Q to B 2 ch, etc.; if 1 K takes B, then Q to K 6; or, if 1 R takes B, then 2 Q to B 7 ch, etc.

PROBLEM No. 471.
BY SORRENTO.
Black.



White.
White to play, and mate in three moves.

GAME 583.
VIENNA OPENING.

The following are two instructive games from the recent London International Tournament :—

White—J. Lee.		Black—H. N. Pillsbury.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	17 P QB4	B B2
2 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	18 Kt B3	BxB
3 P KKt3	P Q4	19 RxB	Q B3
4 PxP	KtxP	20 R Kt3	P QKt3
5 B Kt2	KtxKt	21 Kt K2	P B5
6 KtPxKt	Kt B3	22 P Kt4	P KR4
7 Kt K2	B QB4	23 R Bsq	Kt Q5
8 Castles	Castles	24 KtxKt	PxKt
9 P KR3	B K3	25 R Kt5	P B4
10 K R2	B Q4	26 P R5	R K7
11 P B3	B Kt3	27 K Ktsq	QR Ksq
12 P Q3	Q K2	28 RPxP	QRPxP
13 P QR4	QR Qsq	29 P R4	QxP
14 B R3	B B4	30 QxP	RxBch
15 Q Bsq	P B4	31 KxR	R K7ch
16 R Ksq	KR Ksq	32 K Ktsq	Q R6
		Resigns	

5. B to Kt 2 is premature, the correct move being 5. KKt to K 2, because Black replying Kt takes Kt, White could then retake with the Knight. After this omission so early in the opening White gets the inferior game, and it is not surprising that White should have had no chance from his fifth move right to the end, especially against Pillsbury as the opponent. We merely publish the game for theoretical purposes in the first instance, and as a specimen on the part of Black, showing how to take decisive advantage of a simple transposition of a move in the opening. There is another important point to be mentioned—viz, instead of 5. B to Kt 2, White could play 5 Q to R 5, winning a pawn eventually; but Black gets a compensating temporary attack. Whether it is advisable for White to venture upon this variation is at present not quite decided. Our opinion is that White might try for it.

GAME 584.
QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING.

White—S. Tinsley.		Black—J. H. Blackburne.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	19 P R3	Kt B2
2 B B4	Kt KB3	20 KR Qsq	K Rsq
3 P K3	QKt Q2	21 Kt Q2	P K4
4 Kt QB3	P QR3	22 PxP	PxP
5 Kt B3	P K3	23 B R2	Q Kt3
6 B Q3	P B4	24 Kt B3	B KB3
7 Castles	P B5	25 B Bsq	QR Qsq
8 B K2	B Kt5	26 B K2	P Q5
9 Kt Ktsq	Kt K5	27 KPxP	BxKt
10 P B3	B K2	28 BxB	PxP
11 QKt Q2	KtxKt	29 PxP	BxP
12 QxKt	Castles	30 QR Ktsq	Kt Kt4
13 Kt K5	Kt B3	31 Q K2	QR Ksq
14 P KR3	Kt K5	32 Q Q2	KtxB ch
15 Q B2	Kt K3	33 PxKt	Q Kt3 ch
16 P QKt3	P B3	34 K Rsq	P B6
17 Kt B3	P QKt4	Resigns	
18 P QKt4	B Kt2		

This game is also instructive, showing the advantage obtained by Black simply by superior generalship, as White did not lose any material all through the game. He was simply out manœuvred. White omitted to play the usual P to QB 4 before bringing out the QKt; he developed 6. B to Q 3 when 6. B to K 2 would have been better in view of Black's threat of 6—P to B 4, and 7—P to B 5. Afterwards Black's attention was in the first instance directed to prevent White's advancing of the KP, and eventually advancing the KP himself in a fine strategical position. After twenty-five moves, Black's position may be carefully surveyed. He is ready to strike, whilst his opponent's forces are mostly inactive. Consequently, the final attack, commencing with 25—P to Q 5, cannot be repelled, and a few moves later White has to surrender.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen 1	F. April 27
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 2	M. April 30
Hongkong.....	M. M. Co.	Oceanien 3	Tu. May 1
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 4	Th. May 4
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India 5	Th. May 3
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 6	Su. May 6
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. May 7
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th. May 10
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	M. May 13
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Th. May 17
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Tu. May 22

1 Left Kobe on the 26th inst.
2 Left Shanghai on the 25th inst.
3 Left Shanghai on the 26th inst.
4 Left Vancouver on the 19th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 25th inst.
6 Left San Francisco on the 17th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe, via S'hai .	M. M. Co.	Ernest Simons	F. April 27
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	China	F. April 27
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. May 2
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	W. May 2
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	W. May 2
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. May 3
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. May 4
Hongkong.....	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen	Sa. May 5
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. May 7
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. May 12
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. May 15
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa. May 19

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 20th April,—Kobe, 18th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 21st April,—Shanghai via ports, and Kobe, 14th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer. 1,507, C. Christiansen, 21st April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 22nd April,—Yokkaichi, 21st April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, J. Miyagi, 22nd April,—Otaru via ports, 17th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, Thompson, 22nd April,—Glasgow via ports, and Kobe, 20th Apri General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, Gordon, 22nd April,—San Francisco via San Diego, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Abergeldie, British steamer, 2,438, J. Murray, 23rd April,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. Burch, 23rd April,—San Francisco via San Diego, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 23rd April,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 22nd April, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 23rd April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 22nd April, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Newark (12), U.S. cruiser, 4,098, Capt. McCalla, 24th April,—Manila.

Sikh, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 24th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 22nd Apr-il, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,260, Durrande, 24th April,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 23rd April, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Bamberg, German steamer, 2,660, Jacobs, 24th April, —Hamburg via ports, and Shanghai, 20th April, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 25th April,—Kobe, 24th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 26th April,—Yokkaichi, 25th April, General.—Nippon Kaisha.

Energia, British steamer, 2,064, E. A. Chaplin, 26th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 25th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Alcinous, British steamer, 4,278, J. Pulford, 26th April,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 25th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Centurion (14), British Flagship, 10,500, Capt. John R. Jellico, 26th April,—Nagasaki, 24th April.

Silesia, Austrian steamer, 3,165, G. Verona, 26th April,—Trieste via ports, and Hongkong, 19th April, General.—Browne & Co.

China, American steamer, 2,422, Daniel Friele, 26th April,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 7th April, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Haddon Hall, British barque, 1,332, O. B. Pritchard, 26th April,—Portland, Oregon, 3rd Feb., Wheat.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Duke of Fife, British steamer, 2,416, J. S. Cox, 26th April,—Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

Dalny Vostock, Russian steamer, 2,265, Alex. Gove, 20th April,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Adriatico, Austrian steamer, 2,583, E. M. Tarabochia, 21st April,—Yokkaichi, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,617, J. W. Wale, 21st April,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, H. Fraser, 21st April.—Seattle, Wash., and Victoria, C.B., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prinz Heinrich, German steamer, 3,902, H, Supmer, 21st April,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 21st April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Omi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,533, I. Miyagi, 22nd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 22nd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 22nd April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Albatross, U.S. Fish Commission steamer, 638, J. F. Moser, 23rd April,—Uraga Dock.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 23rd April, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Konigsberg, German steamer, 3,135, Christiansen, 23rd April,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Abergeldie, British steamer, 2,438, J. Murray, 24th April,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 1,878, C. H. Burch, 24th April,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, Gordon, 25th April.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

St. Andrews. Norwegian steamer, 2,009, H. S. Horgen, 25th April,—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 25th April,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 25th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 26th April,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 26th April, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sikh, British steamer, 1,736, J. Rowley, 26th April,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Capt. E. Soguscher, Miss Jubin, Dr. Decker, Dr. J. F. B. Cardeiro, Mr. J. M. H. Desuzingo, Mr. Hellier, Mr. Noble, Mr. Samoned, and Mr. K. Shiba, in cabin; Mr. T. Kelly, Mr. A. Peterson, Mr. T. J. Olivert, Mr. C. O. Samuelson, Mr. J. J. Donohere, Mr. T. Leary, Mr. Start, Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Hong Wong Szu, Miss Lesh, Mr. H.

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M. Ross, Miss Wei Chang, Mr. Hong Pun Szu, Mr. Chong Szi, Miss Chong Szi, and Mr. Hayao, in second class; 21 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Lady Amy Pelley and maid, Staff Surgeon Andrews, R.N., Mr. H. Bent, Mr. A. G. Morris, Mrs. F. Kiene, Mr. Hupaki, Mrs. Kung and 2 children, Mrs. Yamamoto, Mr. R. Muller, Mr. E. Lane, Mrs. W. Mi, Lt. C. M. McCormick, Mr. A. R. Morris, Mr. J. F. Lowder, and Mr. A. Woolley, in cabin; 14 Chinese, and 6 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Otto Zeh, Mr. J. N. Reyes, Mrs. Reyes and child, Mr. W. S. Weir, Lieut. J. F. Schell, Mr. W. H. Peech, Mr. J. C. Taber, Mr. Stemble, Mr. W. C. Tyler, Mr. K. Nakashima, Miss K. Hall and servant, Mr. A. W. Pressy, Mr. R. Schmidt, Chevalier de Wonters, Mr. J. M. Orchard, Baron von der Goltz, Lieut. Beig, Mr. Otto Neuhano, Mr. A. L. Richards, Mr. J. Brockhurst, Mr. F. Harold, Mr. C. L. Heinlein, and Miss E. Hall, in cabin; 2 in steerage. For San Francisco:— Mr. J. Anthony, Mr. W. N. Lovatt, Mrs. W. N. Lovatt, Mrs. C. E. Lindberg, Mr. J. W. Noyes, Mrs. J. W. Newes, Captain Yeniche, I.R.N., Mr. J. McLean Lachlan, Mr. A. R. Ricard, Mr. Wu Cha En, Mr. J. Bernard, Mr. W. R. M. de Parr, Dr. Sanger, Mrs. Sanger, Mr. J. R. Putnam, and Mrs. J. R. Putnam, in cabin; 1 in European steerage; 312 in steerage.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Reynand, Mr. S. A. Ickodey, Mr. Le Menez, Mr. Make, Mr. Le Preard, Mr. Conor, Mr. L. Skapino, Mr. Cremazy, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. R. S. Holkann, Mr. R. S. Furlouge, Mr. Ch. Nielsen, Mr. Schnoob, Mr. Ellerton, Mr. and Mrs. Schnoob, Mr. Brooke, Misses Asiani and Sasaki, 3 Marines (French), and 1 Chinese in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, for Bremen via ports:—Graf and Grafin Wedel, Mr. M. Cheetham and servant, Mrs. Guhler, Miss Hana Aoki, Baron Richthofen, Mr. W. Millan, Mr. Murray, Mr. Abenheim, Mr. C. Kipp, Mr. and Mrs. Birch, child and amah, Mr. O. Pollak, Mr. A. Best, Mr. R. Lehmann, Mr. C. F. Oberlein, Mr. B. Guggenheim, Mrs. and Miss Guggenheim, Miss J. Orth, Mr. H. L. Helm, Mr. C. F. Heinlein, Mr. and A. S. Laflin, Mr. H. B. McQueen, Mr. J. H. Pye, Mr. and Mrs. Friedenberg, Mr. and Mrs. G. Blundell and child, Mr. Ah Kin, Mr. J. B. Coulson, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. J. Clark, Mrs. Harrison and child, Miss Giese, Mr. F. W. Wonnelstdorf, and Mr. Yong Sun, in cabin; 1 Malay servant on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamba Maru*, for London via ports:—Com. K. Koidzumi, Surgeon H. Yamazaki, Com. K. Hirowatari, Lieut. N. Matsumoto, Eng. K. Sadanaga, Eng. Y. Tanaka, Paymaster H. Yamazaki, Eng. S. Nomura, Lieut. Y. Mori, Sub-Lieut. K. Muda, Sub-Lieut. S. Wakita, Mr. Y. Sawaki, and Mr. M. Nagahama, in cabin; Mr. T. Shiga, Mr. S. Murata, Mr. T. E. Beatty, Mr. K. Sato, Mr. G. Shimura, Mr. H. Uchiyama, Mrs. Yei Nakamura, Petty officers T. Hiraoka, K. Yasaka, Y. Nakamura, D. Iriye, and S. Oriuchi, in second class; 227 I.J.N. crew, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Armsby, Mr. J. Anthony, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Balfour, Mr. J. Bernard, Mr. H. Bruhn, Miss C. Dakin, Mr. G. Delbecque, Madam M. Delbecque, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Douglass, Mr. Wu Chao En, Mr. U. Eto, Mrs. A. H. Fifield, Mr. John Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Hoy, Mr. S. Ito, Mrs. G. E. Lindberg, Mrs. W. N. Lovatt, Mr. J. McLean Lachlan, Captain E. Longnecker, U.S.N., Mr. W. N. Lovatt, Miss N. Mori, Lieut.-Commander Alex. McCrackin, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Noyes, Mr. W. R. M. de Parr, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Putnam, Madam A. Poulet, Chief Eng. G. B. Ransom, U.S.N., Mr. Basil Rhodes, Mr. A. R. Ricard, Dr. Sanger, Mrs. Sanger, Mr. H. C. Schiern, Mr. N. Soma, Mr. F. G. Scheffler, Judge and Mrs. H. H. Williams, Mr. H. L. Williams, Miss Olive Williams, Miss L. Wood, and Captain Yeniche, I.R.N., in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Major Maclarcan, Surgeon F. J. F. Cordeiro, U.S.N., Mr. Y. Yamakawa, and Mr. R. Masujima, in cabin; 4 Japanese, in second class.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Following are silk shippers per N. Y. K. steamer *Tosa Maru*, for Seattle, Wash., April 20:—

	Bales.
Vivanti Bros.	25
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	130
Total	155

Raw and Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Prinz Heinrich*:—

	RAW. Optional.	WASTE. France.
Sieber & Co.	79	—
Siber, Wolff & Co.	—	53
Total	79	53

The following are the silk shippers per T. K. K. steamer *America Maru*, which sails for San Francisco, to-day:—

	Bales.
Bavier & Co.	30
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	70
Doshin Kaisha	34
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	30
Total	164

MEN-OF-WAR.

Oregon (16), U.S. battleship, 10,288, Capt. G. F. F. Wilde, 21st Feb.,—Manila.

Barfleur (14), British battleship, 10,500, Capt. G. J. S. Warrender, 20th March,—Nagasaki via Kobe, 18th March.

Brooklyn (20), U.S. Flagship, 9,215, Captain J. M. Forsyth, 3rd April,—Manila.

D'Entrecasteaux (26), French Flagship, 8,114, Capt. de Maroll, 4th April,—Hongkong.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, 1,710, Com. S. M. Ackley, 5th April, Guam.

Admiral Korniloff (16), Russian cruiser, 5,000, Capt. Petroff, 8th April,—Port Arthur.

Baltimore (14), U.S. cruiser, 4,600, Capt. Thomas, 11th April,—Manila.

Calabria, Italian cruiser, 2,800, Count A. Contelli, 17th April,—Honolulu, 2nd April.

Yosemite (10),. U.S. cruiser, 6,179, Capt. G. E. Ide, 17th April,—Guam.

Newark (12), U.S. cruiser, 4,098, Capt. ——, 24th April,—Manila.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is almost complete stagnation all round. the Japanese buyers are in want of money, and thinking rather of disposing of their surplus stocks than of buying new, consequently prices still lag behind values prevailing at home, and even re-export is being seriously considered by some dealers.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	2.450 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 to 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅜ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market still weak.

American	$3.04 to 3.05
Russian	2.90
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The usual steady trade has been done.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.60
White Refined	7.90 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

At a continual decline in prices there has been some business doing for Europe, even in coarse size filatures, when the New York market seems quite dormant. Holders are still anxious to sell and seem to anticipat a large crop of new silk.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	1,030 to 1,040
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,060 to 1,070
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	900 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	1,020 to 1,030
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	960 to 970
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	Nominal
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½	960 to 970
Re-reels—No. 2	950 to 955
Re-reels—No. 3	930 to 940
Kakedas—Extra	1,020 to 1,030
Kakedas—No. 1	990 to 1,000
Kakedas—No. 1½	940 to 950
Kakedas—No. 2	None
Kakedas—No. 2½	None

WASTE SILK.

Dealers are offering their stocks freely at a reduction in prices, but the quality on offer is poor and buyers hold off.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	Nominal
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	Nominal
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	Nominal
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	Nominal

TEA.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	Nominal
Finest	Nominal
Fine	Nominal
Good Medium	Nominal
Medium	Nominal
Good Common	Nominal
Common	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 26.

Silver from London unaltered and discount rather higher have not caused any change in rates of exchange locally.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/16 to ¾
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/16 to ⅞
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight.	259½ to 60½
— — 6 months' sight	261 to 62
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ to ¾
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74¼
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/16

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, April 26.

Straits Insurance have been purchased from Hongkong at $1 and Green Island at $32.

Offers are wanted for Engine and Iron Works. Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 150. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	212.50 Steady.
Grand Hotel	240 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	155 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	110 Steady.
Japan Brewery Co.	150 Buyers.

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BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, April 26.

Breweries have sellers at *yen* 155 per 1st June. Grand Hotels have buyers at *yen* 240 per 1st June. Oriental Hotels were sold again last night at *yen* 35 for new ordinary and preference shares of *yen* 25 paid up. Offers of a few shares are wanted. Langfeldts were sold again at *yen* 111.50 per end of June. Helms have sellers at par. Laundries are obtainable at par.

Debentures.—Breweries, steady at *yen* 110. Y.U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108. Oriental Hotels are steady at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	212.50 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	151 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	157.50 Sa.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	450 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 Sa.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	110 Sa.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.

N.B.—S.=Sellers, B.=Buyers, Sa.=Sales, St.=Steady, W.=Weak, E.=Enquiries

TOKUMIYA.

BROKER IN LOAN BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, AND STOCKS.

Cash and time transactions.

No. 1, KABUTOCHO, NIHONBASHI-KU, TOKYO.

TELEPHONE No. 921, NANIWA OFFICE.

MEAN PRICES OF SHARES AND STOCKS FOR DIRECT DELIVERY.

Tokyo, April 26.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	94.00
War Loan Bonds	94.00
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	97.00
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	422.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	68.00
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	170.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen	67.00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	103.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—pain up yen 25	27.50
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	71.50
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	61.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	22.10
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45 *	110.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 *	70.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 *	54.80
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	41.60
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 *	55.50
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40 *	42.80
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	89.10
Hokkaido Colliery R'way 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	73.00
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	77.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50 *	42.00
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	30.20
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	52.40
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	17.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	32.30
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	20.10
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	10.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13 *	19.00
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	236.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	207.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	65.00
Osaka Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	23.50
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 10	14.50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	26.20
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	23.50
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	39.00
Yokohama Dock, new—paid up yen 20	32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	35.50
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	16.00
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	210.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	180.00
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	140.00
Tokyo Merchandize Exohange—paid up yen 25	88.50
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	2.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yeu 50	50.60
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	23.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	94.00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 30	69.00
Japan Beer—paid up yen 40	100.00
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50	37.50
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50	50.00
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	44.00
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up 25	21.00
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	14.30
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50	43.00

* Ex dividend.

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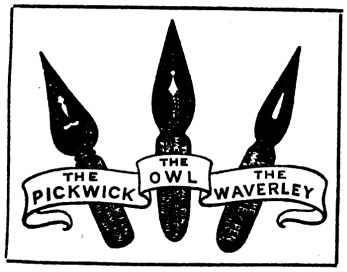

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1900.

MARRIAGE.

On Wednesday, the 2nd May, 1900, at Trinity Cathedral, Tokyo, by the Rt. Rev. John McKim, D.D., JULIA WOOD MILLER, of Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A., to FRANCIS BRINLEY HEBARD PAINE, of Tenafly, New Jersey, U.S.A.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE war news from South Africa deals with a series of small engagements between Wepener and Thabanchu.

IT is stated that in the interval of 21 days from the 5th to the 25th of April, the amount of gold drawn from Tokyo by foreign firms in Yokohama and exported was 4,650,000 *yen*.

AN attempt was made on the 26th April to assassinate Colonel Kumagaye at Hirosaki. The would-be murderer attacked him as he lay in bed, but fortunately failed to inflict a serious wound.

A TELEGRAM received by the *Asahi Shimbun* says that Liu Hsiao-hsüu, who came to Japan last year as the envoy—according to rumour—of the Empress Dowager, was shot as he was disembarking at Canton from a steamer by which he had travelled thither from Macao. He died very shortly.

IT is said that the Russians are anxious to sell for 250,000 *yen* the Ulneung timber which they obtained for 50,000. Very likely, especially as the operation of shipping the timber presents great difficulties.

MR. PRITCHARD MORGAN is reported to be leaving Korea for England, his purpose being to form a syndicate with a capital of a million pounds sterling to work his recently acquired mining concession.

THE concession obtained by Russia at Masampho is now said to measure 250,000 *tsubo* (200 acres) and to run down to a part of the shore where is deep water. It is apparently a growing concession.

INVESTIGATIONS completed by the Home Department and published in the *jiji* show that at the end of December last the populations of Sapporo, Hakodate, and Otaru stood at 40,575, 89,751, and 61,892 respectively.

ANOTHER case of suspected pest is reported from Osaka. The malady continues to be little more than sporadic in character, but it may at any moment defy the measures adopted by the sanitary authorities to check its spread.

THE Japanese Consul telegraphs from Vancouver that 4,500 Japanese have flocked into Canada during the present month, and that an anti-Japanese-immigration agitation is almost inevitable unless some check is put upon this movement.

WE read in the *Mainichi Shimbun* that the Japanese Authorities have twice rewarded charitable acts on the part of the Yokohama Temperance Association by gifts of *sake* cups! The Society has returned the second of these tokens.

THE Ota Railway (Mito to Ota) is likely to become the property of the Fifteenth National Bank, to which it is mortgaged for a sum of 250,000 *yen*. The paid-up capital of the line is 347,919 *yen*. It seems to have been in difficulties from the time of its inception.

IT is stated that the cost of the Tientsin tramway in which the Mitsui firm is interested will be from two to three hundred thousand *yen*. The Mitsui intend to invite foreign cöoperation, for, although the outlay is insignificant, they deem it wiser to have the association of the foreign residents.

THE Nara Railway Company has held its meeting, when the following figures were submitted:—Net profit, 61,928 *yen*; reserve, 3,150; redemption of loans in connection with preliminary outlays, 500; rewards, 1,850; dividends (5 per cent.), 55,238; carried over to next account, 1,190.

THE Governor of Akita has applied to the Home Department for a grant for the commencement of Harbour Works at Funakawa, as approved by the Diet last session. The programme involves an outlay of 3,120,828 *yen*, of which 2,685,003 are for earthworks and 435,825 for interest on loans.

IN the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, on Tuesday, Sobajimo Jirokichi and his wife were sentenced to death, the former on the charge of murdering his wife's father and the latter's servant early in September last, at his house in Yotsuya, Tokyo, and the latter for instigating and conniving at the crime.

THE carp in the well-known Tenjin lake at Kameido have been attacked by a disease analogous with that which recently proved fatal to so many fishes in the Maru-no-uchi moat. It is alleged that from 500 to 600 fish have died, and that special arrangements have been necessary to dispose of their carcases.

THE Emperor inspected, on the 28th ult, the ships engaged in the Naval Manœuvres, and addressed to the officers and men a rescript applauding the progress that had been made, and recommending further diligence in view of the state of the world. A levée was held on board the *Shikishima* on the 29th ult.

RAILWAY building is said to be proceeding apace in Formosa. The Takao-Tainan section will soon be opened, and on other sections the work is well in hand. Another item of news from the island is that the rebels of Banshi-zan have surrendered unconditionally in the sequel of the recent operations undertaken against them.

ACCORDING to the investigations of the Mines Superintendence Office the amount of gold dust collected in Esashi, Hokkaido, during last year was 120 *kwan* approximately. It appears, however, that the amount purchased by the Mint alone did not fall short of 600 *kwan*, and the actual output, therefore, says the *Shogyo*, must have been larger than even the latter figure.

THE loss of the *Winchester*, with a cargo of 800,000 *yen* worth of raw cotton for Japan, seems to be regarded as rather a fortunate event from the point of view of Japanese spinners, who can not find a profit in yarns manufactured from cotton at present prices. The principal importers of the *Winchester* cotton were the Mitsui firm and the Nihon Menka Kaisha.

DURING the first three months of the current year 780 Japanese subjects landed in San Francisco, against 371 for the corresponding period of 1899, and 278 for 1898. In one month—March—there were 569 arrivals; namely, 195 by the *Gaelic* on the 14th, 205 by the *Hongkong* on the 21st, and 129 by the *China* on the 31st. Among the *Hongkong Maru's* passengers 8 were sent back by the local officials, and among the *China's*, 3. There is a good deal of journalistic writing on the subject, and it is feared that an anti-Japanese demonstration may be organized.

A TRAGIC affair is reported in a special telegram to the *Manila Times* to have occurred at Victoria, B.C. A hot argument arose between Lieutenant Burns, of the Canadian Artillery, and Lieutenant Scott, of the British Navy, as to the authority of the latter in the dock. The Canadian officer disputed the authority of the British naval officer. High words passed and the argument carried the Canadian officer into such a state of excitement and frenzy that he suddenly drew his revolver and fired on Lieutenant Scott, with fatal results.

SOME few months ago, Nakagawa Kanewo, aged 41, murdered a saké-seller and three other persons in Hanazaki-cho, Yokohama, but was acquitted by the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, on the ground of insanity. On Tuesday the man committed suicide, by *seppuku*, in the grounds of the house rented by Mr. Geo. Hood at Kurakigori, Nakamura. The suicide was found by a passing foreigner lying in a pool of blood, not quite dead. Before the police arrived he had expired. The brother of the deceased, it appears, had being making arrangements for the lunatic's detention in the Tokyo Asylum—but he escaped from his custody before the removal could be effected.

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OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Saturday, April 28.

Some three years ago an agitation was commenced by party politicians in favour of adding a clause to the Official Appointment Regulations. As they then stood, the Regulations virtually closed the door to the party politician, for they prescribed that in order to be eligible for office a man must pass an examination which demanded special study and preparation. It was therefore urged that some offices ought to be excepted from the general rule, so as to be available for occupation by party politicians, who considered that they possessed exceptional qualifications for certain posts, and that their exclusion under the operation of a hard-and-fast law had the effect of depriving the country of valuable services. This question assumed quite conspicuous dimensions for a time, but in the face of quiet though steadfast opposition on the part of the Government, the matter drifted out of the field of public observation. Now, however, the result of the agitation has made itself apparent. A special clause has been added to the Official Appointment Regulations, in the sense of removing certain officials beyond their purview. The gist of the clause is that a nominally new post is created, namely, that of *Kwambo-cho*, of which the suitable translation seems to be "chancellor," and the duties are apparently identical with those hitherto discharged by Departmental Councillors (*Sanyo-kwan*). In fact, since the office of *Sanyo-kwan* is abolished simultaneously with the creation of the *Kwambo-cho*, there can be no doubt that the latter merely replaces the former. The *Kwambo-cho* is to assist the Minister of the Department and is to be independent of the Official Appointment Regulations, just as the *Sanyo-kwan* has hitherto been. There will be one in each Department, a *chokunin* official, and he will rank next after the Vice-Minister and above the Heads of Bureaux. It is also provided that the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet shall be appointed without reference to the Regulations. So far as he is concerned, the new clause makes an innovation, but the creation of the office of *Kwambo-cho* is merely a perpetuation of the system of Chokunin Councillors. Possibly the *Kwambo-cho* may prove a more useful official than the Councillor was. It is to be hoped that he will, for the Councillor was unquestionably a mere figure-head, and there were virtually no relations between him and the permanent officials of the Department to which he was attached. For our own part, we regard this new clause as a measure of exceedingly doubtful utility. We fail to see what the *Kwambo-cho* can do that was not alrealy done by the private secretary. Possibly the idea is that he should be a kind of parliamentary under-secretary. If so, he may, of course, discharge useful functions, but the definition of his duties is so vague that we can not speak with any certainty.

Another change made is the creation of the office of *Somu-kyoku*, or bureau of general business. This is to take the place of the post of Vice-Minister of a Department, so that it can not be called an addition to the official organization.

Further, a Bureau of Temples and Shrines (*Jinja-kyoku*) has been established in the Department of Home Affairs, and a Bureau of Civil and Criminal Law (*Minkei-kyoku*) in the Department of Justice. The Bureau of Prisons (*Kangokn-kyoku*), also, is transferred from the Home Department to the Department of Justice.

Monday, April 30.

It appears that the newly created office of *Kwambô-chô* is a reproduction of the European *Chef de Cabinet*. The terms correspond exactly; indeed the former is an exact translation of the latter.

One result of this new creation is that the Vice-Ministers of Departments will no longer follow the Ministers when the latter go out of office. The Vice-Minister will henceforth enjoy fixity of tenure. He will have charge of all the routine business of the Department, so that even though a change of Cabinet during some exceptional crisis should leave a Department for some time without a chief, there will be no interruption of its functions. It has happened more than once during recent years that, a Minister going out of office and being followed by the Vice-Minister, the Department has found itself without a recognised head. That inconvenience, at all events, will be obviated in future, and so will the very much greater inconvenience entailed by the disadvantages under which a newly appointed Vice-Minister labours in being almost entirely unacquainted with the affairs of the Department to which he is appointed.

The *Chef de Cabinet* will enter and leave office simultaneously with the Minister. He will, in fact, be the latter's nominee and lieutenant; not necessarily a party politician, but certainly some one who has an intimate knowledge of the Minister's policy, and whom the Minister has learned to trust.

This re-distribution of functions must more or less exclude the Vice-Minister from the counsels of the Minister. The *Chef de Cabinet* will be the repository of all the latter's confidence, and will represent him in the Diet. The Vice-Minister, as his new title suggests, will have charge of the general business of the Department. Apparently that title, *Somu-kyokucho*, finds its nearest equivalent in *Chancelier*.

We were mistaken in saying that the new bureau organized in the Home Department, the *Jinja-kyoku*, is to be a bureau of temples and shrines: it will have to do with shrines only; in other words, its functions will be limited to *Shinto* affairs. The affairs of other forms of religion, including Buddhism, will be under the *Shukyo-kyoku*, or Bureau of Religions. We may add that Mr. Shiba Junrokuro has been appointed to be chief of the *Jinja-kyoku*, aud Mr. Rika Yuji (hitherto Governor of Tokushima Prefecture) to be chief of the *Shukyo-kyoku*. Formerly both *Shinto* and Buddhism have been under the jurisdiction of the *Shajï-kyoku* (Bureau of Shrines and Temples) in the Home Department. But the *Shajï-kyoku* in now abolished as an entity, being broken up into two bureaux, namely, the *Jinja-kyoku* and the *Shûkyo-kyoku*. It will thus be seen that the main result of this change is to separate *Shintô* and Buddhism. The public will doubtless conclude that since the affairs of *Shintô* are to be under a special bureau, while those of Buddhism, in common with Christianity and all other forms of faith recognised by law, will be grouped together for purposes of official supervision, *Shintô* thereby receives a kind of administrative *imprimatur*. We are not in a position to say whether any such intention underlies the arrangement, but we apprehend that it will scarcely be agreeable to the Buddhists.

On the whole the vernacular press approves of the new organization. Some papers are careful to point out that the post of *Chef de Cabinet* will not necessarily become a prerquisite of party politicians. Departmental Ministers will appoint men who enjoy their confidence, men from whose aid they foresee valuable results. It very often happens that a statesman has by his side some one who know his views exactly, has helped him to form them, and has become indispensable for many reasons. Evidently the statesman's usefulness as a portfolio-holder will be augmented by having such men at his side in recognised official positions, and by being able to employ them as his accredited representatives in the Diet or before the public.

We need scarcely say that some voices are raised to demonstrate that these changes will not prove acceptable to the Liberals. It is alleged that the latter's original list of officers which, they considered, ought to be excluded from the operation of the Official-Appointment Regulations, included the post of Prefectural Governor, but that they eventually yielded that point, in view of the Cabinet's willingness to ear-mark the remaining posts on the list, namely, those of Vice-Minister, Departmental Councillor, Chief of Prefectural Bureau, Chief of Police, Chief of the Legislative Bureau, Chief Secretary of the Cabinet, and some others. The new scheme of organization, however, excepts the *Chef de Cabinet* and the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet only, and it is asserted that there is much dissatisfaction among the Liberals. These rumours must be received, we imagine, with all reserve.

A CURIOUS CASE OF PETTY LARCENY.

Mr. Sato, Inspector of Police in Hakodate, has been arrested on a charge of petty larceny, or rather a charge of inciting to larceny. It is a strange story. Some time ago, the *Hakodate Nichi Nichi Shimbun* commenced a violent crusade against Baron Sonoda, Chief of the Hokkaido Administration, and also against the Inspector of Police. The latter determined to find out the writer of these diatribes, and with that object he employed two reporters of the newspaper, Messrs. Takashima and Inouye, promising that, if they abstracted the manuscript so as to assist identification, they should receive posts in the police, as well as small monetary rewards. They acceded to the proposal, made away with the manuscript, received 5 or 10 *yen* each, and were then sent to Sapporo, where they were to undertake a similar operation with regard to the *Hokumen Shimpo*, which had been engaged in a similar crusade. But, the manuscript having been missed, suspicion fell on the reporters; they were apprehended when about to leave Hakodate, and a full confession was obtained from them, after which a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Mr. Sato himself. Such is the story, but we can not say anything about its truth. The Hokkaido newspapers have of late shown themselves particularly virulent. One case recently came under our own notice where they organized an assault upon a man of unimpeachable probity, probably one of the most distinguished civil engineers Japan possesses, charging him with corruption of which he could not possibly have been guilty. We can well understand Mr. Sato's desire to trace the authorship of the brutal slanders circulated by these unprincipled sheets. The only pity is that he resorted to such methods. It will probably occur to our readers that not much can be expected of journals employing reporters of such a class that the position of chief constable in the Hokkaido police seems to them a prize to be struggled for.

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HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES.

Wednesday, May 2.

Telegrams received in Tokyo announce that the United States Senate have passed the bill for reorganizing the system of Government in Hawaii, and that it will probably receive the President's approval and be promulgated in a few days, after which it will become operative within six weeks. Its most direct effect will be to invalidate all contracts for the supply of foreign labour, concluded subsequently to the 12th of August, 1898. Further, the laws of the United States will become applicable to Hawaii in the matters of labour immigration, cabotage and tariff. Japanese newspapers, in reporting this news, predict the immediate collapse of all emigration companies in Japan. In other respects, too, the situation created will be serious for this country. The operation of the United States tariff will render it difficult and costly for the Japanese now in Hawaii to obtain supplies from Japan, as they have hitherto been in the habit of doing, and the coasting-trade restrictions will make it impossible for a Japanese vessel to call at Hawaii *en route* for America. The last difficulty will be immediately felt by the steamers of the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha*, now working in combination with the P.M. S.S. Company and the O. & O. S.S. Company. No adjustment appears to be possible. To transfer the Japanese steamers to the American flag is impossible, for they would thus forfeit their title to a Government subsidy. Apart from the more-than-questionable wisdom of extending to America's new and distant possessions hard-and-fast systems which find their only justification in the special conditions of her home territories, there is no excuse that we can perceive for this violation of the engagement given to Japan at the time of the Hawaiian annexation, that her interests, as secured under existing arrangements with the Hawaiian Republic, should not be in any way impaired by the annexation. They will be impaired, most seriously impaired, ignored altogether indeed, under the proposed system. How such a course can be reconciled with the United States' pledge, we do not see, but it is impossible to suppose that the Washington Government will be guilty of any breach of faith, and we therefore look with confidence for some adjustment of the difficulty.

Thursday, May 3.

It is anticipated that the first trouble arising out of America's decision to incorporate Hawaii completely will be in connection with the security money held by the emigration companies in Japan. The arrangement hitherto has been that each emigrant should put up a sum of $35 by monthly installments. This money is held by the emigration companies in order to secure employers against breaches of contract on the part of labourers. Under ordinary circumstances it would be held until the termination of the labourer's period of contract, when it would revert to him, supposing that no claims existed against it. But in consequence of the American Government's recent decision as to the status of Hawaii, the unexpired contracts of all Japanese labourers in the islands will become void. What, then, will be done with the guarantee fund, which now amounts to about six hundred thousand dollars? Tokyo journals speak of its accruing to the emigration companies, and anticipate objections on the part of employers in Hawaii. But it seems to us that the money belongs to the labourers. We cannot perceive any process of reasoning by which the emigration companies would be entitled to appropriate it unless there is some special compact in that sense.

The number of Japanese that have emigrated to Hawaii since the annexation of the islands by the United States is said to be thirty thousand. These will all fall within the purview of the new system, since it becomes applicable from the date of annexation, having thus retrospective effect. Twenty thousand among the thirty thousand are contract labourers. The agreements between these men and their employers will now cease to have binding force. It is presumed, however, that some new arrangement will be made for securing their services, since the loss of them would greatly inconvenience their employers.

Possibly the suspension of emigration to Hawaii will not be an altogether unmixed evil to Japan. Complaints come from country districts that the exodus of able-bodied men to the United States and Hawaii is inconveniently thinning the ranks of the agricultural classes, and that, even if political considerations did not suggest the advisability of imposing some restriction, the interests of the country itself would point in that direction.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

It is stated that the purpose of M. Pablov's visit to Europe is to get married, but whether he will return or not seems uncertain. He has succeeded in creating a great deal of commotion in the Far East, and we can not think that the benefits he has secured for his country are commensurate. The land obtained by him at Masampho might have been secured without any friction whatever, as Russia had a right to claim such a concession under the most-favoured-nation clause. If his original purpose did not point to anything more than that, it was a work of injudicious supererrogation to ask for something entirely different; and if his purpose was really what it seemed to be, namely, the acquisition of a special concession quite outside the range of the treaties, he has merely impaired his country's prestige by not preparing means more adequate to his end. Such, at any rate, must be the verdict of the general public. It may be mentioned in connexion with this that the Masampho concession is said to measure 83 acres of level land, 300 acres of hill-land, and 25 acres of foreshore, making 208 acres in all. These figures are approximate.

The title deeds of the land acquired by Russia at Masampho have been duly handed over, it is said. The land will be applied to the uses of the Volunteer Fleet. In other words, it will be a coaling station, much after the fashion of Inasa at Nagasaki.

With regard to the much-rumoured secret treaty between Russia and Korea concerning the non-alienation of Koje Island, it remains still secret. Newspaper correspondents telegraphing from Söul aver that there is no prospect of its contents becoming known unless the Japanese Government presses the Korean for an explanation, and that the Japanese Government is not likely to do so unless the Diet becomes inconveniently inquisitive. The treaty begins to assume a mythical character, we think.

The Korean Government's attempt to secure a loan of silver for the purpose of coinage is said to have been unsuccessful, the conditions being prohibitive, but it is anticipated that no difficulty will ultimately be experienced in getting the money.

Rumour says that the Korean Government has agreed to take twenty thousand *yen* worth of stock in the Söul-Fusan Railway.

ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

Truly one would imagine that England was a great robber if one estimated her character from the writings of some Continental critics. Dr. Hartmann published in the *Gegenwart* an article which the *North German Gazette*—which is said to be the organ of the German Foreign Office—reproduced with apparent approval. The article had for caption "The Earth in the Twentieth Century," and for principal object the creation of a strong public opinion in favour of the Navy Bill. The learned doctor's view is that in the 17th century wars were raged for religion; in the 18th for policy, and in the 19th for national causes, but that in the 20th they will be waged for colonies and commerce. All the smaller States with oversea possessions will be plundered by the Great Powers, and unless Germany hastens to become strong at sea, she will forfeit her colonial possessions "as soon as it becomes worth while for England or America to take them." Has Germany any colonies that England or America can be supposed to covet, and when, during the past century, has England shown any tendency to despoil her European neighbours of their property? On the contrary, it will seem to unsophisticated folks that Germany, as represented by Dr. Hartman, wants to annex Holland's colonial territories as quickly as possible. Besides, there has been published in Germany a *Pan-Germanic Atlas* in which the political geography of the future is shown, and it there appears that the whole of Holland and also a portion of Belgium, including Antwerp and Brussels, are coloured in the same tint as the existing German empire and are supposed to enter the sphere of Pan-Germanic aspirations.

Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, writing in the *National Review*, says that Germany's hostility to England had its origin in the days of Frederick the Great, when, after the resignation of Pitt in 1761, England abandoned Frederick during the Seven Years' War, and when Lord Bute was guilty even of the treachery of intriguing with the enemies of Frederick, then England's close ally. Thenceforth Prussia never trusted England. Frederick advised caution and circumspection in dealing with her; his brother, Prince Henry, became the representative of an anti-English policy; Prince Hatzfeld and Marshal Kalckreuth preserved the tradition; von Stein gave expression to it during the Vienna Conference, and it was passed on to Gneisenau, Grolman, Clausewitz, Mommmsen, Haüsser, Bernhardi, Bismarck, Moltke and Goeben. On the eve of the war between France and Germany, Lord Lyons, the British ambassador in Paris, assured the French that they might always count on the good-will of England whether they went to war or not, and during the last days of the war it was discovered that French levies were armed with weapons from English Arsenals—weapons which had not, indeed, been sold to the French Government direct, bnt which ought not to have been sold even to private French purchasers. "I know as a matter of fact," says Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, "that Moltke never could be persuaded to the day of his death that the Administration of Mr. Gladstone was not culpably negligent in the matter, and wilfully assisted French resistance to the German armies. Bismarck thought so too, and from that he became firmer, if possible, than before in his Anti-English policy." Sir Rowlanp insists that Bismarck's policy has been in the main adopted by those in charge of Germany's affairs, and that persons in the highest

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authority in Germany are largely responsible for the hostility now shown towards England by the press. As for the immediate object in view, he says that it is to be sought, in part at any rate, in Germany's relations with Holland. We quote his words :—

Those who have followed with care German political literature, or who happen to have been at all intimate with German politicians, can hardly have failed to observe that the idea of obtaining a firm footing on the shores of the North Sea has been present to the minds of political thinkers in Germany for generations. The settlement at the Congress of Vienna, with respect to the north-east frontier of Holland, was a bitter disappointment to the Prussian National Party of that day. Men like Gneisenau and Grolman imagined that the German cause had been seriously injured. Blucher was thinking of Holland when, after Waterloo, he prepared the famous toast, *Mögen die Federn der Diplomaten nicht verderben was das Schwert der Völker mit so grossen Anstrengungen errungen.* There is, of course, at present no desire to make Holland a State of the Germanic Confederation. But the idea of obtaining concessions as regards customs to be followed as time goes on by a regular Customs Union, and then ultimately by a Naval Convention which would practically destroy the independence of Holland, is certainly widely entertained in influential circles in Germany. This is one reason why sympathy with the Boers and hostility to the English is encouraged by persons in high places. When Holland is brought within the sphere of German influence it is hoped that Germany may obtain a considerable position in the Malay Archipelago, and perhaps also at the Cape, should England be so fatuous as not to secure now real and undisputed supremacy in South Africa. Another obvious reason why the German authorities encourage hostility to England is the desire to obtain a more powerful Navy. The Kaiser well understands the truth of the old French proverb, *Qui a mer a terre.* He aspires to do for the Navy what his grandfather did for the Army. But the true reason why an increase of the Navy is supported by Ministers and politicians is to prepare for a struggle with England. This has been almost openly avowed by Admiral Tierpitz, who presented the Imperial proposals to the Reichstag. The Ministerial statement shows how steadily the conviction is growing that England is the country which Germany should endeavour to overthrow. And the more ignorant Germans are becoming persuaded that our position in the world is undeserved, artificial, and cannot be maintained if seriously threatened. This view has been fostered for many years past by the most brilliant writers in essays and articles, and by leading journals and periodicals which, in their turn, shape the policy of the cheap newspaper, which is the gospel of the village inn.

In reproducing this explanation, we do not wish to be understood as endorsing it, but the writer's position and experience entitle his utterances to consideration.

SPIRITS OR TELEPATHY.

The old old question whether "spirits from the vasty deep" hover around us and are prepared to act as media for communicating human thoughts, has been seriously taken up by Mr. J. H. Hyslop, Professor of Logic and Ethics in Columbia University. This gentleman recently conducted a number of experiments which form the basis of the theories he now advances. A Mrs. Piper was the medium employed, and the methods were of the stereotyped nature. Having been thrown into a condition declared by medical experts to be wholly anæsthetic and unconscious, this lady was asked to give various information about persons upon whom her questioners fixed their thoughts. She did so, and moreover she furnished details which, in many cases, were wholly unknown to her questioner. For example, Professor Hyslop's father, who, we need scarcely say, had long been in his grave, inquired through the medium whether his trouble with his left eye was remembered by his son; but the Professor had never heard of any such trouble, though he subsequently ascertained that it had existed during the last year of his father's life. Again, the medium made allusions to a controversy carried on between the Professor's late father and a man named Cooper. This, too, was quite unknown to the Professor, and had occurred when he was only four years old. Many other similarly mysterious communications were made from beyond the grave, but we have said enough to indicate their nature. Professor Hyslop then sat down, and, in his capacity of an expert in logic, proceeded to analyse the value and import of this testimony. First, he considered its triviality. A constant complaint against these revelations is that they relate to utterly petty and unimportant matters, and that no really valuable information is ever obtained. The Professor's view of that difficulty is that trivialities are the most convincing parts of circumstantial evidence; and that intelligent men, when left to their own devices, spontaneously choose trivial incidents to establish their identity, since incidents of importance are likely to be duplicated in general experience. He then examines what is involved in the hypothesis that communications are obtained by telepathic connexion between the mind of the medium, the mind of the questioner, and the mind of the person giving the information sought. This chain of telepathy is obviously composed of the following links; first, discovery of the thoughts passing through the mind of the questioner; secondly, discovery of the particular individual in the wide world who can give information concerning the doings, sayings, and experiences of the dead person on whom the questioner's thoughts are fixed; and thirdly, the discovery and interpretation of the things stored up in the memory of that individual. Professor Hyslop cannot induce himself to conceive these things. He calls them a supposition of tremendous magnitude, and declares that there is no parallel in anything short of infinity. Thus his conclusion is that, from the point of view of logic, it is easier to believe in the agency of spirits than in any conceivable process of telepathy. Indeed, he does not hesitate to assert that any one who can find in telepathy a sufficient explanation of these phenomena should experience no difficulty in accepting the theory of spirits.

THE FISH PEST.

The malady that has attacked fishes in the Tokyo moats and ponds is likely to prove a great calamity to the rats of the city. It has been proved by experiments conducted in Europe that the bacillus responsible for the sickness of fish under such circumstances does not assail human beings or any creature except rats. On the other hand, rats are now known to be great generators of the Pest, and medical experts are convinced that the extermination of rats would be a most important step towards the stamping out of the Pest. This problem, therefore, presents itself to be solved, namely, to find some poison which, while destroying rats, will not hurt any animal that chances to eat it and will not prove deleterious to human beings after it has been administered to rats. The bacillus of the fish plague seem to be the very agent required. It does not attack human beings or any member of the non-human species except rats. Nothing is needed then except to mix it with some edible and feed it to rats. That has been accomplished successfully in Europe, and Japanese experts recently endeavoured to adopt a similar precaution, but they found that the supply of fish virus obtained from Europe lost its efficiency owing to the heat encountered in passing through the Indian Ocean. The fishers of the Tokyo moats and lakes have now furnished the necessary material, and the rats are on the eve of a fatal banquet.

THE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

The 10th May has been fixed, it is said, for the Imperial Wedding. Apparently the celebration at the Palace is to take the form of an afternoon party, to which all holders of Third-Class and higher decorations will be invited.

With reference to this matter, we may observe that the foreign residents of Tokyo have doubtless decided to associate themselves with the Japanese for the purpose of erecting a Commemoration Museum. Yokohama intends to present an address, which, from some points of view, seems a desirable measure. But the impression in Tokyo appears to be that the most graceful and suitable method of procedure is to avoid any differentiation from the Japanese themselves. We have reason to know that such identity of action will be acceptable to the Japanese, and that it is, in fact, the plan advocated by them.

It is said that the number of invitations issued in connexion with the celebration at the Palace on the 10th instant will be about two thousand, including ladies.

The subscriptions for the Commemoration Museum have reached a total of 216,760 *yen*. The Tokyo newspapers have all subscribed a hundred *yen* each, doubtless by arrangement among themselves.

The Imperial-Wedding pink stamps have been completed and issued to the various post-offices. They are all three *sen* stamps and they number 3½ millions. Though now on sale, they will not carry letters until on and after the 10th instant. If, prior to that date, any letters bearing these stamps be posted, the officials will lay them aside for despatch on the 10th.

It is stated that at 6 a.m. on the 10th instant, the day fixed for the Imperial Wedding the officials of the Board of Ceremonies will proceed to the Palace to make preparations. At half-past seven, the Prince Imperial and Lady Saka will leave the Aoyama Palace and the Kujo Monsion, respectively, and drive to the Emperor's Palace, where they will together repair to the *Kashiko-dokoro* (*Shinto* chapel) and perform the religious rights prescribed on such occasion the Prince himself reading the words addressed to the spirits of his ancestors to invoke the guardianship and blessing. This *hakcku-shiki*, or ceremony of announcement, being concluded, the sacred *sake* will be drunk, which brings the nuptial rites to a close. The Prince and Princess will then drive together in a four-horse to Aoyama Palace, where they will receive the congratulations of there privileged to present themselves. Leaving the Aoyama Palace at 3.20 p.m. they will proceed to Phœnix Hall of the Imperial Palace, where audience will be given to distinguished personages, Japanese and foreign. Finally, at 6 p.m., the general body of person invited to the celebration will attend in the Hall of but what the nature of the entertainment will be there is as yet no information.

THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY.

Coming on the heels of the announcement that the Carnegie Factory was clearing a profit of forty millions dollars annually, the colossal dividend of twenty millions declared by the Standard Oil Company has startled the public.

It appears that although there are about three thousand holders of Standard Oil stocks, eighty per cent. of the stocks are own-

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ed by less than a dozen persons, and to these the dividend brought over sixteen million dollars, or more than a million each on the average. Many American journals have been shocked by these figures, and very irrationally shocked, we venture to think. Were the three thousand stock-holders divided into ten companies, each declaring dividends of twenty per cent., newspaper editors would have nothing to say except that transactions in oil were evidently profitable. But the ten returns added together make a total which disturbs the imagination, and creates a thoughtless impression that the public is being unduly exploited. To us the remarks of the *Evening Post* seem altogether sensible :—

"So far as the Standard Oil Company is concerned, however, the public may take to itself the solace that the people have shared somewhat in the profits, for the company is serving to the consumer cheaper and better oil than he could get before. The methods of developing the oil-fields have cheapened the product as well as added to the wealth of the men interested in the corporation. Huge capital has enabled them to do the work on a larger scale and consequently at a less expense for each gallon produced, and they have both lowered the price and improved the quality. However, that fact is likely to be forgotten in contemplating the vast wealth thus distributed, although it surely is worthy of some consideration. The figures hold the eye and dwarf all else by comparison."

Meanwhile an incident has occurred very disquieting for the Company. The Texas Courts have forbidden one of the firms connected with the Company to transact business in that State, and the Supreme Court has confirmed the veto. This decision of the Supreme Court does not touch the question of the legality or illegality of trusts. It merely affirms the right of a State to enact laws which must be respected by every one doing business there. The company requires that any firm connected with it shall buy exclusively from it and from no other source, and shall not sell to any person handling competing oils or at any price except that fixed by the Company. Such contracts are forbidden by the laws of Texas State, and it follows that business can not be transacted there on the Company's lines. Evidently any other State may similarly legislate against contracts in restraint of trade, and in that way the trusts may be ruled out of existence. It would be a misfortune, we think, from the consumer's point of view if they were rendered impossible. The only really intelligible argument against them is that they wield a power so great as to be dangerous; but, as yet, they have not abused it.

THE BARLEY CROP.

The barley crop this year is estimated by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce at 19,317,978 *koku*, against an average crop of 18,748,421 *koku*. The figures for the ten years ending with 1900 are thus given:—

1891	...	...	...	18,088,373 koku.
1892	...	...	...	15,941,276 ,,
1893	...	...	...	16,625,229 ,,
1894	...	...	...	19,809,965 ,,
1895	...	...	...	19,526,123 ,,
1896	...	...	...	17,329,317 ,,
1897	...	...	...	18,005,490 ,,
1898	...	...	...	20,462,053 ,,
1899	...	...	...	19,337,868 ,,
1900	...	...	...	19,317,978 ,,

The average for seven years, omitting the worst year and the best among the seven, is 18,748,421 *koku*. Thus the anticipated yield this year is 3 per cent. better than the average, though slightly below last season's crop. The cold snap in April is believed to have impaired a yield which would otherwise have been quite exceptional.

THE ECONOMICAL SITUATION.

Tuesday, May 1.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Economic Society on the 25th April, Mr. Sakatani, of the Finance Department, deprecated the idea that any cause exists for taking a gloomy view of the economical outlook. Having pointed out that the Government's *post-bellum* decennial programme is rapidly approaching completion, and that the sum of 30 million *yen*, which is required this year in connexion with the prosecution of the various works, can be obtained without recourse to foreign markets, in the manner already explained in these columns, he invited his hearers' attention to the following figures :—

	1893.	Figures for present time.
Goods carried by railway	four million tons.	eleven million tons.
Mercantile Marine	200,000 tons.	700,000 tons.
Capital of commercial, industrial, &c., Companies	¥230,000,000	900,000,000
Clearing House Transactions	¥200,000,000	1,700,000,000
Loans made by Bank of Japan	¥50,00,0000	150,000,000
Mail matter	320 millions.	610 millions.
Telegraphic messages	13 millions.	31 millions.
Foreign trade	¥170,000,000	430,000,000

These figures must be supplemented by other facts; namely, that the fleet and army have been nearly doubled; that the tobacco monopoly has proved a success, and is producing a net revenue of 8 million yen, with a capitalized value of 200 millions; and that the State undertakings upon which considerable sums have been spent will soon begin to be productive. Moreover, there was good ground to hope that a great part, if not the whole, of the sugar required for home consumption could be grown in Formosa and Satsuma, and that a sufficient supply of kerosene oil might be found in Echigo and elsewhere. Baron Tajiri, Vice-Minister of Finance, was devoting attention to the development of these resources, and hoped that in time they would materially affect the volume of foreign imports. Meanwhile, the only resource available to check the flow of specie was to raise the Bank of Japan's rate of interest. Such a measure could not have very much efficacy under the circumstances existing in Japan, but there was nothing else to be done. At the same time, Baron Tajiri reminded the meeting that there was nothing in the state of the specie reserve to cause uneasiness. It was only 8 million *yen* less than it had been at the corresponding period of last year.

Thursday, May 3.

Mr. Inouye Kakugoro has joined in the attack on the Government. Little has been heard of this redoubtable orator for some time, but he has apparently now found a topic worthy of his eloquence. Speaking at a recent meeting of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, he charged the Government with having no definite policy of any kind towards finance. His line of argument is this :—During the past thirty years, various industrial and commercial enterprises have been started in Japan, and their total paid-up capital now amounts to some 370 million *yen*, exclusive of the banks. But during the past four years, 350 millions have been spent upon unproductive purposes, mainly the expansion of armaments. The Government, when they invited the country to give its consent to this great programme of unproductive outlays, declared most emphatically that their purpose was to simultaneously encourage the development of productive industries. Have they adhered to that declaration? Can it be said that they are adhering to it now when, in their alarm because imports temporarily exceed exports, they have raised the rate of interest at the Bank of Japan, and so effectually deprived the industrial and commercial classes of accommodation that everything is languishing?

Such is Mr. Inouye's indictment. It will occur to thoughtful persons that a difference of one or two per cent. in the price of money ought not to be potential in checking enterprise in a country where the rate of dividends habitually declared ranges from 10 to 30 per cent. With one part of Mr. Inouye's thesis we are nevertheless inclined to agree thoroughly; namely, his analysis of the cause of the nation's buying mood. The Government, during the past four years, has been pouring out money among the labouring and industrial classes. We shall not be over-estimating when we say that 150 million *yen* have thus been added to the purchasing power of the nation by altogether exceptional processes. It is that money which has raised the price of commodities and is now leading the people to spend freely. A paltry addition of five or ten millions to the volume of the currency, or an insignificant increase of the Bank of Japan's note-issuing power, is not to be mentioned in the same breath with such a factor of expansion.

DEATH OF SIR NICHOLAS HANNEN.

It is with the most sincere regret that we learn of the death of Chief Justice Sir Nicholas Hannen, which sad event took place at Shanghai on the 26th April. Sir Nicholas had been ailing for some time, and the hopelessness of his condition was recognised some days before the end by those in immediate attendance on him, but to the general public the intelligence will come with shocking suddenness. Our readers, of whom the great majority had the happiness to count Sir Nicholas Hannen a friend, and all regarded him with respect and admiration, will find any tribute that we can pay to his memory inadequate to express their estimate of his worth. In his private life he satisfied the truest ideal of an English gentleman, and his public career fully merited the high position to which he rose and the distinctions conferred on him by his sovereign.

Born August 21, 1842, Sir Nicholas was the youngest son of the late Mr. James Hannen, J.P., of Kingswood Lodge, Dulwich. He was educated at St. Servais College, Liège, Belgium, at the City of London School, and at University College, London. He took his B.A. (London) in 1864, with honours in Logic and Moral Philosophy; was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in June, 1866, and was appointed acting Deputy Judge at Yokohama on June 10th, 1871. He proceeded to the scene of his duties in the following month, and continued in charge till May 7, 1874. In 1873 he acted as British arbitrator to adjudicate upon claims made by certain British subjects against the Japanese Government, and so ably did he discharge this duty that he was specially thanked by Her Majesty's Government. The appointment of Crown Advocate at Shanghai was conferred on him on October 30, 1878, and he became Judge of H.B.M.'s Court for Japan on December 21, 1881. During his tenure of this position he made himself both highly respected for his eminent legal abilities and impartial justice, and greatly beloved by his amiable personal qualities. He was one of the British delegates to the conference at Tokyo for the Revision of the Treaties, from December, 1886, to July, 1887. On April

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1, 1891, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China and Japan (he had before been for some time Acting Chief Justice at Shanghai) and also Consul-General at Shanghai. These posts he held up to the time of his death. He was knighted by the Queen on July 18, 1895, and received the Jubilee Medal in 1897. He was a member of Convocation of London University. Sir Nicholas married, in 1869, Jessie Maria Harriette, eldest daughter of the late Mr. James Woodhouse, of Henley-on-Thames.

Had he lived three weeks longer, he would have been on his way home *via* Yokohama, when it was arranged he and Judge Wilkinson should meet about 20th instant, prior to the latter's taking up the position of Acting Chief Justice at Shanghai.

GERMAN AFFAIRS.

Naturally the German press resents the expressions of journalistic indignation evoked in England by the publication of the language employed by the German Representative in London when addressing Her Majesty's Ministry on the subject of the mail steamers' seizure. The English press is accused of "behaving in an unmannerly way," which is certainly a quaint charge coming from journals that have treated England as the German journals have treated her throughout the war. It is conveniently forgotten that Lord Salisbury himself, in replying to the German Representative's despatch, was compelled to express surprise at receiving a communication "worded in so abrupt a manner and couched in language which impated to Her Majesty's Naval Commanders that they had shown a disrespect to international law." The Berlin correspondent of *The Times* justly says:—"The fact that anti-English feeling in Germany is so strong as to give the undoubted neutrality of the German Government a very unfriendly aspect in dealing with so ordinary an episode of international intercourse in time of war as the detention of neutral ships, ought to be carefully noted and remembered in England."

The excesses committed in Dresden against the British residents there have surprised and grieved Englishmen not a little, not merely because Dresden has always been such a favourite resort of tourists, but also because King Albert commands the respect and esteem of all Her Majesty's subjects. Unfortunately the Dresden press has been peculiarly bitter and violent towards England of late, its inspiration being derived, it is supposed, from the Anti-Semitic element of Saxony's floating population.

It was considered probable in the middle of March that the discussion of the Meat Inspection Bill in the German Reichstag would not take place before Easter. We have already explained that an amendment to this measure has been proposed, the effect of which would be to exclude all imports of American meat. Meanwhile another bone of contention has been found in the Lex Heinze, a bill introduced by the Government for the purpose of regulating the exposure and sale of objectionable books and pictures and placing public entertainments under stricter supervision. The bill is said to have provoked much indignation in Germany, where it is regarded as imposing restrictions on the freedom of art and literature. The Socialists, by a somewhat curious exercise of parliamentary tactics, succeeded in deferring the discussion of the measure, and it will now come up almost simultaneously with the Navy Bill and the final debate on the Meat Inspection Bill, so that a political situation of some difficulty is apprehended.

"BLUEBEARD."

"Bluebeard" was performed for the fourth and last time in the Yokohama Public Hall on the 28th instant to a crowded and most enthusiastic house. As might have been expected, the actors and actresses showed to even greater advantage than on any of the previous occasions, and the whole piece went with a swing and *verve* that delighted the audience. Mr. Brady (*Bakemono*) showed himself incomparably the finest comic actor that has ever appeared on the stage in China or Japan. His power of facial expression, his perfect harmony of gesture and sentiment, the singular versatility that enables him to pass, without the slightest apparent effort, from emotional intenseness to the very confines of comical levity, indicate talent such as we have never before seen in an amateur and very rarely in a professional. The scene between him and *Cyclona* (Miss Lloyd Thomas) in the third act was a piece of inimitable burlesque; not mere buffoonery such as constitutes the ordinary farce, but a kaleidoscope of swift transitions from profoundly tragic pathos and fierce passion to the most mirth-provoking drollery and ridicule. Such a success needed high excellence on both sides, that of Mr. Brady and that of Miss Lloyd Thomas also. A superb presence, singing deliciously, and moving with the utmost grace, Miss Thomas added to these attractions a really large measure of histrionic skill, and the law of contrasts, which is one of the too-often neglected principles of true art, was strikingly illustrated in the pictures presented by *Cyclona* and *Bakemono*—on the one hand an imperial mien, a dreamily magnificent costume, and queenly reserve; on the other, sombre homeliness, the apparel of a coolie, and the insistence of a clown. A similar though less prominent contrast was presented between *Kartos* (Mr. Eric Irwine) and *Kabos* (Mr. Edward Kilby): the twin Greeks, whose identity of costume and close similarity of roles would have made a note of monotony had not the earnest, grave, solemn-voiced, and almost mechanically ingenuous *Kartos* found a complete foil in the airy, insouciant and fantastic *Kabos*, an actor, for the rest, of evidently much capacity. These things, though their art is so cleverly hidden as to escape easy detection, are of vital importance to the general effect produced by a play. They do not stand solely or even chiefly to the credit of the performers, for they belong rather to the domain of the stage-manager's triumphs. They show, and their evidence is supported by a hundred other features, what an expert study Mr. Beart must have made of the piece, and how successfully he contrived to give effect to his conceptions. He has certainly established a new standard of Yokohama capacity. But it must be confessed that he had splendid material to work with. *Fatima* (Miss Strome) and *Sister Anne* (Miss K. Page) not only were a delight to the eye, but also sang and acted admirably. In their case, too, the opposition of characters was cleverly emphasized; romance and sentimentality against most business-like directness of purpose and bluntness of method. Many points in the acting of each young lady would call for special praise in a detailed criticism. *Widow Kus-kus* ("Mrs. P. de Tomkyns") left her audience in a state of perplexity. They did not know whether to admire most the sincerity of her representation, the high quality of her acting, or the grace of her dancing. As the authoress of the burlesque she had, of course, the greatest claim to applause, but the part she took on the stage subjected her good-will to a test scarcely less notable. Then there was Mr. Somerton's singing, a sufficent attraction in itself to fill the Hall, and there were also the dances performed by a troupe of young ladies amid scenery that harmonized most happily with their graces of person, music of motion, and deliciousness of costume. We are not writing a criticism, however, and therefore, with an apology to *O'Dearo* (Mr. H. Kilby) we conclude by stating what we set out to write, namely, that it seems really a pity not to repeat "Bluebeard" in Tokyo. Nothing of the kind has ever been seen there, and that a good audience would assemble, there can not be any doubt.

In noticing Saturday's performance it should be mentioned that many more local allusions and puns were introduced than on the first occasions, and while all seemed to tickle the audience immensely, perhaps the most successful innovation, next to Mr. Brady's skit and song "The Doctor," was the following topical ditty, sung by the "inimitable, illimitable, and irresistible" one himself:—

A person who holds an official position,
Your pity may very well claim,
The praises of men are his highest ambition,
And yet he gets nothing but blame.
Now what shall I do for a coup that is striking:
To make me a favourite strong,
If I pull up the roads to prevent you from biking,
Will that make me popular long.

Chorus.

For I want to be popular, popular, popular,
Worshipped by women and men,
If with brickbats I stuff,
All the roads on the Bluff,
Oh sha'n't I be popular then!

Or p'r'aps I might win your profoundest affection,
At least it is worth while to try,
By doubling the taxes in every direction—
Though now they're most terribly high.
What say to a duty on all ladies' tiffins?
A tax on the top cricket scores?
A crushing impost on the Negishi griffins?
Or Strokes of the Interport Fours?

Chorus.

For I want to be popular, popular, popular,
Worshipped by women and men,
If each guest that is axed
By a lady is taxed,
Oh, shan't I be popular then!

I've one happy thought on the tiffin hour problem,
I'll issue a solemn ukase,
For meals you shall have 20 minutes to gobble 'em,
And after, 10 minutes for grace.
A solid two hours is quite out of the question,
I'm going to divide it by three,
And as bolting rich food may promote indigestion,
I'll give you just half salaree!

Chorus.

For I want to be popular, popular, popular,
Worshipped by women and men
'Stead of good, honest chow,
We'll have sandwiches now.
Oh, shan't I be popular then!

Now lately I've noticed my people are shirking,
Our Choral Society's shows,
Conductor and Chorus have found their hard working
Is useless, for nobody goes.
Next season I think I will try other pleasure,
And some that may suit you perchance,
We'll go in for Shakespeare, say "Measure for Measure,"
Admixed with a rollicking dance.

Chorus.

For I want to be popular, popular, popular,
Worshipped by women and men,
I'll mix up each show
With an odd waltz or so,
Oh, shan't I be popular then!

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The audience cheered this song to the echo. A new duet, with local allusions, also fell to the *Widow* and *Sister Anne*, and it won instant recognition.

The ballet dance was greatly improved by the introduction of Miss N. Strome as *premier danseuse*. She is a most graceful exponent of the art of Terpsichore, and had time permitted the audience would have liked a repetition of the dance. The band of H.M.S. *Centurion* contributed some attractive musical selections throughout the evening. At the close innumerable baskets and bouquets of flowers were handed up to the ladies; nor was Mr. Brady forgotten.

INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

The extraordinary course pursued by the Nippon Kaijo Hoken Kaisha (Japan Marine Insurance Company) has greatly disturbed its colleagues. The Japan Marine Insurance Company has its principal office in Osaka. Last year, the Directors decided to open a branch office in San Francisco. They made arrangements in that sense with a Mr. Newhall, and from the commencement of the year he began to issue policies without waiting to conclude a written agreement with the Company. Meanwhile the Directors changed, and the new Board, not understanding how far their predecessors had carried the arrangement with Mr. Newhall, were surprised and startled at receiving numerous communications from the latter, giving accounts of the policies issued by him. Without full consideration they took the exceedingly ill-advised step of repudiating his action, and he was consequently obliged to advertise in the San Francisco journals in the sense that the various policies granted must be cancelled, and that the premia would be restored to the insurers on application. The incident evoked much severe criticism in San Francisco journals. It was insisted that Japanese business-men did not know the value of a promise and were not to be trusted. Three other Japanese companies have branches in San Francisco, namely the Tokyo Kaijo Hoken Kaisha, the Teikoku Kaijo Hoken Kaisha, and the Nippon Kairiku Hoken Kaisha. These three, justly apprehending that the incident would prove fatal to their business unless some remedial course were adopted, are now said to be strongly urging the Osaka Company to recognise the engagements entered into by Mr. Newhall in its name. We should imagine that such a question ought to be taken up earnestly by the whole insurance interest in Japan, for, unless the Osaka Company corrects the gross blunder committed by it, fatal injury will be done to the reputation of Japanese insurance companies in general.

WORKING OF THE TREATIES IN JAPAN.

The *Independent* has the following:—

A year has passed since the treaties with Japan came into operation, giving the Japanese courts control over offences committed by foreigners, which had before been under consular courts. Important testimony on the effect of these treaties was given on February 22nd, in Kobe, in the report of an advisory committee, composed of foreigners, who have had their interests in charge. This report stated that under the new treaties things have worked very much more smoothly than was expected by most a year ago. Formerly an almost impassable barrier existed between officials and ordinary individuals. The advisory committee has done much to relieve this difficulty and to protect the interests of their fellow citizens. Testimony was given that the Japanese officials have shown an earnest desire that foreigners, under Japanese jurisdiction, should find life just as comfortable and free from inconvenience as they found it under consular jurisdiction, so that things have worked with general smoothness, and pleasant relations have grown up during the past year. The various entertainments which preceded and followed the organization of the new treaties did much to bring both classes together, and the readiness of the foreigners to pay respect to his Imperial Majesty created a profound impression among the Japanese generally. Meanwhile relations of social friendship between the Japanese and foreigners have considerably increased, and have been of advantage on both sides.

We fear that this can not be endorsed in its entirety. There is no concealing the fact that the land question in Yokohama has created and is creating a great deal of uneasiness and inconvenience. There can not be any reasonable doubt that the intentions of the Japanese Government have been entirely sincere in this matter, nor need there, we think, be any doubt that the tenure of land under the new arrangements as to registration will be just as secure as it was under the old. But nothing can possibly persuade the average foreigner that the introduction of the term "superficies" into the registration column has no meaning. He persists, and will for all time persist, in regarding that innovation as more or less injurious to his title, and he maintains, and will always continue to maintain, that no innovation of any kind is warranted by the treaties. It would be idle to conceal that the arrangements with regard to the land question have been unfortunate. Needless discontent has been created, as well as an uneasy impression that the sacredness of international promises is not fully respected. Nothing is more desirable than the discovery of some satisfactory exit from the present situation.

PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

The following letter, which appears in the *North-China Daily News*, will be understood when we state that it is the reply of the Foreign Office in London to an application addressed by the Rev. W. Muirhead to the British Legation in Peking on the subject of claiming for Protestant Missionaries in China the rights and privileges extended to their Roman Catholic colleagues:—

Foreign Office, February 27th, 1900.

Sir,—I referred to the Archbishop of Canterbury, for His Grace's observations, Mr. Bax-Ironside's dispatches No. 306 of the 30th, and 317 of the 31st of October, on the question of claiming for those Protestant missionaries in China, who are British subjects, privileges similar to those recently granted, by an Imperial Edict, to members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in that country.

His Grace approves the conclusion arrived at in regard to this question by the Anglican Bishops in China, as stated in the resolution enclosed in Mr. Bax-Ironside's dispatch No. 317, and considers that both as a matter of principle and of policy it is undesirable that Protestant missionaries in China should claim the privileges referred to.

Her Majesty's Government concur in the opinion expressed by the Archbishop, and you should take no further action with a view to obtaining for British Protestant missionaries in China the privileges conferred on the Roman Catholic clergy by the Imperial Edict.

I am, etc., (Sd.) SALISBURY.

THE ANTI-SMOKING BILL IN JAPAN.

There has been issued from the Methodist Publishing House in Japan an account of the passage of the anti-smoking Bill through the Japanese Diet. The translation is by the Rev. Ukai Takeshi, and the frontispiece is a portrait of Mr. Nemoto Sho, by whom the measure was introduced. The publishers suggest that this pamphlet will have interest for foreigners who sympathise with missionary effort in Japan. It can be obtained for 10 *sen* at the office of the National Temperance League, No. 20 Nishikonya-cho, Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo.

THE WAR.

Hout-nek, where Hamilton's Division forced a passage on April 30th and May 1st, is 13 miles due north of Thabanchu, on the road to Winburg, which is 56 miles from Thabanchu. The country around Thabanchu is mountainous and difficult, as is also the country around Winburg. Hamilton's Division may either form the right wing of Roberts' army for a general advance northward, or may merely have been assigned the task of clearing the Boers from the country around Thabanchu. It is impossible to arrive at any definite conclusion. What is certain, however, is that the Boers have no hesitation about dividing their forces. They are fighting in genuine guerilla fashion, and if Lord Roberts breaks up his force to pursue them hither and thither, his advance may be indefinitely delayed. Meanwhile we do not hear of any movement from the south for the relief of Mafeking. Our own belief holds that that task has been assigned to General Carrington, whose advance from Beira has now definitely commenced. Marendellas, to which point he had pushed the depôt of his camp on the 28th of April, is not marked on any map in our possession, but we conjecture it to be some point between Salisbury and Bulawayo.

NORTH AFRICA.

Mr. Threlfall, writing in the *Nineteenth Century*, predicts that there is great trouble in store for the white man in North Africa. The Mahdi has been conquered, the Khalifa killed, but at the head of a great revival of militant Mohamedanism stands Sidi Senussi, who may prove himself a foe more formidable than any of his predecessors, if he unfurls the Mohammedan banner for a holy war. Senussi's name sounds quite strange. The world has heard nothing of him hitherto. Here is what Mr. Threlfall says of him:—

Sidi Senussi is at the present time about fifty-five years of age. Save to his Mokaddem, who confer with him once a year, he is never seen unveiled by his followers. During his lengthy residence at Jerabub, from 1,500 to 2,000 students were regularly taught at the great convent with a view to their becoming Senussi missionaries as well as Mokaddem and Wekils. He had also an armoury and an extensive factory for the manufacture of arms and ammunition, while weapons were constantly being transported thither from all parts of Africa. In addition, he always had 5,000 camels ready at a few hours' notice to transport his most valuble effects to a more secure retreat; for although Jerabub was within 150 miles of the Mediterranean seaboard, the proximity of the hated English in Egypt and the French in Tunis ever threatened the heart of the great brotherhood. A few years ago, therefore, Sidi Senussi betook himself to the Kufra oasis, where, in the town of Joffo, he can educate and arm his disciples as well as accumulate vast stores of arms and ammunition without any possibility of interference from the great infidel Powers of Europe. The Kufra oasis is 500 miles as the crow flies from the Nile, and considerably more than this from the Mediterranean. Surrounded by the inhospitable desert, with wells sixty and seventy miles apart, and the route only known to experienced guides, every one of whom would suffer a thousand deaths rather than give the slightest information concerning him, he can safely plot, and plan, and work—for what? For the holy war which myriads of his followers have been for years longing to hear him proclaim.

Satisfying in every respect the Mohammedan conception of the true Mahdi (for not only is he stated to be directly descended from the great Mohammed's favourite wife, but he has one arm longer than another, as well as blue eyes, and the infallible mark between his shoulders), it is not surprising that he possesses a remarkable fascination for the imaginative and credulous races of North Africa. His colonies are found in Tripoli, Tunis, Algeria, and Morocco. His great secret brotherhood extends over the mysterious oases which dot the Great Sahara, embraces the strange tribes of the Tibesti highlands, controls the robber Tuaracks, and takes in the great states of Wadai, Borku, and Bagharmi, as well as the numberless tribes occupying the rich lands to the north of

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Lake Chad, and can even be found in Somaliland on the east, and Senegambia on the west. Nor is this all.

Mohammedanism is making marvellous progress in the interior of Africa. It is crushing paganism out. Against it the Christian propaganda is a myth. And wherever Mohammedanism goes there goes the Senussi brotherhood. It is a beacon on the top of a hill waiting for the master hand to apply the spark. It is obviously difficult to give an approximate idea of the number of Senussi's affiliated members, inasmuch as that is alone known to the Mahdi and his lieutenants. In 1883, however, M. Duveyrier estimated them at three millions; but since then the movement has grown enormously, so that there are now probably nine millions. This, however, only represents a fraction of the force which will be available when Senussi proclaims the jehad. As those connected with powerful organizations well know, the moral force of the associated members often represent more than treble the total membership.

THE LEX HEINTZE.

The Lex Heintze, which was rejected by the Reichstag on the 18th of March, contained clauses penalizing immoral books, pictures, and plays, together with such literary and artistic works as might be deemed offensive to the sense of modesty without being actually immoral. It was against this latter provision that public opinion declared itself. Evidently such a law would have placed in the hands of the police and judiciary almost unlimited power to suppress publications and works of art which are now admitted into the best galleries. Artists and literati complained bitterly that their productions should be classed with immoral works. Who was to draw the line, they asked, on the permissible side of immodest paintings and sculptures? Every study of the nude is by some folks considered offensive to the sense of modesty, and that the creations of art should be submitted to the criticisms of the police is evidently extravagant.

THE COTTON-SPINNERS OF JAPAN.

At a general meeting of Japanese cotton-spinners held on the 2nd instant in Osaka, it was decided that the capital of the Union should be increased by three quarters of a million *yen*, representing 15,000 shares of 50 *yen* each. Three thousand of these shares are to be taken by foreigners. Messrs. Tata and Company of Bombay take a thousand, another Parsee firm—we cannot identify the transliterated name,—takes a hundred, and it is expected that the remaining nineteen hundred can be disposed of abroad.

The attention of the cotton-spinners has been directed to insurance rates. The cost of marine insurance by foreign offices from Bombay to Kobe is only 14 *sen* per 100 *yen*, whereas the cost of insurance from Kobe to Osaka is 12 *sen*, evidently a preposterous figure. A ten years' agreement has therefore been concluded with the Tokyo Kaijo Hoken Kaisha to correct this anomaly—though what the new terms are we have not learned—, and the Osaka Hiki-fune Kaisha has been entrusted with the business of carrying the cotton between Kobe and Osaka. These arrangements have probably been suggested, in great part, by the foreign firms which have joined the confederacy. They confirm our often-expressed idea that in such combinations is to be found the best prospect of Japanese commercial development.

A dead rat, having been found in the kitchen of Prince Komatsu's residence in Aoicho, Tokyo, was handed over to the Police, and the body is now undergoing examination at the Sanitary Bureau.

THE BOOKSHELF.

From Capetown to Ladysmith, by G. W. STEEVENS. London, Blackwood and Sons; Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

THIS little volume is made up of despatches written by Steevens during the earlier part of the campaign in South Africa. The clever but unfortunate young journalist died in January, and most of the time he spent in the country he had been shut up in Ladysmith. As a sketch of the war at large, therefore, the book is not of much value. Its real worth is in the singular vitality of the narrative, the marvellous manner in which events and scenes are photographed, and the vivid and picturesque language, seldom distorted into mannerism, which seems to have been a natural gift with Steevens. He was undoubtedly the most literary of war correspondents of the present day, and here his gift of impressionism, his power of seizing vital points, is as conspicuous as ever. The sketch of life in the beleaguered town of Ladysmith is the most interesting piece of writing we have seen concerning the present war.

A short memoir concludes the book. It shows how strenuously Steevens worked in the short space of his 30 years, and what a position he held in the esteem of his contemporaries as a scholar, *litterateur*, and companion.

Harmony—Its Theory and Practice.

We have received from the Yokohama Piano and Ogan Warehouse a copy of Dr. Ebenezer Prout's work on Harmony. Dr. Prout is an Hon. Musical Doctor of Trinity College, Dublin, and of Edinburgh, and Professor of Music in the University of Dublin. His work has reached its twelfth edition, a fact sufficiently indicative of the appreciation in which it is held by the public. The learned author does not believe in the finality of musical rules. He holds that the science of music, like all other sciences, is progressive, and that what was approved fifty or a hundred years ago is not necessarily infallible. Hence, when it is found that a great musician like Wagner, Brahms, or Dvorak violates an old-text-book rule, the proper inference is, not that the composer is wrong, but that the rule needs modifying. "The inspired composer goes first and invents new effects; it is the business of the theorist not to cavil at every novelty, but to follow modestly behind, and make his rules conform to the practice of the master." Dr. Prout declares that "even in the most recent developments of the art, nothing has yet been written by any composer of eminence which a sound theoretical system cannot satisfactorily account for; and the objections made by musicians of the old school to the novel harmonic progressions of Wagner are little more than repetitions of the severe criticisms which in the early years of the present century were launched at the works of Beethoven." This book is founded, therefore, "not on any abstract system, but upon the actual practice of the great masters," and it contains more than three hundred illustrative examples selected from their compositions. There are twenty-one chapters, and an analytical index as well as an index to musical illustrations are added. We should say that the work contains as full and lucid an exposition of the theory of music as the most earnest student could desire.

Japan—Country, Court, and People.

The Rev. Dr. I. C. Colhoun Newton has published, under the above title, a volume small in dimensions but containing a great quantity of useful information about Japan and the Japanese. We can not find that the work shows many evidences of original research. It is rather a clever and careful compilation of material selected from numerous sources, more or less familiar, the whole judiciously arranged and set forth in plain, terse language. On the whole, our perusal of the volume inclines us to say that it offers the best opportunity yet provided for obtaining a succinct understanding of everything relating to Japan. Scarcely any of the subjects discussed, in fact, we may say, none of them, is treated from the point of view of the expert; the author has judiciously drawn the line so as render his book thoroughly useful to the general reader without taking him beyond the range of ordinary inquiry. It is a frequent complaint of the every-day visitor to Japan that he finds himself among objects of which no explanation is furnished by available books, some being too recondite to deal with such common matters, or too ponderous to invite research, and others too superficial to be of any service. We should say that Dr. Newton has cleverly avoided both extremes and that with his book in hand one can obtain all the information required. It has the advantage, also, of being exceedingly cheap—only 2 *yen*—and of containing several interesting illustrations.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Police Department has considered it necessary to forbid the sale and circulation of M. Bigot's *Album Humoristiques de la Vie Japonaise*. We regret that a publication by a foreigner should thus fall under the ban, but we cannot pretend to query the justice of the action. These books are not fit to find a place in any household. Coarseness is their characteristic and immodesty their salient feature.

It is pleasant to see that the reviewers are beginning to revolt vehemently against Tolstoi and his brutal coarseness. A genius the man certainly is, but his last work, "Resurrection," has elicited the comment that, like Ibsen and Zola, he chooses "rottenness, debauchery, and all the disgusting incidents of human shame, out of which to make stories to be read for recreation or for instruction at the home fireside, to be absorbed by the innocent minds of youth and maiden for the making of character." In "Resurrection" the author's special sin is that he attempts to draw from the teachings of Christ justifications for the vices of which his heroes and heroines are the victims. Maidens descend to the lowest abysses of vice, matrons lose all respect for the dictates of morality, and men abandon themselves to a life of degradation, and, at the close of these shocking pictures, Scriptural quotations are appended to show the inevitableness at least of such incidents. Tolstoi is a Nihilist at heart. He hates the law, hates its punishments, hates everything that subjects human beings to restraints, and his gospel of love is that no crime should be considered to render a human being unamiable.

The Imperial Inspection of the ships engaged in the Manœuvres seems to have been brought to a conclusion without a hitch of any kind under most favourable circumstances as to weather. But apparently the public is not to have any information about the doings of the squadrons or the details of the mobilization. Newspaper correspondents having been excluded, there will not appear any accounts like the minute and exhaustive

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analyses by experts that English journals publish on similar occasions. The Emperor entertained the commanding officers of the squadrons, several of the Princes of the Blood and Ministers of State and the Foreign Naval and Military *attachés* on board the *Shikishima* on the 30th April. To each guest a wine-cup was presented, bearing the inscription *shimbu no mei* (in commemoration of armaments expansion). The Naval *attachés* of France and Germany received Fourth-Class Decorations of the Rising Sun; the Russian Naval *attaché* received the Fourth-Class of the Mirror; and the German Military *attaché* received the Fifth-Class of the Rising Sun.

The head of a large shipping house in Manila, a man described as standing at the top of the mercantile community in the Far East, told Poulteney Bigelow that he thought the American officials in the Philippines were worse than the Spanish because the latter were "content with smaller bribes." That is a disagreeable charge. It will be bitterly resented in America. The same authority writes thus to Mr. Bigelow:—

The rule Americans have now established of putting a customs officer at each province port, and clearing local steamers with more circumstance than the Spaniards ever used against foreign-going vessels, is, it is to be hoped, only a war precaution. If they intend to continue it after peace it will be a horrible nuisance and play the mischief with inter-island traffic. It takes all the morning to clear a small steamer to a province port—triplicate manifests and numerous oaths and various offices—and all for what? There are no duties between this (Manila) and the provinces, and *vice-versa*. Think what it might be in the hands of a disagreeable man, working small craft for short runs! The present state of things eclipses anything we have suffered from the Spaniards, whom we were accustomed to look upon as first-class obstructionists. In the time of the Spaniards we could get to work at 6 in the morning, but now it is nearer 8. Again, the American officials don't take their midday meal at the usual hour when natives knock off at noon, when heat is greatest, and the upshot is we only get 8 hours' work out of 24. The American officials charge overtime for any work done after 11 o'clock a.m. on a Saturday and after 6 p.m. on any other day of the week.

The latest case of lynching in America ought to rouse public opinion. It occurred in Virginia. A white man and a negro were apprehended for having been implicated in the murder of two officers who had tried to arrest the negro for burglary. No doubt existed as to the speedy conviction of the negro, at all events, for he had confessed his guilt. Nevertheless, there was talk of lynching, and the sheriff obtained the services of a company of soldiers. The mob, however, was not deterred: it grew larger and threatened the troops. Then the sheriff and the county judge summoned a meeting of twenty leading citizens to discuss whether the soldiers should be sent home. The officer commanding the soldiers said that he could protect the jail but that it might entail some bloodshed and that he would have to telegraph for more troops. Nevertheless, the great majority of the twenty citizens voted to send the troops home. The officer in command telegraphed to the Governor for instructions, saying that if the soldiers were removed the negro would certainly be lynched, and the Governor's reply was that if the sheriff ordered the withdrawal of the troops, they must withdraw. The sheriff gave the order; the troops withdrew; the mob, led by an ex-judge, entered the jail unresisted, took out the negro, hanged him, emptying their pistols into his body, and then, since the negroes of the place demanded the hanging of the white prisoner also, he too was taken out and executed in the same way. These are the plain facts, incredible as they sound. It is wonderful that such incidents should occur in a civilized country. If they happened in any Oriental State, Occidentals would not hesitate to denounce it as barbarous.

The *National Review* for March devotes much space to reproducing, and commenting on, the sentiments expressed by the Japanese press with regard to the South-African war, as translated in the column of *The Times*, and concludes its references with these remarks:—"These friendly utterances in a time of need cannot fail to make a deep impression on the British people, to which we hope our public men will give expression. Should the "England of the Far East" at any time find herself in trouble, the "England of the Far West" will not fail to reciprocate her sympathy and appreciation. The existence of a powerful Japan is, after all, a vital British interest. We believe that she is more than competent to take care of herself against any probable enemy, but no European coalition must be permitted to crush her. It is satisfactory to know that an increasing number of Frenchmen already regret the pitiful part their country played in ousting Japan from Port Arthur. On the other hand, Germany is more anxious than ever to do Russia's dirty work in the Far East. In the competition of France and Germany for the favours of Russia lies the chief danger to Japan and the general interests of civilization."

The latest device is a mechanical method for registering the hour when employés attend an office. It is called the "photographic time clock," and the essence of the idea is that, by looking into a species of window and pressing a button, a man has a photograph taken of his face as well as of the dial of a clock, and thus his likeness appears in company with the picture of a clock showing the exact time of the photographic process. The initial expense of procuring the apparatus is considerable, and the cost of keeping it going is not small, but the inventors claim that it is far cheaper than a flesh-and-blood time-recorder.

The recent boom in Japanese kerosene enterprise was over-done, and a reaction has now set in. It does not appear that the reality of good supplies being available is questioned. The trouble is that fraudulent speculators endeavoured to make too big a haul, and that the public has found them out. They floated companies on a preposterous basis, the promoters putting the value of the well districts at three or four thousand *yen* per *tsubo*, and crediting themselves with a corresponding quantity of stock. The bubble has now been pricked and there is said to be great indignation. Several foreigners thought of investing, but they found the terms altogether deterrent and happily refrained. It is added that Mr. Asano's attempt to form a trust has failed.

The Democratic State Convention in Nebraska has adopted a platform with some remarkable planks. For example:—The fortification of the Nicaragua Canal by the United States; an unceasing warfare against all the trusts; the immediate restoration of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation; independence for the Filipinos with protection from outside interference; sympathy with the Boers, and the abolition of the Dingley tariff as "a trust-breeding and extortion-inviting measure." With the exception of the last of these projects not one of them seems worthy of the intelligence of a great party. We do not suppose that the Democrats, even if they got into power, would seriously attempt to stand on such a platform. It appears to have been constructed solely for the feet of the unthinking and prejudiced elements of the population.

JUNKER CONCERT.

The third and last Junker Concert for the present season was given on Monday, the 30th April, in the Van Schaick Hall. The attendance was not good, and it would seem that the Yokohama public prefer light extravaganza to good solid music.

We were glad to see Mr. Poole back at his post and the string *ensemble* was benefited thereby, the general effect of the Mozart number being distinctly good.

Mr. Richter was the pianist of the evening and, with the able assistance of Messrs. Junker and Davis, made a success of the Mendelssohn trio. Mr. Richter is an able executant, with considerable power and technique, but he has still much to learn before he can worthily interpret even fragments of the great Tone-poet, Beethoven.

Herr Junker played, as his solo, Händel's well-known Sonata in G major, and received a double recall, for his performance.

Madame Henkler varied the instrumental programme by a pleasing rendering of Max Bruch's "Ingeborg lament," and with a movement from Dvorák's quartet in Op. 51, the concert and the season was brought to a close. Appended is the full programme:—

1.—String Quartet in..."B Flat major".....,Mozart.
2.—Soprano Solo....."Ingeborg's lament from the Frithjof Legend".....Bruch.
Madame HENKLER.
3.—Trio in....."C minor".....Mendelssohn.
for Piano, Violin, and Violoncello.
Mr. RICHTER, Prof. JUNKER, and Mr. DAVIS.
4.—Violin Solo...Sonata in G major.....Händel.
Prof. JUNKER.
5.—Piano Solo.....Largo and Menuetto (Op. 10) [Beethoven.
Mr. RICHTER.
6.—String Quartet...in E Flat major op. 51...Dvorák.
First movement.

THE INCOME TAX.

With regard to the forwarding of reports of incomes, for which purpose forms and remarks thereon have recently been distributed among foreigners, we have already indicated the principal points to be observed. We are now asked by the Revenue Authorities to draw attention to the following remarks.

Some persons appear to think that a foreigner who has not been in Japan more than one year is under no obligation to pay income tax. This condition as to length of residence is, however, only applicable to persons temporarily staying in Japan, as tourists, travellers, commission agents, etc., visiting the country for some special purpose and taking up a temporary place of abode during such time as their object requires their presence in Japan. This provision, is not applicable to those who have take up a fixed place of residence, with or without their families, with the object of permanently living here and carrying on business, or of going thence to other places for business purposes. All who belong to this latter class are under obligation to pay income tax irrespective of the length of their residence.

Again, some appear to consider that they are not under obligation to report their income if they are not present at the place of residence during the period in which reports should be made, or if they intend to move their residences during the year. The Law, however, requires reports in such cases, if in other respects the persons concerned are liable to taxation by the provisions of the law. Reports must, therefore, be forwarded; and if the parties are absent they must appoint a representative to arrange the matter.

Those who have not yet forwarded reports are required to present them without further delay. With regard to persons who have failed to do so, without justifiable reason, the authorities will be compelled to take proper steps as prescribed by Law.

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DO TRUSTS INJURE THE WORKING MAN?

SOME leaders of thought in Japan are strongly advocating the organization of trusts in this country, on the grounds that intelligent cō-ordination of labour and economy of methods, which are precisely the factors of success most needed in Japan, can not be effectually secured by any means except trusts. Count INOUYE is a conspicuous supporter of that theory. Several Tokyo journals, while not questioning the advantages offered by trusts, declare them unfeasible in this country because merchants can not, or will not, place confidence in each other. Persons advancing such an objection seem to us to ignore the history of their own country. Japan in feudal times was the very nursery of trusts. From 1770 until 1841 virtually the whole business of the country was in the hands of confederations of merchants working on precisely the bases of the American trusts. In that respect there should be no difficulty. But many people imagine that trusts injure the working classes by decreasing the demand for labour. Concerning that Mr. I. A. ARCHBOLD, writing in the *Independent*, denies the truth of such a criticism. He shows from actual experience that a similar charge, brought against other agencies, was uniformly rebutted by facts :—

"When steam-looms and spinning jennies began to be adopted in England, spinners and weavers travelled the country destroying the implements which were robbing them of their opportunity to labour. At that time the number of spinners and weavers in in England was less than 8,000. Ten years later 350,000 persons were employed in these industries, and to-day they furnish labour, directly or indirectly, to over two millions of the people of England."

The cotton and printing industries illustrate the same truth :

"The effect of combination and the utilization of machinery has been particularly evidenced in the cotton manufacturing industry. One man will now do the work which required several men seventy years ago. Yet the number of laborours in this industry has increased from 62,000, in 1831 to 220,000 in 1890. And this is not solely due to increase in population, but largely to the fact that the consumption of cotton cloth increased over one hundred per cent. per capita by reason of a reduction of sixty per cent. in its cost price.

"The printing-press furnishes another illustration. I do not know how many men it would require with a hand-press to equal the production of a modern Hoe press. I think many hundreds. Yet the number of printers has been wonderfully increased by the improved press, because it has cheapened the production and thereby increased the number of readers.

"The rule is invariable. Whatever cheapens production increases consumption, and increased consumption creates increased demand for labour."

Concerning the Standard Oil Company he says :—"It has reduced the price of its products, it has paid the best wages to its employees, and payment has been constant and certain. It has increased the number of employed, and a more faithful and better contented army of employees never existed. A great number of small concerns could never have created the costly machinery and plants, constructed the pipe-lines, built the tanks, tank-cars, and tank-vessels, opened the markets of the world, and built up the present oil business. That required combination and capital, without which there would not be to-day 35,000 workmen drawing $100,000 per day in wages, thousands of persons of moderate means interested in the business, and cheaper light in the palaces and huts of every continent."

CHINA AND AMERICA.

MR. WU TING-FANG (NG CHOY), Chinese Representative in Washington, has published in the *Independent* an interesting article on the relations between his country and the United States. He points out that China is now beginning to buy largely from America, the principal objects of purchase being flour, which is widely used in the northern districts; kerosene, cotton, and iron. He suggests that more sincere efforts should be made to ascertain the wants of the Chinese markets in the matter of cotton fabrics. These are made at present to suit American convenience only; so many yards in a piece of such and such a definite width. But "We Chinese," says the Minister, "are a very practical people, and if we buy a piece of goods and find that it does not cut to advantage, that there is a waste of two or three yards in every piece, it is not encouraging for trade." This is a point that has often been urged already.

In connexion with the subject of iron, Mr. WU explains that railway construction in China owes its initiative to him. "With the permission of his Excellency LI HUNG-CHANG, about 15 years ago, I procured the construction of the first railway in China." Opinions were so divided among Chinese statesmen as to the utility of the undertaking that it was not possible to build outside LI's jurisdiction. But no sooner was the first line built than "the people jumped at it." "The first road had to be constructed through a country where there were few houses and the people were poor." It could not be brought near the towns and villages on account of popular prejudice. Nevertheless, it now pays 50 per cent. Mr. WU's inference is that an object lesson alone is needed to open the eyes of the Chinese. Hence his advice to American manufacturers . is :—"You must have a show house in Shanghai and in the great ports of China, a large depot, a museum, and you should send specimens of articles or manufactured goods, with the prices attached. Let the Chinese merchants come and see for themselves. Let a fair, honest price be attached. The first transaction is important. American agents must be careful. They must be obliging and must not expect great profit on first transactions. It may even be worth while to lose a little in the beginning, but in the long run they will gain a great deal. When confidence is once inspired there is no telling what it will lead to."

Naturally Mr. WU enters a strong protest against the treatment given to Chinese subjects in America. What he says is so just and moderate that we quote it :—

The Chinese question has not been studied thoroughly by the American people. A great deal of misapprehension exists in regard to the Chinese, and the subject is not looked at broadly and impartially. The Chinese who come here, whatever class they may belong to, do not come to steal American money; they come to work for it. They give an equivalent and do it honestly. They are excluded not because they are bad, but because they are too good. The chief reason, I suppose, for the agitation against the Chinese coming to the United States was because our workmen came here and competed with the white labourers and worked cheaper. Is that a good reason for excluding them, and are Americans consistent? Why should the Chinese be singled out and excluded when others are allowed to come and compete? Of course the American people are free to adopt any restrictive policy that they like, but to be consistent they ought to exclude all classes of labourers who come here to compete with American labourers. But Chinese labourers are singled out because our Government has not exercised its privilege of opposing this discrimination. The Italians and Hungarians who come here are not better than Chinese labourers, and it is hard to see why they should be admitted and the Chinese excluded.

The avowed object of the exclusion bill was simply to exclude Chinese labourers, but the restriction has now been extended to other classes. There was some reason, perhaps—I do not say *just* reason—for excluding Chinese labourers, based on the treaty negotiated in 1880 for the purpose of limiting the coming of Chinese labourers to the United States. It is expressly stated in that treaty that this restriction was to apply only to Chinese labourers. No other classes were aimed at. It is in black and white in the treaty and the meaning of the words is as clear as daylight. But because in that treaty it says that "officials, merchants, teachers, students, and travellers" shall not be excluded; because these five classes are mentioned, new interpreters of the law say that only these five classes are exempt, and all other classes are excluded. For fifteen years American officials held that according to law only Chinese labourers were to be excluded and that all other classes might come here. This was the practice up to September, 1898, when a new interpretation was substituted, and it is now said that no Chinese have a right to come here except those specially exempted from exclusion. I think that is the last straw on the camel's back. What is the consequence? The Chinese banker, the Chinese doctor, the Chinese missionary, the Chinese lawyer, or private gentleman, are not admitted because they do not come within the five classes mentioned in the treaty.

Americans want to develop their trade with China, want to be good friends with China. That is very natural; we are glad to hear it, but is the present state of things satisfactory? How can you expect Chinese merchants to give you much business in the face of these facts?

KERAMIC ART.

At the eighth general meeting of the Keramic Art Association held at the Nihonbashi Club, Tokyo, on the 29th ultimo, Mr. Teshima, Director of the Tokyo Industrial College, made the following remarks :—According to statistics lately issued, the output of porcelain during 1899 was 4,965,000 *yen*, against 2,180,000 *yen* in 1891. As to exports, the figures for 1891 did not exceed 1,280,000 *yen*, but by 1898 the amount had increased to 1,990,000 *yen*. Still, comparing the figures for 1896, with those of 1897, it will be observed that not only is a diminution of 200,000 *yen* shown in the value realized, but also a serious decrease in the number of manufacturers and artisans even in such prominent districts as Owari and Mino. The decline in porcelain may not be so serious as that experienced in the lacquer trade, but in comparison with textile industry the result is discouraging. The fact is that porcelain is still manufactured by cottage industry, and no combination exists as in the case of textiles. This is the true source of the lack of development.

STUDENTS TO BE SENT ABROAD.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has been selecting students to send abroad this spring for training in various branches of art and industry. The following have been chosen :—

Name.	Destination.	Studies.
S. Mori	New York	Copper plate engraving.
K. Naganuma	Lyons	Silk weaving.
K. Sasahara	do	Designs for weaving.
Z. Suge	do	Variegated silk weaving.
S. Iwamoto	do	Silk manufacture.
R. Abeno	Vladivostock	Tea Trade.
S. Yamaguchi	New Haven U.S.	Miscellaneous trade.
G. Kudo	Brooklyn, U.S.	Silk dyeing and sizing.
K. Natsuaki	St. Petersburg	Miscellaneous trade.
K. Inayoshi	Shanghai	do
K. Isshiki	Philadelphia	Silk export trade.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

In the *Rikugô Zasshi* Mr. Yamagata Tôkon reviews the history of Protestant Christianity in Japan during the past ten years. The following is the gist of what he has to say:—Ten years ago Christianity was in such favour in Japan, owing largely to the pro-foreign tendency of Japanese thought, that there was talk of opening the Diet with prayer. Reaction set in with results on the public mind in general that are too well known to need notice here. The effect of the nationalistic movement on Christians was to make them feel the importance of establishing self-supporting Churches and of carrying on evangelistic work independent of foreigners. The Kirisuto Kyôkai was founded with these objects in view. Missionaries were treated as visitors and not as part and parcel of the concern, and consequently foreign pecuniary support was gradually withdrawn, with the result that before very long the work of the Church was greatly hindered for want of money. But members of the Japan Church had the satisfaction of being able to think freely. Under the pressure of pecuniary distress Christians were obliged to turn their attention to business, dividing their time between secular pursuits and religious work. About this time a lively discussion was carried on in reference to the tendency of Christian teaching in schools, and in certain quarters educationists took a decided stand against Christianity, which rendered mission schools temporarily unpopular . . . . One of the results of our war with China was to bring into prominence the many benevolent actions of Christian Societies and to create throughout Japan a good impression of Christianity. After the war a strong feeling in favour of trade and industry set in. The nation became intensely practical and was in a mood to appreciate active work of any kind. Both Christians and Buddhists made use of this tide for floating all kinds of benevolent enterprises. But the religious element in these efforts was not generally appreciated, and charity pure and simple was all that most people admired. The next event affecting Christianity was what is called the Nippon Shugi movement. It is perhaps impossible to deny that the supporters of this agitation have considerably influenced educational circles. . . . . It is true to say that in the history of the past ten years what has impeded Christianity has helped Buddhism. At the beginning Christianity basked in the sunshine of public favour, but when the reaction set in Buddhism at once came to the front. The agitation in the educational world over the effect of Christianity in the schools did Buddhism as much good as it did Christianity harm.

Coming to recent years the following facts seem to be worthy of mention. Christian lecture meetings of the class that used to be held in such large numbers have grown very rare. The speakers at such meetings as are held preach morality rather than religion. The anticipations of both Buddhists and Christians as to the result of mixed residence have been falsified by the course of events. The Buddhists feared a large influx of Christian workers from abroad. No such influx has taken place. Christians feared that numbers of godless Occidentals would settle in the interior and bring dishonour on the Christian name by their conduct. These black sheep of the Christian fold have not yet revealed themselves. Things go on since mixed residence much as they did before it was inaugurated. . . . The action of the Education Department some months ago in regard to private schools undoubtedly dealt a blow at Christianity. But more important than this is the absorption of the strength of the church by business. Some of the best Christians spend most of their time in gaining a living and give little assistance to the work of the church. The study of comparative religion has become popular in recent years, but it cannot be said to have yielded any practical results.

Mr. Yamagata thus sums up the present situation and its requirements:—(1) The number of Christians among business men, though from one point of view a loss to the church, should make Christianity known far and wide. (2) The general feeling in educational circles is decidedly anti-religious. While this is so, it is acknowledged on all hands that the morals of the young are utterly corrupt. There is a great need of the formation of Young Men's Societies and for the holding of friendly gatherings of all kinds, with the object of elevating the general tone of thought among the young. (3) Books and articles demonstrating the necessity of religion and explaining in what true religion consists are specially needed at this crisis. Christians cannot but regard with aversion the attitude of the Meiji scholars of Japan to religion of every kind. Together with the free-thought of revolutionary France they have rendered our young men acquainted with the philosophical objections to Christianity of Bentham, Mill, and Spencer. Then politicians like Marquis Ito, in teaching German nationalism and the preeminence of State interests, have increased the coldness felt towards religion. A few leading scholars hold that religion is a necessity; and it is important that their views should be more widely known. (4) It might be expected of scholars engaged in comparing various religions with each other that they should take part in the work of impressing on the public the importance of religion. But nothing of this kind takes place in Japan. Our scholars investigate religion merely as a subject of study and have no ulterior object in view. They feel no concern for the present fate of religion. No help is to be expected from the labours of such scholars.

Buddhism, it is said, concludes Mr. Yamagata, has been killed by possessing too much money. Christianity, on the other hand, seems to owe its decline in recent years to its poverty. The severance of the Church from foreign control has proved to be a very difficult undertaking. The churches that led the way in the matter of independence and self-support were the *Kumiai* and the *Itchi Kyôkai*. But though undoubtedly these churches possess some of the finest types of Christians, it cannot be said that as churches they occupy the most prominent positions to-day. They are surpassed by the Methodists and the Episcopalians, both of which are most successful in their work. As regards the Episcopalians, it is a remarkable fact that the prosperity of that body dates from the decline of all other Protestant Associations. (*Koto ni Kantoku Kyôkai wa, ta no Kyôkai no otorôru koro yori, hajimete okoru no miye wo tei suru wa chûmoku subeki koto nari*).

* * *

We have received from the Rev. George G. Hudson, of Osaka, a copy of his recently published *Kyôkai Rekishi* (Ecclesiastical History). We take this occasion of saying that it would greatly facilitate the preparation of these summaries if all the publishers of religious books would favour us with copies of their works. Mr. Hudson's book consists of about one hundred pages, divided into two parts, one dealing with Church History as it is given in the New Testament, and the other with history culled from the writings of the early Fathers. We judge from a remark in the preface that the work is to a certain extent based on Burton's "Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age." It is divided into 28 chapters, but there is no index giving the subjects treated in each chapter. The book is evidently designed for Christians who have not been highly educated. It is liberally supplied with *kana* throughout, and the style is extremely simple. It is furnished with a small map. The *Kyôkai Rekishi* is for sale at 5 *sen* per copy at the Fukuinsha, Osaka.

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L'Abbé Francois Ligneul bids fair to exhaust the subjects connected with the religion of which he is so stalwart and accomplished a champion. A new work from his pen consisting of 250 closely printed pages lies before us. The subject of it is "Secret Societies." It opens with an introduction by M. Ligneul and another from the pen of Mr. Maeda Nagata, his able translator. In the former we are told that the topic discussed in the work was suggested by an article in the *Nihon-jin* urging the necessity of establishing secret societies in Japan. M. Ligneul says that he doubts whether the writer in the *Nihon-jin* has any distinct notion of what secret societies are, and certainly, he adds, it would be no insult to this writer's Japanese readers to say that they are profoundly ignorant on this subject. It being a topic on which the public needs information, M. Ligneul has taken it up and discussed it with his wonted zeal and thoroughness. The book may be recommended to students of the Japanese language for several reasons. The style is at once easy and lucid, the subject is decidedly interesting from many points of view, and the work is characterised by that philosophic insight which M. Ligneul has so conspicuously displayed on former occasions. M. Ligneul in the 32 short chapters of which the work consists states in a most concise and interesting manner all that an inquiring mind would certainly wish to know about those substrata of political, religious, and social life called secret societies; their variety, their constitution, their principles, the objects they have in view, good or bad, their political views, their rules and ceremonies, their modes of working, their system of education, their effect on society, their future, and a number of other subjects receive the attention of the author of the *Himitsu Kessha*. But the work is controversial, and hence one-sided, throughout. It may represent certain phases of French Free-masonry, but of English Free-masonry it would be considered by competent critics to be a caricature. M. Lignuel seems to see nothing but evil in Free-masonry.

* * *

In the *Tetsugaku Zasshi* Mr. Katô Genchi propounds the question, "Ought not Buddhism and Christianity to harmonise with each other and become one religion?" which question is answered in the affirmative, on the ground of expediency and on that of similarity of teaching. The writer seems to have no conception of the enormous difficulties that would present themselves should an attempt be made to carry his theory into practice. We do not propose to summarise his article, though it contains a good deal that is true enough in its way, because the proposal made is felt by all who

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have thought out its details to be quite impossible. The idea of uniting the two great religions of the world has been repeatedly discussed, but with no practical results as far as we can see.

We turn to another article in the same magazine, by Mr. Fujii Kenjirô, which asks, "Is it a condition of morality that it should be always changing?" Mr. Fujii attempts to reply to the well-known theory that ethical notions change with the age, a theory that in this country is stoutly defended by Dr. Katô and Mr. Fukuzawa. The comments of Mr. Fukuzawa on this subject in the preface to the *Shûshin-yôorei* are thus quoted by Mr. Fujii. "It is one of the conditions of ethical teaching that it should daily change so as to keep pace with the general progress of man. It is essential that enlightened society should listen to doctrines that are adapted to the stage of thought through which it is passing. This it is that makes change in teaching absolutely essential." To this Mr. Fujii replies that it is only the outward forms of morality that change, that its fundamental principles always remain the same. He thinks that Mr. Fukuzawa and his followers have gained a reputation in the country for the skill with which they have dealt with practical questions of everyday life, that, in helping men to make a judicious choice between various courses of conduct open to them, they have shown great common sense. But Mr. Fujii considers the fundamental principle of Mita morality, independence and self-esteem (*Dokuritsu, jison*) an insufficient and even a dangerous foundation whereon to erect a system of ethics. He is of opinion that the view of life given by Mr. Fukuzawa errs on the side of flippancy, and further that the effect on the minds of the young of the adoption of this view is distinctly demoralising.

The *Tetsugaku Zasshi* announces that Mr. Anezaki Masaharu, whose writings have been so often quoted in these summaries, has been sent to Germany to study religion. He will be away three years and is to visit India on his way back. The *Tetsugaku Zasshi* expects great results from this new departure on the part of the Japanese Government, for we take it that the Government is providing the necessary funds, and thinks that the measure shows increased appreciation of the importance of religion. Mr. Anezaki left Yokohama on March 16th.

* * *

Writing on the Unitarians of Japan and America, the *Tôkyô Maishû Shimpô* (No. 863) says that in America the term "Unitarian" conveys little idea as to the belief of the person to whom it is applied. There are Unitarians that differ nothing from orthodox Christians, and there are Unitarians that do not believe in the Bible, nor in Christ; and some that do not even acknowledge a personal God. But the general tendency of thought among American Unitarians, says the organ we quote, is towards increased orthodoxy. The Unitarians of Japan are an Association whose objects are purely moral. The Unitarians have Buddhists, Christians, and sceptics in their ranks. Regarded as a religious sect they have undoubtedly failed, but as an Association they have succeeded and still enjoy great popularity. The Unitarians are now without foreign superintendence, though they still receive pecuniary support from abroad.

The *Tôkyô Maishû Shimpô* states at some length the views of Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, the President of the Diet, on Christianity. Mr Kataoka, as is well-known, is a Christian, and he expresses his conviction that just as Japan accepted Confucianism and Buddhism and assimilated them in a very thorough manner she will assimilate Christianity. Japan's success in adopting western civilisation, Mr. Kataoka thinks, is wholly attributable to the fact that she had a code of honour and morals known as *bushidô*, but that has now almost gone, and in its place Christianity must be adopted.

* * *

In the *Fukuin Shimpô* the Rev. K. Ibuka, writing on Christian marriage, says that the approximate equality in the number of males and females born in every country is a proof that monogamy is of divine origin. The numbers he gives for Japan are about 102 males for every 100 females. Writing of divorce in Japan for the year 1892, he gives the following figures: 361,319 marriages and 114,436 divorces. For the year 1893 the totals are 358,389 marriages and 116,775 divorces. This shows that for every 3 marriages there is one divorce. This state of affairs, Mr. Ibuka says, is quite unique.

Writing on the work of the Bible Societies in Japan, the *Fukuin Shimpô* says that they have circulated about 2 million copies of the Bible and have for a long time employed some 200 colporteurs and other distributing agents. The demand for copies of the Scriptures being still very large, involving heavy expenditure, the British and American Bible Society has applied to the Japanese Churches for pecuniary help. The application is, the *Fukuin Shimpô* thinks, reasonable enough, but it has its doubts as to the ability of the native churches to respond in an adequate manner, and in that case foreigners resident in Japan are asked to contribute to the funds of the Society.

* * *

The *Koye*, the Roman Catholic organ, says that it is only the people who have no experimental knowledge of what real religion is that talk about reforming religion. It is their own hearts that need reforming. No new religion can effect what the old ones fail to do. Those who really believe in Christianity are quite satisfied with it. Those who talk about its imperfection know very little about it.

The same organ discusses Mr. Fukuzawa's system of ethics as propounded in the *Shûshin Yôrei*. While admiring Mr. Fukuzawa's earnestness in the cause of moral reform, the *Koye* thinks that the one defect of his scheme is the want of motive power. The trouble from which the country is suffering is not ignorance of moral precepts or of the superiority of virtue to vice, but the lack of inducements to lead a virtuous life and deficiency in the necessary moral courage and resolution. It is no use, continues the *Koye*, to talk of self-esteem as a motive power that makes for virtue without defining the qualities in human beings that are worthy of esteem. What part of self is it that should be honoured? If human nature is noble, why is it so? These questions Mr. Fukuzawa does not answer, and consequently there is considerable vagueness attached to his standard of virtue. From the point of view of materialism there is very little difference between human beings and ordinary animals. Whence then comes the reason for man's self-esteem? Is not his life utterly insignificant? Dust he is and to dust he shall return. What is there in him that is worthy of honour? The view of human nature adopted by Mr. Fukuzawa ill accords with the elevation of self-esteem into a basis of morality. If the immortality of the soul be denied, man ceases to occupy a preeminent place in the universe. The Christian can appreciate all Mr. Fukuzawa says about self-esteem, because his view of the origin and of the destination of man ennobles human nature. But in the absence of Christian belief self-esteem is meaningless and ineffective as a motive power. Mr. Fukuzawa has adopted the conclusion to which Christians have come, namely, that human nature is noble and worthy of high honour, but he denies the premises on which that conclusion rests. Hence his system of morality is illogical and can never effect much good.

* * *

In the *Bukkyô* (No. 158) appears an article by Mr. Kiyosawa Mitsuyuki entitled *Kitô wa meishin no tokuchô* (Prayer is a clear proof of superstition), of which the following is the gist. Prayer is founded on a misconception of the infinite and brings gods and divinities (*hotoke*) down to the level of human beings. Since all our wants are known to God as well as the wants of millions of other human beings, for us to try and attract his attention to us by calling on him or to ask him for this and that special thing shows that our conception of him is entirely false. A human parent may need reminding of the wants of its child, though where real affection exists this does not often occur, but the all-knowing and the all-powerful needs no prompting. To cease praying and to rest content with all Heaven's decrees—this is true piety as distinguished from superstition. There is no such mental composure as that which proceeds from entire submission to the Divine will. . . . There are those who say that prayer continues to be offered up to God on account of its effect on the mind of the suppliant. But this is a poor argument. If prayer cannot change the mind of God, if the requests of suppliants can have no effect on the course of events, is it not a confession of culpable weakness to go though the formality of offering them on account of their solacing effect on the mind of the devotee? Is it not far nobler in every way to do what is right and bow to nature's law without resorting to any such pretence as attempting to suspend or to alter these laws by means of prayer? The practice is superstitious to the core, and ought to be recognised by religious people as such, says Mr. Kiyosawa.

* * *

No. 159 of the *Bukkyô*, when discussing Buddhist reform, laughs at the notion of any great man appearing in modern times who during a short life time should revolutionise religious thought and put new life into the dry bones of Buddhist rites and ceremonies. Old, conservative Buddhism is dying out. New Buddhism is vigorous, but has not yet assumed its final form. Buddhism is now suffering from the effects of the entrance of a new civilisation. She must make good use of all that is valuable in Western thought. The notion that filial piety, loyalty, and patriotism are deficient in the west is a delusion. The great desideratum for all Buddhists is that they should possess an accurate knowledge of the existing state of affairs and in every way adapt themselves to the altered situation.

The following number of the *Bukkyô* to the one just quoted contains an amusing article entitled "The Modern Gentleman," the purport of which we give below. The term 紳士 *Shinshi* is a translation of the English word gentleman, but the Japanese word really conveys a different

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meaning to us from that borne by the English term. Our version of gentleman (*zentoruman**) is 銭取人 *zenitoru-hito** (the money-making man). Money controls all things in our modern world. Whatever we may have worshipped in the past, it is certain that we are now gold-worshippers. Religious teachers and moralists alike denounce the love of money as the root of all evil, but all to no effect. Mr. Fukuzawa, who many years ago set the fire going, is now attempting to quench it with his *Shûshin Yôrei*. Vain hope! Even our new constitutional government has been debased by bribery and corruption, and many of our very moralists have turned their teaching to pecuniary account and have made large sums of money by denouncing the love of it in others. . . . . Japan is a country which was dependent on a woman for her first daylight.† Woman has always played a prominent part in this country. But in ancient times she was worthy of honour. The modern woman is a mere toy, born into the world and trained principally for one purpose only, namely to minister to the inordinate desires of the opposite sex. And it is the men who call themselves *shinshi* that take the most prominent part in debasing women and bringing dishonour on the nation.

* * *

There is a great stir among the Buddhists over the King of Siam's offer to present to a representative deputation of Japanese Buddhists a certain portion of the remains of Shaka-muni, said to have been discovered by an Indian Civil Service officer some little time ago, along with a number of other relics. The King of Siam, we are told, objects to the remains being appropriated by any one sect, and here the difficulty comes in. If these sacred bones, for as such the remains are spoken of, are brought to Japan where will they be placed? And what priests will be chosen to take charge of them? Devout Buddhists would no doubt crowd to worship them, and they would become a great source of profit to any sect that had them. Notwithstanding all the difficulties in the way, we are told by the *Bukkyô* that a sum of 200,000 *yen* has been subscribed towards the expense of sending a deputation to Bangkok. The fact of the willingness of the King of Siam to entrust to the Japanese Buddhists certain of the bones of the founder of the sect was communicated to the Buddhist authorities by Mr. Inagaki Manjirô, the Japanese Minister in Bankok. The deputation is to consist of Buddhists of learning and reputation who are able to speak English. There are some, the *Bukkyô* tells us, who predict that one effect of the discovery of these bones will be the union of Buddhists all over the world in the closest bonds and a revival of interest in the creed. Some have doubts of the genuineness of the relics, and are afraid that the sect may be imposed on and bring ridicule on itself. Altogether the dead bones are furnishing a very lively subject of discussion in the Buddhist world.

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In the *Kyôiku Kôhô*, Mr. Honda Yôichi discusses Mission Schools in the following terms: As it is my aim to show the position occupied by Mission Schools as educational establishments, I will begin by referring to the Aoyama Gakuin. This institution is divided into three departments, namely, (1) the Kôtô-futsûgaku (High Class General Learning department (2) the Chugaku (Middle School) department and (3) the Shingaku (Theological) department. In the first two departments the education imparted is of a general character, only differing from that given at secular schools in the matter of ethical teaching, which is based on Christianity. This is a fair type of the class of school known as a Mission School. If the origin of such schools as the Meiji Gakuin, the Aoyama Gakuin, and the Dôshisha be inquired into, it is found that the earliest of them date from about the 3rd or 4th year of Meiji, and what called them into existence was the great demand for foreign instruction at that time and the almost total want of suitable secular schools for teaching western learning. After a number of boys' schools had been established, girls' schools began to spring up here and there, and they all met with great encouragement. Many of the young men and young women trained in these schools made names for themselves in the world, and consequently the public began to regard mission schools as a valuable asset of the nation's intellectual and moral wealth. During the first two decades of the *Meiji* era there was no slackening of the pace with which the nation travelled in the direction of Western thought, and hence even a man like Mori Arinori felt it to be his duty to encourage mission schools in every way on general grounds. He expressed sympathy with Mr. Niijima's work at the Dôshisha, and even helped to found the Sendai Tôkwa-gakkô. Thus at the time of which I write we see that prominent Japanese combined with the missionaries in establishing and rendering efficient mission schools in various parts of the country. It may be well to state in figures the results of these efforts. Reckoning those institutions only which aim at reaching a higher standard than that of ordinary middle schools, there were last year 20 boys' schools, with 2,916 pupils, and 48 girls' schools, with 3,538 pupils. In addition to these there were 136 primary or special schools, with 9,394 attendants. This gives us a total of 204 mission schools, with 15,846 pupils. These schools are a necessity to the country. They fill a place which no existing institution could fill so well. What is most wanted in Japan to-day is not a knowledge of mathematics, physics, and the like, but practical morality. The men engaged in teaching in Government schools have studied various religions and various systems of ethics; but only as branches of learning. They have not made up their minds to adopt or to follow the teaching of any religion or system of moralily. Hence their moral influence on the young is very slight. But in mission schools the pupils receive impressions from the teachers that are of great benefit to them. The value of the training given at these establishments is recognised by the outside world, as is evidenced by the fact that of late there has been a great demand for teachers of English who have undergone special training at mission schools. Mr. Honda, we observe, is to continue the discussion in the next number of the *Kyôiku Kôhô*.

* This is the Japanese way of pronouncing the word.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† *Onna nara de wa yo no akenu kuni.* This is the last part of the famous verse,

"Hinomoto wa,
"Iwato kagura no
"Hajime yori,
"Onna narade wa,
"Yo no akenu kuni."

The reference is to the hiding of Tenshô, the sun-goddess, in a cave, and to the woman's dancing which brought her out and gave light to a world enshrouded in darkness. The verse emphasises the prominence of women in all human affairs. (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Two additional volumes, 4 and 5, of M. Bigot's albums are placed under the official ban.

The Russian marines have been withdrawn from Sôul, it is said, with the exception of seven men.

Mr. Suzuki Manjuro and seven other persons, who were accused of violating the Imperial Ordinance for the control of elections, have been acquitted.

The *habutaye* manufacturers of Kanazawa are said to be discussing the advisability of reducing production in view of the very unfavourable state of the market.

Mr. Liu, who was shot by an assassin when landing at Canton on his way back from Macao, has died of his injuries. It was found impossible to extract the bullet.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* thinks that the South-African war has furnished most conclusive evidence of England's immense strength and wealth, and that there is not the smallest probability of any European Power attempting to interfere between her and the Republics.

Owing to the large influx of Japanese that has taken place of late at Seattle, the white labourers of that district are reported to have held a meeting at which it was decided that all the eating houses should be closed to Japanese subjects. The legality of such a boycott is very questionable.

The attempted assassination of a Colonel at Hirosaka is said to have had the proverbial woman at the bottom of it. A beautiful maid servant unites her efforts to those of an ancient beldame for the arrangement of the gallant officers' domestic affairs. The rest is easily conjectured.

The torpedo-boat *Oboro* arrived in time to be inspected by the Emperor. She left England on the 29th of January and encountered very rough weather in the Bay of Biscay. Owing to some unexplained reason she came round by Fusan in Korea, arriving there on the 23rd April. Her commander, knowing that the naval manœuvres were in progress, left Fusan on the 25th, without waiting for orders, and reached Kobe on the 29th.

The following figures are published with regard to the foreign trade of Osaka during April:—

	Yen.
Exports	503,816
Imports	611,458
Excess of Imports	107,642
Exports of Specie	12,726
Imports of Specie	222,750
Excess of Imports	210,024

At a general meeting of the shareholders of the Osaka Railway Company, held on the 22nd April, at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, the following accounts were presented and passed:—

Net profit for the current term	¥196,832
Rewards to officials	8,200
Reserve	10,000
Dividends (at the rate of 11.2 per cent. per annum)	178,080
Carried over to next account	552

The question of alteration of the Company's regulations was held in abeyance. The contemplated amalgamation with the Kwansei Railway was opposed by many on the ground of the serious disparity between the shares of the two Companies.

On the afternoon of the 22nd April a general meeting of the shareholders of the Naniwa Bank and the Osaka Union Bank (Kioritsu Ginko) was held, the former at the Osaka Club and the latter at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce. A resolution for amalgamation was passed. The Union Bank has a capital of one million *yen*, of which 600,000 *yen* is paid up, and the Naniwa 2,700,000 *yen*, of which 1,932,000 *yen* is paid up. The total available is thus 3,700,000. The 20,000 shares of the Union Bank are to be converted into shares of the Naniwa, 30 *yen* being allowed as paid for each share. The amalgamation is to take effect

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on the 1st of July next. An honorarium of 3,500 *yen* was voted to Ex-President Toyama Shiuzo.

At a general meeting of the Yokohama Japanese Chamber of Commerce on the 24th April, resolutions were passed on the following subjects:—(1) A memorial to be forwarded to Government with regard to the establishment of offices for the inspection of silk textiles. (2) Investigations to be made as to the harbour at Yokohama. (3) Alteration of the site of buildings for the chamber. (4) Election of a committee for the 9th session of the United Chambers of Commerce. It had been decided to locate the Chamber's new offices on the site formerly occupied by the *Kencho*, but as the latter lot has recently been transferred to the Silk Conditioning Office, it was now resolved that a portion of land belonging to the Yokohama Machigaisho should be leased for the purpose.

The annual general meeting of the Hoshiu Railway Company was held on the 24th April. The figures for the latter half of last year are as follows:—

	YEN.
Net profit	250,373
Reserve	24,800
Rewards to officials	12,400
Dividends (7 per cent. per annum)	212,800
Carried over	373

As to the losses, amounting to 167,487 *yen*, in connection with the Tagawa coal mine, it was determined that the same should gradually be redeemed with the interest on the money realized by the sale of the mine. Another resolution of some importance referred to the extension of the company's lines, the increase of its capital by ½ a million *yen*, and the diminution of the number ofoverseers from 9 to 6.

According to the latest investigations of the Finance Department, the profits realized by the tobacco monopoly last year amounted to 7½ millions of *yen*. The Government has now determined, says the *Osaka Asahi*, to secure the monopoly of manufacture with a view to increasing the revenue to 10 million *yen*. From the reports of the Central Tobacco Association it appears that over 30 per cent. of the proceeds of leaf tobacco have been pocketed by dishonest merchants. Our contemporary therefore suggests the formation into a corporation of all tobacconists within the jurisdiction of each Monopoly Office, so that no sales can possibly be made to dealers other than to members of the corporation, upon whom suitable restrictions may be imposed in regard to the establishment of factories. With State control on these lines, a profit of 10 millions may be compassed, our contemporary thinks, without having recourse to manufacture or monopoly on the part of the Government.

The twelve articles of a secret convention said to have been recently concluded between Russia and Korea, are published by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. They bear the mark of a canard on their face, but it may interest our readers to know the kind of concessions that the newsmongers think abborlep under such circumstances. They are these:—(1) There shall be perpetual peace between Russia and Korea. (2) Korea shall be under the protection of Russia and Japan. (3) Limits shall be set to the rights and privileges enjoyed by the Japanese in Korea. (4) The Empress of Korea shall be chosen from among the Russian princesses. (5) The Greek Church shall be the State religion of Korea. (6) A Russian subject shall be employed in the capacity of adviser to the Korean Finance Department, and (7) A Russian subject shall be similarly appointed to the War Department. (8) The consent of the Russian Minister in Söul shall be obtained with respect to all appointments, removals, or changes of Korean officials. (9) The settlement of Russian subjects in Korea shall be encouraged. (10) All mining and forestry concessions in Korea shall be given to Russian subjects. (11) Russia shall have a naval port in Korea. (12) That all Korean subjects shall remove their top-knots. These fantastic provisions are said to have been published by a Korean newspaper and to have elicited a denial from the Emperor. The *Mainichi Shimbun's* correspondent adds that there is back-entrance communication between the Russian Legation and the Palace, and that the Emperor often visits the Russian Representative privately. That touch alone was wanted to finish off the burlesque picture.

Imports during the second half of last month totalled only 7,530,000 *yen*, whereas it had been expected that the total would reach ten million. Twelve millions' worth having been imported in the first half of the month, the total for April was 19,530,000 *yen*, against 31 millions during March. On the other hand, the exports during the first half of April totalled only 5 millions, whereas they rose to 6¾ millions during the second half. It is therefore hoped that the exodus of specie will soon be arrested.

Vigorous measures are being taken to promote the development of the school recently established in Nankin under the auspices of the *To-a Dôbunkai*, assisted by His Excellency Liu Kun-yi. At the recent assembly of Provincial Governors in Tokyo, it was urged that two students at least should be sent from each prefecture to study at the school, and several of the Governors, since their return to their districts, have succeeded in giving effect to the suggestion.

A consular report from Korea published in the *Nippon* says there is growing demand for Echigo kerosene in various parts of the kingdom. Japanese kerosene, it may be observed, was first exported to Inchhon in 1894, and the trade was extended to Pyong-yang in the 1886. Since then the business has increased year by year. Below are comparative figures for the past four years:—1896, 1,000 casks; 1897, 2,400; 1898, 5,000; 1899, 2,900. As to exports from America and Russia, the figures stand thus:—

	American oil. Cases.	Russian oil. Cases.
1896	—	—
1897	3,172	1,150
1898	17,894	—
1899	14,822	—

From the above figures it may be perceived that the import of petroleum is rapidly increasing in Korea. Even the trade in Echigo oil seems to have increased over 100 per cent. every year, except in 1899, when a sudden decrease is noticeable. As to American oil, the growth of the trade is truly wonderful, the amount imported having quadrupled during the past three years. The following points are suggested in regard to Japanese kerosene:—(1) The necessity of decreasing the odour and smokiness of the oil, (2) Uniformity in quality, and trade marks for different brands. (3) Extensive advertising.

The *Jiji Shimpo* ridicules the idea of attempting to check imports, or even of complaining because they exceed exports. It says that Japan has been buying more than she sold ever since the beginning of the *Meiji* era and that she is incomparably richer now than she was then. She will stop buying when her wants are satisfied, and, unless she is to go back to the rags and wretchedness of old time, there is no use preaching economy to her.

The *Jimmin* thinks that our arguments about Russia and Japan in Korea point to war and war only. We have said that, unless Russia gives up Vladivostock or Manchuria, she can not consent to see Korea pass into Japanese possession, and for that reason we can not believe in the stability of any compact assigning Manchuria to Russia and Korea to Japan. But it does not follow that Russia and Japan must fight. There is an alternative; namely, that they should both leave Korea alone.

Count Goto has become bankrupt, it is said. The extravagant licence of his life has been proverbial for some years. After the death of his father, Count Goto Shojiro, the Household Department purchased the family's Shinagawa estate for 500,000 *yen*, which should have paid all the debts and left the Count in fairly comfortable circumstances. But he is said to have squandered the whole, with 200,000 *yen* into the bargain.

That the area of land acquired by Russia at Masampho measures 250,000 *tsubo* (200 acres) is confirmed by subsequent intelligence. Within the space there are said to be included lots previously purchased by Japanese subjects to the extent of three thousand *tsubo*. The question of dealing with these lots is now under consideration.

Japanese newspapers publish a translation of the protest adressed by the Japanese and Chinese residents of Hawaii against the constitution of the court organized to inquire into the losses said to have been incurred in connexion with the recent destruction of property for sanitary reasons. It appears to have been a very strongly worded document, and it evidently produced the effect desired, for Mr. Dole speedily dissolved the tribunal.

Daigo Kakutaro, who was recently sentenced to imprisonment for life for the murder of his uncle Marquis Daigo, and who appealed against the sentence, has withdrawn his appeal, doubtless hoping to profit by the amnesty which will probably be granted in connexion with the marriage of the Prince Imperial. Had his case been *pendente lite*, he could not have come within the purview of the amnesty.

There have been various changes in the personnel of local officialdom. The Governors of Iwate, Ehime, and Tottori have been relieved of office, and are replaced by Mr. Hôjô Mototoshi (hitherto serving as public procurator), Mr. Motobe Tai' and Mr. Kagawa Ki (hitherto Secretary of Ibaraki Prefecture), respectively. Mr. Arita, hitherto Secretary of Okayama Prefecture, becomes Governor of Tokushima, and there are thirteen changes of minor officials.

A police-constable ran amok in the Kanda district of Tokyo on the 28th instant. He was not on duty at the time, but he had his sword at hand, and, armed with it, he sallied from his house, attacked any one he could reach, and succeeded in wounding six persons more or less severely before he could be arrested. He had been drinking heavily on the preceding night, and it is believed that he is out of his mind. After his murderous onslaught, he entered a house and asked for water, saying that he had slashed six of his friends who had insulted him at a wine-party on the previous evening. A woman was among his victims.

A Mr. Matsugame is stated to have invented a new kind of man-motor car to which he gives the name *Jindo-kwai-shinsha*. Trials were made on the 27th instant in the Hongo district of Tokyo. A circular track measuring 360 yards was used, and portions of it were laid with sharp turns and steep hills to make the test more conclusive. The car, which resembles a tram-car and is capable of accommodating 15 people, is said to have easily attained an average speed of 8 miles an hour when worked by three men. The working gear occupies a position in front, so that the drivers are placed as they would be on an ordinary carriage.

The Meiji Fire Insurance Company continues its prosperous career. It has just declared a dividend of 14 per cent. for the past year. The figures shown by its accounts are:—

	Yen.
Net profits for the year	136,676
Brought over from last account	154,554
Total	291,230
Placed to Reserve	80,000
Dividend at 14 per cent.	35,000
Carried to next account.....	176,230

The reserve had previously stood at 420,000 *yen*. It now amounts to 500,000, or to 676,230 *yen*, if the amount carried over be added.

There is a remarkable *penchant* in Japan at present for casting statues of public men, and even of persons who have no title to be regarded as "public." When a leading merchant or some other magnate celebrates his fiftieth or sixtieth birthday, or when his career offers any opportunity for a demonstration, his friends and relations combine to have him "done in bronze." It is very agreeable for the artist

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fraternity, but the *Jiji Shimpo* raises its voice loudly against the fashion, denouncing it as silly and extravagant. We do not altogether share our contemporary's views in this matter. Whether a man be a great celebrity or not, it is a very pleasant thing for his family to have a statue of him, and a gift of that kind assumes, in our opinion, a graceful form. If the art of painting in oils were more advanced in Japan, people might, perhaps, choose to have pictures rather than statues. But even that is doubtful, for whereas a painting in oils cannot be conveniently hung anywhere in a Japanese house, a bronze statue will stand appropriately in any alcove, and it thus appears that the statue merely takes in Japan the place of the picture in Europe or America. We certainly think any disposition to create a new demand for the products of the country's art, suffering as it does from lack of patronage, is to be applauded rather than deprecated.

INSURANCE LAW.

The above law consists of five chapters comprising 115 articles, together with supplementary provisions. We give the more important.

Art. II.—No insurance business shall be carried on except by a joint stock company or corporation.

Art. III.—The same company is not allowed to issue insurances on life and insurances on property.

Art. IV.—An application for the organization of a company for the insurance of property must be accompanied by the following documents :—

1. Regulations of the company to be organized.
2. Programme of operations.
3. General rules for insurance.
4. Statement concerning insurance fees and reserve funds.

Art. XI.—In case the authorities concerned shall come to the conclusion that an insurance company has a difficulty in continuing its business, orders may be issued for its suspension or for alterations in the management of its affairs or the basis of its constitution. Other necessary measures may also be taken to protect the interests of persons insured and those who are entitled to receive money under contracts.

Art. XIV.—In the regulations of a joint stock company organised for carrying on insurance business, the following items must be inserted in addition to those specified in Clauses II. or VIII. of Article 120 of the Commercial Code :—

1. The class of insurance and limits of transactions.
2. Method of redemption of preliminary expenses.

Art. XV.—Each company is required to indicate in its name the class of insurance it undertakes.

Art. XVI.—The capital of a company shall not be less than 100,000 *yen*.

Art. XVII.—Application for shares must contain items specified in Article XIV., together with those indicated in Clause II. of Article 126 of the Commercial Code.

Art. XVIII.—The company is required to effect registration with regard to items specified in Article IV. and those indicated in Clause I. of Article 141 of the Commercial Code.

Art. XX.—The provisions of Articles X. of the Commercial Code shall not apply to any insurance company.

Art. XXVI.—The projector of a corporation is required to draw up regulations in which the following items shall be mentioned, and to attest same with his own signature, or to state his name and affix his seal thereto :—

1. Class of insurance and limits of business to be carried on.
2. Name of corporation.
3. Place where business offices are to be established.
4. Gross amount of share capital.
5. Rights to be enjoyed by subscribers to the same.
6. Nature of the members' responsibility.
7. Method of redemption of capital and of preliminary outlays.
8. Method of distribution of surplus.
9. Means of advertisement adopted by the company.
10. Period of operation, or, in the case of provision being made for dissolution, the period as well as the reason of such dissolution.

Art. XXVIII.—The capital of a corporation shall not be less than 100,000 *yen*. Neither shall it be paid or subscribed otherwise than in money.

Art. XXIX.—No corporation shall be organised with less than 100 members.

Art. XXXI.—When the proposed membership has been secured the projector or originator of a corporation shall at once take steps to convene a general meeting. At a meeting thus held the attendance of more than half the number of members and the consent of over three-fourths of them is necessary for decisions of all descriptions.

Art. XXXIV.—The Overseer of a corporation is required to effect registration of the following items in places where business offices are established, within two weeks from the date of a general meeting :—

1. Items specified in paragraphs 1, 2, 4, and 10 of Article XXVI.
2. Business offices.
3. Names and addresses of Overseers and Auditors.

Art. LVI.—The share capital of a corporation shall in no way be redeemed except by surplus at the end of each business year.

This provision applies also to interest payable to subscribers.

Art. LVIII.—A portion of the preliminary expenses as well as working expenditures for the first five years of organisation may be redeemed every year within a period not exceeding ten years, in accordance with the provisions of the company's regulations.

Art. LIX.—The redemption of capital or the distribution of dividend shall not be undertaken until preliminary expenses and working expenditures for the first five years have been entirely redeemed, and reserves set apart as specified in Article LVII.

Art. LX.—When the capital fund is to be redeemed, a sum equal to the amount of redemption must be set apart as a reserve.

Art. LXIII.—The alteration of the company's regulations shall only be effected by the decision of a general meeting. Such changes, however, as are considered necessary for obtaining government sanction to the decisions of the company may be made at the discretion of the overseer with the approval of the general meeting.

Art. LXIV.—In case the company desires to diminish the responsibility of its members with regard to its liabilities, the provisions of Articles 78 and 80 of the Commercial Code must be complied with.

Art. LXXII.—A corporation shall be dissolved in the cases specified below :—

1. Expiration of the fixed term of operation, or other causes specified in the regulations.
2. Diminution of members below 100 in number.
3. Decision made at the general assembly.
4. Amalgamation.
5. Bankruptcy.
6. Withdrawal of licence or charter.

Art XCI.—No business tax shall be imposed upon a corporation.

Art. XCVII.—Any person engaging in insurance business without obtaining permission of the authorities concerned shall be liable to a fine of not less than 10 *yen* and not exceeding 1,000 *yen*.

Art. XCVIII.—The overseer, auditor, or liquidator of any insurance company shall be punishable with a fine of from 10 *yen* to 1,000 *yen*, in cases mentioned below :—

1. When any business other than that of insurance is undertaken.
2. When business connected with life insurance and insurance of property is conjointly carried on.
3. When the ordinances of the authorities concerned are not duly complied with.
4. In case of obstruction being offered to official inspection.
5. When original documents, or copies or extracts, that should be submitted to inspection according to this law, are withheld without justifiable cause.
6. When profits are distributed in contravention of Article XIX.
7. When amalgamation is effected contrary to the provisions of Article XXII.
8. When accounts of reserve funds required by law are not duly entered at the close of each business year.

Art. XCIX.—Offences specified below shall involve liability to a fine of from 5 *yen* to 500 *yen* upon the Projector, Overseer, Auditor, or Liquidator of a corporation :—

1. When registration is not effected according to the provisions of this law.
2. Where notices or advertisements, as prescribed by this law, are not issued, or when false notices are given.
3. When applications for membership, specified in Clause II. of Article XXX., are not prepared, or when necessary items are not mentioned in such applications or fraudulent statements are inserted.
4. When account brooks and other important documents are not provided in each office, or necessary items are not mentioned in them.

Art. C.—In the cases enumerated below the Projector, Overseer, Auditor, or Liquidator of a corporation shall be liable to a fine of from 10 to 1,000 *yen* :—

1. When false statements are made at a general meeting or to the Government, or when facts are concealed.
2. When capital fund is redeemed, or interest paid, or surplus distributed in contravention of the provisions of this law.
3. When property belonging to the corporationis disposed of in contravention of the provisions of this law.

Art. CIV.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of July in the 33rd year of *Meiji* (1900).

Art. CIII.—Any insurance company which, being organised prior to the operation of this law, does not indicate by its name the kind of insurance undertaken, is required to alter the name and register its head offices, as well as branches, withing three months from the dates of the enforcement of the law.

Art. CIX.—Any company which does not provide a proper amount of reserves as prescribed by this law, is required to devise means of supplying the deficiency, and obtain sanction of the authorities concerned, within three months from the date of the operation of the law. The period of such scheme shall not exceed ten years.

Art. CXIV.—Violation of Articles CIV. and CIX. on the part of members or overseers of an insurance company shall be punishable by a fine of from 5 *yen* to 500 *yen*.

Art. CXV.—Rules relating to insurance business carried on in Japan by agents of foreigners or branches of foreign firms shall be determined by Imperial Ordinance.

JUDICIAL DELAYS IN JAPAN.

An eminent lawyer, interviewed by the *Tokyo Asahi*, has made some interesting remarks with regard to the law's delays in Japan. The enquiries he has made lead him to the conclusion that judicial matters in Japan are not so bad, in comparison with other countries, as has been alleged, and that the reports of the Japanese Judges who have returned from abroad in regard to the frequency of appeals in consequence of want of confidence on the part of suitors, are entirely groundless. In support of this assertion he adduces the following statement :—

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JAPAN.

Period of preliminary examination.	Number of cases.
Less than 15 days	5,770
Less than 30 days	6,279
Less than 2 months	5,215
Less than 3 months	1,953
Over 3 months	1,740
Total	20,957

The above figures refer to crimes and misdemeanours tried during the 31st year of *Meiji* (1898).

FRANCE.

Period.	Misdemeanours.
Less than 15 days	13,738
Less than 30 days	11,614
Less than 2 months	7,823
Less than 3 months	2,901
Over 3 months	2,766
Total	38,842

	Crimes.
Less than 1 month	2,656
Less than 2 months	136
Less than 3 months	71
Over 3 months	32
Total	2,895

The intervals between the first trial and the date of judgment in regard to misdemeanours in Japan, as compared with France, stand as follows:—

JAPAN.

Period.	Misdemeanours.
Less than 5 days	48,970
Less than 10 days	37,172
Less than 15 days	16,029
Less than 20 days	7,704
Less than 1 month	7,209
Less than 2 months	5,169
Over 2 months	1,667
Total	123,920

FRANCE.

Less than 1 day	1,776
Less than 2 days	7,890
Less than 3 days	22,263
Less than 8 days	29,600
Less than 15 days	40,568
Less than 1 month	49,825
Less than 2 months	36,839
Total	188,761

With regard to serious crimes the following are the figures:—

JAPAN.

Period.	Crimes.
Less than 1 month	1,040
Less than 2 months	684
Less than 3 months	204
Less than 6 months	179
Less than 1 year	37
Over 1 year	0
Total	2,625

Period. FRANCE.	Crimes.
Less than 1 month	69
Less than 2 months	455
Less than 3 months	583
Less than 4 months	623
Less than 5 months	330
Less than 6 months	166
Over 6 months	362

In the case of appeals the record was 6,637 for Japan and 14,302 for France, and the figures representing appeals to the Court of Cassation for the two countries were 1,432 and 3,008 respectively.

The following table shows the period of detention of persons awaiting trial:—

JAPAN.

Period.	Number of prisoners.
Less than 1 month	31,054
Less than 2 months	2,669
Less than 3 months	1,092
Less than 4 months	485
Less than 5 months	235
Less than 6 months	203
Over 6 months	298
Total	36,037

FRANCE.

Less than 1 day	8,333
Less than 3 days	37,393
Less than 8 days	28,847
Less than 15 days	14,650
Less than 1 month	11,004
Over 1 month	11,162
Total	111,378

If the above statistics are correct, no great difference can be said to exist between the two countries in connection with the interval between preliminary examinations and delivery of judgment upon crimes and misdemeanours, or the period of detention of suspects awaiting trial. As to the last point, it is to be observed, however, that at last year's assembly of judicial officials resolutions were passed in favour of granting bail, as far as possible, in the case of criminal defendants awaiting trial. As to appeals of various descriptions it is worthy of notice that France shows a greater proportion than Japan.

In the face of the above figures, the wholesale condemnation of Japanese law courts on the ground of unreliability, as shown by the frequency of appeals, is unwarranted. The numbers of law courts in Japan, France, and Germany stand as follow:—

Classification.	Japan.	France.	Germany.
Local Courts	302	2,866	1,914
District Courts	49	359	172
Appeal Courts	7	26	28
Courts of Cassation...	1	1	1
Commercial Courts...	—	223	—

The ratio that the above courts bear to the average population is as follows:—

	Ratio to Population.		
Classification of Court.	For Japan.	For France.	For Germany.
Local	140,000	13,000	23,000
District	910,000	104,000	260,000
Appeal	6,370,000	1,440,000	1,610,000
Cassation	44,590,000	37,490,000	45,230,000
Commercial	—	160,000	—

As regards the number of judges the contrast is still more striking. While Germany has 6,982 judges and 4,536 Public Procurators, the corresponding figures for Japan are 1,244 and 473 respectively (unfortunately the figures for France are not at present available). It may be asserted, therefore, that judicial matters in Japan progress with a rapidity beyond any expectation based on the numerical returns of Courts and Judges. But it is desirable not only that expedition should be exercised in the conduct of judicial affairs, but that judgments should be characterized by justice and equity, and should be free from all avoidable error. Too much solicitude for mere rapidity might be very prejudicial to the interests of justice.

The same critic urges the necessity of improving the present system relating to counsel. The following statistics, compiled by the Judicial Department, may be taken as an illustration of the fact that trials in law courts are frequently prolonged for the convenience of the bar. The number of civil cases in which counsel were required during February, 1899, was 3,336, while that of criminal cases was 1,428. Of these the number in which adjournments were made for the convenience of the courts did not exceed 72 in civil cases and 57 in criminal cases, whereas adjournments applied for by counsel numbered 1,057 and 417 respectively. The ratio, therefore, between the adjournments of the law courts and those of the barristers at law is as follows:—

Civil cases—
Delayed at the convenience of Courts..... 2.2
Delayed at the convenience of Counsel 31.7
Criminal cases—
Delayed at the convenience of Courts..... 4
Delayed at the convenience of Counsel 29.2

Although it cannot be inferred that these delays are entirely attributable to negligence on the part of counsel, yet without doubt the conduct of the latter has largely contributed to procrastination. In Germany no counsel attached to ordinary courts of law is allowed to appear professionally in the appeal court, and provincial counsellors are only allowed to engage in their profession within the jurisdiction of the courts to which they belong. In Japan, however, a barrister in Tokyo is at liberty to appear in Osaka or any other place at his own convenience.

Delay in judicial trials is an inevitable result of the system as it now stands.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

Following is the first list of subscribers to the Indian Famine Relief Fund opened at the Yokohama branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank:—

Kaliandass & Co.	200
A. M. Essabhoy	175
M. N. Gobhai & Co.	151
C. M. Bhesania & Co.	75
Wasiamal Assoomal	51
A. Shaikally & Co.	51
J. B. Bhesania & Co.	51
Pohoomul Bros.	25
D. Chellaram	25
D. Nanumal	25
Hotam	25
C. H. Mohomad Meak	25
H. H. Josuph	25
A. H. Josuph	25
K. A. J. Chotirmal & Co.	15
H. B. Bhesania	15
P. R. Desai	15
K. Cumroodin	11
A. A. Kader	11
Nabantoola a Kader	10
Said M. S. Laui	1
D. Jackson	100
J. H. Brooke	25
C. Guissani	25
W. R. Bennett	100
Hubert J. Owen	10
Mrs. H. J. Owen	10
P. R. Scott	10
Thos. S. Baker	25
Ah Fai	50
W. R.	10
D.	10
A. Wilckens	10
V. F. Deacon	10
H. A. J. Denny	10
Cecil Guinness	25
S. Wheeler	10
G. G. B.	10
Total	1,457

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, April 28th:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,160,648
Amount of convertible notes issued	211,885,595
Government deposits	62,888,452
General deposits	6,509,639
Exchange liability	99,754
Total	327,544,090

CR.	
Discount notes	75,981,461
Foreign discount notes	12,590,154
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	67,797,760
Exchange liability	2,731,604
Government bonds	54,158,541
Property	2,040,253
Bullion and Specie	90,244,314
Total	327,544,090

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	210,310,920
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	85,485,119
Silver	4,000,000
Total	89,485,119
Securities:—	
Government bonds	20,581,255
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,272,581
Commercial notes	67,051,965
Total	112,885,801

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	2,956,591
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	594,121
Government deposits	1,121,812	—
General deposits	3,503,419	—

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense, responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

IMPERIAL WEDDING STAMPS.

(To the Editor of the "Japan Mail.")

Sir,—I beg to inform you that the postage stamps specially issued for the commemoration of the Imperial Wedding can be obtained at Post Offices as well as Postal Agencies after this date.

The public, however, is strictly cautioned not to use them before the date, 10th May, and should mail matters bearing the stamp be posted before the above-mentioned date, they will be treated as unpaid or insufficiently paid matter.

The postage stamps can only be used for the domestic mail and are invalid on foreign mail packages, except for China and Korea, where Japanese Post Offices are established.

Yours respectfully, N. NARITA,
Supt. of Foreign Mails.

Yokohama, April 28th, 1900.

THE COMMERCIAL SITUATION.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—For some weeks past a growing feeling of distrust has been evident in commercial circles. Stocks and bonds of undoubted value and showing excellent returns are depreciating, credit is restricted, advances are difficult to obtain, except at increasing rates of interest, and as a consequence traders who had just overcome the difficulties of a similar state of affairs in 1897 and 1898, and were looking forward to an era of some prosperity, see their hopes crushed in the bud.

The reasons given by our Japanese friends for this state of affairs are the excess of Imports over Exports and the outflow of gold. The following tables will therefore be of interest at the present time.

Imports and Exports of Merchandise.

	Imports.	Exports.	Excess Imports.	Excess Exports.
1892..	91,100,000	71,300,000	19,800,000	—
1893..	88,300,000	89,700,000	—	1,400,000
1894..	177,500,000	113,300,000	4,200,000	—
1895..	129,300,000	136,100,000	—	6,800,000
1896..	171,700,000	117,800,000	53,900,000	—
1897..	219,300,000	163,100,000	56,200,000	—
1898..	277,500,000	165,800,000	111,700,000	—
1899..	220,400,000	214,900,000	5,500,000	—
			251,300,000	8,200,000
			8,200,000	
	Net Excess Imports...		243,100,000	

Imports and Exports of Gold and Silver.

	Imports.	Exports.	Net imports.	Net exports.
1892.				
Gold.	400,000	8,500,000		
Silver.	22,500,000	1,200,000		
			13,200,000	—
1893.				
Gold.	500,000	2,300,000		
Silver.	10,700,000	10,000,000		
			—	1,100,000
1894.				
Gold.	600,000	3,600,000		
Silver.	26,200,000	30,800,000		
			—	7,600,000
1895.				
Gold.	1,000,000	2,800,000		
Silver.	4,800,000	24,500,000		
			—	21,500,000
1896.				
Gold.	10,200,000	2,000,000		
Silver.	28,900,000	9,600,000		
			27,500,000	—
1897.				
Gold.	64,300,000	8,900,000		
Silver.	17,100,000	10,400,000		
			62,100,000	—
1898.				
Gold.	37,000,000	46,300,000		
Silver.	5,500,000	40,700,000		
			—	44,500,000
1899.				
Gold.	20,200,000	8,800,000		
Silver.	100,000	2,400,000		
			9,100,000	—
			111,900,000	74,700,000

Net Imports and Exports of Gold and Silver.

	Net Imports. Gold.	Net Exports. Gold.	Net Imports. Silver.	Net Exports. Silver.
1892...	—	8,100,000	21,300,000	—
1893...	—	1,800,000	700,000	—
1894...	—	3,000,000	—	4,600,000
1895...	—	1,800,000	—	19,700,000
1896...	8,200,000	—	19,300,000	—
1897...	55,400,000	—	6,700,000	—
1898...	—	9,300,000	—	35,200,000
1899...	11,400,000	—	—	2,300,000
	75,000,000	24,000,000	48,000,000	61,800,000

Thus—

In a period of 8 years, Imports of Merchandise show an excess over exports of Merchandise	243,100,000
In a similar period, Imports of Gold show an excess over Exports of Gold	51,000,000
	292,000,000
Against which, Exports of Silver show an excess over Imports of Silver	13,800,000
Net excess of Imports, Merchandise, Gold, Silver	278,200,000

The Exports of Silver may be dismissed from further consideration, as they are probably due entirely to the change of currency from a silver to a gold basis.

If the Customs Returns are correct, there should be almost as much silver, and much more gold, in circulation than in any year up to 1895, so that the present drain might continue for some months, before the country would be worse off in this respect than in those years.

So far as the present is concerned, there seems no cause for the prevalent feelings of alarm, on account of the exports of specie. But if we take a wider view of the subject, we shall see that the situation is a serious one. During the years under review, Japan has imported over 240,000,000 *yen* in excess of Exports, and these figures would be largely increased if we included the value of Government purchases in the shape of men-of-war, etc.

While it is very evident that Japan has been a large buyer, the above figures appear to show that, up to 1897/8, the account was settled by drafts upon the Indemnity obtained from China. As this was absorbed, a period of stringency set in, which was not really relieved until the Government obtained credit abroad, by the issue of a loan in London in 1899. The proceeds of that loan have apparently been appropriated, and we are now facing another period of stringency, and, so far as can be seen, with no signs of relief in the immediate future.

It must be admitted, that the present situation is due to an excess of imports, and that unless some immediate steps be taken, the country will be relieved of all its specie.

The only remedies tried so far have been an increase in the rate of interest, and a general exhortation against the purchase of imported articles, but, as already mentioned in your columns, such exhortations cannot be expected to have any real effect. The rise in the rate of interest is a different matter, and is a measure which would be adopted in similar circumstances in Western financial centres.

It is in evident imitation of the policy successfully pursued in the face of an outflow of specie by Western countries, but it is apparently forgotten that the commercial interests of Western financial centres are intimately related, that their assets have an international character, and respond at the slightest call to the requirements of any particular country, the rise in the rate of interest at any given centre forming an immediate attraction for the removal of funds to that point and having a powerful effect upon the rates of exchange.

In the case of Japan, there is no commercial connection with the money markets of the world, and under such circumstances, an increase in the rate of interest will not cause the current of gold to turn back in its course, nor will it alter the fact that Japan must pay for all the imported articles now on order, or to arrive in the course of the year, and it is a question for the statesmen of Japan to consider whether it is desirable that the people should have to encounter these constant checks to their enterprise, while the effectiveness of such measures is so meagre.

In short, the increased rates of interest, and restriction of facilities, can only act by crippling the traders of the Empire, and reducing their purchasing capacity, and even so the result cannot be effected until some months have elapsed. Further, it is very certain that the same situation will recur again at a very early date.

To make this last point clear, it is necessary to bear in mind that, commercially speaking, Japan is a new country. She requires fitting out with the appliances and requirements of modern civilization, and until these are fully installed, she must be a purchasing country. Some recent speakers on this subject consider that Japan should manufacture her own requirements. Even were this feasible, the machinery and materials have to be imported, and as there is so much to be done in this work of equipment, Japan must, in any case, face an excess of imports for years to come, unless she reverts to an isolated life of her own.

Such being the case, there are only two ways in which the excess of Imports can be paid for:—

Either the Government must raise further loans abroad—or foreign capital must be attracted to Japan in such a way that the money markets of the world will come to the relief in times of expanding trade or periods of necessity.

The lack of the second alternative at the present time shows that the commercial life of Japan is still separated from that of the Western world, and until channels are provided for an interchange of benefits, this separation will continue. In the West, there are large amounts of capital seeking investment, but the fact that in Japan there are opportunities for investment, is not in itself sufficient to attract capital. Our Japanese friends must recognize that capital is timid and nervous, and requires much persuasion before it will venture in untried places. It requires evidence of a scrupulous regard for the rights which it obtains in its own countries. As a rule, capitalists are influenced by general impressions, and it must be confessed that the present deadlock respecting the titles to land in the foreign settlements, the difficulties of obtaining full security in all cases where land is in question, and recent judicial decisions, are all tending to the formation of a general impression, which is not favourable to the investment of capital in Japan, and unless this feeling is soon removed it will be a long time before Japan is able to turn the course of foreign exchanges by an increase in the rate of interest, a course which, if available now, would afford an immediate solution of the problems and difficulties of the present time.

Yours, etc., C.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The account enclosed is by an Eye-witness. He says:—India is now entering upon the greatest famine of the century. The viceroy and Imperial Council, surveying the entire country, have said officially "We are now face to face with famine of water and food and cattle which is unprecedented in character and intensity. No Government can undertake at such a time to prevent all suffering. The aggregate famine area will be about 300,000 square miles," (or five times that of England) "with a population of 40 millions. There is a further population of 21 millions in which more or less general scarcity and distress prevail. The crisis is one which demands the loyal co-operation of all who love India. To that co-operation in the months of trial that lie before us, on behalf of the Government of India, I unhesitatingly appeal." With ability and heroism the Government is trying to meet this crisis, but their revenues are reduced by the very famine they are trying to relieve. Already there is a

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population equal to that of Ireland on the relief works, and they are increasing at the rate of several hundred thousand a week. Government feels forced to reduce the wages to one penny a day for a man, and three half pence for a woman, with grain rising every day, and a population nearly equal to that of the United States in the famine areas!

IN SOUTH INDIA.

I saw a veteran missionary who went through the famine of '76. He says that this will be even greater than the "Great famine" then. Already the crowds of hungry people were beginning to gather about his door. I saw one group of gaunt spectres, who had walked 75 miles, stalk silently in from the dusty road. "Sir," they said "We have no work, no food, no water; how can we live?" The missionary could only point them on, 30 miles farther, where there was a little work at a penny or two a day. "But what will become of our wives and children?" The old man could not answer. In his own field are 10,000 Christians already suffering. He told me they were living on berries, and cactus; and these could last but two weeks longer. As we drove through the fields the cattle were gone, the streams were dry, the wells often empty, the parched farms deserted; the villages were quiet, the people silent and gloomy. The glaring heaven seemed brass, and the earth burnt like brick, as the silent judgment of God hung over the land.

In the next mission station half of the 18,000 Christians were destitute. In some places disease was following the famine. In one little village the people in 40 houses had small-pox. And these people were starving. Some had eaten nothing for days. The missionary could not buy them a handful of grain in that village, for there was none to sell. The old man had fought through the war, but his face was wet with tears when he told me what he had seen in the villages. And these starving people are our fellow-men, each one your "mother or sister or brother." They are laid, for there is nowhere else to lay them, laid at your gate, "full of sores and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fall from your table." Now, if ever, is the time to help India. Cannot collections be taken in every church, and Sunday School? How much will this famine cost you?

IN WESTERN INDIA?

On arriving in Bombay, I met an old acquaintance. He had just come in from his station in Gujarat. I noted down his statements in pen and ink. Gujarat was a fertile country thickly populated. Now every blade of dry grass is gone. Every leaf was long ago torn from the trees for cattle, and now the trees themselves have all been cut down for wood. The whole country, once green as an English Park, is now a blasted waste of barren stumps and burnt fields. Eight or nine months more of famine lie before us, even if the rain comes next monsoon. The cattle are dead. The Government officials say they find men dead along the road-side. As I passed the poor-house I saw two men lying dead in the street. They had arrived just too late. The streets were filled with children winnowing the dust and even the manure for particles of grain to allay the pangs of hunger. Every day women come to me crying and ask me to take their children from their arms, or from their empty breasts and save them alive. Some of the poor little skeletons died after I took them. They were too far gone to be saved by food. Repeatedly the parents have offered me their children for one rupee (about a shilling) and they love them as we love ours. Children are now being offered as low as two pence each, or for a measure of grain. The Mohammedans are buying little girls at this price." One has to live in a heathen land to know what they will do with them. And to-day my friend goes back to fight the famine almost empty-handed for lack of money, and there are hundreds like him. One missionary told me she lost her own little girls in the last famine by going a little too far in trying to deny themselves and share their food with the natives. The missionaries are waiting and praying. The people are waiting. They are at your door. There are children still innocent who can be saved from heathenism for Christ: there are men who can be saved from the horrors of starvation; there are women and girls still pure who can be saved, in their desperation and helplessness, from what is worse than death. They are waiting. And our Master is waiting. It is a time to test the reality of our relationship to Him and to our fellow men. „Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Feed my sheep." "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto Me. For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink."

HOW TO HELP THE FAMINE.

As a College Secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement my work has taken me through the famine districts of India. I have never thus asked before for help. I need nothing for myself or my own work. But in all my life I have never seen such need or such an opportunity for doing good with money. Five shillings will save a child in an orphanage in South India for a month. Two pounds ($10) will rescue a girl during the famine. Five pounds could save a family. Twenty pounds might relieve a small village, or build an orphanage of mud or thatch, for deserted and starving children. You can send the money through the treasurer of your Missionary Society. I have made a list of thirty of the neediest missionaries I know, of all denominations, and of isolated faith missionaries and orphanages. If you know of nowhere else to send it, I will place the money where I see the greatest need, and where it will do most good, sending you a receipt and rendering an account to you when the famine is over. Donations may be sent through V. W. Helm, Y.M.C.A., 3, Sanchome, Mitoshirocho, Kanda, Tokyo, or direct to me.

G. S. EDDY, Sec. Y.M.C.A.,
Madras, India.

February 28th, 1900.

ASAMA-YAMA AND THE KUSATSU SHIRANE-SAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—So many reports have been circulated concerning the eruption of Asama-yama on the 22nd January of this year, that some of your readers may possibly be interested to know what were the effects observed on the mountain when the first ascent of the season since that eruption was made; namely by an English traveller and myself on Friday, the 27th April. Stones up to about two inches square and nearly half a pound in weight had fallen as far as Karuizawa,—and on the mountain much larger ones, up to about half a ton, as nearly as we could judge. Many of these have partially buried themselves by the violence of their fall, others have gone several inches below the surface, leaving the "pot-holes" so often noticed on active volcanoes. The cone is covered with fine dark-coloured ash to an average depth of six inches; and, as the eruption took place during the coldest time of year, this ash fell on the top of hard snow, which has thus been preserved unmelted. Many large stones, ejected last of all, have fallen or rolled on to the surface of the ash. The crater has apparently suffered no change; but there are new vapour vents on the dyke by which the ascent from Karuizawa is made. Dense white sulphurous vapour filled the entire area of the crater.

Proceeding to Kusatsu on the following day, we then ascended Shirane-san, to verify how far the eruption of 1897 had altered the aspect of that volcano, and we found from the villagers that yet another eruption had taken place in January of the present year. The boiling lake and the sulphur refining works mentioned in Murray's "Handbook for Japan" were destroyed by the former of these eruptions. None of the villagers had made the ascent since the eruption of January last, and our guide (so-called) endeavoured to dissuade us from attempting the final climb through mud more or less liquid except where covered with a recent coating of somewhat harder snow. The quantity of this mud ejected since January is very considerable, coating as it does the whole cone to a depth varying from half-an-inch to over twenty feet. It, too, fell or poured over on the top of snow that had been hardened to the consistency of ice, so that, where the superficial mud coating is thickest, the ice below will probably be permanently preserved. But the most interesting feature is the re-formation of the boiling lake which is now in progress. Whether it be pure boiling water, or water above only and mud beneath, there was no means of ascertaining, the only place to view it from being the crater rim, as the barrier of liquid mud which slopes down to the edge of the lake could not be crossed. It will be interesting to learn whether, as this mud dries, access to the lake will be restored. The inhabitants of Kusatsu believe that the eruption of 1897 was caused by the digging for sulphur which had gone on for several years previously. There is, therefore, little probability that this industry, which formerly gave employment to 500 or 600 men, will be resumed. Works on a smaller scale are, however, contemplated at a place in the vicinity called Sai-no-kawara.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
B. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

Kusatsu, 30th April, 1900.

THE BOERS AND TEMPERANCE REFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Knowing that many of your readers are interested in both the Boer War and Temperance work I venture to ask you to publish the enclosed clipping. It is part of a letter from Mrs. Sprigg, sister-in-law of Sir Gordon Sprigg, the ex-Premier of Cape Colony. The letter was sent by Mrs. Sprigg to Miss Agnes Slack, Hon. Sec. of the World's W. C. T. U., and was given out for publication by Miss Slack. It affords light to those who wish light on the Africander Bond question.

My husband's duty as magistrate is just to keep the thousands of natives in the district quiet. So far there has been no difficulty with them. They are only anxious to hear that we have beaten the Boers, for they all dread Dutch rule. While there are good men on both sides, we do truly believe that ours is the side of justice, and so can conscientiously ask God's blessing on it. We did not want the war we could not believe it would ever come, we were not prepared for it, we have to suffer much as a Colony on account of it, but we believe that good will come out of it. The prayer I should like to send to the Convention is this: "That God will grant that one of the results of the sad strife may be that Temperance work in South Africa may have many hindrances taken out of the way." The Boer party in the Cape Colony is the Liquor party. Their political organisation, the Bond, has opposed all Temperance legislation in behalf of the "Dutch Brandy" farmers in the Western Province. And here in the Native Territories we have not been able to get even the existing laws enforced, because of the influence they exercised over the Government to keep an open market for their productions. I have often wondered if there was ever such a drink-ruled country in the world. Now our hope is that this war will break the power of the Bond, and that Temperance legislation and Temperance work will have a better chance.

It is grand to see how the Colonies are helping each other. We realise as we never did before the unity of the Empire, and the enthusiasm of the Australians and Canadians is wonderful. Did not the Jubilee demonstrations prepare the way for this? If so, their cost was money well spent. On the other hand, we are also beginning to find out that it is not the simple Boers that we are fighting, they seem to be led and backed by men from half the nations of Europe, so that this is virtually a European war, though fought in Africa; and Natal and Cape Colony are suffering as Belgium did a century ago, by being made the battle-field for the dreadful struggle. I can hardly believe it is true that such a thing has come upon us, though it is so close to us. We can never live our quiet, old-fashioned life again, we have got to come into the rush and whirl of the twentieth century:

Till like a bell, with solemn, sweet vibrations,
We hear once more the voice of Christ say, 'Peace.'

With kindest regards, yours sincerely,
"E. J. SPRIGG."

I had intended not to write again upon this question, especially after the letter signed "Justice" appeared in your issue of March 29th. I had read all that I could find on the side of the Boers, not omitting Stead's vagaries in the February number of the American *Review of Reviews*, for I felt sorry for the Boers and believed that there ought to be some justice and

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right on their side. When I read the letter of "Justice" in your columns I said to myself, "surely it cannot be that there is nothing at all to be said for the Boers." I read and re-read the letter and noted that "Justice" contradicted statements that have been made by competent and reliable authorities, corroborated by missionaries, and Church Synods in South Africa, that he made the monstrous assumption that Americans living in the Transvaal are "unfair and one-sided" and that necessarily their advocate is not to be believed, that he treated with contempt all who have anything to say against the Boers, but that he was unable to adduce any proof in support of his contradictions or give anything in rebuttal. It is hard for me to believe that the case for the Boers is as bad as it seemed to be after a careful perusal of their *friend's* letter.

However, I have received new light on the question and so I wished to beg space in your paper once more.

The new light is not simply the enclosed copy of the letter to Miss Slack. It is in regard to the nature of much of the evidence upon which the Boers are condemned by British sympathizers. In *The Ethical World* of Feb. 24th, a Mr. Hobson comes out as an advocate of Kruger's cause. Mr. Hobson says that much of what has been said and written against the Boers is based upon the statements of missionaries, and that since they believe in the supernatural they are outside the pale of intelligence. To give his own words, as printed in *The Ethical World*, the missionary, as well as the Christian minister, "is a man of so inherently credulous a nature that we have a right to suspect every statement bearing upon matters relating to his mission. The missionary is a man whose relations with the natives are based upon views of their nature and their needs which to readers of *The Ethical World* will appear fundamentally unreasonable, and some of this unreason will vitiate his views upon all aspects of the native question." I do not understand how Mr. Hobson is able to accept without question everything that Mr. Kruger chooses to say but I suppose that men who hold his (Mr. Hobson's) views of the supernatural are not troubled by any little apparent inconsistency such as believing the statements of the Boers and rejecting the statements of missionaries on the ground of their belief in the supernatural. I suppose Mr. Hobson would say that the Boer is a man whose relations with the natives are based upon views of their nature and their needs which appear to those who reject the mass of evidence given by men who have lived in South Africa full of reason, justice, and truth!

I may be very "gullible," but still I think that statements of such men as Rev. J. R. Cameron, a much esteemed missionary who has spent many years in South Africa, are to be received in preference to mere contradictions and sneers about the credulity and prejudice of men who believe in the supernatural. Mr. Cameron writes that the Boers have been more wanton in their destruction of property in Natal than the natives used to be during the wars with the native tribes. He speaks of an uprising some years ago when Umhlonhlo, the chief, restrained his men from injuring missionaries and mission property, but says that in the present war the Boers, "lineal descendants of the men who smashed up Livingstone's Mission," as he describes them, have plundered and destroyed mission property after taking possession of it. Mr. Hoskin, President of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, is responsible for the statement that "two years ago that section of the Dutch Church which is most numerous in the Transvaal, passed a resolution unanimously in their synod in Pretoria forbidding any minister or official of their communion to preach Christianity to the coloured races, under pain of expulsion from their church." "Justice" may say that this is "rot" and that to believe it "calls for a credulity simply amazing," but it is confirmed by Rev. R. F. Appelbe, of Johannesburg. This is a question of fact and on one side is the testimony of two men, one of whom is a prominent and reliable man who is an official in a church and the other a minister, but since they both believe in the supernatural we may, thanks to Mr. Hobson's brilliant idea, discard their statements and simply ask you, Mr. Editor, "if you believe that?"

I could give a quotation from a recently published letter from an Irish Catholic nun in South Africa, but her testimony, being against the Boers, is vitiated by her belief in the supernatural. Some fifteen years ago Dr. Kilner published a pamphlet in which he gave a detailed statement of the wrongs and sufferings of the coloured peoples under the control of the Boers. It was a terrible indictment containing many things worse than the incident related in the quotation you made from the *Christian Guardian* which "Justice" calls "rot," and this pamphlet has never been combated or contradicted but was circulated by at least one of the larger Missionary Societies in America. Dr. Guinness Rogers has written a calm, thoughtful letter in the *London Daily News* of Feb. 26th, 1900, in which he says "Englishmen are far from being perfect, but they are indignant at being held up to the gaze of the world in the light in which some of their more excited critics present them. They have no desire to extend an empire already too vast; and, if jealous of their own rights, they are not slow to recognize those of others. Looking at the whole spirit of Boer administration I am at a loss to understand how any man of Liberal sympathies can contemplate its triumph with any other feeling but one of dismay." Dr. Rogers speaks of the Boers as "a people who, however gallant and courageous, have been the enemies of civilization and progress." He declares that "there may be little difficulty in tracing the war back to the Jameson Raid, but there is a history even before the Raid; and the keenest condemnation of Mr. Rhodes and Dr. R. Harris does not mean the acquittal of the Boers for the remarkably stupid and unjust manner in which they have treated the Uitlanders and so engendered the angry discontent without which the Raid would never have been attempted."

Was the war "unnecessary," as "Justice" says? If so, then the heavier condemnation rests upon the Boers who planned, thoroughly prepared for, and brought on the conflict. I wonder if "Justice" knows that in the Transvaal the native peoples—the real owners of the soil if we regard natural rights—can hold no land, cannot embark in trade, not even as a huckster, cannot be legally married, except at an almost prohibitive cost and are therefore encouraged to live in immorality, receive no State aid for the education of their children, though they outnumber the Boers many times, and pay heavy taxes? Does he think there is justice is not allowing the natives to walk on the side-walks which they build themselves? But with apologies for such trespass upon your valuable space, allow me to say in conclusion that I have no desire for the extermination of the Boers. I would that the war were ended, and I believe that just as soon as the Boers are willing to accept—not what they have measured out to others—equal rights and justice for all, this foolish, hopeless, wicked struggle will come to an end,.

I am, Sir, Yours sincerely,
CANADIAN.

Tokyo, April 30th, 1900.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Admiral Sir E. Freemantle is visiting the capital.

Sir Ernest Satow and Count Orfini left for Europe on the outgoing C. P. R. steamer.

The yacht *Norna*, which has had such an eventful history under the guidance of Mr. N. J. Weaver, has finally been seized in Auckland Harbour under a bottomry bond for £1250 given to Mrs. Hettie Wallace of San Francisco. Judgment was entered and an order was made for the sale of the yacht.

Fire broke out at 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning in a Japanese hotel known as the Kawachiya, Kodenmacho, Sanchome, Tokyo. The building was destroyed and the premises adjoining were damaged. A guest named Watanabe Tomohachi (45), who only arrived that night, and a maid-servant named Furukawa Naka (20), were burnt to death.

With regard to the late Dr. Mivart, about whom we have been hearing a great deal lately, an Indian telegram announces that Cardinal Vaughan has "prohibited the burial of Dr. Mivart or his relatives in the Roman Catholic portion of Kensal Green, and the remains have been deposited in unconsecrated ground without religious rites. General indignation is expressed at this proceeding and litigation is impending."

American papers report a terrible flood in Texas. The great dam on the Colorado River gave way, and water rushed with terrible force over the adjoining country, sweeping away houses and factories, and drowning many of the inhabitants. The loss of property is great, one light and power house that was destroyed alone costing 1,500,000 dollars.

The emigration from Germany to foreign countries has attained large dimensions again. During the first two months of the year no less than 12,618 persons left the Continent by way of Bremen (against 7,384 in the same period of 1899), and Hamburg is not far behind. The emigrant boat of the Hamburg-American Line, which left Hamburg on 11th March, had on board no less than 1,684 passengers of all classes, and another boat was leaving within a few days.

The *Kreuz Zeitung*, in a remarkable article, dealing with the South African War, says:—"The War has demonstrated the unanimity of feeling among the English. They are all standing together, through good and evil report, and are compelling the admiration of the world. It also has shown in a most amazing manner the strength of the Imperialistic idea, having done much in welding the Colonies into a veritable Empire."

Messrs. Browne and Co., local agents, send us a copy of the Tourist Guide of the Eastern and Australian Steamship Company. It is a well printed and copiously illustrated publication, and gives a mass of most interesting information concerning China, Japan, the Australian colonies and other places accessible by the company's routes. The pictures of Australian city and country scenes are sufficient to tempt the leisured and moneyed reader to take a holiday in that continent.

The University Boat Race was one of the hollowest recorded. From the first stroke Cambridge led. Thenceforward the race was a mere procession, the gap ever widening to the end. There were five lengths between the boats at Hammersmith, nine at Chiswick, 200 yards at Barnes, the winning margin being estimated at twenty lengths, Although outclassed, the Oxonians struggled pluckily throughout, but were exhausted, while the winners apparently scarcely turned a hair. Time, 18 minutes 47 second, equals the record, but there was a fast tide and perfect weather.

The brigantine *Navarro*, belonging to Messrs. Mendezona & Co., of Manila, left Sorsogon on the 1st March with a full cargo of hemp for Manila, and was not again heard of until now, says the *Manila Times* on April 10. Two days out from Sorsogon the crew mutinied under the leadership of the boatswain, and cut to pieces Captain Acosta, his wife, and the mate of the ship. Then they ran the vessel into the river Lucol, in Mindoro. Here, two women servants of the murdered woman gave information to the native authorities who, after trial, executed the ringleader and imprisoned the rest of the crew. It is said the boatswain had a grievance against the mate, and arranged the mutiny solely for that reason.

Fujiwara Tamiji, Manager of the Hiogo Unyu Kabushiki Kaisha (forwarding agents), and seven others—clerks—have been arrested by the police. It is alleged, says the *Kobe Herald*, that they came to an agreement among themselves to abstract goods during transportation from vessels in port to shore. A secret storing place was built at the end of a floating wharf at Hiogo, where their company generally land goods, and the stolen material was concealed there until they could dis-

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pose of it. The value of the goods thus disposed of amounted to about 3,000 *yen* when the affair was discovered by the authorities. After the men were arrested a search was made and seventeen bags of rice and beans were found in the place of concealment and nineteen bags in the yard of the company.

Messrs. Dodwell and Co. forward us a pamphlet relating to the services of the Northern Pacific Steamship Company. It contains a good deal of information regarding the Far Eastern lines, but is largely devoted to the traffic to Alaska, Klondike, and the new gold fields at Cape Nome. These are spoken of as the greatest placer gold diggings known in the world's history. Though discovered late in 1898, it was not until last summer that the development of the camp commenced. In a few weeks, during July, August and September, between two and three thousand men, just scratching the surface, secured $4,000,000 or more from the famous beach claims and a few dozen creek claims. The *Tacoma*, well-known in the Far East, has been placed on this service.

The precarious position of some of the minor banks in the capital evokes vehement criticism. There has been a constant increase of banking institutions since the war. In 1894 the gross amount of capital of various companies stood at 249 million *yen*, of which 129 million were in the hands of banks and the remaining 120 millions held by other corporations. At present the banking capital is 455 millions, while that of the other companies is only 325 millions, leaving a balance of 130 millions in favour of the former. Below are comparative figures for the past five years:—

Year.	Number of banks.	Capital in yen.
1896	1,312	239,015,544
1897	1,603	321,593,014
1898	1,807	384,876,334
1899	2,032	438,189,469
1900 (up to March)	2,116	453,817,669

Thus the capital of banks has increased by over 100 million *yen* during the past three years.

Emigration has of late become the fashion, remarks the *Nichi Nichi*. Innumerable companies have sprung up, but their organisation has been based, not on the promotion of either individual or national interests, but on the prospect of enormous gains for the projectors. The increase of these corporations is really surprising. In 1894, the number of companies for which charters were granted by the Government did not exceed four. In 1896, 1897, and 1898 there was an increase of two each year, and in 1899 five more were added. In the current year applications have been received by the authorities for the institution of twelve new companies, of which eight have already received charters. The most objectionable feature of these corporations is the manner in which deception is resorted to for securing a great number of applicants; the result being that in the two prefectures of Hiroshima and Yamaguchi, where the mania for immigration is most conspicuous, petty farmers have been imposed upon to such an extent that they have abandoned farm work wholesale. Some restrictions are needed.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held on the 18th ult., the Secretary read a letter from the Government, received on the 6th April, transmitting a suggestion by the Acting Harbour Master that, in view of the fact that two fires had occurred on board vessels in port in consequence of spontaneous combustion of so-called Japanese "safety matches" among the cargo, these matches should, when the New Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance comes into force, be classed, under its provisions, as dangerous goods. Considerable discussion ensued on this proposal, which it was thought was calculated, if carried into effect, to divert an important trade from the port, and it was decided to write to the Government deprecating immediate action in the direction indicated. It was also resolved to bring the matter to the attention of the Chambers of Commerce at Kobe and Yokohama, with a view to get them to urge upon the manufacturers the desirability of making the matches genuine "safety matches."

The strange hallucination of the French that we desire war with them induced the *Gaulois* to "circularise" a number of English notabilities, and a recent issue contained answers, amongst others, from Cardinal Vaughan, the Bishop of London, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Rosebery, Sir Frederick Carrington, Sir John Colomb, and Mr. Arnold Forster. Needless to say, the writers are unanimous in repudiating the notion that England wishes for war with France. Sir Frederick Carrington does not exaggerate when he says, "I share the belief, which is that of every reasonable Englishman, that nobody dreams of so astounding an act of madness as a declaration of war with France;" and Lord Russell of Killowen understates the truth when he declares that any "public man in either of the two countries who uses expressions calculated to create or excite feelings of animosity between the two peoples is acting contrary to the interests of the two countries." The appearance of these letters in the *Gaulois* is all the more creditable because of the reactionary and anti-English bias of that journal.

CHINESE NOTES.

The Yangtsze Insurance Association has held is annual meeting in Shanghai, and declared at dividend of 20 per cent. on its paid-up capital.

Kiukiang has sent Lady Hannen $500 to be devoted to the establishment of a bed in the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital at the Cape to be known as the "Kiukiang" bed.

The Empress Dowager is said to have selected a Manchu named Kuei Ch'un, a sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat, as Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg, to succeed H.E. Yang Ju, whose three years' term of office expired in March.

It would appear that M. Gonion, the owner of the Chinese Junk *Fleur de Lotos*, which left Hongkong some time ago to sail to France, has abandoned his intention of voyaging to the Paris exhibition by such a small craft. On April 10, the French junk owner left Singapore by steamer for Colombo, leaving his junk to be towed to that port.

Dispatches received recently by Shanghai mandarins from Moukden report strong hostility and armed opposition to the Russians in Liaoyang prefecture, near Moukden, on the part of the inhabitants, and that in a fray which occurred between the two parties the Russians had seven men very severely wounded and a few others slightly injured. The country people lost one killed in the fight and five slightly wounded.

The *Universal Gazette*, a vernacular journal published in Shanghai, reports that a missionary was recently mobbed and had to flee for his life at a country village in Huangkanghsien, Hupeh province. It appears that he went to the village for the purpose of buying a piece of ground for the erection of a chapel, but that, the news being bruited abroad, the people from the countryside got up a mob and attacked him. He had his clothes torn off his back and had to flee to the district magistrate of Huangkanghsien for safety. The name of the missionary is not given nor the date of the alleged attack.

This is what the Rev. Gilbert Reid says in *The Forum* of the Empress Dowager and reform:—"The attitude of the Empress-Dowager to reform is not as reactionary as the political events of the past year and more would indicate. When previously holding the Regency she was more favourable to progress than many of her ministers. She always supported Li Hung-chang, who for a quarter of a century was the unflinching advocate of progress. She favoured a foreign-trained army and navy, the telegraph, railways, steamships, and other improvements. These she favoured more as additions to the existing systems than as alterations of established usage. She was therefore more a progressive than a reformer. But her reforms have been material rather than moral. She sought changes that would increase revenue rather than such as would destroy corruption."

The Viceroy Li has established what is called a "commercial bureau" in Canton. His Excellency has chosen for site the pleasure house of Liu Hsiao-hsiu, who came to Japan last year as the emissary of the Empress Dowager. The committee of the new institution includes Liu, who is spoken of as "notorious," and its other members, with one exception, are said to be men of unsavoury reputation in Canton. The belief is that the bureau will have no real connexion with commerce, but that it will busy itself solely with scrutinizing the doings of the Reform Party. In short, its simulated commercial character will be simply a cloak for undertaking inquisitions into people's private affairs.

There is a project on foot in Shanghai to construct a "road to the hills." It is news to us to learn that there are any hills, and we read without surprise that when one of the advocates of the road spoke of the advantages of opening up a fine high and dry country for the benefit of equestrians, his words elicited an explanation that, in Shanghai parlance, "a fine high and dry country" meant a district eight or nine feet above sea-level instead of one only three or four feet. As for the so-called "hills" there appears to be much uncertainty whether, when the road is finished, any part of them will be available for residential purposes, seeing that the Jesuit Fathers have fenced off one hill, and the Buddhists are putting boundary stones on the others.

The question of carrying on the so-called Mandalay-Kunlon Railway to the actual crossing of the Salween at the Kunlon Ferry is one that must come up for decision next year. The line as far as Maymyo, forty miles from Mandalay, will be opened in a few weeks; and beyond this a good deal of work has been done. The bridging of the Gokteik Gorge is in hand, the necessary preparations for the girders having been made; earth-work has been thrown up on the section to Thibaw and various bridges built; while still further on, towards Lashio, the engineers have made their final surveys and alignment. The point is really where the terminus of the railway should be. The enthusiasts at home, who believe that an immense trade with Szechuan and Yunnan is awaiting development, will of course say that the line should be built right up to Kunlon and that the Salween should be bridged with a view to a further extension into Western China. Practical-minded men who have closely examined trade statistics hold that no trade of any great value exists, and that it cannot be created by the railway; while engineers and explorers have pronounced against a railway across the big ranges of mountains which are found beyond the Salween. Further, recent surveys have shown that the country immediately west of the river is most difficult, and that the expenditure in this last section would be enormous. In certain places it would amount to several lakhs per mile, and there is no local trade whatever to be developed, as the district has scarcely any inhabitants, though the Was lie near at hand—a savage tribe who have recently given much trouble. The conclusion, therefore, is drawn that the railway should be built to Lashio, or rather to a point some ten miles beyond, as a valley runs this distance beyond the town, and the country so far is easy. We do not know if the decision of Government will be that the line should be built so far and no further; but it would be wise to pause before sanctioning work on the Salween section. Burma has several internal lines which need building, and which would pay, and it would be better to give money for these than sink it in expensive rock cuttings and tunnels in order to link Kunlon with Mandalay.—Allahabad *Pioneer*.

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THE KIRIN BEER BICYCLE CUP.

The race for the Kirin Beer Cup in connection with the Nippon Bicycle Club took place on Saturday afternoon on the Fujisawa-Kodzu course. There were four starters, W. N. Wright, J. Helm, jun., W. B. Mason, and H. Y. Irwine, the sealed handicap being as follows, all starting from scratch :—

H. Y. Irwine	allows.
	m.s.
W. B. Mason	0.25
J. Helm, Jun	4.40
W. N. Wright	12.00

The start was effected at 2.38 p.m. by the Secretary, Mr. George Hood. The sky was then black and threatening, and there was frequent lightning and thunder. By the time the riders were well started the rain came down in torrents. rendering the roads very unpleasant. Despite this drawback, however, a very fine race resulted, Helm being first, with Mason second and Irwine third. Mason secures possession of the cup for one year, and also the special prize given for the fastest time made over the course. Helm, Mason and Irwine have now each won the cup once.

THE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

A meeting of the foreign residents of Yokohama was held on Friday afternoon at Keil's Building to consider the question of presenting a wedding gift to the Prince Imperial.

Mr. H.J. HOLM, who presided, said the meeting had been called by the International Committee, but since it was very desirable that all the community should take part in the matter, he would propose that the meeting elect its own Chairman, and that the International Committee should step back.

Mr. FLINT KILBY proposed and Mr. PORS seconded that Mr. Holm take the chair. This was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said the desirability of taking cognizance of the Imperial wedding was first discussed at a meeting of the International Association. The general idea was that certainly some step should be taken, and that an address accompanied by some work of art of foreign design would be the most appropriate form the present could take. This opinion was later on endorsed by the general meeting of the International Association and at the same time the incoming Committee was charged with the duty of taking further steps in the matter. In consequence of that resolution the present meeting had been called, after further discussion at a Committee meeting the other day. Their recommendation would be that that meeting elect a committee of all nationalities to do what remained to do in the matter, in the first place to draw up an address and have it presented in the proper way, then to make arrangements for the acquisition of a work of art, to be presented later, and also to collect the necessary subscriptions. If they agreed he would propose that the meeting approve of the programme as explained.

Mr. PORS thought they could do nothing better than follow the suggestion. He would second the proposition.

Mr. KAUFMANN—Would it not impair the effect to present an address now, while the present would arrive many months later?

The CHAIRMAN said that could not be helped. He thought they must present something of foreign design, and a suitable gift could only be obtained in Europe.

It was pointed out that it would be the same case with many of the Japanese presents.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The next business was the election of a Committee. After a short discussion Mr. STIRLING proposed and Mr. W. F. MITCHELL seconded that the members of the International Committee be appointed as a Committee of the meeting, with power to add to their number, in order that some nationalities at present not represented on the International Committee might be included.

This was carried.

The question of subscriptions was next discussed. Mr. KILBY made a proposal that lists for signature should be circulated among the members of the Chamber of Commerce and International Association and exhibited at the Chamber of Commerce, the banks, and other places.

Mr. STIRLING, however, thought this unnecessary, as the matter had already been placed in the hands of the committee, and Mr. KILBY agreed to withdraw his motion.

The meeting shortly after terminated after a discussion of various points of detail. The opinion was expressed that the subscription ought to be thoroughly representative, everyone contributing according to his means.

THE KOBE NAVAL REVIEW.

The *Kobe Herald* gives the following description of the review :—

The vessels ranked in four lines from west to east, the lines commencing abreast of the Ono beach. The new battleship, *Shikishima*—had the place of the honour at the head of the first or outermost line. The first class battleships, *Yashima* and *Fuji*, lay behind her in the same line, with the *Tokiwa* (cruiser); *Chinyen* (2nd class battleship); *Fuso* (battleship); *Matsushima* (coast defence ship); *Itsukushima* and *Hashidate*, coast defence ships, continuing and ending the line of nine in all. The second line, also of nine vessels, was headed by the *Kasagi*, cruiser, and continued by the *Chitose*, *Takasago*, and other cruisers and heavy ships. The two ranks next the shore were made up of the torpedo-boats, the destroyers, and other smaller vessels, whose perky forms always seem insignificant, yet in their manner impressive, near the huge battleship fabrics of floating metal.

In all, the ships in the Review were these :—five battleships; three coast defence ships; thirteen cruisers; one torpedo tender (the *Toyohashi*, containing the press representatives); one torpedo gunboat, ten torpedo destroyers; and seventeen torpedo boats.

The first movements on the vessels of the Fleet occurred at eight o'clock when the bugles rang the call to "dress ship," and promptly as the notes and their echoes floated from ship to ship on the motionless air the banner lines ran from masthead to masthead and from there to stem and stern. From the stern flagpoles hung the standard of the Imperial Japanese Navy with its red rays radiating from the central red sun of the national flag.

As the time for the arrival of the Emperor approached attention was drawn westwards towards the Wada Point corner, on rounding which the *Asama* with the Emperor on board would first come into the view of the Fleet. The *Akashi*, cruiser, detached as one of the escort for the Imperial ship, had been in harbour all the morning, and she left about nine to go to meet the convoy of ships from Maiko. By and by—shortly after nine—the ships of the Imperial escort came into view in the bluish purple haze beyond Wada point, but it was some time before they were seen to come into line, with the *Asama* leading, the *Akashi*, which had left the harbour an hour previously, in her wake, and the *Miyako*, (2nd class cruiser), *Yayeyama* (3rd class cruiser) and the *Kagero* (the newest torpedo-boat) following.

The crews of the ships of the Fleet were "piped" on deck and ranged shoulder-to-shoulder round the decks.

The approach of the Emperor's ship brought the great scene of the day—a scene which had all the impressiveness of a great ceremonial, heightened by adventitious circumstances contributed by the prevailing calm and the sunshine and the surroundings of the theatre of its enactment. The preliminary firing of the salute likewise aided the real and imaginative effect of the spectacle. The guns were manned and the first shot fired while the *Asama* was still a mile or more away, and a five or ten minutes continuous cannonading followed. The pandemonium of sound gave the piquancy of sharp contrast to the dead hush which ensued as the *Asama* and her escort moved slowly towards the assembled Fleet. This indeed was the climax of the scene. The only sounds that followed the gun discharges were the rounds of cheers taken up successively by the crews of the ships, and the notes of the bugles going through the rise and fall of the Japanese national anthem on most of the vessels. These, however, were but as echoes in the great area covered by the Fleet and as the *Asama* came nearer they ceased and absolute quiet prevailed as she moved ahead and brought the *Shikishima* abeam. Her progress was limited to a slow deliberate speed and the scene gained as much in impressiveness by this as by the complete absence of distracting clamour near and far. The Imperial ship, followed by the *Akashi* only (for the three others of the escort dropped from the procession while the *Asama* went through the Fleet) took a line, as pre-arranged, outside the entire Fleet, and, at the same slow speed with which she had approached, went the whole length of the line of vessels from west to east, and made a wide semi-circle to port to pass from east to west along the central avenue of the four ranks of ships. This was accomplished with beautiful success, the *Akashi* still lapping faithfully in the wake of the Emperor's vessel. The vessel passed slowly out of the wide "street" of warships and, wheeling slightly to port, came to a stop ahead of the *Shikishima*.

The Review had been completed with magnificent success. The Imperial ship had entered the reserved area almost at ten o'clock precisely and she was brought to her station adjacent to the *Shikishima* shortly after 11 o'clock, an hour thus passing during the tour of the Fleet. From the firing of the salute of 21 guns to the time of the *Asama's* passing out of the Fleet's lines, the crews had blackened the ships' decks in motionless ranks, and in the twinkling of an eye they had dispersed and there was bustle and coming and going on every deck again.

After the Review the Emperor proceeded from the *Asama* to the *Shikishima*, where he received the admirals of the Fleet, the foreign military attachés and consuls and leading Japanese officials. These gentlemen afterwards dined on the *Shikishima*. His Majesty returned to the *Asama* at 3 p.m. and left for Maiko at 3,30, the royal salute of 21 guns being repeated on his departure. The *Akashi*, *Miyako*, *Yayeyama*, and *Kagero* again accompanied the *Asama* as the escort.

The foreign military attachés, who were on board the *Yayeyama* during the review were :—

German, Captain Guhler, Baron de Richthofen; British, Captain Charles L. Ottley, Lieut. Colonel Churchill, Mr. Alfd. Pattison; French, Baron Corvisart; American, Lieutenant Key; Russian, Lieutenant Commander Roussien.

The Consuls and other foreign guests invited by the Minister of the Navy were on board the *Akashi*.

The day was generally observed as a holiday among Japanese and foreigners in Kobe, and there were elaborate flag and other decorations throughout the harbour and in the town.

Y. M. C. A. IN TOKYO.

The Sixth Anniversary of the dedication of the building of the Tokyo Young Men's Christian Association, located at 3 Mitoshirocho, Kanda, will be celebrated to-day and to-morrow. During the past six years the Association has had a history of steady growth and substantial development. It is an organization of young men working for young men. Its work is varied and appeals to young men from many standpoints, seeking as it does their development physically, socially, intellectually, morally, and spiritually. The variety and extent of the work may be partly shown by the following figures from the General Secretary's report for 1899.

Total number of visits to the Building, by young men	18,000
At 104 recitations of the evening classes, attendance	4,892
At 42 Saturday afternoon lectures, attendance	3,620
At 42 Sunday gospel meetings	2,652
At 104 Bible class sessions	1,248
At 14 receptions and socials	1,085
Meals and lunches served in the restaurant	6,670
Employment bureau :—	
Applicants for positions	140
Positions secured	59
Volumes in Library :—	
English, over	1,000
Japanese	2,744

The work for the first four months of this current year has far exceeded the past year. At the Saturday afternoon lectures during this period the attendance reached the phenomenal record of 6,092 young men, a gain of more than 50 per cent. over the total for the entire year preceding. One of the most conservative missionaries in Japan, who has been in this country over a quarter of a century, within the past week made the statement in writing concerning these lectures and the Sunday meetings of the Association, that they are "probably the most notable Christian gatherings in Tokyo." Health talks and practical talks on economic, financial and social subjects have recently been inaugurated, to be given by some of the leading business and professional men of Tokyo. In January the Association assumed entire control of *The Shinseiki* (the New Century), which it plans to continue as one of the leading religious and literary magazines in Japan. aiming especially to appeal to young men. The Association owns property which it conducts as a Christian boarding house for students, having accommodation for 23 young men. This home is overcrowded with applicants for admission. There should be a chain of such homes throughout the city.

The Association has become a permanent feature. The conditions demanding its special work are multiplying. The increasing interest of the past six years indicates that its success is not due to novelty. However encouraging the work may be, it is very limited when compared with the larger scale demanded, and with the new lines of work opening up before it. The Young Men Christian Association is the only Christian organization in Japan giving its entire attention in this practical manner to the problem of reaching young men.

The scope and value of its work are enhanced by its interdenominational character, and the fact that its services and privileges are extended to all young men regardless of rank or religion; while the right of control is reserved for its active members, who must be communicants in some Protestant Evangelical Church. The entire problem of Japan's future lies in her young men. No work can be more important than thus specializing in reaching the determinative class.

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PEACE REGULATIONS.

LAW No. 36.

POLICE LAW IN REGARD TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE PEACE.

Art. I.—The Director of any political association or society (in the case of a branch, the director of the same) is required to forward within three days from its organization a report addressed to the Police Office of the district where the Society's offices are established, stating the name and regulations of the association, the location of its offices, and the name of its director. The same procedure must be observed in case of any change being made in regulations, &c.

Art. II.—In holding a political meeting it is necessary to nominate some person as the projector of such meeting. The projector in question must report to the Police Office of the district where the meeting is to be held, the place and date of meeting, three hours before it is actually held. With regard to meetings which are to be held by persons eligible as candidates for Parliament, or by those exercising the franchise as a preliminary towards the election of members of the Diet, a report as specified in the 2nd clause of this article may be withheld for 50 days from the time fixed for voting.

Art. III.—Even in the case of an association or meeting which, though dealing with public affairs, has no connection whatever with politics, the provisions of Articles I. and II. may be applied by Ordinance whenever a report is considered necessary for the preservation of peace and order.

Art. IV.—In case a number of people are to be assembled in the open air, or in case of a procession, the projector is required to report to the Police Office concerned, the place, date, and hour of assembly, or the roads to be passed through; this provision, however, is not applicable to operations connected with religious services or funerals, religious associations, students' exercise parties, and other things recognised by custom or usage.

Art. V.—Persons enumerated below are not allowed to be connected with any political society:—

1. 1st and 2nd reserves of the Army and Navy, including officers on actual service or under orders.
2. Police officials.
3. Shinto and Buddhist priests, whether Government or otherwise, and clergymen of all sects.
4. Teachers and students of Government, public, and private schools.
5. Women.
6. Youths under full age.
7. Persons under deprivation or suspension of civil rights.

Women and youths under age are not allowed to attend any public political meeting, or to be its originator or promoter. Any person under deprivation or suspension of civil rights can not become a projector of a public meeting for the discussion of political affairs.

Art. VI.—Any person other than a Japanese subject is not entitled to become a member of a political society or the projector of a public meeting for the discussion of political affairs.

Art. VII.—No political society can establish regulations by which members of the Diet are held responsible for their utterances and decisions even in places other than the Diet.

Art. VIII.—In cases where it is absolutely necessary, for the maintenance of peace and order, the police are empowered to restrain, forbid, or dissolve any assembly or demonstration in the open air, or even to adopt measures for the dissolution of indoor meetings. Any society falling within the purview of the foregoing provisions may be prohibited or suppressed by the Home Minister; but in case measures taken by him are considered illegal complaint may be lodged in the Administrative Court.

Art. IX.—In no assembly shall a speech be made or debate conducted upon criminal offences under preliminary examination, until the same are submitted to public trial. The same restriction must be observed with regard to law suits in respect to which the trial is conducted with closed doors. No person is allowed at a meeting to deliver a speech, or enter into a debate, calculated to incite or condone crimes, or to express sympathy with or advocacy of culprits or criminal defendants.

Art. X.—In case a speech is given or debate held at any meeting in contravention of the foregoing provisions, or in case apprehension is entertained that the speech or debate in question is likely to disturb the public peace, or to be injurious to public morals, measures may be taken by the police to suspend the same.

Art. XI.—Whenever enquiries are made by police officers as to a society or meeting or public demonstration, replies shall be given by the director, president, or projector, or any person regarded by the police as a principal member or partisan. The police authorities are empowered to despatch officials in uniform to exercise control over a political assembly to which the public is admitted. Similar procedure may be adopted even with respect to non-political meetings, whenever apprehension is entertained that the same are likely disturb the public peace. In such cases, the projector of a meeting, or any person regarded by the police as the principal member or partisan, is required to provide the police with seats.

Art. XII.—In case any person at a meeting or demonstration purposely creates a disturbance or commit acts of violence, the police officers may order him to desist, or remove him from the place on his refusal to obey.

Art. XIII.—No person is allowed to carry about him at a meeting or demonstration any arms or dangerous weapons. This provision, however, does not apply to persons carrying arms in conformity with laws and regulations.

Art. XIV.—It is forbidden to organise a secret society or association.

Art. XV.—Articles I. and V. of these regulations are not applicable to an assembly or union organised as a preliminary to Parliamentary debate by the members of the Diet.

Art. XVI.—In case any writings, pictures, or poems are put up, or distributed, or read, or sung, or any indecency is committed by words or gesture, in streets or other places open to traffic or the passage of the public, the Police may prohibit such proceedings if they entertain apprehension that the same are likely to disturb tranquillity and order, or to be injurious to public morals.

Art. XVII.—Violence or intimidation, for purposes indicated in the following paragraphs, is forbidden:—

1. To induce any person to participate in or prevent him from participating in, a combination organised for securing cooperation in matters connected with employment or remuneration.

2. To cause any person to dismiss any of his employes, or to refuse to accept their application for work, with the intention of bringing about a strike or general dismissal from employment; or to induce labourers to suspend work or to refuse to apply for such. No person is allowed to instigate such action in any form.

3. To force any person to accept terms proposed by another in connection with employment or remuneration.

No person is allowed to commit violence or to intimidate or insult others openly with a view to obtaining their consent as to the hire or lease of land for cultivation.

Art. XVIII.—The administrative authorities may, if they deem it necessary for the preservation of peace and order, prohibit the carrying of arms or explosives, or any article containing the same.

Art. XIX.—Any person violating Article I. shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 30 *yen*. Persons making reports as specified in Article I., but not stating the truth, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XX.—Violation of the 1st and 2nd paragraphs of Article II. shall be attended by a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*. The presentation of a report as specified in the 2nd paragraph of the said Article, but in which facts are misrepresented, shall render the offender liable to a fine not exceeding 30 *yen*.

Art. XXI.—Contravention of Article IV. shall render the offender liable to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*. Any person misrepresenting the facts in a report as prescribed by Article IV. shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 30 *yen*.

Art. XXII.—Violation of Articles V. and VI. shall render the offender liable to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*, and the same penalty is provided for persons admitting others into their society in contravention of the provisions of the said articles.

Art. XXIII.—Any person contravening the restriction specified by the 1st clause of Article VIII., or failing to retire from the place of meeting after an order for its dissolution has been issued, shall be liable to minor imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months or a fine not exceeding 30 *yen*.

Violation of the prohibitory order specified in the 2nd clause of Article VIII. shall render the offender liable to minor imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding 100 *yen*.

Art. XXIV.—Any person acting contrary to the provisions of Article X. shall be liable to minor imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine of not less than 10 *yen* and not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XXV.—Any person failing to answer questions as specified in the 1st clause of Article XI., or giving a reply in which there is gross misrepresentation of facts, or refusing to accept the supervision of police officers, or declining to provide them with seats, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XXVI.—Any person failing to leave a place of meeting after he has been ordered to retire in accordance with Article XII. shall be liable to minor imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 month or to a fine not exceeding 20 *yen*.

Art. XXVII.—Offenders against Article XIII. shall be liable to minor imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding 50 *yen*.

Art. XXVIII.—Any person secretly forming an illegal association, or becoming a member of any such society, shall be liable to minor imprisonment for a period of not less than 6 months and not exceeding 1 year.

Art. XXIX.—Contravention of Article XVI. as to the order of prohibition shall render the offender liable to minor imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 month, or a fine not exceeding 30 *yen*.

Art. XXX.—Violation of Article XVII. shall render the offender liable to minor imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 month and not more than 6 months, and to a fine of not less than 3 *yen* and not more than 30 *yen*. The same penalty attaches to persons committing violence, or attempting to intimidate, or insulting openly those who have refused to participate in an attempt to bring about a strike of labourers or employes.

Art. XXXI.—Infringement of Article XVIII. shall be punishable by major imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

Art. XXXIII.—The former laws relating to public meetings and political associations shall be rescinded.

METHODS OF FIGHTING.

An Australian officer now in South Africa has sent the following interesting comments to the *Sydney Morning Herald*:—

"I have been over the battlefields of Belmont, Graspan, and Enslin (or Rooilaghte). The fights were on the enemy's part simply rearguard actions, in which they held on to the line of kopjes in succession. Our men were sent straight at them without artillery preparation, without even a heavy rifle fire, and suffered heavy loss, the Boers retiring leisurely across three or four miles of open veldt to the next ridge, and so on. Although we had horse artillery and cavalry, no attempt was made to outflank or pursue. At Modder River our troops simply fell up against the enemy's position, Lord Methuen himself having expressed the opinion that the Boers were miles away. The heaviest loss was at the commencement of the fight. One of our batteries opened at 2,000 yards and did splendid execution, but, being ordered to advance to 1,100 yards, it then came under such a rifle fire as speedily silenced it, and a machine gun also coming to close range was silenced. Of course you know that General Buller's artillery suffered through the same rashness, showing a complete failure to grasp the lessons taught by previous wars. In none of the actions named did the enemy retire in confusion or suffer heavy loss.

"The battle of Magersfontein was fought the day after we reached here, and we had a fine though distant view of the bombardment, which unfortunately succeeded instead of preceded the infantry assault. There is no doubt that our Army suffered a complete and disastrous repulse. As you know, the Highland Brigade were moved out before dawn in mass of quarter columns. Without advanced guards or scouts they marched serenely up to the base of the ridges. Their first intimation of the enemy was an outburst of musketry from practically three sides. The result of the war thus far along the whole line shows that the training of men and officers is defective. The men are not taught to have complete confidence in their rifles. They have an idea that accuracy of shooting is of small account, and that the bayonet will settle the matter. Then the officers do not appreciate the effect of their own or their foes' rifle fire, and officers of high rank advance light-heartedly without the smallest attempt at reconnaissance—instance Lord Methuen at Modder and Magersfontein, and General Gatacre at Stormberg. The orders and instructions we are now receiving show that our leaders are waking up to the fact that we are not fighting Dervishes. Does it not strike you as peculiar that we are employing against the Boers the same tactics that the Dervishes used against us—that is, wild and desperate attempts to get to close quarters, comparatively of course?

"I will give you a rough idea of the attack as being practised now. First, scouts well out. Next, a thin extended line, five to eight paces intervals; next, an extended line as support at about three paces intervals, then another line at two paces intervals, and another extended to one pace. These form the first line, and may be got by forming the companies in line of section columns. This is the most convenient form, and facilitates reassembly. Reinforcement is straight to the front. Officers are armed and equipped in exactly the same way as the men and form part of the extended line. Firing is entirely independent, orders are passed from man to man, advances being made as far as possible simultaneously for a few yards, the whole throwing themselves down flat. The standing and kneeling positions are absolutely abandoned. We have awakened to the fact that they will win the battle who can pour in the bullets straightest and fastest upon their enemy. To me it seems wonderful that modern officers could for a moment imagine there was any other way. Of course I am not considering the question of outmanœuvring, &c. Neither do I believe an infantry attack as above

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outlined could succeed against an enemy protected by head cover. Even in the open the attackers want to be atleast two to one, and develop their fire to the utmost. There must be no rushing, except to drive off the last desperate survivors."

IMPORTS OF ALCHOHOL AND TOBACCO.

Since the revision of the Customs tariff and the consequent augmentation of taxes upon alcohol, Chinese liquors, and foreign tobacco, a marked dimunition has been manifest in the import of these commodities, remarks the *Nichi Nichi*. The demand for alcohol and other spirituous liquors considerably increased in 1898 and the early part of 1899, but in consequence of the heavy increase of taxation last year a great decrease has been since noticeable. Following are the figures for the past three years :—

Year.	Amount in catties.	Value in yen.
1897.....	11,992,102	969,360
1898.....	29,730,048	2,699,982
1899.....	17,450,578	2,060,800

The amount imported before and after the revision of the tariff, stands as follows :—

	Amount in catties.	Value in yen.
From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14, 1899 ...	17,384,528	2,053,203
From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31, 1899..	66,050	7,596

Alcohol was formerly used in the manufacture of mixed *saké*, a very small portion being for industrial and medicinal use. The heavy taxation, however, has rendered the manufacture of mixed liquors practically unprofitable, and hence the reduction in imports. A similar shrinkage is noticeable in the liquors belonging to Class XV. in the scale of duties appended to the Tariff. It may be observed that in the case of Chinese liquors the rate has been increased from 40 to 80 per cent. The following are comparative figures for the past three years :—

		Amount in *sho.*	Value in *yen.*
Chinese liquors ...	1897...	896,729	64,323
	1898...	919,121	162,656
	1899...	19,620	4,512
Refined liquors ...	1897...	521	80
	1898...	—	8
	1899...	—	13
Distilled liquors...	1897...	—	10,460
	1898...	—	33,159
	1899...	—	16,813
Brewed liquors ...	1897...	—	13,839
	1898...	—	63,996
	1899...	—	4,568

There has been no large demand for the above commodities. The sudden augmentation in the import of Chinese liquor to the amount of 162,000 *yen* in the 31st year of *Meiji* is simply attributable to the unusual purchases made in anticipation of the increased tariff. Classified as before and after the revision of the tariff, the figures stand as follows :—

		Value in *yen.*
Chinese liquors	From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14...	3,854
	From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31.	658
Refined liquors	From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14...	13
	From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31.	—
Distilled liquors	From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14...	16,063
	From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31.	749
Brewed liquors	From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14...	4,367
	From Aug. 14 till Dec. 31.	200

A further tendency to decrease in the import of these liquors is noticeable. As to the various kinds of tobacco the following comparative figures for the past three years are given :—

		Amount in catties.	Value in *yen.*
Cigars.....	1897.....	84,614	151,220
	1898.....	107,088	198,574
	1899.....	51,009	146,732
Cigarettes..	1897.....	368,598	987,237
	1898.....	721,847	1,720,827
	1899.....	264,513	760,594
Cut tobacco	1897.....	107,796	104,259
	1898.....	176,657	172,796
	1899.....	15,834	20,700

The scale of taxation for tobacco was raised from 40 to 100 per cent., and the comparative figures before and after the revision stand as follows :—

	Amount in catties.	Value in *yen,*
Cigars—		
From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14, 1899	49,954	144,150
From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31 ...	1,055	2,582
Cigarettes—		
From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14	246,981	726,082
From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31 ...	17,532	34,511
Cut Tobacco—		
From Jan. 1 till Aug. 14	15,282	20,352
From Aug. 15 till Dec. 31 ...	552	348

Of late a tendency to patronise the goods of Japanese manufacturers has manifested itself, and cigars and cigarettes have improved in quality. The enterprise of Murai Brothers and Co. in conjunction with the American Tobacco Company especially promises well for the future of the industry and the reduction of imports.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

Paris, April 3.

In the Senate to-day, during the debate on the foreign Budget, Comte Daunay drew attention to the relations of France with Great Britain and pointed out that, in the negotiations respecting the French concession at Shanghai, Great Britain was at first obstinate, but on the outbreak of difficulties in South Africa changed her tone and became more conciliatory. "The war in South Africa," said the Senator, "has shown England that her policy of splendid isolation is certainly not the best safeguard for her interests. I, therefore, consider the moment opportune for France to raise the question of Egypt. A rupture between France and Great Britain will be a misfortune for civilization and the mutual respect of the two nations s the best means of averting it."

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Delcassé, replied :

"Both nations have many reasons to consider their rights and dignity in the questions they have to solve. It is not the time to speak here of ridiculous threats. The time has not yet come to tell all the truth of the Fashoda episode, but neither France nor the Government has anything to fear from the publication of the facts. History will say the last word. All I can say now is that the Government took into consideration the disproportion between the end and the effort necessary to attain it. The treaty of 1889 secured for us serious advantages. Since then we have had to negotiate grave external questions. The treaty of commerce concluded with the United States is advantageous to our industry and agriculture, and the negotiation respecting Shanghai has secured a recognition of our rights. The incident in the Antilles was settled to our satisfaction and in Africa we are beginning a methodical development of our domination.

"In Egypt we have received a renewal of the mixed tribunal law. These results are excellent and they are so recognized abroad. They are questioned in France with the ulterior motive of overthrowing the Cabinet, even though the country should succumb at the same time.

"You have seen the odious campaign against our foreign policy. As Tartuffe took the mask of virtue, so a certain party takes the mask of patriotism. But it will not succeed any more than did Tartuffe.

"France, gentlemen, is a great European Power. Our extension has been marvellously rapid, but we must exploit the riches of our new colonies with the capital of old France. We must defend them with our own resources. Among the Powers which formerly disputed our supremacy some have grown greater and others of more recent growth are striving to reach the first rank.

"We must struggle. We must form virile generations. We must develop our economic organization. France by intelligent work must be maintained as the great road of the world. Our fleet must regain the necessary strength. I trust the Senate will agree with me that such considerations are not out of place in making explanations regarding our foreign policy."

M. Delcassé resumed his seat amid the heartiest applause.

TELEGRAMS.

DEATH OF SIR NICHOLAS HANNEN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, April 27.

Sir Nicholas Hannen died yesterday.

(Reuter's Special Service.)

THE BOER WAR.

THE BOER RETREAT.

Shanghai, April 27.

The chances of intercepting the retreating Boers are regarded as doubtful. The Boers admit that they lost heavily in artillery and men during the operations at Dewetsdorp and Wepener.

Col. Dalgety's casualties were 33 killed and 132 wounded.

General Rundle has arrived at Dewetsdorp.

WARRENTON.

News from Warrenton on Tuesday says that the bombardment of the Boers' camp drove the enemy from their position with considerable loss.

THE QUEEN.

The Queen has left Ireland. Her Majesty had a splendid farewell ovation. Her visit was an unqualified success.

METHUEN.

Shanghai, April 28.

Lord Methuen is still at Boshof, where the enemy are opposing him. The Boers seem to be mid-way between Boshof and Kimberley.

THABANCHU.

Hamilton expelled the enemy from a strong position at Israels-poort by a well conceived turning movement, and is now advancing towards Thabanchu.

REWARDS FOR IRISH OFFICIALS.

The Lord Mayors of Dublin and Belfast have received baronetcies, and the Mayors of Cork and Londonderry have been knighted.

FIRE AT OTTAWA.

There has been a great fire at Hull, opposite to Ottawa. Only the cathedral and twenty houses remain in Hull. The fire crossed the river to Ottawa, where a number of sheds, factories, and foundries were destroyed. Many thousands are homeless. The damage is estimated at upwards of two millions sterling.

SIR CHARLES WARREN.

Shanghai, April 29th.

Sir Charles Warren has been appointed Governor of Griqualand West.

THE CAMPAIGN IN THE FREE STATE.

The Times' correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 26th that there is little chance of inflicting effective punishment on the fleeing commandos.

Roberts telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 27th that French has reached Thabanchu with the cavalry. He met the brigades of Hamilton and Smith-Dorrien there. The enemy were still holding the eastern outlet of the town whence French and Hamilton were proceeding to expel them. Rundle is eight miles south of Thabanchu.

THE BOERS IN THE SOUTH.

Later.

Reuter's Agent telegraphs from Aliwal North, under date of the 27th inst., that there are still several small commandos, totalling 1,000 men, with five guns, at Smithfield and in the Lower Caledon districts.

SHIPPING GOLD FROM THE TRANSVAAL.

A French steamer has shipped a quarter of a million sterling in gold at Lozenzo Marques. It is consigned to Paris by a French bank in Johannesburg.

H.I.H. PRINCE KANIN.

Prince Kotohito, of Japan, has had a cordial interview with King Leopold at Brussells. He lunches with His Majesty at the Palace to-morrow, and proceeds to London on Tuesday.

Shanghai, April 30.

In view of contingencies orders have been given to clear all the hospitals in the Cape Colony.

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A BOER DEFEAT.

It is reported that Hamilton, while marching from Thabanchu, defeated a considerable body of Boers.

HEAVY FIRING.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Maseru, under date of the 28th, that the Boers are taking cross country roads northward. There was heavy firing this morning in the direction of Thabanchu.

BOERS DISPERSING.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Bloemfontein under date of the 28th, says that the commandos round Thabanchu are dispersing and returning singly to their homes. Many who had previously sworn allegiance declare they were compelled to fight.

A CRAFTY DEVICE.

Intercepted letters prove that many submissions were a cunning device to enable the Boers to create trouble from the rear.

GEN. POLE CAREW.

Later.

General Pole-Carew's Division has arrived at Bloemfontein.

FAILURE OF THE BOER PEACE DELEGATES.

The Boer peace delegates are returning to South Africa without visiting any further European capital. They are sailing at once for home.

ACCIDENT IN PARIS.

A bridge in the grounds of the Paris Exhibition collapsed, falling on the crowd below. Seven persons were killed and many injured.

BLOEMFONTEIN.

Shanghai, May 1.

The *Standard's* correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of the 29th that the cavalry sent in pursuit of the fleeing commandoes is returning to Bloemfontein.

WARRENTON.

The Boers at Warrenton have re-occupied the position from which they were shelled on Tuesday.

MAFEKING.

The Times' correspondent telegraphs from Mafe king under date of the 11th of April that the Boers on that day celebrated the completion of the sixth month of the siege by a heavy bombardment, which did much damage but did not cause any casualties.

THABANCHU.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Thabanchu that, on the 29th of April, French sent the Third and Fourth Cavalry Brigades to make separate reconnaissances round the hills on the east of the town. The enemy were holding the hills strongly but were evidently only a rear guard, having no transport.

THE "ASAHI" ASHORE.

A telegram from London dated the 1st instant says that the Japanese battle-ship *Asahi* ran ashore at Southsea this afternoon. The tide is falling and the situation is precarious.

THE EXHIBITION.

The casualties caused by the falling bridge at the French Exhibition were 10 killed and 63 injured. A scaffolding in the gallery of machines also collapsed, killing 2 and injuring 2.

THE UGANDA RAILWAY.

Shanghai, May 2.

The House of Commons has voted a grant of £1,930,000 (the figure is uncertain) to complete the Uganda Railway.

THABANCHU.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Thabanchu that on Sunday the Boers made a determined attempt to seize a pass over the mountains and capture a convoy. French attacked their flank, sending the troops over precipitous mountains. Darkness enabled the Boers to withdraw. The Boer position is almost impregnable.

KIMBERLEY.

A considerable force of Boers have arrived at Windevorton on the north of Kimberley and arrested a number of loyalists.

JOHANNESBURG.

Owing to the explosion at Begbies all Britishers except a few have been ordered to quit Johannesburg within 38 hours.

THE "ASAHI."

The *Asahi* has been floated.

THABANCHU.

Later.

The Mounted Infantry under Hamilton and the brigade of Smith-Dorrien, marching northward yesterday from Thabanchu, were opposed by a strong force of Boers at Hanney, under Botha. Reinforcements were sent by French for the purpose of strengthening Hamilton, from Thabanchu, where the Boers have decreased.

Maxwell's brigade occupied Vlaksenters and Schomskraall kopjes unopposed, but the Mounted Infantry were engaged for 4 hours.

PRINCE KANIN.

H.I.I. Prince Kanin has arrived in London.

CARRINGTON.

Shanghai, May 3.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Beira under date of the 28th ultimo that Carrington has advanced his depot and camp to Marendellas.

THABANCHU.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Thabanchu under date of the 1st instant that Hamilton's division was engaged yesterday and to-day forcing a passage northward at Houtnek. The enemy in force held a line of hills commanding the side of the Nek. They were attacked and fled, and the passage was cleared. The Boers on the mountains are now shelling the outlying camp, necessitating its removal to a safer place.

FATAL EXPLOSION.

An explosion of blasting powder in a mine at Schofield, in Utah, has taken place. Over 200 persons perished.

THE TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.

Later.

The Two Thousand Guineas was won by Diamond Jubilee, with Bonarose second, and Sidus third.

HAMILTON'S CASUALTIES.

The casualties in Hamilton's force in the fighting on the 30th of April were 8 officers and 20 men of various regiments killed, wounded or missing.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

WEPENER.

Saigon, April 27.

The Boers were obliged to evacuate Wepener and pass northward, in consequence of the arrival of several English Divisions. The latter were powerless, however, to cut the retreat of the Boers.

THE OTTAWA FIRE.

Saigon, April 28.

A large part of the town of Ottawa in Canada has been destroyed by an incendiary fire. It is feared that many lives have been lost.

EXPLOSION IN JOHANNESBERG.

An explosion has taken place in Johannesberg. There were about 50 victims.

THE WAR.

Saigon, April 29.

No important news of the War has been received in London.

THE OTTAWA FIRE.

It is estimated that the number of houses destroyed at Ottawa by the fire is 2,000, and that the losses total 60,000,000 francs. There have been very few casualties to life and limb. The disaster was not caused by *malice prepense*.

THE SENATE.

Saigon, April 30.

M. Repiquet has been elected Senator for the Rhône by 373 votes against 361 for M. Chevenet.

M. Peroy has been elected Senator for the Pas-de-Calais.

THE EXHIBITION.

A foot bridge, used for the purposes of a private establishment in the neighbourhood of the Exhibition, but entirely independent of the Exhibition, has collapsed. Nine were killed and twelve injured.

THE WAR.

It is announced from Brandfort, under date of the 27th, that the Boers from Dewetsdorp and Wepener have arrived safely. Other detachments of Boers still occupy strong positions near Thabanchu.

THE PALACE OF FINE ARTS.

Saigon, May 2.

The President of the Republic yesterday inaugurated the Palace of Fine Arts at the Exhibition.

THE 1ST OF MAY.

May day passed in a very tranquil manner in France. The working classes continued work everywhere, in Paris and in the provinces alike.

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 470.

Key-move _____ Kt to B 3.

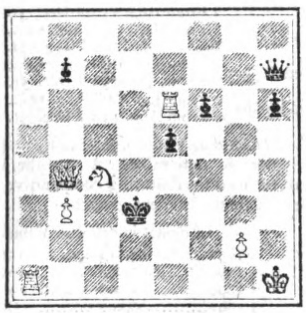
Correct solution received from W.H.S., who points out an error in the diagram, namely, that there should be a White Bishop, not a Black, at R 5.

PROBLEM No. 472.

BY COL. W. VON WALTHOFFEN.

From *Wiener Schachzeitung*.

Black.



White.

White mates in three moves.

GAME 585.

The brilliancy prize in connexion with the recent "Kolisch Tournament" in Vienna has been awarded to Herren Schwarz and Albin for the following two games. The first is a pretty "skittle" game, badly played by Popiel, but the second is a remarkably fine

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game all through, as the reader will see. Both, however, are characteristic of the styles of Schwarz and of Albin.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLILED.

White—A. Schwarz. Black—J. V. Popiel.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	14 Q Kt4ch	K Rsq
2 P QB4	P K3	15 Q RP	P K4
3 Kt QB3	Kt KB3	16 Kt K4	R K3
4 B Kt5	B K2	17 R Qsq	B Q2
5 P K3	Castles	18 B Ktsq	P Kt3
6 P B5	QKt Q2	19 P QKt4	PxP
7 Kt B3	P B3	20 KtxP	R Q3
8 B Q3	R Ksq	21 P B4	PxP
9 Castles	B Bsq	22 QxP	R Bsq
10 Kt K5	P KR3	23 P K4	R K3
11 B R4	KtxKt	24 KtxB	QxB
12 PxKt	P KKt4	25 PxP	Resigns
13 PxKt	PxB		

There is a plausible reason for White's 6—P to B 5, because if 6—B to Q 3 Black might reply 6.....P takes P, rendering the initial development of the Bishop wasted. Still, we should not recommened the advance of BP with White's present undeveloped state, as Black has various means of obtaining a counter-attack. He might even venture upon 6.....Kt to K 5, or 6.....P to QR 4, with the threat of P to QKt 3, or 6.....P to QKt 3; 7—P to QKt 4, P to QR 4; 8—P to QR 3, RP takes P; 9—RP takes P, R takes R; 10—Q takes R. Kt to QB 3, with a number of threats, White's King being in a comparatively exposed position, or at least an even game. He made matters worse with 9.....B to B sq., which allowed 10—Kt to K5. He should have made an effort to get some elbow-room at any cost; for instance, 9.....Kt to B sq, followed by 10.....KKt to Q 2, so as to be able to advance P to B 3 and P to K 4, whereas he permitted White to smother him altogether. 11.....Kt takes Kt is immediately fatal. The lesser evil would have been 11.....P to KKt 4; 12—B to Kt 3, Kt takes Kt, followed by Kt to Q2. Herr Schwarz has exactly the position suitable to his "skitting" style, and such games he plays to perfection. His 16 Kt to K4 is a very pretty move (Black could not play 16.....P takes Kt because of 17—Q takes P), and the remainder plays itself, Black being paralysed. The ending is very neat.

GAME 586.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—A. Schwarz. Black—A. Albin.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	20 Kt B3	BxB
2 P QB4	P K4	21 KxB	P R5
3 QPxP	P Q5	22 P QKt4	Q Q2
4 P KKt3	Kt QB3	23 B K2	Q B3
5 P B4	B KB4	24 QR QBsq	Q K5
6 P QR3	P KR4	25 KR Ksq	Q K6
7 B Kt2	P R5	26 R B3	Q B7
8 Kt KB3	P R6	27 R B2	Castles QR
9 B Bsq	P R4	28 B Qsq	QxR
10 P Kt3	B B4	29 KtxQ	RxB
11 B Kt2	KtR3	30 Kt B3	R Q6
12 P K3	Kt KKt5	31 Kt Kt5	P KB3
13 PxP	Kt K6	32 PxP	PxP
14 Q Bsq	Kt B7ch	33 Kt K4	KR Qsq
15 K Qsq	QKtxQP	34 Kt B5	R Q7
16 KtxKt	BxKt	35 KtxRP	RxRch
17 KtQ2	B B7	36 KxR	R Ktsq
18 QxKt	BxKtch	37 Kt B5	RxP
19 KxB	B Q5	Resigns	

2.....P to Kt 4 is a favourite variation of Albin's. It cannot be recommended. White may continue with 3—P to K 3, which places him in the position of the Frence Defence with a move ahead, or he may continue as in the text up to White's 8—Kt to K B 3, which is a bad move, the correct continuation being 8—P to K 4, B to K 3 (8.....P takes P e.p. is inferior); 9—Q to Q 3, P takes P; 10—P takes P, R takes R; 11—B takes R, P to K Kt 4; 12—Kt to K B 3 with a pawn ahead and a good position. Obviously, after permitting 8.....P to R 6, driving back the Bishop, he had the inferior game, which he could have somewhat improved with 10—P to K 3 (in fact, the latter move was imperative). Black's splendid final attack commenced with 11., Kt to R3 and Kt to Kt 5, and the beautiful 17, B to B 7, which compelled White to sacrifice the Queen, for Black threatened 18.....Kt to K 6 ch; 19—K to K 2, Q to Q 6 ch; 20—K takes B, Kt to Kt 5 ch; 21—K to K sq, Q to K 6 ch; 22—B to K 2, Q to B 7 ch; 23—K to Q sq, Kt to K 6 mate. Of course, after the sacrifice of the Queen, he might have resigned. Black, eventually giving back the Queen, remained with the Exchange ahead—more than sufficient to win. This is really a fine and brilliant game, deserving the whole of the brilliancy prize instead of having to share it with the above.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India 1	F. May 4
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 2	F. May 4
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric 3	Su. May 6
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 4	M. May 7
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Th. May 10
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg 5	Sa. May 12
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 6	M. May 14
Hongkong.....	M. M. Co.	Salazie	Th. May 17
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Th. May 17
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Tu. May 22
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	China	Th. May 24

1 Left Kobe on the 3rd inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 19th ult.
3 Left San Francisco on the 17th ult.
4 Left Nagasaki on the 2nd inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 2nd inst.
6 Left San Francisco on the 25th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. May 4
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. May 4
Hongkong.....	N. D. Lloyd	Preussen	Sa. May 5
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Doric	M. May 7
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. May 9
Europe, via S'hai .	M. M. Co.	Oceanien	F. May 11
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Sa. May 12
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. May 15
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. May 16
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa. May 19
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	W. May 23
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. May 26

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Alacrity (4), British Despatch Boat, 1,700, Capt. ——, 27th April,—Nagasaki, 24th April.

Preussen, German steamer, 3,278, R. Heintze, 27th April,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe 26th April, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens, & Co., Nachf.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 27th April,—Yokkaichi, 26th April, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, M. Nishimura, 27th April,—Shanghai via ports, 11th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Albatross, U.S. Fish Commission steamer, 638, J. F Moser, 28th April,—Uraga Dock, 28th April.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 28th April,—Kobe, 26th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,692, F. L. Sommer, 28th April,—London via ports, and Kobe 26th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jaguar, German gunboat, 899, Capt. Kinderling, 28th April,—Nagasaki, 25th April.

Thomas, U.S. Army Transport, 3,653, Schiller, 28th April,—Manila via Nagasaki, 24th April.

S. P. Hitchcock, American Ship, 2,086, E. Gates, 29th April,—New York, 20th Nov., Kerosene Oil. —Standard Oil Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 29th April,—Yokkaichi, 28th April, General.—Nippon Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 29th April,—Otaru via ports, 24th April, General, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 29th April,—Kobe, 28th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Japan, British steamer, 2,795, G. K. Wright, 29th April,—London via ports, and Kobe, 28th April, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Idomeneus, British steamer, 4,298, James Riley, 30th April,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 29th April, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Endymion (12), British cruiser, 7,350, Capt. R. L. D. Cumming, 30th April,—Nagasaki, 24th April.

Andalusia, German steamer, 3,499, Ehlers, 30th April,—Hamburg via ports, and Nagasaki, 27th April, General.—C. Illies & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 30th April,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 29th April, Mails and General,—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, E. N. Haswell, 30th May,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, and Kobe, 29th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Océanien, French steamer, 2,080, R. Schmitz, 1st May,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 30th April, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,149, C. de la Perrelle, 1st May,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 30th April, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,911, N. Trennt, 1st May,—London via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Panton, 1st May,—Tacoma, Wash., 13th April, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 1st May,—Kobe, 29th April, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 1st May,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 1st May,—Yokkaichi, 30th April, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 2nd May,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 2nd May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Admiral Korniloff (16), Russian cruiser, 5,000, Capt. Petroff, 27th April,—Kobe.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,260, Durrande, 27th April,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, W. W. Greene, 27th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, British steam yacht, 1,018, Lunham, 27th April,—Aomori.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Duke of Fife, British steamer, 2,416, J. S. Cox, 28th April.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. B. Seabury, 28th April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Energia, British steamer, 2,064, E. A, Chaplin, 28th April,—Honolulu, San Diego and San Francisco, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Brooklyn (20), U.S. Flagship, 9,215, Capt. Thomas, 28th April,—Hongkong.

D'Entrecasteaux (26), French Flagship, 8,114, Capt. de Maroll, 28th April,—Nagasaki.

Barfleur (14), British battleship, 10,500, Capt. G. J. S. Warrender, 28th April,—Nagasaki.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 28th April, | Otaru via ports, General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 28th April,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thomas, U.S. Army Transport, 3,653, Schiller, 29th April,—San Francisco,

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 29th April,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Silesia, Austrian steamer, 3,165, G. Verona, 30th April,—Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Bamberg, German steamer, 2,669, Jacobs, 1st May, —Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General. —C. Illies & Co.

Alcinous, British steamer, 4,278, J. Pulford, 1st May, London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Baltimore (14), U.S. Flagship, 4,600, Capt. J. M. Forsythe 1st May,—Kobe.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 1st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, Thompson, 1st May, —Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 1st May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 2nd May,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 2nd May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, M, Nishimura, 2nd May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 2nd May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *China*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. R. Akiyama, Mr. E. Brandenstein, Mrs. S. J. Churchill, Mr. Davis, Mrs. A. F. Dixon, Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Fulton and 4 children, Miss Doderey, Mrs. J. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Perkins and child, Miss R. Perkins, Miss F. Perkins, Miss S. Sharpe, Miss M. Watanabe, Miss M. Bacon,

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Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Boque, Mr. C. Churchill, Mr. Derby, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Fernald, Mr. L. P. Harris, Miss A. B. Perkins, Miss Perkins and maid, Miss M. Perkins, Mr. J. C. Siegfried, Miss M. Sharpe, Miss M. P. Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. P. Galvin, Miss M. Hessian, and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Kelly, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. A. C. Bryer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Shan, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Loring and child, and Mr. H. R. Williams, Jr., in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Rev. J. C. Davison, Mr. L. H. Rosenthal, and Dr. and Mrs. W. B. McGill and 3 children, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Boeck, Miss N. Dow, Mrs. M. B. Grier and child, Miss E. E. Martin, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Walker and child, Miss B. Burke, Mr. H. A. Dalley, Miss L. E. Martin, Mr. Shon Sing, and Rev. J. V. Martin, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Lieut. Com. J. K. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Evans, Miss M. I. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Long, Mrs. E. P. Lawton, 3 children and servant, Capt. D. A. Smith, Mrs. J. A. Collie, Mr. A. R. Jorden, Mrs. W. P. Rogers, and Mrs. A. G. Todd, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Preussen*, from Bremen via ports:—Baron Ungern Sternberg, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stephens, Mr. C. C. Coppell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Amthor and five children, Mr. C. Steinhauer, Mr. Fred M. Alger, Mr. W. P. Daniels, Mr. F. W. Marshall, Mr. von Boehl, and Mr. Klatte, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Capt. Charles M. Truitt, Lieut. Hally K. Hill, and Mr. F. H. Bugbird, in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Naito, Mr. Miyagi, Mr. Kawano, and Mr. James Rocks, in second class; 24 Japanese, and 6 Chinese, in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from Kobe via ports:—Mr. A. H. White, Miss Mariana Young, Mrs. J. Orth, Mr. E. A. Oberlin, Mr. Tomano, Mr. W. V. Errington, Lieut.-Com. Bull, U.S.N., Mr. P. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cawthra, Dr. and Mrs. F. Kruger and Infant and 2 amahs, and Master F. Kruger, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Admiral Richelieu, Lieut.-Com. F. E. Beatty, U.S.N., Mrs. Caldren, Mr. Edna Caldren, Mr. Arthur Caldren, Mr. C. Klinck, Mr. Geo. Klinck, Mr. S. T. Cohn, Mr. and Mrs. Eroll Hay, Miss F. B. Puss McClure, Miss Irene Lee, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Mustard and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll and son, Miss Irene Carroll, Master John Carroll, Mr. Prene Blanc, Mr. M. B. Godrej, Mr. Lee Gap, Miss Lee Quai, Miss Lee Tovey Kan, Mr. Lee San, Mrs. Li An Shai, Mrs. Lung So and infant, and Miss Gow Gan, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Océanien*, from Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Esuchida, Mr. Kogashi, Mr. Guijon, Mr. Lacaze, Mr. Yat Seng, Mr. Mayer, Rev. Sanr Regina, Sister Marie, Mrs. J. E. Blodgit, Mr. and Mrs. Faga, Mr. Meruki, and Mr. Loung Un Kong in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Awa Maru*, from London via ports:—Com. M. Kanda, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Pallister, and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, in cabin; Mr. K. Seki, Mr. F. Fujiwara, Mr. D. Shibakawa, Mr. G. Braithwaite, Mr. and Mrs. M. Spieler, in second class; 4 Japanese, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. C. L. Ottley, Mrs. L. R. Bonanji, baby and amah, Miss Matsu, Messrs. Sobolewsky Lipiline and Petroff, Mr. Horacais, Mr. J. Pila, Mr. R. Finch, Mr. M. Stempel and servant, Mrs. F. Kiene, Mr. Arturo Bernia, Miss Louise Casalta, Mr. J. J. Connel, Mr. L. Shapiro, Mr. A. Kin and valet, Mr. Leo Cho Ping, Mr. Nago Shinkiaki, Major Burton, Mr. Michel, Mr. Glaissette, Mr. J. Israel, Mr. Conor, Miss Pister, Mrs. Berman, Mr. Launay, Mr. Reynand, and Mr. L. Cremazy, in cabin; 58 in steerage.

Per American steamer *China*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. R. E. Abenheim, Misses McGill (2), Master McGill, Mr. E. S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Crouse, Miss Crouse, Mrs. M. B. Greer and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. McGill, Captain D. A. Smith, Mr. H. R. Williams, Mr. J. C. Davison, Mr. J. W. Parmelee and servant, Mr. H. A. Dalley, Lieut. W. V. Pratt, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Evans, Miss Burke, Mr. and Mrs. H. Grimble, Mrs. Helen G. Todd, Mr. James Green, Lieut. G. F. Cooper, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barnard, Mr. Shon Ting, Capt. Lloyd England, U.S.N., Mr. A. K. Jordan, Mr. J. Kelly, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. L. H. Rosenthal, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Boeck, Mr. G. G. Stadelman, Mr. S. W. Cartwright, Mr. John Spalckhaver, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Walker, Miss Walker, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Phillips, Mr. J. C. Siegfried, Mr. H. W. Colie, Mr. A. C. Bryer, Rev. John V. Martin, Ensign R. Z. Johnson, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Long, Lieut. Commander C. S. Richman, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Woolfall, Miss Dowe, Mrs. D. L. Callie, Miss Hessian, Surgeon C. J. Decker, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. Bogue, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Weir, Mr. F. J. Lias, Mr. Philip, Mr. P. Galvin, Miss Jones, Mrs. German, Mrs. E. P. Lawton, children maid, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Loring, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Miss Hutton, Miss J. Hutton, Capt. G. I. L. de Berry, Mr. Thomas W. Townsend, Mr. W. H. Symons, Mr. Leang Pork Lon, Mr. Lum Lee Him, Miss Annie Suidzsai, Mr. C. H. R. Nielsen, and Mr. R. A. Marshall, in cabin; 4 Chinese, and 26 Europeans, in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. Esilio Barbaroux, Mr. P. Blanc, Lieut.-Com. Beatty, U.S.N., Mr. L. G. Beers, Mr. Wm. Churchill, Mr. and Mrs. John Carroll, Miss Irene Carroll, Master John Carroll, Mr. F. T. Cohn, Mrs. Coldren and two children, Mrs. A. F. Clarke, Marquis Alfenso Ferrero, Mr. Geo. E. Frisby, Mrs. Fels, Miss Fels, Miss B. E. Fels, Mr. M. B Godriz, Mr. Lee Gap, Miss Gow Gan, Mr. R. Hall, Mr. B. Hallenstein and servant, Mrs. B. Hallenstein, Mr. Geo. Klinck, Mr. C. Klinck, Miss Lee Fooey Kan, Miss Irene Lee, Mr. J. A. Magee, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Mustard, Misses Mustard (2), Master Mustard, Miss McClure, Mr. K. Miyamoto, Mr. S. Mori, Miss Li Quai, Admiral A. du Plessis de Richelieu, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Sperry, Master Fred. Sperry, Mr. E. C. Shenton, Mr. Marino Solinaz, Mrs. Li Ann Shi, Mrs. Lung So and infant, Master Lee Son, Mr. Geo. W. Trimble, and Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Wood and child, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. A. Scagliotti, Miss M. Young, Mr. T. Kondo, Mr. T. Asabuki, Mrs. Yoshisuye, and two Chinese, in cabin; Mr. M. Kanemaru, Mr. S. Mitsuishi, Mr. M. Matsushita, Miss Hide Kondo, Mr. N. Minekishi, Mr. and Mrs. Morotomi, Mrs. Morotomi, and Mr. K. Kato, in second class.

EXPECTED.

Per German steamer *Hamburg*, from Bremen via ports:—Mrs. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. E. Forster, child and servant, Graf A. Hoyos, Mr. and Mr. W. K. Wilson, children and servant, Vice-Consul A. Boje, Mr. O. Meyer, Mr. C. Raab, Mrs. M. Rehling, and Mr. R. Steinbach, in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per French steamer *Ernest Simons*, for Marseilles via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 171 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 237 bales.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports:—Raw Silk for Europe, 184 bales; Waste Silk for Europe, 1 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is no improvement in the situation in yarns or shirtings. Dealers are anxious to sell or cancel previous purchases instead of buying further. There have been a few retail deals in shirtings, but absolutely nothing doing in fancy cottons and woollens. Metals are altogether flat.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0.65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 (@) 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 (@) 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 (@) 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78

	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	2.450 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 to 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Prices show a further decline.

American	$2.95 to 2.98
Russian	2.95
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

Market quiet for best refined, for lower grades a good enquiry.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	7.90 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A fair amount of buying as the market declines. Fine sizes are scarce, and there is not much reduction in quotations. In full sizes holders are still anxious to be moving. New crop prospects are so far favourable and new filatures for July delivery are quoted cheap upon the Silk Exchange.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Coarse...	990 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,060 to 1,070
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse...	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine...	1,020 to 1,030
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse...	Nominal
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½	940 to 950
Re-reels—No. 2	930 to 935
Re-reels—No. 3	910 to 920
Kakedas—Extra	1,020 to 1,030
Kakedas—No. 1	990 to 1,000
Kakedas—No. 1½	940 to 950
Kakedas—No. 2	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2½	880 to 890

WASTE SILK.

Dealers at last are anxious to sell and have accordingly reduced prices, but buyers hold off, the quality on offer not being of a tempting nature and advices from consuming markets dull.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium...	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Filatures, Best...	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	55 to 60
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	54 to 55

TEA.

There have been no transactions so far. A few small samples of new leaf are to hand, but no accurate forecast of the quality of the crop can be gained for them. The total settlements up to date amount to 212,780 piculs as against 208,143 piculs at corresponding date of last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	Nominal
Choice	
Finest	
Fine	
Good Medium...	
Medium	
Good Common	
Common	

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, May 3.

Breweries—A few shares are obtainable at *yen* 162.50 cum the dividend. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 220. Grand Hotels have buyers at *yen* 240. Oriental Hotels, new ordinary and preference shares can be had at *yen* 40. Langfeldts are obtainable at *yen* 110. Helms have sellers at par. Laundries have sellers at par. A few Bretts can be placed at *yen* 9.

Y. U. Clubs debentures can be had *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	212.50 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	162.50 S.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 B.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	157.50 Sa.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	450 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal

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North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	110 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	35 Sa.
Oriental Hotel. preference shares, ¥25	35 Sa.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 3.

Engine and Iron Works have buyers at *yen* 215. Grand Hotels have sellers at *yen* 245. Buyers offer *yen* 240. Japan Breweries have buyers at *yen* 150.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	215 Steady.
Grand Hotel	240 Buyers.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	155 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co	110 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	150 Buyers.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 3.

Silver from London again $\frac{1}{16}$ higher without affecting rates at all.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 17/32
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 11/32 to ¾
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 7/8 to 15/16
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight.	259½ to 60½
— — 6 months' sight	261 to 62
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ to ¾
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74¼
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27 7/16

Tokyo, May 3.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	93.40
War Loan Bonds	93.40
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	96.00
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	415.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	64.50
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	163.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	67.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen	67.00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	98.50
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—pain up yen 25	26.10
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	69.20
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	60.20
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	21.20
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45 *	103.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25 *	68.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47 *	51.00
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	37.80
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50 *	51.00
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40 *	38.50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	83.00
Hokkaido Colliery R'way 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	65.50
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	74.80
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50 *	36.50
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	22.40
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	50.00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	17.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	29.40
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	18.30
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 25	10.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 13 *	17.80
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	225.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 12.50	200.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	59.00
Osaka Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	21.50
Osaka Shosen Kaisha, new—paid up yen 10	14.50
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 21	22.80
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 23	23.50
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	39.00
Yokohoma Dock, new—paid up yen 20	32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	35.50
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	14.50
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	102.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	165.50
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	134.00
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25	75.00
Tokyo Silver Exchange—paid up yen 5	2.50
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	50.00
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32.50	23.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 50	94.00

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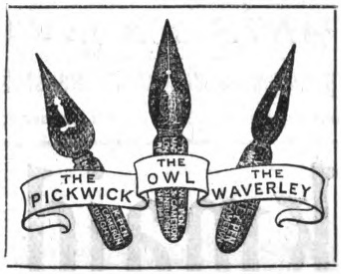

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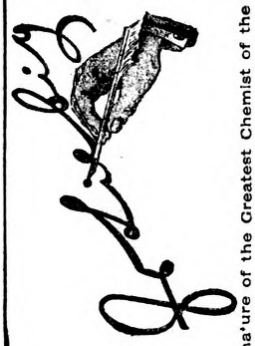

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 12TH, 1900.

DEATHS.

On 8th inst., WILLIAM BOURNE, aged 69, born in Birmingham, England, and for 38 years a Resident of Yokohama.

The funeral will take place from the General Hospital at 8.30 a.m. to-day, 9th May, and friends will please accept the intimation.

At No. 114, Creekside, on Thursday, the 10th May, 1900, FRANCISCO ABELLA, aged 61 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Spring Race meeting at Yokohama will be held next week.

THE foreign community of Yokohama presented an address to the Prince Imperial on Wednesday, in honour of his marriage.

THE Marriage of the Prince Imperial was celebrated in Tokyo on Thursday. The weather was beautiful and the open-air rejoicings were on a large scale everywhere.

THE Boers are retreating before Lord Roberts' rapid advance. A big battle is expected at the Zand River.

TELEGRAMS received in Tokyo say that the President gave his sanction to the Hawaiian Administration Bill on the 30th ult.

A JAPANESE traveller from Newchwang to Moukden was detained by the Russian officials last month on suspicion of being a spy, but was eventually released.

THE Japanese Fine Arts Hall at the French Exhibition is said to have attracted most favourable notice in Paris. It was visited by the President on the 1st instant.

THE man who was arrested for breaking into the enclosure of the Meguro Powder magazine has been released. The police satisfied themselves that he did not partake in any respect of the character of a military spy.

A THIEF broke into the villa of Mr. and Mrs. Showler, near Kamakura, the other night, and stole a silver watch, a lady's gold watch, a purse containing *yen* 4 in cash, and a knife with a pearl handle.

THE statement that Mr. Liu had died of the wound inflicted on him by an assassin at Canton is contradicted. According to the latest information, the wound was not serious, and Mr. Liu is progressing towards recovery.

THERE appears to be little question that Mr. Takahira, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be appointed to represent Japan in Washington, and that Mr. Kurino, the present Representative in Italy, will return home in July.

INTELLIGENCE from Amoy is to the effect that the two ring-leaders in the disturbance last autumn have been sentenced to two months of the cangue and two years' imprisonment. This punishment is not very severe from a Chinese point of view.

WE are informed that Mr. Kent, late of the *Tamba Maru*, who has left for home, received from the Chamber of Commerce a cheque for *yen* 550, subscribed by members of the Chamber, and a letter from the Chamber in which his case was fully explained.

FIRE broke out at 8.30 p.m. on Thursday in Bentendori, Ichome, at the house of a lacquer dealer named Kobayashi. The Police Brigade soon extinguished the flames. The damage was small. The fire is believed to have been due to the carelessness of a servant.

THE Tanko Railway Company and the Kobu Railway Company are both said to be anxious to obtain loans abroad. In fact, this season of great stringency in the money market is likely to impart renewed vigour to the agitation for the import of foreign capital.

A PICNIC was held by the students of the Yoshida Gakko on Friday, when some 2,500 boys and girls attending the school proceeded to Negishi, near the Race Course, and played various games, baseball, jumping, tugs-of-war, etc. Afterwards the *Kimi-ga-yo* was sung in chorus, and the scholars marched back.

A STATE visit was paid by Prince Kanin, envoy of the Emperor of Japan, to President Loubet at the Elysée on March 29th. The band of the Republican Guard played the Japanese hymn on the arrival and departure of the Prince, whose visit the President returned later in the day.

ACCORDING to a naval authority, the new ships which will soon be added to the Japanese Navy and the order of their arrival are, the *Asahi* (line-of-battle ship, 15,200 tons), the *Yakumo* (first class cruiser, 9,800 tons), the *Azuma* (first-class cruiser 9,400 tons), and the *Izumo* (first-class cruiser, 9,800 tons).

THERE is talk of a trust being formed by the 22 cement companies of Japan. They are tired of cut-throat competition, and the representatives of the Tokyo, Osaka, Kiushiu, and Hokkaido Companies have held a meeting in Tokyo to discuss preliminaries for the organization of a trust with a capital of 7 million *yen*.

LORD ROBERTS has had a newspaper started for the edification of the troops, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling contributed to the issue on 17th March some stirring lines about "Erin's Badge by Law." The Commander-in-Chief has requested most of war correspondents on the spot to form the temporary staff.

SURVEYS have now been completed of the Fusan and Söul sections of the Söul-Fusan Railway, as far as Yösan at the Söul end and Tampoh at the Fusan end. It is said that the survey of the part between Yösan and Tampoh will not be undertaken until work has been commenced on the end sections.

Two Russian admirals, and 42 other Russian Naval officers of high rank, have been arrested at Sebastopol, owing to irregularity in the construction department, and to the embezzling of millions. All the ships in the Black Sea Harbour were ordered to Sebastopol for inspection. To this movement is attributable the recent rumour of Russian Naval mobilization in the Black Sea.

THE children—boys and girls—attending the Motomachi School had their annual drill on Sunday afternoon at the Cricket Ground, which had been lent for the occasion. Races in European style formed part of the programme, and the obstacle races especially were very amusing. The rifle drill of the boys and the marching of the girls to the music of a band were also pretty features.

THE man that robbed an officer of the *Oregon* of a watch valued at $150 has been arrested. He is a tailor named Imura, 19 years of age. It appears that in his professional capacity he obtained access to the officer's cabin, and, seeing the watch, purloined it, subsequently pawning it at Asakusa in Tokyo for 30 *yen*. The watch has been recovered and placed in the hands of the United States Consul.

FOUR coolies have been arrested on the charge of stealing from the inflammable goods godown at Nakamura, Ishikawa, 48 cases of alcohol, valued at some *yen* 351, 13 of which belonged to Mr. H. Grauert, No. 92, Settlement, and the rest to Mr. Takase Saburo, of Honcho Shichome. The stolen goods had been sold at a very low figure to one Hara Hyokichi, employed by a foreign firm, who has also been arrested.

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THE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

The marriage of H.I.H. the Prince Imperial and Princess Sadako, took place in Tokyo on Thursday in brilliant weather. There were great rejoicings throughout the empire, a general holiday being observed.

Pictures are published by the *Jiji Shimpo* of the robes and ornaments that the Crown Princess wore at the wedding. The hair-pins and combs are of silver with gold decoration, pure gold being too heavy, and the robes are of the richest silks, embroidered and otherwise decorated. For foreign observers, and indeed for the Japanese themselves also, the most interesting part of the ceremony was the departure of the bride and bridegroom from the Emperor's Palace to the Aoyama Palace at half-past eleven in the forenoon, as the Imperial couple then wore Japanese costume, whereas they afterwards dressed in foreign style.

In the grand ceremony of presentation Marquis Ito, as representative of the holders of titles and orders, Marquis Yamagata, as representative of officialdom, and Baron d'Anethan, as representative of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique, delivered addresses to their Majesties the Emperor and Empress.

About thirty vessels of the Navy assembled in Tokyo Bay for the ceremony, and dressed ship and fired salutes just as on the Emperor's birth-day. The same rule was followed at Yokosuka, Saseho, Kure, and the open ports.

We translate from the *Official Gazette* the programme of the ceremonies, as it is not probable that an Imperial Wedding in Japan will ever again come under the notice of the majority of our readers :—

6 a.m. The decorations and dispositions are made in the Palace, after which the officers of the Board of Ceremony repair to their places in the Hall of Imperial Shrines.

The door of the Imperial Shrine is opened, music being performed at the same time.

The food to be offered at the Shrine is spread, music being performed at the same time.

The Sacred Ritual is read.

The food is removed, music being performed at the same time.

The door of the Shrine is shut, music being performed. All retire.

7.30 a.m. The Prince Imperial leaves the Aoyama Palace and repairs to the Hall of Imperial Shrines. The Princess Sada leaves Prince Kujo's mansion and repairs to the same place simultaneously, escorted by an officer sent by the Prince Imperial.

The Prince Imperial; the Princess; one representative each of the Holders of Grand Cordons, the *Shinnin* Officials, the Princes, the Marquises, the Peers of the Musk and Golden-Pheasant Chambers, and their wives, the *Shinnin* Local Officials of the First and Second Classes and their wives, assemble in the Hall of Imperial Shrines.

The door of the Shrine is opened, music being performed.

The *go-hei* are offered at the Shrine, music being performed.

The Sacred Ritual is read.

The Imperial Princes take their places.

The Prince Imperial and the Princess worship at the Shrine, and bow to the Sacred Jewel.

The Prince Imperial reads the Sacred Address.

The Prince Imperial and the Princess receive the Sacred *Sake*.

An Imperial Salute is fired on Sea and on Shore.

The Prince Imperial and the Princess again worship at the Shrine, and, bowing to the Jewel, retire.

The sacred offerings are removed; music.

The door of the Shrine is closed; music.

All retire.

9 a.m.—The Prince Imperial and the Princess repair to the Palace, are received by the Emperor and Empress, and drink *sake*.

11 a.m.—The Prince Imperial and the Princess leave the Palace and return to the Aoyama Palace.

The Prince Imperial and the Princess exchange cups.

11 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.—The following persons assemble at the Eastern Kuruma-yose, repairing thither by the Sakashita, or Tsuyô, Gate :—

The *Kwanchô* of each Buddhist and Shinto Sect.

Sonin officials, and persons ranking as *Sonin* officials, of and above the Fifth Class.

All persons of and above the First Class of the Fifth Grade.

All persons holding decorations of and above the Fourth Class.

The *Monzeki*.

The Mayor of Tokyo.

3.30 p.m. The Prince Imperial and the Princess leave Aoyama Palace and repair to the Emperor's Palace.

Simultaneously the following repair to the Palace :—

Holders of Grand Cordons, *Shinnin* officials, Princes, Holders of First Class Orders, First-class officials, Marquises, Persons of the First-class of the Second Grade, Second-class officials, Peers of the Musk and Golden Pheasant Chambers, Counts, Persons of the Second Class of the Second Grade. Holders of Second Class Orders, Viscounts, Persons of the First Class of the Third Grade, Barons, Persons of the First Class of the Fourth Grade, Foreign Employés ranking as *Chokunin*, Foreigners holding Third-Class Orders and upwards and their wives, Officials from the Third to the Fifth Class, Local *Shinnin* and *Sonin* officials and their wives.

The Emperor, the Empress, the Prince Imperial and the Princess Imperial repair to the Phœnix Chamber and give audience to those assembled.

6 p.m. The Emperor, the Empress, the Prince and Prince Imperial, the Princes and Princesses of the Blood, the Princes and the Princesses, having dined with the company in the *Chikusa* and *Homei* Halls, retire.

YOKOHAMA'S PRESENTATION.

The address to the Prince Imperial, which the foreign community of Yokohama proferred on the occasion of his marriage, was presented to the Crown Prince on Wednesday afternoon by Mr. H. J. Holm, Chairman of the International Committee, and Mr. E. Flint Kilby, Chairman of the Yokohama Foreign Chamber of Commerce. These gentlemen were received in audience by H.I.H. Prince Yoshihito at Aoyama Palace, being first introduced to Viscount Inaba, Master of Ceremonies and General Baron Kuroda, Chief Aide-de-Camp, by His Excellency, M. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa Ken. The following address was read to the Prince Imperial by Mr. Holm :—

TO THE MOST
HIGH AND EXCELLENT PRINCE YOSHIHITO,
Prince Imperial of Dai-Nihon.

Your Imperial Highness:—The foreigners who are residing in the City of Yokohama approach Your Imperial Highness, the one hundred and twenty-second in direct succession from the great and illustrious Progenitor of a Sovereign dynasty of unparalleled duration, craving permission in common with the subjects of this Empire, to offer their united and heart-felt felicitations on the occasion of Your Highness' marriage.

They do not forget that one of the earliest public acts of the first year of the enlightened and auspicious era of *Meiji* was the promulgation of an Edict by which His Imperial Majesty was graciously pleased to decree the safety of foreigners within the dominions of this realm; and it is to this manifestation of the Imperial Solicitude that they owe the protection and security of their lives and property, and which awakened and preserves in their hearts feelings of warm attachment to His Majesty's person, and an earnest desire for the happiness and welfare of every member of the Imperial House.

They will constantly pray that Your Highness may long live to add lustre to so noble a descent, and so to maintain the national honour abroad, and the pure and impartial administration of justice at home, as to command the continuance of the homage of their esteem, and the obedient and affectionate devotion of the people of this great Empire.

Dated at Yokohama on the 9th day of May, 1900, and signed on behalf of the foreign residents of the city by members of the committee appointed for that purpose.

H. ABEGG, Swiss.	H. KLINGEN, Dutch.
V. BLAD, Danish.	O. LORD, Peruvian.
G. W. BRAMHALL, U.S.A.	JOHN LINDSLEY, U.S.A.
J. H. BROOKE, British	J. F. LOWDER, British.
JOHN C. BUDD, British.	GEO. W. MIDDLETGN, U.S.A.
EÇA DA SILVA, Portuguese.	WM. T. PAYNE, U.S.A.
L. DEWETTE, Belgian.	M. PORS, German.
A. GERDTS, Swedish.	J. PUIG, Spanish.
A. GROENER, Russian.	G. REIFFINGER, French.
C. GUISSANI, Italian.	FR. RETZ, German.
H. J. HOLM, German.	P. SARDA, French.
J. D. HUTCHISON, British.	F. TOWNLEY, British.
J. M. JENSEN, Norwegian.	EDWIN WHEELER, British.
E. FLINT KILBY, British.	ALF. WOOLLEY, British.

Viscount Inaba having translated the address, His Imperial Highness replied in Japanese, Viscount Inaba again translating :—

"His Highness accepts with pleasure, the cordial congratulations of the Foreign Residents of Yokohama on the occasion of his marriage, and requests you, as representing the Yokohama community, to convey his thanks to them for their address."

SOUTH AFRICA.

Monday, May 7.

Windsorton, where General Hunter has crossed the Vaal apparently for the purpose of marching to the relief of Mafeking, is 28 miles north of Kimberley. The Vaal at Warrenton takes a sharp turn southward, and runs thenceforth nearly parallel to the railway as far as Barkly. Some time ago, an attempt to cross at the latter place, or a feinted attempt as it seems to have been, disclosed the Boers in force, prepared to dispute the passage. The British troops were then recalled, and, with the exception of some skirmishing at Warrenton, there have been no evidences of any operations from the south to relieve Mafeking. Probably the explanation is that Roberts was resolved to make the march of the relief column synchronise with his own general advance. It is obvious that the Boers can scarcely remain in force to defend the Warrenton-Vryburg-Mafeking

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line while the main British army is advancing direct from Bloemfontein to Brandfort, Winburg, and Kroonstad. Thus by his own forward movement Roberts hopes to relieve the pressure in the regions through which Hunter will have to march. It is possible, indeed, that the Boers, hearing of the Field Marshal's operations, may raise the siege of Mafeking, where they have wasted six months in one of the vainest essays ever placed on a military record. At all events, the situation now produced is similar to that which existed originally in Natal; with this difference, that, whereas Buller had to strike again and again at the besieging Boer army before the invasion of the Free State lessened the pressure in front of him, Hunter commences his attempt to relieve Mafeking simultaneously with Roberts' diversion to the north of Bloemfontein. The distance from Windsorton to Warrenton is only 16 miles, and, as the Boers were in force at Warrenton when we last heard of them, Hunter will probably have to fight soon. It is very likely that a direct advance against Warrenton, or Christiana, will be made by Methuen, so as to assist Hunter. One or two days will suffice to elucitate the plan of campaign.

Lord Roberts having again resumed his forward movement, the following account of the country between Bloemfontein and the Transvaal Border is of great interest. It is contributed to *The Times* by an officer:—

"The railway, which runs N.N.E. from Bloemfontein to the Vaal River, passes with scarcely a curve or a cutting, an embankment or a tunnel, through a monofony of 175 miles of rolling plains, occasionally diversified in the more northern districts by comparatively low ranges of hills, which are themselves surmounted by singular replicas of the crags about Cape Town known as Table Mountain, the Devil's Peak, and the Lion, only much less elevated. Here I may remark that, as regards the mountains, most maps of the Free State are nought; the ranges audaciously indicated are often little more than rising ground. The level areas are treeless, save for scrub; riverless, save for the temporary streams of the rainy season; untilled save for nature's pasturage of square miles of luxuriant, waving grass: houseless, save for a very few isolated homesteads or kraals; and foodless, save for the sparse cattle and the unattainable game. Lord Roberts must therefore rely upon his own transport for supplies. The population, and hence, also, the traffic, are little more than nominal. Not a yard of metalled road did I see during the whole course of my journey through the Free State and the Transvaal. Yet locomotion is by no means difficult. The straight line of railway will be easily repaired. Cart tracks may be struck out almost at will on the fairly firm pasturage, and as soon as these become rutty the difficulty is immediately obviated by a small semicircular divergence of route.

"It appears, therefore, improbable that Lord Roberts in his advance towards the Vaal River will meet with any lion in the path in the shape of a formidable defensive position from whence the Boer forces could for any length of time bar his way. There are no vital strategical features corresponding to the Tugela River, to the Majuba-Langs-Nek heights, to the Drakensberg, or to the ranges south of the Orange River between Hopetown and Norval's Pont. The Table Mountain-Devil's Peak heights, which a non-soldier critic might suppose formidable, are illusory as tactical obstacles. They are generally *en l'air*, are never *en poience* with a marsh, a road, or a river, and can always be shirked. Groups of kopjes may occasionally induce the retreating Boers to attempt a stand, and even to fight a rearguard battle, but Lord Roberts has shown us over and over again that these can be turned by tactical skill; the firm pasture plains are especially suitable for our mounted infantry and any such stand would melt away after a short delay. Of more importance, as threatening loss through rearguard actions, are the numerous spruits or streams, which in no case are spanned by bridges, and in every case have their beds 'bouldered' with formidable granite *débris*. During the rainy season the spates occur so suddenly that in a few hours a trickling thread is converted into an unfordable torrent, which, however, subsides with equal rapidity. When the beds are dry, our enemy's opportunies of punishing an overhardy pursuer would be increased. The waters have ploughed out long lines of deep chasms, with banks so overhanging that they constitute formidable parapets from behind which an unsuspected enemy could devastate his foe, advancing over the open plain, as effectually as the valiant Highland Brigade was devastated at Magersfontein.

"An advance north along the line of railway brings under consideration the possibility of co-operation by our troops from Natal, the shortest perpendicular distance from Ladysmith being about 150 miles. A toil across the Drakensberg range by Van Reenen's Pass has vividly impressed me with the difficulties and hazards of any attempt to force the defiles against such an enemy as the Boers. Although neither the main ridge nor the subsidary spurs are alpine in their character, the zigzag routes across them are suggestive of the Simplon and the Bremer on a modified scale, especially those on the eastern aclivities. One long gradient, which I measured, represented an average rise of 2,000ft. in seven miles, and for short lengths the incline was double and treble in steepness. The road itself, well engineered and admirably constructed, incessantly skirts precipices, twists found projections, tapers up kloofs, and doubles on itself along superimposed terraces. At every angle there would be a liability to an inevitable surprise; at every chasm, to an unforeseen calamity. The forcing of these passes would doubtless be practicable, but the operation would probably be tedious and the losses would be severe unless Lord Roberts were first to shake the Boers by threatening their rear from his line of railway. Once arrived at the top, the westerly advance towards Harrismith and Bethlehem would be easy. Harrismith itself I found to be a substantially built, large village suitable for a camping ground, well supplied with water and not without its own conveniences of shelter and supplies.

"There remains an alternative circuitous route *via* Glencoe, Newcastle, and Standeraton. Here the Drakensberg Passes have broadened into gaps, and the crags have been sloped down into steeps, up which a team of eight horses sufficed to drag our cart at a merry trot; but the more I gazed on, the more I pondered over, the Ingogo, Majuba, and Langs Nek heights, the stronger grew the conviction that should an army of 10,000 Boers fail to arrest here an invader of 30,000 men, the teachings of history are vain."

Wednesday, May 9.

Smaldeel Junction, whence Lord Roberts telegraphs on the 6th instant, is the point where the railway from Winburg joins the main road to Pretoria from Bloemfontein. Winburg is just ten miles east of Smaldeel, and from the fact that the Boers are reported to be in full retreat towards the Zand River and Kroonstad, we may infer that no resistance is to be anticipated at Winburg, though that was one of the points where the Boers were expected to make a strong stand. Smaldeel is 60 miles from Bloemfontein and 50 from Kroonstadt. Roberts is therefore advancing with remarkable rapidity. He commenced his forward movement on May 1st, and by the afternoon of the 6th we find his headquarters at a point 60 miles beyond Bloemfontein. A march of 11 miles will bring him to the banks of the Zand, where it may be presumed that the Boers will dispute his passage. If his progress continues unchecked a little longer, his troops will sever the communications of the Boers guarding Van Reenan's Pass. It is possible, however, that the latter have their basis of supplies at Harrismith.

THE LAND QUESTION.

A correspondent writes from London:—"The question of the perpetual leases appears to be greatly agitating the Yokohama community, and a speedy and satisfactory settlement is much to be desired. I gather from what appears in the *Mail* that the transfer fee, as originally demanded, has been done away with, not in so many words by the Ordinance itself, but because the Ordinance provides for transfers at the office of the *Chihosho*, instead of at the Registration Office, registration, you contend, being unnecessary. Is this correct, because it does not seem to be so understood among the old Japan residents at home? Even if it is so, there still remains the question of confirming the perpetual leases. Assuming that your contention is correct, that they have already been confirmed by implication through the Ordinances and by the general action of the Imperial Government, it seems to me that the wording of the Treaty is responsible for a good deal of the misunderstanding. The Treaty says 'shall be confirmed,' which seems to imply that some special act of legislation was necessary to the confirmation, whereas had the words been 'are hereby confirmed,' nothing more would have been required. As a matter of fact nothing was done towards confirming the leases until the desirability or necessity was brought to the attention of the Japanese Government, and the Ordinance which followed this representation is still considered incomplete and unsatisfactory. I hope a mutually satisfactory settlement will soon be reached, as it is a serious question to leave open."

The points here raised have already been pretty fully discussed. As to the transfer fee, it has undoubtedly been abolished with regard to lands in the former Foreign Settlements. Transfers are registered by the Prefectural Authorities, and since the parties to the transfer have nothing to do with the registration, they naturally pay no fee.

The point raised by our correspondent with respect to the wording of the Treaty is scarcely of vital importance, we think. Reference to the Treaty shows that all the Articles are couched in future terms. "The subjects of each of the two High Contracting Parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel or reside in any part of the dominions and possessions of the other Contracting Party, &c.;" "shall enjoy in the dominions and possessions of the other the same privileges &c., as subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation, &c.;" "shall be exempted from all compulsory military service, &c." It is every where "shall be," nor can we see how any other form of phrascology would have been suitable, seeing that the Treaty was not to take effect until at least 5 years had elapsed from the time of its signature. The formula "shall be confirmed," as applied to the perpetual leases, can only be interpreted in the sense of the other promises embodied in the document, namely, that from the moment of the Treaty's operation they all acquire binding force. The perpetual leases, therefore, obtained their confirmation *de facto* on July 19th, 1899: no act on the part of the Japanese Government was required in confirm them. The difficulty that has occurred is in connexion with the manner of registering them; a very unfortunate difficulty which might easily have been avoided. But truly we fail to see why there should be any uneasiness on the part of the land-holders. So long as the Courts of Law recognise their titles, they need not be at all concerned because the Japanese Authorities have chosen a formula of registration which derives its validity from the good faith of the Government. If the Government, as we have often said, can not be trusted to observe its treaty obligations, then no formula of registration would improve matters. It has been clearly shown that the course adopted by the Japanese Government places the foreign titles entirely beyond legal interference of any and every kind, and bases them on the country's sacred pledge to observe its treaty obligations. This method has already received the definite approval of the Representatives of several of the Great Powers, and to agitate against it now is vexatious and futile. But assuredly the failure of the Government to complete the necessary arrangements for mortgaging lands held by foreigners under perpetual lease, is incomprehensible, and the losses and inconvenience thus entailed constitute a legitimate subject of complaint.

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PROTEST OF FRENCH LAND-HOLDERS.

French citizens holding land in the Settlement of Yokohama have addressed to their Consul a remonstrance against being required to pay income tax on the rental of lands held by them within the limits of the Settlement, or the rental of houses standing on the lands. Their point is that, according to the Revised Treaty, "existing leases in perpetuity under which property is now held in the Settlements shall be confirmed, and no conditions whatsoever other than those contained in such existing leases shall be imposed in respect of such property." It will be observed that this protest at once raises the old question, are houses as well as land included in the terms of the original leases. If they are not, then, as a matter of course, no privilege of exemption from taxation is guaranteed to house property by the Revised Treaties. That question, so far as we can learn, has been practically settled; foreign owners of houses, with a few exceptions, have paid the house tax, and such being the case, it would appear that they are plainly liable for the income tax in respect of house property also. But the rental derived from the land demands fuller consideration. It is not denied by any one, and can not be denied, that landed property is explicitly protected by the Revised Treaty against any and every fiscal impost which was not levied upon it under the old system. Is that protection limited to the land itself, or does it extend to revenue derived from the land? The distinction seems difficult to draw; one palpable source of perplexity being that, unless the land is sub-let, no income can be said to be derived from it. Suppose that *X* has purchased a lot of land in Yokohama and built for himself a residence and warehouse there. What is the income derived from the land? How is it to be assessed? If *X* lets the residence and warehouse to *Y* and receives a certain rental for them, then the amount by which that rental exceeds his land tax obviously becomes an income derived from the land. But so long as *X* himself remains in occupation, there is no income. It results, then, that any attempt to levy income tax on such property produces this anomaly, namely, that a man who is sufficiently wealthy to use the land for his own purposes, escapes the tax altogether; whereas a man who derives gain from it by letting it to tenants, has to pay to tax. We do not doubt that the question will receive just and liberal treatment at the hands of the Japanese Authorities. Our own conviction, however, is that the framers of the Treaty can not have intended to extend the exemption to income derived from land. When one side stipulated, and the other agreed, that "no conditions other than those existing in the leases should be imposed in respect of the property," both referred solely to the land rent and the land tax included in it, and neither party conceived for one moment that holders of land were to be exempt for all time from every other impost to which their tenure of the land might render them incidentally liable. If the principle advanced in the French memorandum be admitted, a factor of almost illimitable elasticity is introduced. Suppose that a man lays out a park with tennis lawns, bowling greens, rare shrubs, and beautiful vistas, and suppose that he lets the whole to some enterprising individual who derives an income by charging fees for admission. Here we have two persons obtaining yearly returns from the land, but according to the French theory neither of them would be liable for income tax. The fact is that land-renting and house renting are money-making operations, just as are hotel-keeping or warehousing, and there is no better reason for exempting the former than the latter from income tax. The land itself is conventionally guaranteed against any additional tax, but the revenue derived from it seems to us to belong to quite a different category.

DEFAULTING TAX-PAYERS.

It is stated that the Governor of Kanagawa has been instructed not to have recourse to legal remedies against foreigners that have failed to pay their prefectural and city taxes, but to confine himself for the present to serving them with the usual notices. We are at a loss to understand what the defaulters hope to gain by delay. That the taxes will have to be paid sooner or later goes without saying, and the hesitation shown has therefore no result except to create needless friction. It has been a very pleasant thing to live for many years entirely untroubled by the obligation of satisfying the tax-collector's demands, but those palmy days are past and we must now bow to the inevitable. If the taxes to which we are subjected were particularly heavy, complaints and defalcations would be more comprehensible. But they are not heavy on the whole, though the income tax hits men with small revenues harder than they would be hit at home. Even those that advance the most vehement objection to paying, must know well that they would be called on for much larger total contributions were they living in their own country. We learn on inquiry that the great majority of the foreign residents have paid the house tax which was disputed at first, but that some are still holding back for reasons which, in the face of their fellow-residents' acquiescence, do not appeal intelligible. The French residents have now raised a question about their liability for taxes on incomes derived from land rents. We can not find that there is any solid ground for such an objection, seeing that a guarantee as to the taxes imposed upon the land itself can not reasonably be interpreted in the sense of a guarantee as to the taxation of the income derived from the land. So long as the taxes on the land are deducted from the revenue it yields, the remainder only being considered taxable income, it does not appear that any principle of justice is violated. The theory of the French protest, if universally applied, would exempt nearly all incomes derived from business, since, in the great majority of cases, the implements and staples of the business man have already been subjected to special taxes. The income of the livery-stable proprietor would escape since his horses and carriages are taxed; the income of the lumber-merchant would escape because the forests whence the timber is obtained have already paid imposts; and the income of the steam-ship company would escape because tonnage-dues have to be defrayed by its vessels. Nevertheless, the French residents having raised a question which they sincerely deem debatable, delay, pending its settlement, may be claimed. But there is nothing to be gained by refusing to pay the urban and prefectural taxes. The attitude of the defaulters will merely furnish fresh material to Japanese critics who denounce the arbitrariness of the alien.

Perhaps we may add a word here about the remarks of the Rev. E. Snodgrass on the subject of the income tax. Mr. Snodgrass discusses the anomaly that a man occupying his own land does not pay income tax on its rental value, whereas he does pay income tax if he lets the land to some one else, and Mr. Snodgrass infers that to assess the rental value of the land and charge income tax on it in the former case would be contrary to treaty. We do not think so by any means. On the contrary, we are entirely of the opinion incidentally expressed by Mr. Snodgrass that when the framers of the Treaty agreed that a certain tax, neither more nor less, should be levied on the land itself, they never intended to exempt the income derived from the land. What appears to us is that there is a hole in the meshes of the law's net. If a man is rich enough to occupy for residential purposes the whole of a large lot which he owns, that certainly is not a valid reason for excusing him from income tax leviable from his less opulent neighbour who lives in a corner of a lot and lets the rest to tenants. Persons carrying on business do not come within the scope of the anomaly, inasmuch as their business tax is proportionately larger if they have not to pay house rent, and thus what they gain in one direction they lose in another. But there certainly should be some way of taxing an occupying owner as well as a renting owner.

Mr. Snodgrass, towards the conclusion of his letter, asks:—"If, when a man occupies the land himself, no income tax is imposed, why should he pay this tax when he permits another to occupy it and derives the same income? Especially, why should he pay this tax when the tax he already has to pay covers it?" We do not understand the last query. How does it appear that the tax already paid by foreign land-holders covers the income tax? If Mr. Snodgrass can establish that proposition, which he inserts in such a casual manner, we shall all be grateful to him.

OSAKA MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY AND MR. NEWHALL.

The President of the Osaka Marine Insurance Company has explained to a representative of the *Jiji Shimpo* that there is another side to the story of the company's relations with their agent, Mr. Newhall of San Francisco. In the short space of two months, Mr. Newhall granted policies representing 800,000 *yen*, a great part of the goods insured being of a very unacceptable nature. This was done before he had received a power of attorney from the Company and even before he had been definitively appointed agent. Hence the Company had no choice but to suspend his operations, and disavow responsibility for what he had already done. Such is the explanation. It is supplemented by a statement that a satisfactory settlement is pending. We do not venture to express any hard and fast opinion on the strength of such meagre evidence, but it does seem that although the Company may have been wise to suspend the further issue of policies by Mr. Newhall, it should not have repudiated responsibility for those already issued. We imagine that its action has effectually destroyed all Japanese insurance prospects in San Francisco.

The *Matin* thus gives its opinion of one Little Englander:—"This Stead, who has nothing but words to offer when his country is being beaten; who writes prefaces to books by the Secretary of the State with whom his country is at war, troubles me somewhat—makes me think; and I believe that, were I English, I would detest him."

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IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF "JACK" FRASER.

(COMMUNICATED.)

A recent mail carried to Japan the news of John A. Fraser's death; sad news it must have been to many in Yokohama, for to knows "Jack" Fraser, as his friends called him, was to love him, whilst those who did not enjoy his personal friendship, could not but recognise the sterling qualities and high moral character that made him such a widely esteemed resident of Yokohama for more than 30 years.

Jack Fraser came out to Shanghai early in 1865 to join the important American firm of Augustine Heard & Co., and the writer was fortunate enough to make his acquaintance soon after his arrival there, so that he feels qualified to speak of him with all the candour and reverence that an intimate and uninterrupted friendship of 35 years fully justifies. Jack Fraser was transferred to the Yokohama branch of Augustine Heard & Co., in 1865 or 1866, then under the management of Mr. A. O. Gay, and remained with them until the break-up of that firm. He then started the firm of Fraser, Farley & Co. along with the late Mr. Gustavus Farley, and was connected with it until the day of his death. Throughout that long period he was a familiar figure in Yokohama, being always keenly solicitous for the well-being of the Community, and unsparing of his time and exertions in furthering objects for the public good, alike in the Chamber of Commerce and on the Church Committee, Cemetery Committee, or what not In fact, no committee was considered complete of which he was not a member, and being a man of sound judgment and grave temperament, small wonder that his views were always listened to with profound attention and treated with the greatest respect even by those who differed from him on the point in question.

Outside of business Jack Fraser will be remembered by the kindly hospitality which he dispensed with such open-hand and delightful spontaneity at his home on the Bluff, whilst his genial and generous nature and the charm of his companionship, will not soon be forgotten by those who enjoyed those qualities in many an up-country trip in the days of long ago.

His health had been failing for some years past; an affection of the heart giving his family and friends much cause for anxiety, and he left Yokohama at the close of 1897 in the hope that the change home would be beneficial. But although there were times of betterness, they proved only temporary, and his friends could not but see that he was steadily on the decline. After the turn of this year, there was a marked change for the worse, and from the end of January, he never left the house.

Later on, the doctors ordered him to bed, and he never left it, passing away quietly and peacefully at one o'clock on the morning of the 15th March—one of the best fellows and truest friends that ever lived.

He was buried on Saturday, the 17th March, in the old Perivale Churchyard, near Ealing, and it was very gratifying to see the number of old Yokohama friends at the graveside:—John Rickitt, C. J. Melhuish, A. Winstanley, F. D'Iffanger, J. P. Reed, Jas. Walter, A. C. Read, E. B. Watson, Hunt, R. G. E. Forster, and James P. Mollison.

Amongst them the deepest sympathy was felt and expressed for Mrs. Fraser and her family, as I am sure that the same sentiment will animate all friends in Yokohama.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

According to the *Hochi Shimbun*, many of the small Japanese banks and some of the large are contending with great difficulties at present owing to the extreme tightness of money and the decline in the market price of shares. All banks that have taken shares as security for loans are specially embarrassed. The *Hochi* further alleges that the Mitsui Bank is somewhat straitened, having large sums invested in Tanko Railway shares or lent out on account of raw cotton, yarns and rice. It is for that reason that uneasy rumours circulate with reference to the great bank. None of the small banks have yet succumbed, but it is supposed that if one goes, several will follow suit. Such are the statements made by the *Hochi*. We reproduce them with reluctance, for we greatly doubt whether our contemporary appreciates the responsibility of circulating such stories. At the same time, we have no special information enabling us to contradict them, and it is right that our readers should know what is said in Japanese circles, though truly we believe that the Mitsui Bank is one of the very last concerns in Japan about which such rumours should be circulated.

A STRANGE ALLEGATION.

We take the following from the *San Francisco Call*:—

Tacoma, April 15.

Yokohama advices brought to-day by the steamer *Riojun Maru* indicate that charitable societies and, probably, the municipal governments of Japanese cities, are taking a hand in the shipping of a large number of Japanese pauper labourers to this country. The *Japan Mail* says that destitute Asiatics are not allowed to congregate at Yokohama and Tokyo, but are sent across the Pacific as fast as possible.

Frequently this is done by one of the numerous Japanese emigration companies, which appeal to friends or relatives of destitute Japanese for assistance in sending him to the United States, where he is certain of getting work at comparatively good wages from railroads and other corporations. The emigration societies are chiefly interested, of course, in obtaining their regular fees. Friends and relatives of the mendicant, on the other hand, are willing to contribute liberally toward placing him where he can support himself and thus rid them of further concern in his behalf.

The *Japan Mail* also relates the case of two Turks who are about to be shipped from Yokohama to San Francisco with the sum of 200 *yen* in their pockets, contributed by persons who have assisted in supporting them during their stay in Yokohama. The Turks have been supported largely by Mankichi, a diver, who became interested in them through his connection with the wreck of the Turkish frigate *Etorgoul*. He has contributed money for shipping them to California.

Not infrequently Yokohama receives from the United States items of news about Japan which are remarkable for the inventive genius of their authors, but it does not often happen that a Japanese source is deliberately assigned for these canards. In the above paragraph, however, the *Japan Mail* is represented as having said that "destitute Asiatics are not allowed to congregate at Yokohama, but are sent across the Pacific as fast as possible." The *Japan Mail* has never made any such statement. Destitute Asiatics are not in the habit of congregating at Yokohama, and we can not recall a single instance of such persons being sent across the Pacific by the Japanese. The two Turks are not a case in point, for men with 200 *yen* in their pockets can not be called "destitute." The whole tale is either mere "copy," manufactured by a sensational paragraphist quite indifferent to facts; or is inspired by a deliberate desire to create a prejudice against Asiatics, and incite the people of the Pacific Slope to a further extension of the exclusive legislation which reflects so much discredit on American civilization.

THE PEST.

Two fresh cases of pest are reported from Osaka; a woman in the Western District and a man in the Eastern. This, we believe, is the first case in the Eastern District.

From Kakegawa-machi in Shizuoka also comes news that a young man of about eighteen, whose name and address are unknown, has been attacked by the disease. He appears to be a traveller, and it is not unlikely that he contracted the malady in Osaka.

The man who was attacked by pest at Kakegawa-machi in Shizuoka Prefecture, turns out to be a native of Iyo province who had proceeded to Shizuoka as a representative of his village. Doubtless he passed through Osaka *en route*. At Osaka the medical experts are said to be quite convinced that the pest originates with rats, and that to them also its propagation is due. They are therefore making strenuous endeavours to destroy the rats, but as yet they have not met with much success.

Two fresh cases of Pest are reported from Osaka. One, that of a woman aged 40, declared itself on the 30th of April and ended fatally on the 3rd of May; the other, a man whose age is not mentioned, was diagnosed on the 29th of April and resulted in death on the 3rd of May. Hitherto every case recorded in Osaka has taken place in the Nishi-ku (Western district), a fact significant of the localization of the disease. Meanwhile nothing more has been heard of the rat found dead in Prince Komatsu's kitchen in Tokyo, and we may assume that the bacillus was not discovered in its body. Another rat found in the residence of Marquis Nakayama has been examined but there were no disquieting indications.

Another case of pest is reported from Osaka. A woman of 22 was atacked on the 3rd instant and expired on the 4th. The disease must have developed great virulence to prove so rapidly fatal.

Further plague cases are reported from Osaka since Saturday. A fisherman living at Nishi Kujo, Nishiku, was slightly ill on the 3rd inst. and became worse on the following day. The case was certified as plague. An old woman at Furukawa Machi, near the former Concession, Osaka, became ill on the 3rd inst. and sent for a doctor. The case was certified as one of plague. These cases are the tenth and the eleventh since the renewal of the outbreak. The sixth patient has died.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Things Chinese, by J. DYER BALL, M.R.A.S.; Hongkong, Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. Third Edition, revised and enlarged.

WHAT Mr. Basil Hall Chamberlain's witty, scholarly, and all embracing though by no means impartial "Things Japanese" is to Japan, Mr. J. Dyer Ball's "Things Chinese" has become for the Middle Kingdom. Since it first appeared in 1891, the book has commanded a ready sale and a second edition having been rapidly disposed of, it reappears in a third edition considerably revised and enlarged. "Things Chinese" now fill a portly volume of 666 pages, not including the copious index at the end, and the additional matter comprises articles on "Ascending on High, Agriculture, Arms, Banks and Bank Notes, Bethrothal, Birth (customs connected with), Buffalo, Camphor, Cosmetics, Cotton, Dogs, Doctors, Ginger, Ginseng, Kites, Larks and other Songsters, Plague, Tenure of Land, and Tigers,"—requiring

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nearly 200 extra pages. Naturally a book of this kind lends itself to quotation, but we refrain from filching from its interesting pages, all save a paragraph in the Preface to the Third Edition:—

China has come so much into evidence of late years that the apathetic indifference to the country and its teeming millions is giving way in our Western nations to a desire for a knowledge of the land and its people; and an interest is being aroused as events, pregnant with weal and woe to the future progress of the world, are rapidly developing in the Far East; all trending in the direction of a closer knitting of the ends of the earth. Whether we will or not, every day shows that the peoples who are in the van of civilization must lead the way in the development of the Middle Kingdom, the erstwhile centre of Eastern Asia, and direct the incipient strivings of her foremost spirits in the direction of truth and righteousness, which alone will exalt the nation to a position commensurate with her size, population, ancient traditions, and future aspirations. Opinions are divided at present as to the best way to accomplish this vast programme for the betterment of a third of the world's inhabitants, and rival interests seem often to paralyse action. In recent years, what to some appear hazy spheres of influence are discussed, and open doors, which to many appear closed and locked, have their advocates, while missioners of progress and advancement have for long striven to leaven the nation with the principles which have been the making of the West. These efforts are beginning to show fruit, visible to those who look behind the scenes, though the inert mass to be moved is so great that results appear almost insignificant when all the facts are taken into consideration. The question in many minds is whether the regeneration of China is to be a gradual process, or whether a mighty cataclysm, overturning the whole Empire to its foundations, shall sweep away the corruption, cleanse "all under heaven," purify the atmosphere, and prepare the way for a "new heaven, and a new earth."

Mr. Dyer Ball does not venture on any political predictions; rather does he make additionally attractive to us the real Chinaman of to-day by describing the motives that influence his actions in working hours as well as during his too infrequent playtime; his ideas on birth, boy-hood, girl-hood, courting, marriage, or death; the origin of some of his superstitions, the manner of his dress and speech, the products of his land, and a thousand and one other things that we want to know about. The book is clearly printed, but the page would have been more attractive had the binder been allowed a little wider margin to work into the back. As it is, the sheet bears a skimpy appearance, while the mixture of old-style and roman faces in the type rather offends a discriminating eye. But these are minor faults. The book should have a ready sale everywhere.

"*Japan and its Regeneration.*"

The Rev. Otis Cary is the author of a volume bearing the above title. It is, as the preface tell us, "one of a series of text-books primarily intended for mission study classes in institutions of higher learning." Keeping that object in view, the author has compiled a work which, in its form and arrangement, bears a considerable resemblance to "Things Japanese." Each of the eleven chapters is divided into sub-chapters, and these again into numbered paragraphs, so that in the chapter on "The People" we have nine sub-chapters, headed respectively I. Origin of the Japanese; II. The Ainu; III. Possible Relation between the Japanese and the American Indians; IV. Physical Characteristics of the Japanese; V. Mental Characteristics; VI. Japanese Standards of Morality; VII. The Position of Woman; VIII. Classes of Society; and IX. The Language. Again the sub-chapter on "Mental characteristics" consists of eleven paragraphs devoted to establish or contradict the following propositions:—(1) "The Japanese are keenly intelligent;" (2) "The people are cheerful and good-natured;" (3) "It is often said that the Japanese are imitative, but do not have inventive power;" (4) "Japanese often lack steadfastness of purpose;" (5) "The Japanese are changeable;" (6) "Some one has wittily said that the Japanese are great in little things, and little in great things;" (7) "The Japanese are very appreciative of beauty;" (8) "The Japanese are hero-worshippers"; (9) "A very valuable study of Japanese characteristics is to be found in *Scribner's Magazine*"; (10) The Idea of Personality among the Japanese; and (11) The Japanese and the Chinese. We do not pretend to agree with all Mr. Cary's views. Our object here, however, is not to analyse his opinions, but to convey to our readers an idea of the scheme and scope of his work, and when we say that the sub-chapter on Mental Characteristics with its eleven paragraphs occupies only four pages, or 1,500 words—the length of an ordinary newspaper article—it will be at least gathered that brevity has been earnestly aimed at and successfully achieved. We must point out, however, that although, owing to the purpose of its compilation, this little volume necessarily has a good deal about missionaries and their work, it is mainly secular in the nature of its information, and we can not but think that it will prove very useful to those who desire to obtain the pith of much of the literature hitherto published about Japan without wading through the somewhat formidable library in which it is contained. Mr. Cary's book does not seem to be on sale in Japan. It is published by the "Troy Directory Printing and Bookbinding Company, New York, under the auspices of the "New York Student Volunteer Movement."

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The police have arrested a youth, aged 21, who had effected an entry into the Powder Magazine at Meguro. He performed this curious escapade during the storm and rain on the night of the 3rd instant, and his explanation was that he had left Kobe two weeks previously and had lost his way. He declared himself an American citizen; gave his name as Andres (?); was very shabbily clad; had only one *sen* in his pocket, and is described as a tall, handsome youth. The incident seems to be considered mysterious, but in all probability the unfortunate man, finding himself utterly destitute, thought that to enter the powder magazine would be an effective method of getting official succour of some kind without committing any crime.

The Gymnastic Society held its inaugural ceremony on the 6th inst. in its newly erected premises at Ushigafuchi in Tokyo. It is an association of considerable importance, having Prince Kanin for President, and including among its members several other Princes of the Blood, as well as Count Kabayama, Viscount Nozu, and many notables. Three thousand persons attended the opening ceremony, and a speech was read from Prince Kanin—who is absent in Europe—insisting on the necessity of promoting physical training in Japan, and congratulating the Society on its prospects.

News from Lima, dated the 9th of April, is to the effect that the troubles among the Japanese immigrants there have been satisfactorily settled, and the men are now quietly at work. Their employers are said to be much pleased with them. There is also a prospect of emigration to Madagascar. Two French delegates have arrived from that island in order to concert measures for procuring Japanese labour. Favourable accounts are given by them of the climate and productions of the island, and it is represented as a place eminently adapted to Japanese workmen.

Glowing accounts are again published of the affairs of the Futayama Shokai, which is engaged in sulphur mining in Hokkaido. The firm has now put up, near Hakodate, machinery capable of refining 70 tons daily, and has made arrangement for the employment of three steamers to ply between that place and Moyoro, where the mine is situated. It has also engaged the services of three foreigners, of whom Mr. Fraser is the principal.

The *Hochi Shimbun* ministers to the appetite of gold-seekers by publishing pictures of three nuggets found at Esashi. The largest weighs 75 *momme* (10 oz.); the second, 23.8 *momme*, and the third, 14.3 *momme*. The second of the three has been presented to the Museum of the Imperial University.

The threatened panic at Ashikaga is said to have been averted. Particulars are not published, but the *Shogyo Shimpo* alleges that, according to its information, the Sekida firm will be saved and further trouble avoided. Sales have been effected of 4,500 pieces of *chijimi*, though prices are low and money is exceedingly tight.

Tokyo newspapers speak of an association formed by Messrs. Fujishima and Toyama in conjunction with Messrs. J. R. Morse and Edwin Dun, which has for its object the import of fertilizers from Peru and the export of Japanese products to that country. This is regarded as the first genuine example of a coalition between foreign and Japanese merchants, after that between the Murai Brothers and the American Tobacco Company.

It appears from the correspondence published in the last English Blue Book that America's proposals with regard to the Open Door, took the form of asking that a declaration as to the treatment of foreign trade and interests within the "spheres of influence" in China should be made by the Powers possessing such spheres. Lord Salisbury took a month to consider the proposal in conjunction with his colleagues, and then announced that Her Majesty's Government would be "prepared to make a declaration in the sense desired in regard to the leased territory of Wei-hai-wei, and all territory in China which may hereafter be acquired by Great Britain by lease or otherwise, and all spheres of influence now held, or which may hereafter be held, by her in China, provided that a similar declaration is made by the other Powers concerned." It is pertinently remarked with regard to America's attitude in China, that the "Open Door" in that part of the world does not signify any corresponding policy in the Philippines, Hawaii or Puertorico, or any relaxation of her extreme protection at home.

At the parish church of St. Andrew's, Holborn, the wedding took place recently of Mr. Edmund Pallister, an old resident of Japan, and Miss Amy Emity Lavell, eldest daughter of Mr. Alfred Lavell, proprietor of the Rosherville Hotel, Gravesend. Captain Trennt, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, officiated as best man. The subsequent reception was held at the Holborn Restaurant, and was attended by about sixty specially invited guests, amongst whom were Captain A. R. Brown, the Japanese Consul at Glasgow; Mr. and Mrs. Negishi; Captain T. R. James, Y. N.; Captain Trennt, and Mr. Malcolm Kearton.

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FOREIGN CAPITAL.

OF late a spirit of marked liberality has made itself manifest in Japanese business circles with regard to the ownership of real estate and the working of mines by foreigners in Japan. The latter question, indeed, has been practically solved by the Government's action, the Diet being a consenting party; for since foreign juridical persons are now permitted to engage in mining enterprise, the old obstacle may be said to have been effectually removed. As for the ownership of real estate and of railways, there are many indications that these privileges will not be long withheld. It is disheartening under such circumstances to read an article such as the *Nippon* has just published. The plain purpose of the writer is to invest the advent of foreign capital with vague terrors, and thus to defer the removal of the last barrier between Japan and Occidental nations. The three great forces of aggression, he says, are morality, wealth and militarism. These are the powers that conquer the world, and their potency is in the order here given. Russia represents strength. England, America and France represent the power of wealth, but there is at present no representative of moral influence, since Christianity seems to be unable to make any large conquests. China and Korea are the fields where foreign wealth is steadily pursuing its campaign, and no one is blind to the dangers consequently threatening those two countries. Their railways, their mines, and their land are all passing rapidly into foreign possession, and their independence will by-and-by become illusory. Yet with these things before their eyes the Japanese are not only indifferent to the perils connected with the coming of foreign capital to their own country, but are even longing for its advent. One of the main objects of Treaty Revision was to encourage Occidentals to make investments here, and since mixed residence has not had the desired effect in that sense, people are now looking around for other means of invitation. Meanwhile the Government's policy works in a vicious circle. For whereas military armaments are expanded with the object of protecting the national independence, their cost bears so heavily on the people and involves such heavy expenditures that a longing for foreign capital is created, and thus, for the sake of militarism, which is the weakest force of all, an opening is afforded for the invasion of wealth which is much more potent.

Such, in brief, are the arguments of the *Nippon*. As the representative of Japanese chauvinism that journal's utterances often take an extreme form, but among the Japanese newspapers it should be the last to publish an article in the above sense. Does not the *Nippon* perceive that by postulating for foreign capital in Japan the same aggressive potentialities as it possesses in China and Korea, the three Oriental empires are placed on the same level? Without pausing to inquire whether the investment of foreign capital in Chinese or Korean railways, land or mines constitutes, in itself, any real menace to the independence of the Middle Kingdom or the peninsular empire, we desire to ask the *Nippon* whether it deliberately intends to tell its readers that Japan's capacity to protect herself is no greater than the capacity of China or Korea. And we desire also to ask it why it carefully refrains from explaining the processes by which the perils it predicts are to make themselves tangible. What reasonably conceivable series of incidents, springing from foreign ownership of real estate in Japan, could culminate in the loss of Japanese independence? We defy the *Nippon* to answer these questions. If it deliberately brackets its country with Korea, if it seriously means to affirm that Japan is debilitated by unpatriotic intrigues and corrupt and incompetent systems similar to those that have reduced Korea to a moribund condition, then indeed the argument need not be pursued. But in our opinion the chief danger for Japan lies in the existence of vague alarmists like the *Nippon*. They talk about the aggressive power of wealth but they are blind to its defensive strength, and for the sake of guaranteeing their country against the onsets of foreign capital, they would have her shrink from one of the most efficient means of developing her own resources. Yet it is in the columns of the *Nippon* that we are accustomed to find the loudest outcry whenever any evidence is visible of Japan's failure to assert herself stoutly *vis-à-vis* foreign States. Wealth may be a great weapon of offense, but it is also the finest of all defensive panoplies, and if any perils threaten Japan, they are perils arising out of the conservatism which interferes with the inflow of cheap money and with the development of material resources.

THE KOBE WATER WORKS SUIT.

THE full text of the judgment in the Kobe Water Works suit has been published by Tokyo newspapers. It is a very remarkable judgment. We have read it attentively several times, but we find no possibility of appreciating the reasons by which the Court was influenced. The plain facts are that Mr. J. R. MORSE purchased from the Mayor of Kobe a number of bonds on the face of which their value in Japanese currency was entered, namely 1,000 *yen*, together with a statement in Japanese of the conditions of redemption; while on the back, under the heading of "translation," there was an English rendering of the Japanese text with an additional explanation that the sterling value of the bonds was £103 7s. 8½d. The question to be decided by the Court was whether the issuers of the bonds were bound to redeem them at the rate of exchange mentioned on the back, namely, £103 7s. 8½d.; or whether their obligation would be discharged by paying a thousand *yen* in Japanese currency. Let us put aside all considerations of collateral evidence, and answer that simple question. Can there be any doubt about the answer? If the English legend on the back of each bond had any meaning whatsoever, it meant that the value of the bond for the purposes of redemption was £103 7s. 8½d., neither more nor less. Further, according to the agreement between Mr. MORSE and the Water Works Authorities, the rate of exchange was to be mentioned on the bonds. These facts were clearly established. The Court admitted them. Yet the judgment was that the Water Works authorities had fulfilled their agreement by merely making the desired entry of the rate of exchange; that they were not, in any way bound by the entry; that the English phrases on the reverse of the bonds, which purported to be a "translation," were not necessarily a translation; and in short, that the explicit mention of a rate of exchange had nothing whatever to do with the manner of redemption. These curious conclusions do not represent the whole puzzle. Mr. MORSE produced a witness who swore that there was a promise as to the redemption in English money. But the Court held that there could not have been such a promise since it was not mentioned explicitly in the Agreement. Yet the 4th article of the Agreement distinctly provided that the sterling price of the bonds was to be mentioned on them, and as a matter of fact it was mentioned. Further, Mr. MORSE produced a written statement of an American citizen to the effect that the Water Works authorities intended to redeem the bonds in sterling at the time of concluding the Agreement, but that, failing to obtain the Government's permission, they had to abandon that intention. This statement also the Court dismissed as incredible because the Agreement did not contain any explicit pledge of redemption in sterling. In other words, all the evidence adduced by Mr. MORSE to establish the intention of the parties to the Agreement was declared unworthy of credence simply because that intention was not plainly entered in the agreement. The Court apparently failed to perceive that if the intention had been plainly stated in the Agreement, no collateral evidence would have been required; and failed also to perceive that in the eyes of ordinary individuals the sterling entry on the bonds themselves dispensed with all need for any further pledge. The judgment is quite bewildering. We have entire confidence that it will be reversed on appeal, for if the Municipality of Kobe deliberately issued bonds carrying a promise in English which they had no intention of fulfilling simply because it was in English, and if the Law Courts support them in such procedure, then it will be impossible to repose confidence in any Japanese pledge.

The season of the Yokohama Yacht Club was opened on Saturday afternoon with a race for the 39-Raters. The course was from opposite the French hatoba, through the harbour entrance, round a flagboat off Tsurumi, round the Honmoku lightship and return to starting line, in all six miles. Four yachts started at 2.15 p.m. and the race resulted in a win for *Maid Marion*, with *Kingfisher* second.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

It is stated that the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha will re-export four thousand bales of cotton to England on the 10th instant, and will follow it by 2,000 bales on the 29th. The cotton has been laid down here at a price considerably less than it now commands in foreign markets, and as the demand for yarns is so dull, re-export promises to be the most paying operation.

The six-horse carriage in which the Prince and Princess Imperial proceeded from the Emperor's Palace to the Aoyama Detached Palace on the conclusion of the ceremony on Wednesday, was a very magnificent affair. With the exception of the axles and springs it has been made altogether in Japan. The colour is dark red and the decoration is a scheme of chrysanthemums in gold.

Apparently the wedding gift made by the Yokohama community to the Prince Imperial is to be obtained from America. It is to take the form of a silver casket, inlaid with gold, and will probably cost eight thousand *yen*. We presume that Tiffany will be the manufacturer, and as Tiffany has for many years employed Japanese craftsmen, the casket will have a Japanese flavour after all.

We read in a Tokyo contemporary that the foreign employés of the Korean Government comprise 11 Japanese, 4 Americans, 3 English, 2 French, 2 Russians, 1 German, 1 Chinese and 1 Swiss. But although the Japanese have the numerical superiority, the positions they occupy are comparatively insignificant. Mr. Brown is, of course, the man of the moment. His power is very great. After the English, the Americans are most influential, but the French will receive a considerable access of power, from the contemplated employment of another of their nationals.

The *Hochi Shimbun* devotes two articles to demonstrating that a signal failure has been made in carrying out the Revised Treaties in such a manner as to satisfy foreigners and comply with the injunctions of the Imperial Rescript. The land question, recent judicial decisions, and other matters are referred to by our contemporary, and a stick is thus obtained for beating the Foreign Office and the Judicial Department, whose Ministers are declared to have seats but not voices in the Cabinet.

The trouble in connexion with the Echigo oil wells seems to be growing larger. It is freely charged against promoters of companies that they have assessed the land at enormous figures, swallowing up nearly the whole of the contributed capital, and leaving only a fraction for working expenses. Very likely these accusations must be largely discounted, but there remains enough to show that the mania for money-making has carried some of these gentlemen entirely beyond the limits of integrity, and that the kerosene industry will receive a set back.

The *Jiji Shimpo* urges its nationals not to be discouraged by the unfavourable state of business affairs that prevails at present. There are hills and hollows to be negotiated in every advance. Because the nation is now passing through a valley, the public must not lose sight of its general progress, which has never been really checked, and is not now in any genuine danger of suffering a check. The growth of the foreign trade is sufficiently significant—from 26 million *yen* in 1867 to 50 millions in 1887; 96 millions in 1887; 382 millions in 1897 and 435 millions in 1899. There has not been anything like retrogression any where, and the momentary depression of the present time should not constitute any solid cause of alarm.

It is anticipated that the export of sugar from both Manila and Java this year will be less than it was last year, and that there will be a considerable rise of prices. The difficulty about bags for packing the sugar seems to be still serious in Java owing to failure of the supply of material. The Batavia Company's offer of a reward for some invention providing a suitable substitute for the material hitherto employed has not elicited any reply, and it is suggested that a good opportunity offers to Japanese inventors.

Rumour says that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has decided to establish an Oriental Bureau and an Occidental Bureau in the Foreign Department. It is recognised in Japan that the affairs of these two sections demand special study, and that diplomatists with adequate knowledge of Western conditions can scarcely be expected to be well versed in Eastern also. But we are disposed to think that good reason exists—sentimental reason, it is true, but none the less substantial—for avoiding these distinctions in Japan.

The Ainu who came from Chikabumi in Hokkaido to petition the Authorities against being obliged to remove to Teshiwo and give up their lands to Messrs. Okura and Yao, have gone home satisfied. They were summoned to the Department of Home Affairs, and informed that if they objected to leave their present abode, there was no idea of moving them. Evidently the arrangement made by the agents of Messrs. Okura and Yao was either based on a misapprehension, or obtained the approval of a minority of the Ainu only.

It was apparently incorrect to say that the title deed of the large area of land acquired by Russia at Masampho had been actually handed to M. Pablov. The latest intelligence is that seven thousand *tsubo* (6 acres) of the land had previously been purchased by a Japanese subject, Mr. Sekoma Reitaro, and although in his case also the title deed had not been obtained, his claim is valid and must be disposed of before the land is transferred to Russia. The Japanese Representative in Söul is said to be moving in the matter.

We described in a recent issue how two reporters of the Hakodate *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* had been arrested on a charge of purloining manuscript, and how Mr. Sato, a Police Inspector, had been made the object of an accusation of inciting to theft. It now appears that the reporters, in turn, preferred a complaint of robbery with violence against the proprietor and one of the staff of the newspaper, who had arrested them and taken from them a private letter. The Public Procurator has refused to proceed upon the latter accusation, and has also rejected the charge against the Police Inspector. The two reporters have therefore raised a new plea, imprisonment under false pretences. The issue of this last complication is not yet announced.

It appears that an actor called Segawa Michinosuke died recently from lead poisoning, caused by the too copious use of pigments for the complexion, and another actor, Nakamura Matagoro, barely escaped the same fate and is now recuperating at Hakone. The *Jiji Shimpo* writes very strongly on this subject. It insists that the Government's attitude towards deleterious substances is dangerously inefficient. Strict rules exist as to the use of lead in however small quantities for closing the apertures of vessels containing edibles or potables, whereas the people are allowed to apply *oshiroi* (powder) to their faces and bodies *ad lib.* But *oshiroi* is obtained from lead, and its employment as a cosmetic can not fail to be injurious.

It is stated that a programme of third-period naval expansion will be submitted to the Diet next session. Vice-Admiral Baron Inouye's idea as to the great utility of torpedo-destroyers seems to have been adopted, partly because the recent naval manœuvres demonstrated the great power of this class of craft, and partly because the cost of building them is comparatively small. A destroyer can be procured for five hundred thousand *yen*, whereas a line-of-battleship costs from 7 to 10 millions. Three million *yen* annually are available as interest on the Naval Maintenance Fund, and if the Finance Department appropriates 2 millions more, it would be possible to make an addition of 20 destroyers to the fleet, which addition would be as strong as a battle-ship and a first-class cruiser combined. Such is said to be the idea at present.

It is pleasant to observe that the *Chuo Shimbun* estimates European honesty very highly, but we confess that our contemporary's ideas on the subject are scarcely consistent with facts. It says that whereas in Europe a parcel too big to be put into a pillar-post may be deposited on the top without any fear of thieves, nothing of the kind could be safely done in Japan; and that whereas valuables, as gold, silver and jewels, may be exposed in shop windows all night in European cities, all kinds of precautions have to adopted to guard such things in Japan. We should like to think that the *Chuo* was correct, but unfortunately facts are against it. The chief objects of its condemnation, however, seem to be the vandalism of Japanese holiday-makers, who break trees, trample turf, and bring dogs into gardens; and the greed of Japanese petty tradesmen, who see in the foreign tourist only a person to be robbed.

According to intelligence transmitted telegraphically to the Minister of Communications in Tokyo in answer to enquires formulated by him, the accident at the French Exhibition occurred in the Astronomical section, where a monster sphere has been constructed in such a manner that people can enter it, and observe the motions of the celestial bodies exactly as they take place in nature, with such modifications as are necessary to render them easily apparent. There is a circular stair leading to the top of the sphere, whence a bird's eye view of the whole Exhibition and of a large part of the city of Paris can be obtained. The foot-bridge which collapsed seems to have been connected with this ascent, but that point is somewhat obscure. The telegram received by the Minister says that no Japanese were injured, and that the casualties were 9 killed and 10 wounded. These figures tally with those telegraphed to the French Legation in Tokyo, and are much smaller than the figures telegraphed by Reuter.

The owners of oil-wells, or of lots supposed to contain oil-wells, in Echigo are said to be very anxious to dispose of their interests to foreign capitalists. They speculated too eagerly and are now plunged in unpleasant reflection. It is very

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likely that the Standard Oil Company and the Shell Transport Company might be disposed to think seriously of this investment, but the first point is to determine what are the real oil-yielding capacities of the district. That palpable precaution does not seem to have yet been taken, at least not in a thorough manner; and competent experts are now said to have been despatched to the place.

The *Jiji* has a strong article condemning the want of circumspection shown by the elder statesmen in their provincial tours; declaring that such an example is most demoralizing, and adding that in future it must depart from its hitherto-observed rule of silence, and expose these abuses in plain terms.

According to the *Asahi Shimbun*, the N.Y.K. steamer *Awa Maru* carried 2½ million *yen* worth of gold ingots from London to the order of the Treasury in Tokyo. The ingots were packed in 23 boxes. Nothing is known as to the uses to which the metal will be applied, but the natural conjecture is that it will be sent to the Osaka Mint to be coined.

A new sensation has been unearthed with reference to the Koyasan forests, a property valued at seven million *yen*. The forests contain magnificent specimens of *hi-no-ki* and *sugi*, and the immediate vicinity of a river affords excellent transport facilities. The story is that Messrs. Motoda Hajime, Kikuchi Takeo, and Hatoyama Kazuo, having come to an agreement with the people of the locality, made application to the Authorities for the purchase of the property, but that evidences have been discovered of a prior claim on the part of the Koya Monastery. The law declares that when the people of any locality can show just cause, they shall be entitled to purchase the forests and moors held by the State. On the strength of that provision the Koya-san folks entered into the above arrangement with Mr. Motoda Hajime and his friends. From the manner in which the facts are related by Tokyo journals, one would imagine that some fraudulent scheme was on the *tapis*. But we fail to detect anything of the kind. It is simply a question whether the monastery or the people have the prior claim. What lends an element of sensation to the tale is that Messrs. Motoda, Kikuchi and Hatoyama occupy prominent positions in the political world.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes a highly eulogistic article on Sir Ernest Satow and Baron Hayashi. The former left Tokyo on the 5th instant and proceeds to England on leave of absence; the latter started on the 6th to take up his duties as Japanese Representative in London. In the *Nichi Nichi's* opinion the good relations that exist between England and Japan are largely due to the exertions of these two gentlemen. Sir Ernest Satow's knowledge of the Japanese language, his profound acquaintance with Japanese history and the conditions existing in Japan, and his sympathy with this country make him a *persona grata* in Tokyo and enable him to conduct the relations of the two States with a degree of success attainable only by one so exceptionally qualified. With regard to Baron Hayashi, he was one of the earliest among the distinguished students of English. A class-mate of the late Professor Toyama and of Professor Kikuchi, President of the Imperial University, he distinguished himself many years ago by literary skill, especially by his translations of the works of John Stuart Mill, and in his position of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs during the China-Japan war, he rendered signal service which the Sovereign recognised by conferring a patent of nobility. He has contributed materially to draw England and Japan into that friendship which can not be too close for the interests of both.

The system of collegiate courts of law is condemned by the *Jimmin* on the ground that it divides responsibility and thus leads to a perfunctory discharge of duties. Some hostile criticism has been evoked by the report of the judicial officials that recently returned from a tour of inspection in Europe and America, but the public recognises that they spoke justly and wisely in the main. Judges in Japan do not enjoy either status or emoluments such as are likely to attract first-class men. The chief Judge of the Supreme Court gets 5,000 *yen* annually, and there has not been one instance of a title conferred on this official. The people have no confidence in the tribunals of justice. It is for that reason that appeals are so numerous. Our contemporary instances the Kent case as an illustration of the blunders made by courts of first instance, and says that even in the Miller case, although the ends of justice were satisfied, the terms applied to the convict in the judgment were altogether out of place.

The *Jiji Shimpo* continues to denounce abuses connected with Buddhism. Its latest subject is the relations between the temples and their parishioners. In Tokugawa days every Japanese subject had to be enrolled among the parishioners of a temple, that being the method adopted by the authorities for providing against the practice of Christianity. The priests, in short, performed detective duties. Thus there was established a traditional conviction that to be borne on the roll of a temple was a matter of necessity, and though the circumstances underlying the idea have changed, people are still wedded to the habit. They belong to a particular parish, not because they are really solicitous about the safety of their souls, but because their parents and parents' parents belonged to it. Be the priest what he may, he can reckon on retaining his parishioners. If people are dissatisfied with their doctor, they do not hesitate to change him, but although their peace of mind is just as important as the health of their body, they are contented to leave their spiritual affairs to the care of the most unworthy pastor merely because they have been accustomed to do so.

BURGLARY IN THE SETTLEMENT.

About 1 a.m. on Saturday last Dr. Stuart Eldridge, who resides at No. 167 Settlement, was awakened from his slumbers by the sound of some one moving in his bed room. There was a light in the room, and, sitting up in his bed, the doctor saw a Japanese crawling on his hands and knees towards the dressing table, on which were the doctor's pocket-book, watch and chain, and other valuables. Dr. Eldridge gathered himself together and made a spring over the foot of the bed right on to the intruder's back, temporarily knocking the wind out of him. He then, after a pretty severe struggle, dragged the burglar downstars to the office, and, with the assistance of the servants, whom he had roused, tied him up with cord and sent for the police. The officers were fortunately very handy on this occasion, as the burglar had hired a *jinrikisha* to take away his plunder, and the *'rikisha* man waiting outside had aroused the suspicions of two constables, who were questioning him when they were summoned by the doctor. It was discovered that the culprit was a boy who had been in Dr. Eldridge's employ at the end of last year, and a duplicate key of the back door of the house found upon him explained how he had obtained entrance. We understand from Dr. Eldridge that this is the third time that the house has been entered by former servants on robbery intent by means of duplicate keys.

BOER TACTICS.

The war correspondent of the *Berliner Lokalanzeiger*, who is with the Boers in South Africa, gives some interesting observations on their tactics. We translate the following:—Every Boer is, as soon as he takes part in a battle, his own general. He says:—"I am my own officer, no one has anything to say to me." If the Boers are weak in numbers they will let the enemy come within 200 metres, or even closer without firing a single shot. Then they will open a well-directed and murderous fire upon the closed ranks of the approaching forces, and after that the artillery, with the few guns at their disposal, open fire. The English bombarded the whole Boer position for seven days without ceasing, without eliciting a single reply from a Boer gun. The object of the Boers was not to betray their position, and the consequence was that a whole week's bombardment caused only four deaths. The Boers became so reckless that they sometimes ran after the shots in order, as they said, to catch them. "As an individual marksman the Boer is exceedingly well trained, sure of his aim at a great distance, and a master in utilizing the lay of the land." A uniform direction does not exist. There are different generals without definite "commandos" who are sent wherever they are supposed to be needed. Here General Burger commanded, if, indeed, it can be called commanding. His whole work consisted in trying to ascertain where a strengthening of the forces was necessary, and, in case no men were at his disposal, to request other generals to furnish him a supply. Such increase, usually, does not consist of more than 20 or 30 men. Whoever does not wish to take part in an action will simply not take part. Besides, the general there is an assistant-general, who is the so-called "fighting-general." He is in the front line and takes part in the shooting, but keeps the general in the rear informed of whatever he deems necessary. Everyone takes part in firing, whether he be a general, a commandant, or a *fieldkornett*, one is as much as the other. Every individual gunner will go where he thinks it is necessary and will begin to fire when convenient. A general direction of the artillery does not exist.

To utilize a victory is something the Boer does not understand. He does not know how to pursue the enemy. His guard system and intelligence service is extremely defective. For the latter service, General Botha has now formed a so-called *Skantingkorps* with very good resnlts. When I said in the beginning that the Boer will let the enemy come within 200 to 300 metres I meant, of course, in individual cases. I have noticed that the men sometimes fired at a distance of 1,800 metres, in spite of the fact that the *fieldkornett* called out to them, "You are shooting too, far, you hit nothing."

Very interesting and significant is the conduct of the individual Boer in the front rank. When a Boer gets tired or feels the need of refreshment he will quietly slip to the rear, where, behind some shelter, he will take a rest, have a chat, and then when he thinks it is time he will again go to the front. Generally there is a lively conversation kept up in each individual group, with regard to the distance and everything else concerning the battle. The task of the *fieldkornett* consists in concentrating the forces where they are most needed and giving orders accordingly. Under such circumstances there is no excitement and every one is as cool and collected as though he were out hunting. Of course, if possible, the Boer keeps his enemy as far from him as possible. Thus on the 29th of January the fighting was done mostly at a distance of 800 to 900 meters. The guard at night is performed by the so-called "Fire-watch," and when they are close to the enemy they are usually well on their guard. That the English succeeded, on the night of January 24th, in ascending Spionkop was altogether the fault of the fire-watch which was posted there. "If the Boers had had a uniform command of the artillery on the 25th of January, when 3,000 English with six guns were at the foot of Spionkop, they might have been successful. I told them so, but they paid no attention, for after the victory, they wanted to take a rest."

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EPITHALAMIAL ODE.

ON THE MARRIAGE OF H.I.H THE CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN.

Ye gracious Sisters Nine, regard a voice,
Not strange to lyric note, that bids ye leave
Your tuneful springs and rapt Thessalian joys,—
Though sacred toil for distant flight disuse;—
And, thrilled with rare occasion, deign to cleave
Earth's crystal fires of twin reflected blues,
That sky and ocean fuse;
Until, at last, the rolling globe turn up
A new-found island Greece, embalmed in rainbow hues!
Here rest, and gaze! How strange, that silver cup
Inverted! Strange, these streams, that glance along
Ungloomed by mossy bridge, or carven dome,
That echo Arno's song!
Nor yet like Mulla's voice, that laughed in foam
To hear ye charge her best beloved bard
With music, in your third, your other island home!
Yet here hath song appealed to your regard
In half-forgotten dreams. Sure, Moschus knows
The ghost of Hitomaro in the stars,
And burning Sappho chants the very bars
The fair Komachi played where Kamo flows.
So, deign to sit, and help me tune my pipe
To music doubly ripe!
And thou, O Eastern Mount, where poets throng,
O snow-white Silence hear, and consecrate my song!

Ye, too, ye weird and shy existences,
That share your elements with budding wood
And tingling streamlets' ichor, with the bliss
Of cooling summer cloud and soothing rains;
Small genii of the rocks, and gods that stood
Athwart these mounds still dripping on the plains;
Bring here your native strains!
Draw near, and, unafraid, rest foot or wing!
For these are sisters, worshipped, too, in sylvan fanes.
Bring flute of winds, and teach me how to sing!
Bring Benten, rapt and musical with tides
That bellow through her organ-caverns! Bring
The voice of vanished brides;
And them that dip the salt on Suma's shore;
Add them that stretch their limbs in gnarled pines,
And all the faery realm of Murasaki's lore!
For this is your own happiness. My words
The sympathetic mood of morn divines,
And whispers wild enchantment to the birds.
And ye well clothed in rustic garb of leaves,
And ghostly scent of old embroidered sleeves;
Come, kneel beside me, press your finger tips
Against my eager lips!
And, that I worthy be to greet your throng,
O sacred snow-white Silence, consecrate my song!

But, more than all, on this your festal day,
Great Presences august, of myriad shrine!
Leave not your ancient groves of branches gray,—
For what this wretched flute to claim such ear?—
But greet in your still depths the Imperial Line!
Or, if ye come, hang o'er your white lawn sheer
A mirror, silver clear!
And waving wands before your snowy brows,
Come gliding down the mossy halls of Time
To wrap in awful breath these living prophets here!
From Hiuga's mount, Yamato's sunny clime,
Give echo, that the eagle of their house
May wing the Victor's bow, as once of yore!
Unebi's summit hoar;
And Kaminabi; and the Field of Oak;
And Yoshino, whose clouds of fragrant snow
Shall heap the lilied thatch of faithful folk;
And where the virgin priestesses invoke
That mystic Hunter whom the tame deer know;
And where the East winds blow
The Sound of Feathers soft o'er Kujo's vale:
And never-ceasing prayers from Ise's grove
That awe the soul to silences ye love!
Greet this young couple here that stand with faces pale!
Nor may I dare an alien glance to raise
That trembles with their praise;
Of which no careless word profane that throng!
O snow-white Priestess, hear, and consecrate my song!

Now hath the royal couple entered in
That Household Shrine, where their own souls must sleep.
Let no one dare inhale the breathing thin
Of Them that sleep, but these, who take the Vow
Upon their very blood, and in the darkness deep
Commune with Pasts so awful that the brow
Is wet and pallid now!
For They that founded cities, They, the gray
Lords of Heian and Nara, move and sway
Until the chamber rocks, and futures clear
Dawn masterful upon the eye and ear;
And many hundred Twilight Presences
Come, one by one, and touch with sad caress
This flesh that kneels, infusing mystic Life
That makes it Man and Wife.
But hence with sacrilege! What right hath thought
To penetrate such veils? Is't not enough
To list with outward ear where Engi's lord
Hath thundered music down the centuries?
To that great subtle vow Go-Daigo wrought
Across the hilt of Masashige's sword?
What surer prophecy can lips afford,
Of modern accent rough?
So let my voice be stilled before such throng;
And thou, O snow-white Priestess, consecrate a song!

Now all is done. The hour of joy is here,
For which this loyal people pause and wait.
And we, the alien guests within the gate,
All doffing private aim, stand strong to cheer,
And in one human voice congratulate.
But, stay! Whose due felicity comes first,
Before the great outburst?
The august father, loved to very tears,
And she who years ago in other halls rehearsed
This tragedy of joy; Imperial peers
Of shining hosts that beckon from the Sun;
Yet Man and Woman; Father, Mother; One
With all this sweet and glad humanity
That gave their very blood of sons to die!
These, wrapped in solemn pride, let moist eye greet
With fond affection sweet!
For he, whose lineage crowns itself to-day,
Did found the Line of Yedo; swept away,
At one vast blow, your gilded feudal chains,
And webs of doubt that veiled you from the world;
And that dear sun-shield banner first unfurled
Across the castled pinnacles of years.
He took upon himself your human fears,
To guide, restrain, and bridge the vast abyss
Of froward treacheries.
So raise one grateful voice, ye loyal throng!
And, snow-white guardian Presence, consecrate their song!

Now break the lines, and throng the reeling streets,
Ye people, mad with holidays and joys!
Let feasts be spread, and games and counterfeits
Monopolize the squares, where kerchief's stain
And mask of mummer terrify in vain
The omnipresent chorus of the boys;
Who shout derisive noise,
And pelt with flowers the paste-board effigies
That nod o'er creaking carts in doubtful equipoise!
Let this be paradise for *kozo* small,
Who crowd and gorge at every candy stall,
And block the ways o'erhung with branches green;
Where lobsters may be seen,
And every door befringed with Bounty's straw,—
As if New Year forgot and came too soon,
Deeming "Sho-Chiku-Bai" unbroken law!—
Now let the theatres gape, and Danjuro,
Pale from his recent pain, be lifted on the stage!
Let doughty wrestlers rage!
Let Kagura be rung; and country-dance
With comic attitude and clownish blow;
And all the ancient masking of the trained baboon!
Drink! For the poorest shall this morn receive
New garments meet, and wine in endless sups;
Till the vast city heave,
And all the air grow blue with tossing cups!—
O Muses! Saw ye greater holiday
At your Olympian play?—
Nay, nay! Such joy hath voiced this motley throng,
That snow-white Fuji laughs, and consecrates their song.

The afternoon has come. Why pause these crowds
As if a bell had struck? Why gaze?—See! See;
The distant streets are hurled in broken clouds
As down the moats a storm of lancers rushes,
Their plumes and pennons foaming to the lee;
And floods of charioteers 'twixt swaying crushes
That choke their cheers to hushes.
For, sweeping Sakurada's pine-clad bank,
With generals, scarlet-capped, thick as azalea bushes,
A dark blue cloud of veterans, rank on rank,
Has turned the fickle mob's careening flank,
And pressed with serried steel about the throne.
There chiefs of honour throng, and, zone on zone,
The gilded nobles, and all gentle-hood
Of pure Yamato blood—
Now bow, all heads, as rice before a wind!
And fill, all eyes, as if the floods of love
Had overflowed their brims! For they that come
Are your own Future, fleshed, and crowned with Mind;
And yet recrowned with Love.—O hearts, be muffled drums!
See, through the purple vault that blows above,
Your Dragon soar to Heaven! The world's at peace;
The star-eyed flowers are smiling; virtue reigns;
And harmony of social gladnesses,
Music that thrills along life's fountain veins,
Shall never, never cease;
But, year by year, these memories prolong,
If thou, O tented Minstrel, consecrate the song.

And what of her, the sweet unconscious bride,
Unused to public pomp, or love, or power,
Who walks among us simple, wonder-eyed,
As if some cherry-bud, just blown to flower,—
An elemental grace embodying
The innocence of Spring,—
Were plucked a-sudden from her pearly stem,
O perfect gem well worth a nation's dower!—
And set aloft upon a prince's diadem?
Thus Maya must have lain in soul-amaze,
Whom coming mother-love had sanctified,
When, bursting through her side,
A golden man-child stood in blinding rays;
Then knew herself the mother of all Time.
O Joy undreamed! O ecstasy sublime,
For this sweet soul to feel in her own blood
The motherhood of kings,—her people's mother,
Her home the home of homes, her sun-love sun
Of all divine and loyal womanhood!
This is the dearest lesson, this the one
She learns from her who reigns,—no wisdom other,
An empress needs, than sweet solicitude
For all that love, the perfect selflessness
That deems it blest to bless.
Weep human sympathy, ye voiceless throng!
And thou, O snow-white Silence, consecrate her song!

The bride-groom comes; joy sounds. But in his heart
A brooding wonder sits, that faintly blurs
All tendered pageantry of loving art,
The garnished halls, the loyal faces dear,
And e'en that simple dignity of hers;
For his strong soul a mystery would clear
That haunts the atmosphere.
No, not for him this homage; not, as man,
This joy that crushes self in majesty;
This heavy throne, this matchless crown of praise:
But for that mighty patriarchal span
Of sad imperial service, ministry
That deemed resplendent lives but sacrificial days.
"Rejoice, ye congregations! Let no weight
Of anxious care becloud your happy brows;
Nor thine, beloved spouse!
Behold, I lift from them the iron crown of Fate,
And press it down on mine. Be careless birds,
Disporting, buoyant, in my crystal air!
For I am not alone; I hear their words
Whose lightest thought was but a living prayer,
Bidding my youthful feet
Walk, brave and calm as theirs, from throne to throne.
'Tis sweet,' they say, 'to die for man; more sweet,
Though hard, to live for man.' Ah, sweeter yet,
Even in love's last rapture, to forget,
And love for man alone!"——
O what a Prince is this, how pure, how strong!
A nation's soul hath heard, and consecrates his song.

E.F.F.

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THE SPRING SPORTS.

The annual sports of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club took place on Saturday afternoon at the Cricket Ground. The weather was, on the whole, pleasant, though unfortunately a slight thunderstorm occurred during the afternoon. It was not sufficient, however, to spoil the turf to any great extent or to drive away spectators, and after a short retirement to the pavilion the programme was proceeded with. There was a large attendance, and the presence of a great number of ladies added to the pleasure of the gathering. Several Japanese officials, including Governor Asada and Mr. Rinoiye, the Secretary of Kencho, as well as officers of H.M.S. *Endymion*, were also present. Some very good sport was witnessed. Libeaud distinguished himself by winning four events, half mile, quarter mile, 100 yards, and 50 yards. He is a pretty runner, and appears to have had the advantage of excellent training. Drummond, as usual, showed well at the high jump, but failed by one inch to reach the record. Onderdonk could not tie his previous record in putting the shot, in consequence partly of the wet, which rendered the shot slippery, and also because he had not trained for the event. H. W. Kilby won the Dare challenge cup, which had generally been considered a fairly safe thing for his brother, but the latter was not, for some reason, in form. The prizes were distributed by H. E. the Governor, who was introduced by Mr. E. Flint Kilby in a few appropriate words, Mr. Kilby expressing thanks both to Governor Asada and to Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, H.B.M. Consul, for consenting to become patrons of the Club. The ladies' prize for the quarter mile was presented by Miss Kilby.

Tea was provided in the pavilion during the afternoon, the arrangements being under the care of Mrs. Kilby, Mrs. Blake, and Mrs. Merriman. Music was discoursed by the Town Band and the excellent string band of H.M.S. *Endymion*, the performance of the latter being especially appreciated.

The officers were as follows :—

Messrs. E. Flint Kilby, K. F. Crawford, Judges; D. H. Blake, Clerk of the Course; E. I. Dyer, Starter; E. Mendelson, H. Gunn, Time-keepers; L. C. Putnam, Scorer; B. H. Pearson, J. H. Bathgate, F. H. Bugbird, W. L. Merriman, A. H. Dare, Stewards; F. O. Stuart, H. A. Stewart, Measurers.

Details :—

100 YARDS DASH.—Club record 10½ secs., Oct., 1884, E. Abbott. First prize presented by Mr. H. A. C. Bonar.

FIRST HEAT.

J. F. Drummond, Scratch	1
E. W. Kilby, 3 yards	2
F. W. Pettitt, 2 yards	3
P. B. Clarke, 3 yards	0

SECOND HEAT.

C. E. Libeaud, 2 yards	1
M. Mendelson, 3 yards	2
K. Van R. Smith, 2 yards	3
J. A. Hayes, 1 yard	0

FINAL.

Libeaud	1
Drummond	2
Mendelson	3

Time, 11⅕ secs.

The final was a capital race, but Libeaud managed despite hard pressing or the part of Drummond, to keep his distance, though the result was very nearly a dead heat.

HIGH JUMP.—Club Record 5 ft. 6 in. 1897, H. K. A. Onderdonk. "Insurance" Prize.

E. W. Kilby, 6 inches	1
J. F. Drummond, scratch	2
C. H. Thorn, 6 inches	3
H. K. A. Onderdonk, scratch	0
W. S. Moss, 4 inches	0

Kilby cleared 5 ft. ½ in.; Drummond, 5 ft. 5 in.; and Thorn, 4.10½ in.; Onderdonk fell out after 5 ft. 4 in.

QUARTER MILE.—Club Record 55½ secs., Nov., 1892, J. Eyton, Jun. Ladies' Prize.

C. E. Libeaud, 5 yards	1
M. Mendelson, 15 yards	2
E. G. Fradgeley, 20 yards	3
J. F. Drummond, scratch	0
F. W. Pettitt, 10 yards	0
E. Irwine, 15 yards	0

Time, 54 4/5 secs.

Drummond fell out soon after the start. Libeaud quickly worked his way through the field, and was leading on entering the straight. He won with about three yards to spare. About a yard between Mendelson and Fradgeley.

PUTTING THE SHOT.—Club Record, 36ft. 7in. May 13, 1893, H. K. A. Onderdonk. First prize, presented by Mr. H. J. Sharp.

H. K. A. Onderdonk, Scratch	1
H. Goddard, 6 feet	2
E. Irwine, 6 feet	0

Onderdonk's best throw was 35ft. 11in., and Goddard's 23ft. 10in. The slipperiness of the ground and ball were against Onderdonk's tieing his own record.

120 YARDS HURDLE RACE (hurdle 3ft. 6in. high).—Club Record 17½ secs., May 18, 1899, E. Y. Dyer.

FIRST HEAT.

J. E. Moss, 20 yards	1
J. F. Drummond, 5 yards	2
A. T. Hellyer, 15 yards	3

SECOND HEAT.

E. W. Kilby, 15 yards, (1 hurdle removed)	1
C. H. Thorn, 20 yards	2

FINAL.

Drummond	1
Moss	2
Kilby	3

Time 18 secs.

Drummond was an easy winner.

50 YARDS DASH.—"Steamship" Prize.

C. E. Libeaud, scratch	1
K. van R. Smith, scratch	2
M. Mendelson, scratch	3
F. W. Pettitt, ½ yard	0
P. B. Clarke, 1 yard	0

Time 6⅕ secs.

Libeaud only won by a touch. A very close thing for second.

POLE VAULT.—Club Record, 9 ft. 0 in., April, 1898, A. J. SMITH. "Brokers'" Prize,

E. W. Kilby, scratch	1
E. Powys, Jr., scratch	2
H. S. Goddard, scratch	0

Goddard could only negotiate 7ft. 10in., Powys did 8 ft. Kilby cleared 8ft. 6in. and tried to beat the record with the bar at 9ft, 2in. but did not succeed.

HALF MILE RUN.—Club Record, 2 min. 9 sec., May, 1876, A. H. Dare. First Prize, "Union Assurance Society.

C. E. Libeaud, scratch	1
E. G. Fradgley, 15 yards	2
J. A. Hayes, 5 yards	3
G. C. Allcock, scratch	0
F. W. Pettitt, 10 yards	0
J. E. Moss, 15 yards	0

Time 2 min. 15 secs.

Libeaud made an easy win. He kept his men well in hand till the last lap, when he spurted and came in hands down several yards ahead of Fradgely. Moss made rather a strong bid for third.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.—Club Record 106 yards 2 ft. 11 in., Nov. 1891, E. B. S. Edwards. Club Prize.

H. R. Barnard, scratch	1
H. S. Goddard, 5 yards	2
H. Goddard, 5 yards	3
J. F. Warren, 5 yards	0
G. R. Chipman, 5 yards	0
A. T. Hellyer, 5 yards	0
A. W. Read, 5 yards	0
E. H. Morse, 5 yards	0
E. H. Irwine, 6 yards	0
A. Kingdon, 10 yards	0
H. W. Kilby, 15 yards	0

Barnard's throw was 98 yards 2 ft. 3½ in. H. S. Goddard threw 91 yards 1 ft. 8 in.

LONG JUMP.—Club Record, 20 feet 4½ in Nov. 1891, J. Eyton, Bankers' Prize.

E. G. Fradgley, 6 inches	1
E. W. Kilby, 1 foot	2
J. F. Drummond, scratch	3

Fradgley jumped 19 feet, Drummond 18 feet 6 in., and Kilby 17 feet 8 in.

MILE RACE.—Club Record, 4 min. 45 secs. May 1896, A. H. Dare. First prize, Dare's Challenge Cup.

H. W. Kilby, 50 yards	1
E. G. Fradgley, 40 yards	2
E. W. Kilby, Scratch	3
H. A. Poole, 20 yards	0

E. W. Kilby was expected to make a good show for this coveted trophy, but he was unable to catch his brother at the limit or Fradgley at 40 yards. H. W. Kilby and Fradgley led throughout, the former being an easy first.

Time 5.4⅘ min.

THE JAPAN BREWERY COMPANY, LTD.

The second annual general meeting of the above Company was held at the Brewery Offices, No. 123 Bluff, on Wednesday afternoon. There were present, Messrs. J. D. Hutchison, W. R. Bennett, T. B. Glover and O. Haynemann, Directors, and Messrs. R. A. Wylie, M. Kirkwood, E. Berger, Z. Wheeler, F. Cummins, J. Diack, D. Jackson, L. J. Healing, H. C. Litchfield, C. Kayser, and F. Knapp.

Mr. BENNETT proposed that in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman—Mr. Jas. Dodds—Mr. Hutchison take the chair.

This was carried unanimously.

On the proposal of the Chairman the minutes of the first meeting, held in July last, and the statement of accounts and report now before the meeting were taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the report and accounts said :—

GENTLEMEN.—This is the second ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of the new Company, and as you have called upon me to take the place of our worthy Chairman, who is unfortunately unable to attend to-day, I can only say that I will do my best to give you all the information you may require regarding the accounts or working of the Company. The Report and Statement of Accounts having now been in your hands for about a week I have no doubt you will consent to take them as read. In connection with the Report, I will endeavour to make such comments as I think are called for. The working account shows a nett profit of *yen* 72,225.19. This, but for the high cost of interest and extra advertising (which together amounted to over *yen* 21,000) would have shown a much better result. The large item for revaluation of stock does not, as may perhaps be imagined, represent any depreciation in values. It arises from the adoption of a different and more correct method of carrying forward beer stocks from one year to another, with which the Directors have thought proper to commence the new company's accounts. The balance of working account, after deducting the ¥48,477.82, has been carried to a new Reserve fund, which you will notice stands at ¥23,747.37.

The Old Reserve fund, I must mention, is made up of the outstanding balance on 31st March, 1899 ¥77,882.16
with 48,228.05
amount brought forward from old Co.'s Profit and Loss account added thereto, making together 126,110,21

This sum, less reconstruction expenses (¥3,859.60, and Interim Dividend paid November last (¥45,000) accounts for the sum of ¥77,250.61, from which the Directors have proposed to pay the final dividend of 15 per cent., which will leave a balance of ¥9,750.61 to be carried forward belonging to the Old Reserve fund.

New Brewery :—As mentioned in the Report, this is rapidly approaching completion and the Directors expect brewing to commence about the end of this month or early next. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of skilled workmen necessary for fitting up the machinery, and some delay has resulted in consequence.

The cost of the new brewery, as shown in the accounts, has so far reached ¥293,058.66, and some ¥,30,000 more is estimated to complete it. This agrees very closely with the original estimates, with the addition of certain expenses for foundations, etc., which could not be properly calculated beforehand. The new cellars undertaken in advance of the Brewery, have cost ¥71,808.34.

Depreciation of Buildings, Machinery and Plant.—The main portions of these are practically new and therefore require no writing down, The other portions have been written down freely in previous years and stand at about their actual value. It is however uncertain what may be the proceeds of the sale of the machinery etc., now being advertised. I will now conclude my remarks by moving that the Directors' Reports and Statement of Accounts for the year 1899-1900, as presented, be adopted.

Mr. WHEELER asked what proportion the discounts and advertising bore to one another; they were grouped together in the accounts. He had never seen in any accounts presented by any company with which he had been connected such a hotchpotch as these accounts presented.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that he could get all the particulars he desired from the office, on application.

Mr. BENNETT said he would propose, to satisfy Mr. Wheeler and other shareholders, that an addenda, or detailed account of the old and new debentures, be made out.

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Mr. WHEELER, however, declined to second this proposal, when asked to do so, and the motion was withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. WYLIE seconded and the resolution was carried. The Report and Accounts were as follows:—

The Directors have the pleasure to present herewith the accounts for the year ended 31st March—the first working year of the Company in its reconstructed form.

The sales for the year have been satisfactory and the prospects of the year now entered upon are good.

The Working Account shows a profit of *yen* 72,225.19, which has been carried to a "New Reserve Fund," the balance at credit of which, after deducting *yen* 48,477.82 for revaluation of stock, etc., stands at *yen* 23,747.37. From this will be deducted *yen* 535.70 which the Directors propose to pay by way of bonus to the Japanese staff. Interest on outlays in connection with the new Brewery and special advertising expenses incurred to enable the Company to cope with rivals and to provide a market for the increasing output of beer have absorbed about *yen* 21,000, which in ordinary circumstances would have gone to augment these profits when they would have amounted to some *yen* 93,000.

The "Old Reserve Fund," consisting of balances from the old Company's Accounts, less sundry reconstruction expenses and less the 10 per cent. interim dividend paid in November last, stands at ¥77,250.61, from which the Directors propose to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent., making a total of 25 per cent. for the year, which will absorb ¥67,500 and leave a balance of "Old Reserve Fund" of ¥9,750.61 to be carried forward to next year.

To cover cost of extra cellars and their fittings necessitated by the new Brewery, debentures to the extent of ¥100,000 have been placed at a profitable figure, but as they run only from 1st April, 1900, the amount received for them is included in these accounts under the item "Sundry Creditors."

The new Brewery is rapidly approaching completion and is expected to be at work by the end of May. The Directors look for much economy from its working as compared with that of the old plant.

The present Directors of the Company are Messrs. J. Dodds (Chairman), W. R. Bennett, T. B. Glover, O. Haynemann, J. D. Hutchison, and S. F. James. Under the Articles of Association two of these gentlemen, viz: Messrs. W. R. Bennett and J. D. Hutchison, retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

JAS. DODDS, J. D. HUTCHISON, JAMES STEWART, } Directors.
Manager and Secretary.

Yokohama, April 26, 1900.

THE JAPAN BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENERAL BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1900.

Dr.

LIABILITIES.	Yen.
To 9,000 Shares at *yen* 50 each, fully paid	450,000.00
„ 1,000 Debentures at *yen* 100 each	100,000.00
„ Old Reserve Fund	77,250.61
„ New Reserve Fund	23,747.37
„ Bill Payable	69,494.17
„ Meidiya Guarantee Fund	25,000.00
„ Sundry Creditors	144,261.64
	889,753.64

Cr.

ASSETS.	Yen.
By Landed Property and Buildings thereon	166,178.71
„ Machinery in operation	56,962.64
„ Paint, Casks and Vats, and Corking and other Machinery	91,302.16
„ Working Stores, Malt, Hops, Stock of beer and Bottles	197,927.32
„ Office and other Furniture	1,763.76
„ Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	27,500.40
„ Mitsui Ginko	52.05
„ Cash and Petty Cash	267.53
„ Coal Stock	351.00
„ Fire Insurance Policies current	2,227.11
„ Brewery Extensions	293,058.66
„ Sundry Debtors	52,162.30
	889,753.64

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.

1900. 31st March	Yen.
To Interest	13,736.20
„ Coal	15,584.00
„ Ground Rent and Taxes	547.14
„ Fire Insurance	4,321.06
„ Salaries and Wages	39,156.69
„ Charges, etc.	21,686.47
„ Wear and Tear	6,538.30
„ Discounts, Commission, and Advertising	125,375.85
„ Directors' Fees	2,500.00
„ Auditors' Fees	600.00
„ Balance Profit	72,225.19
	302,270.90

Cr.

1900. 31st March.	Yen.
By Profit on Brewing Account	300,703.15
„ Transfer and Registration Fees	185.25
„ Waste Grains	1,382.50
	302,270.90

JAS. DODDS, J. D. HUTCHISON, JAMES STEWART, } Directors.
Manager and Secretary.

We have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the Books, Vouchers and Securities in the possession of the Company and find them to be correct.

R. S. SCHWABE, F. J. HALL, } Auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—The next question before the meeting is the election of two directors in place of Mr. Bennett and myself who retire in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Mr. WYLIE proposed that the two retiring Directors be re-elected. This was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—The next question is that of the Directors' fees, which were fixed for the past year at the meeting held in July last.

Mr. HEALING proposed that the Directors' fees remain as at present, viz 2,500 *yen*, until changed at another general meeting.

This was seconded by Mr. Wylie and carried.

The CHAIRMAN—We now come to the election of auditors. You will notice that Messrs. Schwabe and F. J. Hall have for several years past undertaken these duties, but the former gentleman having left for England the Directors have much pleasure in suggesting the re-election of Mr. Hall and the election of Mr. Guinness to fill the place of Mr. Schwabe, but it is for you to decide the matter, and fix the remuneration.

Mr. WYLIE proposed that Mr. Hall be re-elected and Mr. Guinness be elected to fill the place of Mr. Schwabe, at the same rate of remuneration.

This was seconded and carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN, in conclusion, mentioned that in the month of April, they had a larger sale than in any previous month, and the present month also showed well up to date.

A taste of the Brewery's product and an inspection of the newly added premises and works concluded the proceedings.

THE HOKKAIDO HERRING FISHERY.

The *Shogyo* publishes the result of investigations carried on by the Section of Marine Products of the Hokkaido Office in regard to the catch of herrings during the first term of this year. The annual output is something like one million *koku* approximately. The first fishing period is from the beginning of the season until the 15th April, and the amount of capture during that space of time this year is estimated at 428,000 *koku*, an increase of 17,000 *koku* as compared with the previous year. Of this amount the greater portion is to the credit of Shiribeshi and Teshio, where an increase of over 30 per cent. above the ordinary yield was secured. In other districts, there was more or less decrease, the chief deficiency being noticeable in Ishikari, where hardly one-third of the ordinary catch was made. Below are comparative figures:—

	Total capture for 1st period of this year. *koku.*	Amount of capture in the corresponding period of last year. *koku.*
Oshima	51,894	66,632
Shiribeshi	263,732	203,190
Ishikari	16,445	47,500
Teshio	60,300	44,600
Kitami	36,550	49,152
Total	428,921	411,074

IMPERIAL MARRIAGES.

The following Ordinance has lately been published in the *Official Gazette* over the sign-manual of the Emperor and counter-signature of the Minister of the Imperial Household:—

ORDINANCE RELATING TO MARRIAGES IN THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

CHAPTER I.—IMPERIAL NUPTIALS.

Art. I.—The nuptials of the Emperor shall be celebrated after he has attained the age of seventeen.

Art. II.—In nominating the Empress the choice shall be confined to Princesses of the Imperial family or daughters of nobles specially designated, who have attained the age of fifteen.

Art. III.—When the matrimonial engagement is made, the fact shall be announced at the Imperial Ancestral Shrine (*Koreiden*) as well as at the shrines for the *Kami* (*Shinden*) placed in the Sanctuary in the Palace (*Kashikodokoro*), and imperial messengers carrying special offerings shall be despatched to the Jingu Temple, and the mausoleums of the emperor Jimmu and of the Emperor and Empress immediately predeceasing the reigning monarch.

Art. IV.—When the engagement has been concluded, the fact shall be announced by the Minister of the Imperial Household.

Art. V.—The date for the performance of the ceremony shall be announced by the Minister of the Imperial Household.

Art. VI.—On the day of the ceremony a solemn announcement of the fact shall be made at the Shrine n the Sanctuary.

Art. VII.—The ceremony shall be performed in front of the Sanctuary (*Kashikodokoro*) in accordance with the rites specially determined.

Art. VIII.—An Imperial Rescript as to the nomination of the empress shall be made public on the day on which the matrimonial celebration takes place.

Art. IX.—The Emperor, accompanied by the Empress, shall, at the close of the wedding ceremony, appear (for worship) at the *Koreuden* and the *Shinden*.

Art. X.—The Emperor and the Empress shall, at the close of the ceremony, wait on his grandfather, and grandmother, and the Empress Dowager.

Art. XI.—The Emperor and Empress shall, at the conclusion of the ceremony, hold a banquet in the Palace.

Art. XII.—The Emperor and the Empress shall, after the conclusion of the ceremony, proceed to the Jingu shrines and to the mausoleums of the emperor Jimmu and of the last Emperor and Empress for devotional purposes.

Art. XIII.—The President of the Imperial Archives shall, on the promugation of an imperial Rescript connected with the nomination of the Empress enter the fact in the Records relating to the imperial genealogy.

All the records concerning the imperial marriage shall be preserved in the Archives Bureau.

Art. XIV.—No wedding ceremony shall be performed during a period of imperial mourning.

CHAPTER II.—MARRIAGES OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

Art. XV.—With regard to marriages in the Imperial family application shall be made for the sanction of the Emperor before an actual engagement is made.

Art. XVI.—The nuptials of the Prince Imperial, or the Imperial grandson, or the Princes of the Blood retaining the title of *Shinno* or *O*, shall be conducted in front of the Sanctuary in the Palace.

Art. XVII.—The Prince Imperial, or the grandson of the Emperor or Princes of the Blood holding the title of *Shinno* or *O* shall, at the close of the wedding ceremony, appear in state before the Emperor and the Empress, the Emperor's father and mother, and the Empress Dowager.

Art. XVIII.—In the case of the marriage of the Prince Imperial or the Emperor's grandson, the provisions of Articles III., IV., V., VI., IX., XI., and XII. shall apply.

Art. XIX.—In the case of the marriage of a *Shinno*, Articles V. and IX. apply, and in the case of an *O* Article IX. only shall be enforced.

Art. XX.—With regard to marriages relating to the Princes of the Blood, the fact shall be announced by the Minister of the Imperial Household on the day of the celebration.

Art. XXI.—The nuptials of any of the Princes or Princesses of the Blood shall in no case be celebrated before the age of seventeen in the case of the former and of fifteen in the case of the latter.

Art. XXII.—No wedding shall be concluded among Princes or Princesses of the Blood between relatives of direct lineage or between those belonging to the 3rd grade of connection.

Art. XXIII.—The nuptials of Princes or Princesses of the Blood shall not be performed during a period of imperial mourning or during a period of mourning for principal personages directly connected with them.

Art. XXIV.—Any form of marriage concluded by

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a Prince or Princess of the Blood in contravention of the statutes of the Imperial House shall be invalid.

Art. XXV.—Any divorce or separation on the part of a Prince or Princess of the Blood requires the imperial sanction, and, in default, such separation shall be declared invalid.

Art. XXVI.—Affairs connected with the marriage of Princes or Princesses of the Blood shall be put on record by the President of the Imperial Archives.

THE SOY BEAN.

The Japanese soy bean is finding much favour in the United States. The bulletin of the Kansas State Agricultural College says:—

The Kansas experiment station began raising soy beans in 1889, and has raised them every year since—in 1899 having seventy acres in this crop. We have found the soy bean to stand the drought as well as Kafir-corn or sorghum; it is not touched by chinchbugs; the grain is a richer feed than linseed-meal, and the plant enriches the soil on which it is grown. The bean is an erect-growing plant, one and one-half to three and one-half feet in height, with a stiff, woody stem, having numerous branches like a miniature tree. The foliage is heavy and the plants start to branch close to the ground. The branches are thickly covered with pods, which usually contain two to three beans to the pod. The bean was brought from Japan, where it is extensively cultivated for human food, taking the place of beef on account of its richness in protein. Because of its peculiar flavour but few Americans like it.

The following table shows the digestible nutrients of soy beans and several of our common feeds:

	Digestible nutrients, pounds per 100 lbs. fed.		
Feed.	Protein	Carbo-hydrates.	Fat.
Soy beans	29.6	22.3	14.4
Flaxseed	20.6	17.1	29.0
Linseed meal—old process	28.8	32.8	7.1
Bran.....	12.3	37.1	2.6
Oats	9.3	48.3	4.2
Corn	7.8	66.7	4.3

Kansas farmers who have tried soy beans on a large scale report that with ordinary prices for farm labour it costs forty cents per bushel to raise them. This includes all expense from preparing the ground for planting to storing the thrashed beans in the bin, but does not include rent.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

From a statement made in a private letter from a trooper in the Composite Regiment of Household Cavalry, it would appear that two privates were recently shot at the Modder River for being asleep on sentry duty.

Below are comparative figures concerning traffic on the Tokaido, Hokuriku, and Shinetsu lines for the past two years:—

Goods.	1900 yen.	1899 yen.	Increase yen.
March	154,100	126,440	27,660
April.....	147,573	121,058	26,515
Passengers.			
March	321,434	260,977	60,457
April.....	296,019	243,878	52,141

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Tuesday morning Judge Fujise commenced the hearing of the action of Bruhl Frères v. Takashima. The claim was for breach of contract. The case for the plaintiffs was that they had agreed to sell defendant a quantity of velvet and plush, and defendant had given a promissory note for 250 *yen* as bargain money. He had, however, failed to take delivery. Defendant denied making the contract, and said the promissory note was drawn by a clerk without his knowledge and consent. The case was adjourned.

The Yokohama Literary Society brought a very successful season to a close on Friday evening with an illustrated lecture by Mr. Otis A. Poole, entitled "Wakai Nippon." Mr. Poole's skill and success with the camera are well known to majority of our readers, and the humour of his descriptions proved equally happy. The large audience evinced their pleasure by giving rounds of applause both during the progress and at the close of the *séance*. The musical items were equally enjoyable. Dr. Russell, an old-time friend, renewed his acquaintance with the Society, and was warmly received. Mrs. McIvor played a "Caprice Espagnol" by Moskowski, in her own happy manner, while Miss Hayashi's rendering of "The Holy City" was one of the most charming things of the evening.

The Chief of the Weather Bureau of the Department of Agriculture at Washington has issued an order forbidding the smoking of cigarettes by all employés under his direction, not only during working hours, but in their hours of leisure. The prohibition, is based upon the chief's conviction that cigarette smoking impairs efficiency and discipline, and that by indulging in it the most competent become careless and unreliable. He does not, however, seek to interfere with the smoking of cigars and pipes.

Lyddite seems to have satisfied all reasonable expectations, writes the South African correspondent of the *Engineer*, though coming far short of the exaggerated ideas some people had formed of it. Actual experience of the explosive shows that a 4.7in. shell will breach a 4ft. earthen or rubble rifle parapet, but as it bursts on impact it is doubtful whether it would prove of much use against the 6ft. masonry of a fortress or against naval armour. The picric acid fumes which arise from the exploded shell do not possess the deadly power ascribed to them. They are simply non-respirable.

In the Belgian Chamber of Deputies on April 11 the Premier, M. de Smet de Nayer, read a communication from King Leopold in which His Majesty presented to the nation the whole of his real estate. Prolonged cheering greeted the reading of this document. The King in his letter announced that he desired on the occasion of his 65th birthday (he was born on April 9th, 1835) to present the country with all his estates, which will contribute to the beauty and charm of the localities where they are situated. He pointed out the necessity for open spaces and gardens near growing cities for the benefit of hygiene and artistic effect, and expressed the hope that these naturally-adorned spaces would not be allowed to deteriorate. A Bill has been introduced in the Chamber to permit the country to accept His Majesty's offer.

According to the *Jimmin* the traffic receipts of the three Government railways—Tokaido, Hokuriku, and Shinyetsu—for the 32nd year of *Meiji* amounted to 10,705,526 *yen*. The total mileage opened to traffic during the year from April, 1899, to March, 1900, was 36 miles 23 chains in the case of railways under the direct control of the Railway Works Bureau, and 37 miles 17 chains in the case of those under the supervision of the Hokkaido Railway Office. As to private railway companies organised during the same period, the total is given at 17, with a mileage of 153 miles 70 chains. Of this number 16 have already commenced work with 129 miles of railway. Provisional charters have been granted to five companies already organised, for extensions of 82 miles, and 11 new companies have received sanction for the laying of 219 miles of line.

The following telegram from the Earl of Ranfurly to Mr. Chamberlain is an indication of the spirit which prevails in the Colonies in connection with the war:—People of New Zealand wish to express their endorsement of the position taken up by the Imperial Government declining to allow the intervention of any Foreign Power in the settlement to be arrived at with the Transvaal Republic and Orange Free State, and not to assent to either State being independent. My Government assures Her Majesty's Government that New Zealand will support to the last the Mother Country as far as lies in their power in maintaining that position which has been taken up irrespective of consequences. I am desired to add there are large numbers of men volunteering who are good riders and shots willing to go to South Africa for relief of the Imperial forces if the services of the latter will be required elsewhere.

A Japanese regatta organised by a society of which Mr. Otani Kahei is the president took place in Yokohama Harbour on Sunday afternoon. The committee of the Rowing Club lent the Boat house for the occasion, and the premises were crowded with Japanese and foreigner sightseers. A large crowd of Japanese also lined the railings along the greater part of the Bund. The proceedings commenced early in the morning, and lasted practically all the day, about seventeen races being run. The competitors were chiefly employes of the banks and big Japanese firms and also Japanese employes of foreign firms. Several handsome prizes were presented, among them being a fine silver cup given by the *Jiji Shimpo* office. One foreigners' race was included in the programme, but only two crews competed, one being composed of J. J. M. Carst, E. Levedag, Strome, and M. F. Stephens, and the other of W. Goddard, T. Abbey, H. S. Goddard and C. H. Abbey. The former crew won easily. The weather was beautifully fine, and a very enjoyable time was spent. Fire-works were let off at intervals during the day.

Some interest was excited on Friday morning by the presence of a number of policemen and a large crowd of loungers round the office of Messrs. Carl Rhode & Co., No. 70. All kinds of wild rumours—as usual in the case of rumours the exact opposite of the truth—were afloat, but it eventually proved that what was going forward was a visit from one of the Judges of Preliminary Examination connected with the Chiho Saibansho, who was making an examination of the contents of the godown. It appears that the question was one of trademarks. Messrs. Carl Rohde have long imported chemicals under a trade-mark representing a *torii* coloured red. This was registered in Europe, but in 1896, on applying to register it in Japan, the firm were informed that it had already been registered by Mr. Iwasaki, an Osaka merchant, as far as certain classes of chemicals were concerned. Messrs. Carl Rohde and Co. then applied for and were granted registration for the remaining classes of chemicals, and also applied on various grounds for the cancellation of Mr. Iwasaki's certificate. This was refused. Mr. Iwasaki offered to relinquish what he considered his rights for a large sum of money, but his proposals were declined, and he thereupon brought a suit against the firm for an alleged infringement of the Trade Marks Regulations. The visit of the Judge on Friday morning was in consequence of the institution of these proceedings. A number of cases and parcels were opened, but we believe that nothing was found which the firm were not perfectly justified in having under their trade mark.

An interview with Mr. Rhodes appeared in the *Daily Mail* recently in which grave charges were levelled against General Buller and Colonel Kekewick. The delay in relieving Kimberley was, in Mr. Rhodes's opinion, inexcusable. General Buller's instructions to Lord Methuen were "scandalous"; it would have been a "disgrace to England" had they been carried out. As regards the siege, Mr. Rhodes went on:—"I found plenty to do. We organised a troop of eight hundred horse, we built a cannon, we supplied water from the mines when the Boers cut off the water supply, we set up a soup kitchen and distributed ten thousand rations a day, and—ah! there was enough to do. The military worried us about all these things. They did not believe in them.' After giving various instances of alleged vexatious interference and unwarrantable neglect on the part of the military authorities, Mr. Rhodes actually contended that they had exaggerated the number of the enemy "simply because by doing so we account for bad generalship without confessing it." The *Spectator* has no desire to minimise the services undoubtedly rendered by Mr. Rhodes during the siege, and above all, the generosity which his worst enemies have never denied him; but it may be pointed out first, that his efficiency as a military expert is somewhat discounted (*a*) by his historic remark before the war about the Boer military resources being the greatest unpricked bubble in existence (*b*) by his connection with the humiliating fiasco of the Jameson Raid; and second, that there is a general consensus of opinion in quarters by no means hostile to Mr. Rhodes that Colonel Kekewich and his Staff grappled with the very serious problems of the civil situation in Kimberley with conspicuous tact and ability.

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DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM BOURNE.

The death of Mr. Wm. Bourne, announced in to-day's issue, removes one of the oldest residents of Yokohama and a once familiar figure in the community. Mr. Bourne came to Japan 38 years ago, to the firm of Aspinal, Cornes & Co., and for a few years before that was a resident in China. For many years he was in business as an auctioneer and public tea inspector, but of late had not taken an active part in business pursuits. Since first leaving England he had not had the opportunity of revisiting his native land, and indeed, except for a short visit to Vladivostock a few years ago, had scarcely been beyond Treaty limits from Yokohama. For some time he had been in failing health and for the past few months confined to his bed, so his death was not unexpected by friends and relatives. One of the first foreigners married in Japan, he has lived in Yokohama to see children grown up and married, and leaves two sons in Canada, and a daughter in England, besides one in Japan, who was a most devoted attendant on her father during his lifetime.

The mortal remains of the late Mr. William Bourne were laid to rest in Yokohama Cemetery on Wednesday in the quiet hush of the early morning. There was a very large attendance of the older residents of Yokohama, as well as a number of the leading members of the great benevolent society of which the deceased had once been an active officer. The Rev. E. C. Irwine officiated, and at the close of the service made a few touching valedictory remarks. The chief mourner was Mr. C. G. Coningham, son-in-law; the pall-bearers were Messrs. H. C. Litchfield, G. H. Allcock, E. Flint Kilby, J. Winstanley, Geo. Hay, and Andrew Patterson. The coffin was covered with many beautiful floral tokens of respect and sympathy.

GERMAN NOTES.

The Crown Prince will not begin his academic studies in Bonn before the Spring of next year. He will meanwhile remain in Potsdam to complete his military course.

The German Post Office in Constantinople, which recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary, has opened a Branch in Pera. It is the intention to establish six or seven additional German Post Offices in the principal cities of the Turkish empire.

In the city of Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, an organization has been formed which has for its object the encouragement and aid of German settlements in Palestine. The Kaiser gave a subscription of ten thousand marks.

The distinguished traveller and explorer, Dr. F. Jagor, has died in Berlin at the age of 83. The greater part of his valuable private museum he had already given to the "Museum fur Wölkerkunde" and the remainder, it is believed, he has bequeathed to the same institution.

In Mayence an interesting discovery was recently made in the form of an ancient tombstone of a Roman soldier. According to the inscription he was from the city of Verona, and belonged to the first legion. The men of the First Roman Legion, according to the tombstones found heretofore, all hailed from Dalmatia, Pannonia, or from Thrace. The above is the first instance showing that one, at least, came from Italy.

The two great establishments which have supplied the Boers with guns are at present at war with each other. The *casus belli* is a gun-patent, and the battle-ground is the Palace of Justice in Paris. Krupp, of Essen, has made the "charge," and Schneider, of Le Creusot, is on the defence. According to German papers, the Court room had a somewhat warlike appearance. Even the day before the trial began heavy parts of siege guns were placed in "position," and instead of legal *plaidoyers* bombshells were presented, and described by expert engineers. The result has yet been reported.

A Japanese Commission, consisting of Dr. J. Yokoi, of Tokyo, Prof. J. Kozai, of the Agricultural Institute in Tokyo, and Prof. S. Hashimoto, of Sapporo, says *Das Echo* of Berlin, is at present in Germany for the purpose of studying the entire educational system of that country with the view of introducing the same into Japan as far as it may seem practicable. The Commission has received the necessary permission from the German Minister for Education, to inspect various schools, the common as well as the higher institutions, and also agricultural schools. It is the intention of the Commission to make an extensive and thorough study of the whole subject.

Mr. Ilg, a Swiss, who has for years been the most trusted adviser of King Menelik of Abyssinia, has recently returned to his native land on a year's furlough. In an interview with a representative of the *Neue Zuricher Zeitung*, he made some interesting statements with reference to the condition of things in that far-off Empire. He said one of the most difficult tasks during his late stay was the boundary delimitation between England and Abyssinia, after the late war in the Soudan. He speaks very highly of the present British representative at the Court of Menelik. Touching upon the reports about the attitude of Russia and France, he said that Russia's influence in Abyssinia has been greatly over-estimated. Moreover, Russia is too strongly engaged in Eastern Asia to pay much attention to Africa. The oft-named Leontieff has no close relations to the Government in St. Petersburg. He belongs to that type of adventurer whom Count Benyovesky represented in the last century. Leontieff is in the employ of a trading association whose headquarters are in Brussels, and whose object it is to explore the country around the Rudolph Lake, south of Kaffa. In order to secure him an "existence," Menelik entrusted him with the management of district No. 1 of the so-called Equatorial province. Mr. Ilg thinks that neither Russia nor France could induce Menelik to attack England in Africa, and the talk that he was marching to the frontier with 40,000 men was entirely without foundation. That the French endeavoured to induce Menelik to go to the Paris Exhibition is true. The Eiffel tower is evidently no longer a special attraction and Menelik was to be the clou de l'Exposition. It is not likely, however, that he will go.

CHINA NOTES.

The *Tokio Maru*, which was wrecked on the Miaoto Islands, Gulf of Pechili, was sold by auction by Messrs. Hopkins, Dunn, & Co., at Shanghai. There was a large attendance and the bidding was brisk. Finally the ship was sold for Tls. 11,250 and the cargo for Tls. 6,250 to Chinese purchasers.

Captain Deasy, who recently returned to England after two years' exploration work in Central Asia, was invited to describe his experiences before the members of the Royal Geographical Society at their meeting on April 2. Captain Deasy, whose health completely broke down under the hardships which he endured, especially at the hands of the Chinese authorities, did altogether about 5,200 miles of caravan work, his sphere of operations including Chinese Turkestan and Tibet.

Mr. M. Boyd Bredon, who was Commissioner of Customs at Chefoo during the China-Japan war, died at Swatow on the 19th April, in his forty-fifth year. A relative of Sir Robert Hart, the deceased entered the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs in 1884, taking the position of Private Secretary at the Inspectorate, Peking. In 1884 he was the assistant in charge at Hoihow, and he advanced by promotion until appointed commissioner. The Chinese Civil Rank of the Third Class was conferred on him on 2nd July, 1893, and the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Fourth Class of Japan, in July, 1896.

At the Hongkong Magistracy on April 24th Ruben Carr, boatswain's mate on the *Empress of India*, J. Adamson, T. Shay, Geo. Murray, and T. Collins, A.B.'s on board the same vessel, were charged with stealing $900 odd, the property of a Chinese money-changer named Yuen Fai, in Yokohama Harbour on the 9th April. As our readers remember, it is alleged that when the Chinaman went on board the money was taken from him and the prisoners subsequently divided it among themselves. The vessel was detained at Yokohama for three hours, during which time an investigation was made by the Japanese authorities, but their investigation was fruitless. Subsequently certain information came to the ears of the officers of the *Empress* which led to the arrest of the men named. Then Carr promised to turn Queen's evidence. After several witnesses had been heard, including Carr, who gave a circumstantial account of the robbery, and the division of the spoil, the men were remanded until the arrival in Hongkong of the prosecutor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense, responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

THE INCOME TAX.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—We have observed some timely remarks in your issue of to-day in regard to the forwarding of the statement of incomes. We wouldask you to add one thing more. There are some foreigners who have not forwarded statements of incomes because they receive salaries from their own countries and not from Japan, and therefore consider themselves not liable for Income tax. This is, however, a misinterpretation of the Law, which demands that every person who, residing in Japan, enjoys an income of 300 *yen* or upwards per annum for service rendered in this country shall pay tax whatever the source of the payment. Such persons should report at the earliest convenience.

Your respectfully,

TAX ADMINISTRATION BUREAU.

Tokyo Tax Administration Bureau.

May 4th, 1900.

[It appears regrettable and useless to delay the forwarding of these returns. The taxes have to be paid sooner or later, and nothing is gained by unwarrantable reluctance.—Ed. *J. M.*]

CHARACTER OF THE INCOME TAX.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In regard to the matter of imposing the Income Tax on money derived from renting lots in the former Concessions, we have this to say:—

Suppose a man owns a lot. Under the Income Tax Law should he pay an income tax on money derived from the land? Is not the tax already paid levied for the use of this land? If he must pay the Income Tax while he permits another party to use the land, then would it not seem consistent for him to pay the tax while he himself occupies it? On general principles the land is as profitable to him while he himself occupies it as it is while another occupies it.

Suppose he goes into business on his lot and derives an income of, say 5,000 *yen*. He goes into business on other premises which cost him 1,000 *yen* a year, and his income is still 5,000 *yen*,—net income being 4,000 *yen*. But he has rented out his own lot for 1,000 *yen*. On what will he pay the Income Tax? In the first case, 5,000 *yen* have passed into his hands. In the latter case, 6,000 *yen* have passed into his hands, but 1,000 *yen* of it have passed out. In both cases he has cleared just the same. In the first case, if he pays a tax on 5,000 *yen*, he will pay nothing on anything derived from the land. In the second case, if he pays on 6,000 *yen*, he will be paying on 1,000 *yen* derived from his lot, But in the first case his lot has been worth as much to him (1,000 *yen*) as in the second case.

If the rental value of his land should be assessed, and an income tax imposed while the owner occupies it himself, would that seem contrary to the Treaty? It seems to be conceded that it would. But the owner has derived an income of 1,000 *yen* from his land. Now, if he permits another to occupy it, and

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derives exactly the same income, but in a different way, would it be in harmony with the Treaty to impose the Income Tax in this case and not in the other? We confess our mind is too abtuse to see the difference.

Again, was it understood by the Treaty Making Powers that the taxes imposed by treaty were on the basis that no income was to be derived from the land? Can such a supposition be possible? But is not that supposition involved in the non-imposition of the tax while the owner occupies the land himself? Does not the owner, however, derive a true income,—the rental value of the land? And if while he occupies the land himself, no income tax is imposed, why should he pay this tax when he permits another to occupy it and derives the same income? Especially, why should he pay this tax when the tax he already has to pay covers it?

The very principle of an income tax is antagonistic to sound philosophy. It has given endless trouble wherever tried. It is a demoralizer of the human conscience,—an exhaustless source of deception. Some better method of taxation ought to be adopted.

Very truly, E. SNODGRASS.

Tokyo, May 7, 1900.

AMERICAN NOTES.

Admiral Dewey is said to be beginning to regret that he ever adventured on the stormy sea of party politics.

The United States Supreme Court on April 16th handed down a decision stating that Ashland, Wis., is the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway instead of Duluth, Minn. Through the decision the road comes into possession of large tracts of valuable timber and agricultural lands.

United States Minister Irwin, at Lisbon, has reported to the Department of State that the Portuguese Government has made all necessary arrangements for the payment of the judgment (amounting to almost $5,000,000) on account of the award of the Delagoa Bay arbitration. As stated in the House of Delegates by the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, the money can be realized upon the Northern and Eastern Railway bonds, and the Lourenzo Marquez Railway will remain in the possession of Portugal.

The new Brooklyn bridge will be larger and stronger than the present one. All underground caisson work, pier foundations, and the anchorages on both sides of the river are now completed. The width of this enormous structure when complete will be 118 feet over all, including foot-walks of twelve feet each, two bicycle-paths of seven feet each, elevated railroad and trolley-car tracks. The entire length of the bridge from terminal to teriminal will be 7,200 feet.

Complying with a resolution of inquiry, President McKinley sent to the Senate on April 16th an itemized statement of the expenditures of the Philippine Commission. The statement includes the following items:—Compensation of $10,000 each to Commissioners Schurman, Worcester, and Denby, $30,000; per diem allowance to Commissioners after their return to the United States, $5,285; secretary to commission (compensation $8,500, per diem $3,660), $12,200; transportation, $13,687; household expenses in Manila, $9,252; clerical services, $31,701; miscellaneous, $14,988; total, $117,185. The President also transmits with his indorsement a recommendation from Secretary Hay that provision be made for payment to the naval and military members of the commission (Admiral Dewey and General Otis) at the same rate as that paid to the other members. He says they have received nothing for their services in excess of their regular salaries.

Dr. William R. Harper thinks that the league of representative colleges formed recently at Chicago is "the most important movement that has taken place in higher education in this country in fifty years." The objects of the association are declared to be all matters of common interest relating to graduate study. It will also consider the advisability of requesting foreign universities not to admit American students to the examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy unless they have already presented a bachelor's degree from an American college or university. The chief aim of the organization, therefore, is to enable American institutions of learning to work in harmony and to raise and make uniform the requirements for higher degrees. It is thought that such united action will raise the standard of many colleges which otherwise now do not meet requirements for graduate work. Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, he University of California, the University of Chicago, Leland Stanford University, the Catholic University of America, the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin, and Clark University have thus far cooperated in the movement, and it is hoped that other institutions will seek admittance into the association. Such united action will have a twofold influence, not only making a Doctor's degree mean more, but also keeping the graduate student abroad in touch with the university at home.

Within the present year a considerable addition in numbers and tonnage will be made to the steamships owned by the great transatlantic lines. It is stated that five new vessels will be placed this spring on the service between New York and other Atlantic ports and those of Europe, while there are other ships contracted for or building which will bring the number up to fully twenty-five. It is noted that some of the new steamships are intended for freight traffic exclusively, and in other instances the new liners will take the place of older ships. The fact that the transfer of part of the fleets of the English lines to the British transport service has crippled those companies temporarily at a time when passenger business is on the largest scale and freight transportation from America to Europe is liable to make new records, has naturally stimulated this movement. At the same time, it may be said that none of the new vessels, except possibly those of the German lines, are being constructed with a view to record-breaking speed.

Administration leaders have agreed upon the issues and articles of Republican faith which will be incorporated in the national platform to be submitted to the Philadelphia Convention for ratification. A rough draft of the Republican party creed has been accepted by Republican leaders of the Senate and Republican national committee-men. The opening declaration will be a hearty endorsement of President McKinley and a tribute to his personal management of the most brilliant military and naval achievement of the close of the century. Unqualified approval will be accorded to all the administrative acts. The establishment of a gold standard will be dwelt upon, and a plank will be devoted to renewed allegiance to the gold standard. The keynote of the platform will be the expansion issue. A strong, clear utterance in favour of the retention of the Philippines and of a vigorous foreign policy will be delivered. There will be no positive affirmation of the right of the U.S. Government to govern the Philippines, as that must be left for future adjudication. The policy of protection will be affirmed and the platform will pledge the party to the support of the doctrine of reciprocity. A greater merchant marine and liberal pension laws will be demanded, and the Monroe doctrine reasserted. The Nicaraguan canal will be supported if no action is taken at this session of Congress. The developments of the near future in Cuba and the outcome of the municipal election next month will largely shape the policy toward that island. Among other planks in the platform will be one in favour of an augmented navy, others in favour of civil service, free homestead, restriction of immigration, and temperance, and woman's suffrage will also have a place in the platform.

During March the record of new companies incorporated with $1,000,000 capital or more was very heavy, the total for the month aggregating $502,000,000. The incorporations were distributed as follows: New Jersey, $296,900,000; Delaware, $21,5000,000; West Virginia, $28,500,000; Maine, $4,500,000; other States, $151,500. The large total may be partly accounted by the incorporation of the Carnegie Company with a capital of $160,000,000.

Major-General Arthur MacArthur, who succeeds Gen. Otis in the Philippines, has been one of the three great fighting leaders in the Philippines, the other two being Loyd Wheaton and the late Henry W. Lawton. General MacArthur was the last of the Brigadier-Generals ordered to the Philippines when General Merrit was organizing the Eighth Army Corps there. His knowledge of tactics is extensive and he is looked upon as an authority on field movements, and the ability with which all his campaigns in the Philippines have been carried on has won him the highest praise. His reckless personal bravery and dash make him exceedingly popular with his men. Gen. MacArthur was born in Massachusetts on June 2, 1845. He went into the Civil War as a First Lieutenant of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry in 1862. At the age of 18 he was decorated with a medal of honour, and was the permanent commander of a fighting regiment at 19. When the Civil War was ended he received an appointment as Second Lieutenant in the regular service, and reached the grade of Captain five months later. For twenty years he fought Indians in the West. During the early part of the Spanish war he was at Tampa and Chickamauga, where he assisted in the mobilization of the Army. Until just before his departure he was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Adjutant-General's Department. He was promoted Major-General of Volunteers for his services at the capture of Manila from the Spaniards August 13, 1898.

The civil government, with the Taft Commission in supreme control, is to supersede the present military government in the Philippines on July 1st. The comt mission is to have plenary authority, and one of its firs- acts preliminary to, or simultaneous with, the inauguration of a general civil government, will be the issuance of a proclamation granting amnesty to all natives who may still be in insurrection on the condition that they lay down their arms and pledge their allegiance to the new government.

TAMSUI AND TAIPEH.

A correspondent of the *Hongkong Telegraph* writes:—At the present time we have two most interesting object lessons we might say almost at our gates, the first attempts of two young countries at colonization; Japan in Formosa and America in Manila. It would be inviduous to draw comparisons, so I will only give an idea of the progress that has been made by the Japanese. When taking a bird's eye view preparatory to criticism on this subject it must always be remembered that Japan, as a factor in the world's calculations, is extremely young; scarcely fifty years having elapsed since her first reception of western ideas. Again it must be borne in mind that Formosa is not a colony but more correctly a conquered island. This makes a great difference. The Chinese themselves had formerly conquered the land, but had never been able to make themselves absolute masters of it; in this the Japanese have had far greater success, as the whole of Formosa may now be said to be in a settled state. There are still some savages, who have not tendered their allegiance to the Government, but they are comparatively few and living in the interior of the island. Actual rebels there are none, but an occasional robbery with violence still takes place. The Japanese must therefore be complimented on having attained so much good in a little over five years. There is a peculiar superstition among the aborigines (not savages) that has operated against the conquerors. It is not generally known that some 250 years ago the Dutch occupied Formosa and made their presence very beneficially felt among its inhabitants. They built forts and introduced trade; the old red brick building now occupied by the British Consulate in Tamsui is one of these old forts. Around Anping their remembrance is still venerated by the natives. They were eventually expelled by the Chinese admiral or pirate Koxinga, but they left the impression that they would some day come back again to be the saviours of the Formosans from their Chinese conquerors. This idea is still strong, and though these

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natives have since adopted Chinese dress and manners, until very recently it was feared that, should a hostile man-of-war come into a Formosan port, the natives would mistake her for the Dutch come back and would rise to a man against their present rulers. I need hardly say that the Chinese do not love their former victors, and it is a well known fact that the relations between Japan and Russia are strained. Taking all these considerations into account it is not fair nor honest to expect too marked an improvement by Japanese rule, but still there is a great improvement and one that shows unmistakeable signs of future growth.

To a Britisher perhaps much of the system of taxation, officialism,and red-tapeism calls for unfavourable comment, but it must be borne in mind that Japan is ambitious, her Government is fostering trade extensively all over the world, and they are spending immense sums of money. "Money is the root of all evil" and when a country has to pay ten per cent for capital it is not hard to imagine that there will be some grumbling at the taxation by which the money has to be repaid.

To thoroughly understand the progress made in Formosa a knowledge of China and Chinese rule is necessary, a country without any of the western requisites of civilization, with a government that is no government, taxes levied in the shape of squeezes, and the people allowed to do very much as they pleased as long as they were not found out. The Japanese have altered all this. There is a government and it makes itself felt; taxes are levied on all alike; there is a strong police department, everybody's circumstances being well known. Roads are built, embankments erected, railways constructed and kept in working order. This costs money, and as it is not done by private enterprise the Government is obliged to maintain a large staff of officials. There is no doubt of the necessity for these improvements, but it is greatly to be feared that Japan has been rather too premature. The money raised in the island is certainly spent there, but that does not have very much effect in making John Chinaman any more contented with the paying of taxes; by nature he strongly objects to pay, is endowed with a vast amount of passive endurance, and is able to live where others would starve; the consequence is that many of the tea farms are going out of cultivation. I am not acquainted with the taxes levied in Ceylon and India, but in Formosa they are $2.70 per picul transportation tax, or *lekin*, if to Kelung, to Kobe $1.00 habour dues, but if to Tamsui to Amoy $1.60 export duty. The two last taxes are not finally settled, the foreign Powers maintaining that they mean preferential rates. Any way the tax amounts to $3 a picul or $1 a chest. Other countries impose import dues. The manufacture of tea is expensive and the freight heavy, so it can easily be seen that the actual farmer gets very little for his share in the production. He certainly gets greater facilities for transportation, but he would far rather put the money into his own pocket.

Japan has made a mistake; with true Oriental spirit she has started at the wrong end. Instead of opening up her harbours, removing the bars, etc., so that ships could enter at all times and find safe anchorage, she has started in the interior building fine Japanese cities and maintaining too many official and guardians of the law; this, besides other great drawbacks, has left the coast practically open to invasion, so she cannot be secure in furthering her good work in the interior. Tamsui can only be entered once a day at high tide; communication between Taipeh and its port, Tamsui, though only separated by twelve miles of river, can only be obtained twice daily for the same reason. Immense sums of money have been spent in Taipeh, and still nothing done as regards dredging. In Anping matters are far worse; ocean steamers cannot enter the port at all, having to anchor about four miles off in the roadstead, and in stormy weather not even that, while communication with the port is totally interrupted.

M. H. W.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

The extraordinary interest taken by Russians in the South-African War, and their absolute condemnation of England in connexion with it, continue to be a source of profound astonishment. It is alleged that if any one, a few years ago, had ventured to predict such excitement among the provincial Russians about so remote an event, he would have been considered insane. The press, doubtless, is chiefly responsible for the state of affairs, for in Russia there is no corrective to the press—no public discussions, no frank utterances of statesmen, no parliamentary explanations. Speaking of the Sphinx-like silence always maintained by the Russian Government, the St. Petersburg correspondent of *The Times* says:—

To a great extent this is due to the fact that the Russian Government is not a Cabinet, but one of separate Ministers without cohesion and with widely differing aims. This is a terrible organization, and a powerful and useful method of procedure as regards foreign relations. It makes Russian policy so much easier and puts every other European country at a great disadvantage. When the Imperial intentions are in fact made known to foreign Powers through their representatives in St. Petersburg, as in the recent case of the Tsar's sympathetic assurances to the British Ambassador, the foreign Governments receiving such information seem to be seized by the same Russian desire to keep it dark in spite of the good effect that its disclosure would often produce. We may be pretty sure that had the Emperor's remarks to Sir Charles Scott been openly repeated in an authoritative way or made the subject of a communication in the official or semi-official journals the tone of the Russian Press in regard to the South African war would have been very different from the actual one, and certain lamentable incidents between Englishmen and Russians, the latter wearing his Majesty's uniform, would most probably have not occurred. In no other country is *suprema lex regis voluntas* as true and applicable as it is in Russia when once the will of the Monarch is properly made known.

The same correspondent makes the following interesting comments with regard to the rumours which recently attributed warlike intentions to Russia and credited her, at the same time, with having taken the initiative in refusing to hamper England's action in South Africa:—

It is difficult to understand what can be meant by the statement, published in London and reproduced here, pointing out that England is indebted chiefly to Russia that there has been no diplomatic interference in South African affairs. This is specially absurd after the declaration of a French Minister that Russia had taken no steps whatever in the matter. There has certainly been some reason for mistrust in the suspicious military movements and preparations in Southern Russia and near the Afghan frontier, but this may in a great measure be due to the peculiar circumstances which I have tried to explain above. In any case the name of General Kuropatkin, the War Minister, has in consequence become almost synonymous with hostility towards England.

This is, of course, an exaggeration like certain other circumstantial details about the same personage which have gone the round of the London Press. What is certainly true is that General Kuropatkin's whole career has been intimately connected with Russian advances and military plans in Central Asia. Having been the *alter ego* of Skobeleff, he inherits all the traditions of that famous officer, while possessing a much cooler and more calculating temperament. He has the most definite schemes for the future of the territories bordering on the Indian Empire, and his chief attention appears to be turned in that direction. Of all the War Ministers that Russia has ever had he is the most important as regards England, either for peace or war on the Indian borders. People here now talk of the defeat of the Kuropatkin party—that is, the military party—since it is seen at last that nothing serious was ever intended. What, however, many persons fail to appreciate is that Russia is a far more military State than even Germany. Russian writers, who formerly complained of German militarism, always ignored the fact that there was much more real militarism in their own country. This they were bound to do by the Press regulations, but in support of the truth of the assertion I need only point to the circumstance that the whole of the civil administration, in nearly all the principal Russian provinces in Europe as well as in Asia, is under the supreme control of military governors. In such a state of things there are nearly always military movements and experiments going on somewhere over the vast expanse of the Empire, and those are very liable to be misinterpreted by persons who take too narrow a view of Russian affairs. The other day a friend showed me a letter from a very large employer of labour at Moscow, stating with some expression of alarm that over 1,000 of his workmen who belonged to the army reserve had received orders to be ready to rejoin the ranks. He had evidently not seen a recently-published order calling out certain classes of reserve men for annual training. In the same way the military movements southward, and consequent delay caused on the railway, are, no doubt, preparations in view of the approaching manœuvres on a large scale in which General Kuropatkin himself is to take a command. They may also have something to do with the visit which the Emperor and Empress will probably make to Livadia, in the Crimea, after Easter. At the present moment the Paul Regiment of Foot Guards in St. Petersburg is fully mobilized, and the space in front of their barracks is crowded with carts loaded with baggage and fodder for their marching out in complete campagning equipment.

Concerning Russia's answer to the appeal made by the Boer Republics, *The Times* correspondent says:—

The Russian Foreign Office has sent an answer to the Boer appeal for intervention in terms very similar to these used in the replies of the other Great Powers. I understand that it most resembles the reply of Holland. It endeavours to show the greatest possible sympathy with the Boers and the greatest possible regret at being unable, in the circumstances, to comply with their request. Had Presidents Kruger and Steyn applied to the Powers first before telegraphing to Lord Salisbury, there is some reason to believe that the British Government would have been approached on behalf of the belligerent Republics. Undoubtedly the result would have been the same, but after the categorical and irrevocable statement made in Lord Salisbury's answer to Mr. Kruger it was impossible for any of the Governments to take the matter up in the face of that decision.

The *Vostotchny Viestnik*, a Vladivostock journal, publishes the following:—

"About the end of December last the various station authorities received written instructions to examine and *viśé* the permits of residence of all Chinese living at the stations and in the various small villages near them, and to detain and conduct to the headquarters of the district all who were unable to produce the necessary papers. A large number of dwellings occupied by Chinese workmen engaged in the construction of roads are scattered throughout the district. Acting on the instructions received by them, the authorities caused several of these dwellings to be completely surrounded, after which 130 Chinese who were found to be without passports were summarily arrested and escorted to the chief of the Cossack district in Poltavka. The matter would apparently have ended there had not the local Cossacks determined to make the most of the opportunity presented them by the enforced absence of the rightful owners, who had just been drafted off under arrest. The Ataman of the village of the Andrevka, in company with a band of Cossacks and a Tchinovnik, made a nocturnal descent on the dwelling of a comparatively well-to-do Chinese contractor on the very evening of the day of the arrest of its owner, and, after demanding and obtaining spirits and beer, took possession of the house. Under the pretext of searching for arms, the Cossacks then broke open a chest, demolished everything that they could lay their hands on under the very eyes of the Chinese, who stood by helpless and terror-stricken, and eventually took their leave. The same thing was repeated in other places, with the result that the predatory conduct of the Cossack band had at last to be brought to the notice of the chief Russian judicial authorities in the Far East.

The methods of Nihilism are very terrible. Recently the Russian police discovered the secret printing press of the Nihilist journal *Rabotonik* at Lodz in Poland. The plant was seized and seven arrests were made, five being labourers, one a student, and one a woman. Nevertheless a new number of the journal appeared. It gave the name of the working man who had betrayed the hiding place of the paper. Shortly afterwards he was found stabbed to death in the street.

We have so often had occasion to refer to utterances of the European press hostile to Great Britain that it is pleasant to be able to reproduce the following from the *Novosti*:—

"It is only a few short weeks since the leading papers on the Continent were demonstrating that, as sure as twice two are four, the English must prepare themselves for serious misfortune in the shape of the capitulation of Ladysmith and Kimberley, since the catastrophe was unavoidable. After the relief of these fortresses, however, and the surrender of Cronje and his army these same strategists undertook to show that the difficulties awaiting the English force between Kimberley and Bloemfontein were so great as to be insuperable, *ergo* Great Britain would be only too glad to come to terms before reaching Bloemfontein. How far these predictions have been verified by results may be judged from to-day's laconic telegram announcing that French has already entered Bloemfontein. We are certain that the cost of the campaign between Bloemfontein and Pretoria will be a heavy one to the English, but we decline to give ourselves up to illusions merely on this score. That the Boers themselves are now thoroughly undeceived with regard to the final result of the war is shown by the telegram announcing that Kruger has put himself in communication with the Consular representatives of Germany, Holland, and the United States with the object of obtaining the interference of their Governments in order to hasten a conclusion of peace. As far as Germany is concerned, it is evident that the Boers have nothing to hope for in that quarter, and as for interference on the part

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of President McKinley, or Queen Wilhelmina, it is difficult to conceive how the request can lead to anything, for the very simple reason that the proposal emanated from only one of the belligerents. The German Emperor, at any rate, reasonably supposes that it is a *sine qua non* before offering his services that both sides should be parties to the proposal. But England has no intention whatever of referring herself to any outsider in the matter, and reckons on concluding peace only on such terms as it will suit herself as conqueror to ratify. Kruger's efforts on the one hand, and the readiness of the neutral Powers to meet his wishes on the other, will hardly stop the march of events. England's wish is to conclude peace nowhere short of Pretoria, and just at the moment we have good ground for supposing that she will get what she wants."

Another leading Russian journal says :—

"The reply of the British Government to the telegram of Kruger and Steyn is the event of importance at the moment. It was not difficult to forecast what its tenor would be. In the British Ministry are men for whom the prospect of a fight "to the last drop of blood" has no terrors, just as the prophecy of President Kruger that the Boers would experience final defeat only after sacrifices which would "stagger the whole universe," failed to strike terror into them. They are men who know the value of oracular bombast and have not forgotten how the French would entertain the idea of peace with the Germans only on the imperative condition that the latter should appropriate "neither a single mètre of French territory nor a stone of a French fortress." They are firm in the belief that now, as in the time of Napoleon I., God is on the side of the big battalions, and refuse to allow the very idea of the continuity of the independence of the South African Republics to enter into their reckoning. "Ground arms, and ground them unconditionally," is the demand of the English nation. It is quite possible that the demand will, for a time, at any rate, rouse the Boers to a vigorous opposition, and that blood will continue to be shed with a lavishness born of exasperation. But in the end the big battalions will accomplish their task, and accomplish it, in all probability, with despatch. What the Boers are capable of we have seen already, and the fact is undeniable that the universe has so far marvelled alike at their valour and their ability. At the same time we must not forget the object lesson we have received of British capacity. A demand for unconditional surrender, if really tendered, will, without a doubt, evoke an outburst of anger throughout the whole of Europe. Moreover, it would deserve it, for such a demand would be tendered without any necessity, and solely with the object of smoothing the ruffled plumage of an egotistical, though by no means numerically significant, section of the British community."

As an example of the aspirations of the forward party in Russia, the following is translated from the *Sviet* by the Odessa correspondent of *The Times* :—

"The settling down of English subjects in Baluchistan and Southern Persia only serves as an indication of the supreme shamelessness of the English nation, which desires to appropriate everything to itself. The English forget that the stretch of territory to the south of Russia right down to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, between the degrees of longitude corresponding to the position, on the west, of Batum, and on the east, of Samarkand, is a sphere of influence indubitably Russian. In this region whole kingdoms, such as Persia, Afghanistan, and others, might exist and continue with us in the closest bonds of friendship. Besides ourselves no one can preserve these possessions, and neither the English nor the Germans can in any circumstances be permitted entrance into this region, a sphere of influence which is absolutely and naturally ours. In spite of this, cases of arbitary incursion and tent-pitching in these localities are constantly being brought to our notice; for example, according to information recently received, the English agents in Nuski, in Baluchistan, and in Kirman, in Persia, have established a postal service between these towns, and are now engaged in the construction of a telegraph line in addition to despatching caravans and making preparations for the construction of a railroad. It is really impossible to countenance other people's disposition of themselves in territory which at an early date in the century will constitute the principal outlet for the whole of the economic life of Russia and the fount of all her international relations.

"It is no longer a matter for doubt that the *rôle* which will be played by the Indian Ocean in the very near future is the *rôle* which up till now has been played by the Mediterranean. There will be found the great highway of the world; there will be found the main artery of the world's traffic, and can a huge State remain on the byroad? The expulsion in a determined manner of the English who are attempting to root themselves in Baluchistan and Southern Persia is imperative. It is high time to found in these regions a free Cossack settlement which will allow no arbitrary action on the part of the British, and which will open out new national paths for the future, as was opportunely done in Siberia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. It was in this manner that the dwellers in the regions beyond the confines of the Empire made a road for themselves to the Black Sea, the inhabitants of the Don region to the Sea of Azoff, the inhabitants of the Urals to the Caspian, and the Cossacks of Siberia to the great Pacific Ocean. At the present moment a consciousness of its national requirements is deep-rooted in the Russian people, whose vital activity, far from exhausted, seeks only a straightforward and valorous issue."

AN OPINION FROM WITHIN.

As a contribution to the discussion that has taken place, and is still taking place, with respect to the responsibility for the South-African War, the following may be commended to the attention of some of our recent correspondents :—

Mr. H. M. Arderne writes from Cape Town :—"The public of England, especially the religious public, have such erroneous ideas on the subject of the Boer war that any genuine statement of the real facts of the case coming from a trustworthy source should be hailed with satisfaction, more especially when the facts come to us not from one of ourselves, but from the enemy's camp. I have much pleasure, therefore, in enclosing a remarkable letter from the Rev. A. A. van der Lingen, the pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church of Harrismith, in the Orange Free State, who some time ago was a candidate for the President's chair of the said State. The letter appeared in a late issue of the *Cape Times*, and created considerable impression here and was read with deep interest. It may be of some interest to your readers to know that nearly every minister of the Gospel in South Africa, numbering over 600 (excluding the Dutch Church), and representing Anglo-Episcopal, Scotch Presbyterian, Wesleyan Church, Baptist Church, Congregational Church, and the London Missionary Society, including the Rev. Dr. Stuart, of Lovedale, and the Rev. J. S. Moffat, of Kuruman, cordially endorse the sentiments of this letter and strongly support Sir A. Milner in his policy."

The following passages from Mr. van der Lingen's letter, which is dated February 2, will show the character of the advice he gave. Their leaders, he told the Free State burghers, were bringing them to degradation and ruin :—"They never consulted you, and they alone are responsible for this unholy and wicked war. Without just cause they made you go forth and fight, and then left you without the bare necessaries of life to endure untold hardships and suffer sacrifice and death. Why? You know full well that your country's independence was Great Britain's holy bond. Your leaders, however, wilfully treated her with the utmost contempt and insolence. But she loved you, and fain would not believe you could be so ungrateful as to hate her. She is in sorrow for you. Her shelter and protection she has ever extended to you, and her heart bleeds from the ingratitude with which you have so unkindly stabbed her. You had Sir Alfred Milner's assurance—or, rather, it was given to President Steyn—that in the event of neutrality your country would be respected. But, forsooth, it was your Government that declared war; and be it remembered that without your Government's co-operation war would, no doubt, have been averted. No! Your leaders had not the welfare of your country at heart. They were victims to the influences of motives of individual gain. Greed of filthy lucre represented their better parts. . . . Do you not know that thousands of your own kith and kin are enjoying in Natal and Cape Colony a full and perfect measure of equity and justice which, as administered by Great Britain, is unparalleled in the world for perfection? . . . The President is reported to have said 'that the Lord will never permit the subjection of the Afrikander by the English.' Subject, indeed! In all fairness I ask you has England ever threatened the Afrikander with subjection? When, where, and how? I should need have to pause for reply. Truly the reverse of subjection has been my happy experience. Has England put any obstacles in the way of your kith and kin entering Parliament in Natal or the Cape? Politically the English and Dutch are on the same footing entirely. Free liberty of the Press is given alike, and in every walk of life there is no preference given to the Englishman over the Afrikander. The Chief Judge of Cape Colony, Sir Henry de Villiers, is an Afrikander, and, moreover, is a Privy Councillor of her Majesty Queen Victoria. England has never suppressed the Afrikander. His schools, colleges, and seminaries are properly supported by England all round in the Cape Colony and Natal. Alas! in the face of England's magnanimity and liberality President Steyn turned his back and in his inferences as respect that country the shameful mendacity of the man is glaringly revealed. . . . Fellow countrymen and burghers, it is in your interest and it is your holy duty as burghers of the State, as members, too, of a Christian Church, and so responsible to your God for your manhood, to repudiate the action of your leaders, who are daily leading you further to the brink of total disaster. Take the friendly hand that Great Britain will for your shaking never withdraw. The greatest civilizing Power that the world has ever seen is built on the foundation of peace and good-will among men. Come to her and all will be well with you."

THE EDITOR AND THE LITTERATEUR.

Professor Mathews, in the *Forum*, writes thus to prove his thesis that journalism and literature are incompatible and almost hostile the one to the other :—

"The man of letters is almost the exact antithesis of the newspaper man. He seeks above all things to express himself—to give form to a something within him that is striving to be born, to body forth his own vision of life, to record once for all his own understanding of the universe. He toils joyfully, without haste and without rest, never quitting his work till he has done his best by it, until at last he knows it to be as perfect as he can make it, however dissatisfied he may remain with his final achievement. The object of his effort may seem but a trifle—a little lyric or the briefest of short stories; yet he never relaxes his standard, believing that the Tanagra figurines called for as keen a conscience in the artist as the Attic marbles themselves. Though he may work swiftly when the mood is on him and the Muse inspires, he is never in a hurry. And where the journalist writes every night what must be forgotten before the next new moon, the man of letters may keep to himself what he has done, even for seven years, as Horace advised; and in all that time again and again he may bestow on it ungrudgingly the loving labour of the file.

"Thus we see that journalism is a craft while literature is an art; and that the two callings are almost irreconcilable. The practise of one of them tends to unfit a man for the practise of the other. There are journalists, not a few, who have become men of letters, and there are men of letters who have gone on newspapers; but I can not recall the name of any man who won equal fame in both vocations. Bryant was a poet who was also the chief editorial writer of a daily newspaper; and one of his biographers tells us how careful Bryant was to do all his journalistic writing in the office of the paper itself, leaving his own home free from any taint of contemporary pressure. And there is an anecdote of Bryant that illuminates the conditions of journalism. A friend repeatedly urged him to advocate a certain cause, and supplied him with facts and arguments in its behalf. Finally, an article appeared, and Bryant asked his friend if it was not satisfactory—if it was not good? The friend responded at once that the article was too good altogether, too complete, too final, since Bryant had said in it all he had to say on the subject, and, therefore, would not recur to it again, whereas what his friend had wanted was, that the editor should take up the case and keep on writing about it, day in and day out, until he had really aroused public interest in it."

THE MACRUM CASE.

The Macrum case has ended in a fiasco. Mr. Macrum was formerly United States Consul at Pretoria. He left his post because, as he alleged, his mails had been opened by the English authorities. His examination before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives had this result :—

He said that he understood, while he was at Pretoria, that the British were in possession of the United States cable ciphers. He could not affirm that fact from actual knowledge, but on November 6 he cabled to the State Department in cipher asking for leave. His message passed through Durban. He was informed on the following day that a newspaper at Durban had printed the facts that he had requested leave of absence. The message was sent in the State Department cipher of the Slatter code. He did not know whether the report of the publication of his application was accurate; he himself never saw it. The first actual evidence of the opening of his mail was the receipt of two opened letters. He did not inform the State Department that his mail had been opened. A letter from Mr. Hay to the committee was read, in which the Secretary of State said that Mr. Macrum had made no representations regarding the opening of his mail. Nevertheless, Mr. Hay mentioned the matter to Lord Pauncefote, who was afterwards informed from London that the British Government was not aware of any such inci-

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dent, and that if it had occurred what had been done was contrary to instructions.

On March 21, Mr. Stowe, United States Consul at Cape Town, informed Mr. Hay that two letters from the Consulate General at Cape Town, one to Pretoria and the other to Lorenzo Marques, had been opened by the censor at Durban. Sir Alfred Milner afterwards offered a very satisfactory apology.

The committee took no action with reference to the making of a report. Members of the committee state that nothing is to be done beyond the taking of testimony. Mr. Macrum's case fell flat and failed to impress the committee favourably.

The New York *Times* comments thus upon the incident :—

"Poor Macrum! Thanks to the mistaken kindness of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in assuming that the ex-consul's requests for an investigation of his charges were sincere, his microscopic wrongs and his mountainous follies are now public property. The result is that the final condemnation of his course, long held back by the hope that the man had some slight excuse, other than treachery or cowardice, for his flight from his post of duty, will at last be pronounced by his countrymen, and the best he can expect hereafter, even from the most charitable of them, is contemptuous pity. And really it was a pathetic exhibition that he made of himself when the opportunity which he had so often asked and so adroitly evaded was, to his obvious dismay, actually forced upon him, and he had to tell the ridiculous trifles out of which he and a few sensational newspapers had tried to manufacture an international grievance. All he could say was that two entirely unimportant letters had been opened by mistake, and that an unnamed person had seen in an unnamed paper a bit of worthless information that might or might not have been secured through the deciphering of a code despatch! Such, when reduced to the bare facts, was the mystery the elucidation of which was to set two great nations by the ears, sustain Macrum's claim to the honours of martyrdom, and convict the President and his Cabinet of base subservience to perfidious Albion. Fortunately for the ex-consul, it is easier to laugh at the outcome of the inquiry than it is to work up effective anger over his past misbehaviour."

LORD ROBERTS' CRITICISMS.

SEVERE REMARKS ON WARREN AND BULLER.

London, April 17.

The War Office to-night publishes in the *Gazette* a despatch from Lord Roberts, dated February 13th, submitting General Buller's despatches describing the Spion Kop and other operations from January 17th to January 24th.

Lord Roberts deals severely with General Warren and some others. Even General Buller does not escape. Lord Roberts complains that the plan of operations is not clearly described in the despatches. After stating General Buller's intentions as communicated to Sir Charles Warren, who commanded the whole force, Lord Roberts points out that Sir Charles Warren seems to have concluded, after consultation with his officers, that the flanking movement ordered by General Buller was impracticable, and therefore so changed the plan of advance as to necessitate the capture and retention of Spion Kop.

Lord Roberts continues :—"As General Warren considered it impossible to make the wide flanking movement which was recommended, if not actually prescribed in the secret instructions, he should forthwith have acquainted General Buller with the course he proposed to adopt. There is nothing to show whether he did so or not. But it is only fair to General Warren to point out that General Buller appears throughout to have been aware of what was happening."

Regarding the withdrawal from Spion Kop, the retention of which had become essential to the relief of Ladysmith, Lord Roberts says :—"I regret to be unable to concur with General Buller in thinking that Colonel Thorneycroft exercised wise discretion in ordering the troops to retire. I am of the opinion that Colonel Thorneycroft's assumption of responsibility and authority was wholly inexcusable. During the night the enemy's fire could not have been formidable, and it would not have taken more than two or three hours for Colonel Thorneycroft to communicate by messenger with Major-General Coke or General Warren. General Coke appears to have left Spion Kop at 9.30 p.m. for the purpose of consulting with General Warren. Up to that hour the idea of withdrawal had not been entertained. Yet, almost immediately after General Coke's departure, Colonel Thorneycroft issued the order without reference to the superior authority, which upset the whole plan of operations and rendered unavailing the sacrifices already made to carry it into effect. On the other hand, it is only right to state that Colonel Thorneycroft appears to have behaved in a very gallant manner throughout the day."

General Buller's report, commenting on General Warren's reports of the capture and evacuation of Spion Kop, after disputing the correctness of some of General Warren's assertions, and describing some of the dangerous situations occupied by General Warren's force, tells how he saw that the force at Spion Kop had given way on it. General Buller therefore telegraphed to General Warren :—"Unless you put a really good, hard fighting man in command on top you will lose the hill. I suggest Colonel Thoneycroft."

General Roberts continues :—"I have not thought it necessary to order an investigation. If at sundown the defence of summit had been taken in hand, entrenchments laid out, and the dead and wounded removed, the whole place would have been brought under regular military command and the hills would have been held, I am sure. But no arrangements were made. General Coke appears to have been ordered away just as he would have been useful, and no one succeeded him. Those on top were ignorant of the fact that the guns were coming up, and generally there was a want of organisation and system, that acted most unfavourably on the defence. It is admitted that all of Colonel Thorneycroft's command acted with the greatest gallantry throughout the day, and really saved the situation. But preparations for the second day's defence should have been organised during the day and commenced at night-fall. As this was not done, I think Colonel Thorneycroft exercised wise direction.

It is regretted that General Warren did not himself visit Spion Kop in the afternoon or evening, knowing as he did that the loss of the position would involve the failure of the operations. He consequently was obliged to summon General Coke to headquarters and the command at Spion Kop thus devolved on Colonel Thorneycroft, unknown to General Coke, who was under the impression that the command devolved upon Colonel Hill, as senior adviser. Offences or mistakes of this nature may be trivial in themselves, yet they may exercise an important influence upon the course of events, and I believe General Buller was justified in the conviction that there was a want of organisation and system which acted most unfavorably on the defence.

The attempt to relieve Ladysmith was well devised, and I agree with General Buller in thinking it ought to have succeeded. That it failed may in some measure have been due to the difficulties of the ground and the commanding positions held by the enemy, and probably also to errors of judgment and want of administrative capacity on the part of General Warren. But whatever faults General Warren may have committed the failure must also be attributed to the disinclination of the officer in supreme command to assert his authority, and see that what he thought best was done, and also to the unwarrantable and needless assumption of responsibility by a subordinate officer."

The despatch concludes :—"The gratifying feature of these despatches is the admirable behaviour of the troops throughout the operation."

In a long editorial, *The Daily News* speaks of the "somewhat appalling language," of Lord Roberts's despatch, and then goes on to say :—"Upon the whole, these despatches are disquieting and disheartening in no ordinary degree. Following immediately upon the recall of General Gatacre, they will create a wide-spread feeling of uneasiness and anxiety."

The *Standard*, which is supposed to be in the confidence of the Government, says :—"It is scarcely likely that the publication of Lord Roberts' despatches, is without a purpose. It irresistibly suggests whether it is not to be followed by further important changes in South African commanders. Painful as such measures may be, there must be no hesitation in clearing them out."

Colonel Crofton, who was in command at Spion Kop from the time General Woodgate was wounded until Thorneycroft was appointed to the position, and whose heliograph messages to General Warren caused General Buller to appoint Colonel Thorneycroft to the command, was placed on half-pay to-day. Private information received from Shrewsbury to-day is to the effect that General Gatacre is leaving South Africa this week to resume command of a local district.

THE SURRENDER OF CRONJE.

(FROM THE "TIMES CORRESPONDENT.")

Paardeberg, March 3.

From the reports of scouts and deserters and from such observation as is possible from a balloon, supplemented by the stories of prisoners and careful inspection of the laager, this account of the last stand of the great Boer general is compiled. Written within four days of the surrender, and on the spot, it cannot, perhaps, be claimed that accuracy in details has been always secured, but the following is substantially a true history of the internal history of that brief resistance.

On Sunday, February 18, Cronje realized that the trap in which he found himself had no outlet. With the instinctive knowledge of an able general, he recognized that not a kopje ringing the even plain that gently shelved down to the river bed in which he found himself was without its hidden complement of troops, and that the escape of any considerable force even by night was, without outside relief, an impossibility. He was in possession of perhaps a mile of the river bed on either side of the Wolveskraal Drift, with the 19th Brigade of the English troops intrenched and sapping up towards him from the west and General Tucker's division slowly encroaching from the east.

To the south he was exposed to continual bombardment from the field guns massed on Gun Hill at a range of hardly more than a mile; from the north he received the shell of the naval guns and another battery of howitzers. It is said that he deliberately retreated into the river in order to try again the tactics that might, if vigorously persevered in, have beaten off Lord Methuen's column at Modder River; that he expected a general advance from all sides, and relied with some reason upon having ample men, rifles, and ammunition to man the line of trenches which he hastily threw up. But the more probable solution of his having entered this *cul de sac* is simply that he had no option. To retreat further was impossible, and defence for even three days was equally out of the question except in a position where water could be obtained. It is difficult to say what expectation of relief he had. Heliographic communication from one of the hills of the Petrusberg range, 20 miles to the south-west, undoubtedly reached him, as that communication was resumed after our occupation of the laager, but no signalling apparatus was found there after the surrender and the value of a one-sided conversation by heliograph is very small. His stores were terribly deficient in everything but ammunition; wagons containing provisions had been outspanned and abandoned during the retreat to help those containing munitions of war, and the actual supply of food was not more than sufficient to last a week. The presence of a few women and children added to his difficulties, and with the gravest misgivings he ordered Monday, February 19, to be spent in preparing a system of trenches that deserves more than a passing mention.

Reference to the map will show the general disposition of the earthworks, but the skill with which they were constructed as defences against both rifle and shell fire is worthy of the highest praise. All except those of the outer lines of pickets were made so narrow and deep that it seems as though they were in many cases entered from one end rather than the top, as any such ingress must, even in a week's time, have considerably widened the neck of the excavation. At the top they are, perhaps, 18in. wide, at the bottom about 3ft., and by crouching down the most complete protection is afforded from bursting shell.

Every natural protection, such as the ramification of the dongas which eat into the banks on both sides of the river, had been utilized, though the bombardment from both sides compelled them to abandon their first hasty breastworks cut into the actual top of the bank, which is here from about 50 to 100 yards from the river itself, and 30ft. in height.

For the first time here the "T" trenches, of which much has been said during the present campaign, were used. Frankly, they do not seem to present the least advantage over the ordinary shapes except that in an exposed angle they may provide additional protection against an enfilading fire.

The Red House—a kind of dak-bungalow which is found near every drift in South Africa—was used as Cronje's headquarters. Here his wife slept, though during the daytime she joined the women in the carefully-made shelter constructed for them. Albrecht probably remained in the northern intrenchments with the guns, though the ammunition for the Krupp guns ran out on Tuesday. Speaking of his experiences in the trenches, he says that one of our lyddite shells, burst within five yards of him, covering him with dirt and leaving a foul taste in his mouth, but otherwise not affecting him, even to the extent of knocking him down.

It is extraordinary that so few should have attempted to escape. Burnham, the well-known American scout, who for several nights crept up to the very trenches on either side of the river under cover of the scanty scrub, reports the "spoor" of only three or four deserters a night, of whom quite half must have been secured by our outposts and sentries.

Tuesday, the 20th, was marked by the severest bombardment of the entire investment, and a Boer doctor describes the position as awful. Nothing could be done but crouch in the trenches and wait till dusk prevented further attack, while wagon after wagon in the laager caught fire and burnt away into a heap of scrap iron amid a pile of wood ashes. The desolation produced was fearful, and it soon became impossible to make any reply. The losses inflicted upon the horses were the turning-point of the siege. So enormous a proportion (estimated by some at 75 per cent. of the total number present) of the horses, for which no protection could be made,

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were lost that any dash for freedom by night was impossible, and the condition of the laager rapidly became so foul that that alone, apart from the want of food, would have compelled an early surrender. There was no opportunity of getting rid of the vast number of dead animals; burial was impossible, and the low state of the river prevented them from sending them down stream for several days; all they could do was to drag them to leeward of their camp. Meanwhile decomposition set in, and the absolute need of clean air caused a serious rebellion in the camp, most of the 4,000 men demanding that surrender should be made at once. When on Sunday, the 25th, the flood brought down past our lines an unending series of dead animals that cannot have been less than 1,500 or 2,000, the desperate straits of the enemy were apparent indeed.

More to get rid of this plague than for the ostensible reason, General Cronje sent in asking for a day's armistice to bury his dead. Lord Roberts, suspecting that the delay was asked for merely to give time for the relieving force of Boers to come up, refused it, offering in turn to send doctors to look after the sick and wounded. This offer, though subsequently accepted in a modified form, was refused, and Cronje, criticizing our Field-Marshal's attitude as "inhuman," closed his letter with the words, "Under the circumstances I have no other choice." By this the Boer commander merely meant that he had no option but to continue the struggle, but the mistake of an interpreter led to its being regarded as an offer of surrender. An answer framed on this misunderstanding led to an indignant refusal by Cronje, who announced his intention of holding out till we should take the position by storm.

As a matter of fact a day's grace was given the besieged force, and the active bombardment only began after the triple assault of small bodies of Boers, amounting in all to perhaps 4,000, on Wednesday and and Thursday from the Kameelfontein, Osfontein, and Poplar Farm directions.

Hopelessness now settled down upon the imprisoned Boers, and among the arguments used to lessen Cronje's authority was that he had wilfully suppressed Lord Robert's offer of safe-conduct to the women and children before the bombardment was begun. Hunger and nausea worked upon the despairing Boers, and all that could be put forward was used to compel Cronje to yield. For one whole day the struggle went on, and then a compromise was arrived at. If no help should have come by Wednesday morning, the 28th, the place should be surrendered, but Cronje, pointing out the abundance of rifles and ammunition, absolutely refused to surrender on the anniversary of Majuba-hill.

From that moment the Boers scarcely obeyed orders. A sharp division between the Transvaalers and the Orange Free State Boers ensued, and the only bond of sympathy that united them, besides their common adversity, was a long-hidden hatred of the Germans in their ranks. Albrecht, who had worked for them faithfully and well, whose orders had been hitherto implicitly obeyed, and to whom indeed the credit of nearly the whole of the successful opposition to the relief column is due, was openly accused of incompetence and even disloyalty. He, in turn, took no pains to conceal his opinion of the fighting powers of the Boers when on equal terms with the enemy, and the breach was complete. Until sunrise on the 27th the state of affairs among the Boers was pitiful. Apart from the ever-increasing hunger, despair of relief, and unhealthiness of the position, mutual recriminations destroyed the last consolation of adversity, good-fellowship, and Cronje sat aloof, silent and unapproachable.

The events of the early morning of the 27th can best be told from outside.

Brigadier-General MacDonald sent from his bed a note to Lord Roberts reminding him that Tuesday was the anniversary of that disaster which, we all remembered, he had by example, order, and threat himself done his best to avert, even while the panic had been at its height; Sir Henry Colvile submitted a suggested attack backed by the same unanswerable plea. For a moment Lord Roberts demurred to the plan; it seemed likely to cost too heavily, but the insistence of Canada broke down his reluctance, and the men of the oldest colony were sent out in the small hours of Tuesday morning to redeem the blot on the name of the mother-country.

From the existing trench, some 700 yards long, on the northern bank held jointly by the Gordons and the Canadians, the latter were ordered to advance in two lines—each, of course, in extended order—30 yards apart, the first with bayonets fixed, the second reinforced by Royal Engineers under Colonel Kincaid and Captain Boileau.

In dead silence and covered by a darkness only faintly illuminated by the merest rim of the dying moon, "with the old moon in her lap," the three companies of Canadians moved on over the bush-strewn ground. For over 400 yards the noiseless advance continued, and when within 80 yards of the Boer trench the trampling of the scrub betrayed the movement. Instantly the outer trench of the Boers burst into fire, which was kept up almost without intermission from five minutes to 3 o'clock to ten minutes past the hour. Under this fire the courage and discipline of the Canadians proved themselves. Flinging themselves on the ground they kept up an incessant fire on the trenches, guided only by the flashes of their enemy's rifles, and the Boers admit that they quickly reduced them to the necessity of lifting their rifles over their heads to the edge of the earthwork and pulling their triggers at random. Behind this line the Engineers did magnificent work; careless of danger the trench was dug from the inner edge of the bank to the crest, and then for 50 or 60 yards out through the scrub. The Canadians retired three yards to this protection and waited for dawn, confident in their new position, which had entered the protected angle of the Boer position, and commanded alike the rifle pits of the banks and the trefoil-shaped embrasures on the north.

Cronje saw that matters were indeed desperate, Many Boers threw up their hands and dashed unarmed across the intervening space; others waved white flags and exposed themselves carelessly on their intrenchment, but not a shot was fired. Colonel Otter and Colonel Kincaid held a hasty consultation, which was disturbed by the sight of Sir Henry Colvile, General of the Ninth Division, quietly riding down within 500 yards of the northern Boer trenches to bring the news that even while the last few shots were being fired a horseman was hurrying in with a white flag and Cronje's unconditional surrender, to take effect at sunrise.

Of the three Canadian companies the foremost, and that which suffered most, was the French company, under Major Pelletier.

Meanwhile, a few formal preliminaries were being arranged at headquarters, and General Pretyman went out with a small escort to meet the Boer commander and his secretary.

Lord Roberts, in the plainest of khaki, without a badge of rank except his Kandahar sword, awaited the arrival of his distinguished prisoner. "Commandant Cronje," was the brief introduction as the Boer swung himself off his white pony, and curtly answering the Field Marshal's salute, shook hands. "I am glad to see you, I am glad to meet so brave a man," was Lord Roberts' brief welcome, and a formal surrender followed, the conversation being interpreted by Cronje's secretary.

The general, a man of few words, sat deeply sunken in his chair with his hands in the pockets of his overcoat, and sullenly regarded the scene. Every consideration was paid him, but until the last was seen of his bulky form driving away to Modder River in the closed carriage which had been provided for him, his set, hardened face only suggested that the bitterest hour of his life was being barely endured by the man whose pluck, whose capacity, and whose straightforwardness we, his enemies, are the first to admit.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICES.)

THE BOER WAR.

THE MILITARY SITUATION.

Shanghai, May 4.

Pending the receipt of further dispatches from Lord Roberts, the military situation is obscure. It appears that a general advance was made on the 30th ult., in the direction of Brandfort, and that it included the brigades of Bruce-Hamilton and Broadwood. The Boers appear to have fallen back, and these Brigades were apparently afterwards ordered to join Ian Hamilton, who was confronted by an unexpectedly large and resolute force of Boers, covering the whole of the Boer retreat.

HAMILTON'S ADVANCE.

Later.

In Hamilton's advance on the 30th ult. five officers were wounded, including Lord Cusington (?)

THE ACTION AT HOUTNEK.

Lord Roberts cables that Hamilton met with considerable success on the 1st of May. He drove the enemy from a strong position at Houtnek. The Boers dispersed to the north and east, leaving 26 prisoners. Hamilton is now at Jacobsdrift. The enemy admit that they had 12 killed and 40 wounded. Twenty-one belonging to the Foreign Legion were wounded. Amongst them was Maximoff, the Russian Commander. The German Lieutenant Gunter and two Frenchmen were killed.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

The Chinese Minister in Berlin has transmitted to the Kaiser the congratulations of the Empress Dowager and the Emperor of China on the occasion of the Crown Prince attaining his majority,

BRANDFORT CAPTURED.

Shanghai, May 5.

The British have captured Brandfort, surprising the Boers, who retired to the north-east. Delarey commanded the Boers.

The Boers have evacuated Thabanchu, trekking north. It is expected that Brabant will join Rundle at Thabanchu immediately,

THE 1,000 GUINEAS.

The result of the Thousand Guineas Stakes is Winifreda first, Inquisitive second, and Vain Duchess third.

HAMILTON.

Shanghai, May 6.

Hamilton advanced to Welkot and engaged the enemy throughout his march. Welkot is not mentioned in the maps.

THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING.

Roberts reports that Hunter has carried the passage of the Vaal at Windsorton unopposed. This is the first indication that Hunter had started to relieve Mafeking.

JAPANESE PRINCES AT WINDSOR.

Princes Kotohito and Iwakura of Japan visited the Queen at Windsor yesterday, and slept at the Castle.

THE "KOWSHING" CASE.

In the House of Commons Mr. Brodrick stated that the *Kowshing* case will be submitted to the arbitration of an eminent foreign jurist.

CHINESE REFORMERS.

There is no reason to suppose that the Chinese Government comtemplates the execution of the reformers mentioned in the *China Herald.*

GENERAL OTIS RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND.

Otis has been relieved of his command in the Phillipines. MacArthur succeeds him.

PRINCE KANIN.

Later.

Prince Kanin has visited the Prince of Wales.

EXPELLED FROM THE TRANSVAAL.

Five hundred expelled British subjects of all classes, mostly women and children, have arrived at Lourenzo Marques.

THE DREIBUND.

The Austrian Emperor is at Berlin attending the festivities in honour of the majority of the Crown Prince. The Kaiser, in proposing his health, said that his visit showed the world how firm and sure the alliance between Germany, Austria, and Italy still is.

THE PASSAGE OF THE VAAL.

Shanghai, May 7.

Barton's Brigade, with whom is Hunter commanding the Division, has crossed the Vaal at Windsorton. The Boers are trekking north and Barton is pursuing.

THE BRITISH ADVANCE.

Later.

Lord Roberts wires that he arrived on Saturday within 3 miles of the Vet River. The enemy in considerable strength held the

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opposite bank. Our guns engaged theirs for three hours without being able to force a passage, but at dusk Hulton with the mounted infantry dashingly turned the enemy's right and crossed under a heavy fire. We are now bivouacking for the night three miles from the River. Hamilton on Friday prevented the junction of two Boer forces, inflicting heavy loss on the enemy, who fled leaving their dead and wounded.

BARTON BEYOND THE VAAL.

Barton was heavily engaged on Saturday to the north of Ruidot (?)

LORD ROBERTS' ADVANCE.

Shanghai, May 8.

Lord Roberts telegraphed from Smaldeel Junction, on Sunday afternoon, that he crossed the Vet river that morning, and is now encamped at the junction. The enemy are in full retreat toward the Zand river and Kroonstadt. Our losses are trifling.

THE ASHANTEE REBELLION.

10,000 rebels attacked Coomassie fort from the 25th to the 29th April. Two officers were wounded and 14 Houssas killed and wounded. The Lagos constabulary arrived at Coomassie on the 29th April after two days' severe fighting with 8,000 rebels. They had 5 officers and 159 of the constabulary wounded.

BOERS EXPELLED FROM FOURTEEN STREAMS.

Later.

The Boers have been expelled from Fourteen Streams. The British encamped on the Northern bank after defeating the enemy on the 4th inst.

HUNTER JOINS WITH PAGET.

Hunter has joined hands with Paget at Warrenton.

THABANCHU.

The enemy have retired from an exceedingly strong position in front of Thabanchu, and Rundle has occupied it.

MAFEKING.

Shanghai, May 9.

A message from Mafeking dated the 22nd ult. says that the place can hold out as required with care.

[Note—Lord Roberts has asked the garrison to hold out till May 24th, if possible.—Ed. *J.M.*]

A message from Plumer's camp, dated the 26th, says that the Boers at Mafeking have been gradually reinforced, and are now estimated at 3,000. Plumer has communicated with Mafeking by pigeon.

NATAL.

The cavalry operating in Natal in the direction of Van Reenan's Pass found the country clear of Boers.

WINBURG OCCUPIED.

Later.

The Highland Brigade occupies Winburg. Brabant has joined Rundle at Thabanchu. Hutton has reached Wellgellagen station and reports that the Boers intend to make a big stand at the Zand river.

[Note—Wellgellagen station is 14 miles north of Smaldell.—Ed. *J.M.*]

MAFEKING HOLDING OUT.

Reuters' agent telegraphing from Mafeking under date of the 28th April, says that in spite of daily decreasing rations and a slight outbreak of typhoid, the garrison is determined to resist for another six weeks.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France.)

THE FIRST OF MAY IN FRANCE.

Saigon, May 3.

The 1st of May passed everywhere amid the greatest calm.

PEST.

Cases of Pest are announced at Aden and Port Said.

EXPLOSION IN A MINE.

An explosion has occurred in the Schofield Mines at Utah. There were 220 killed.

THABANCHU.

Saigon, May 4.

Lord Roberts telegraphs that Hamilton's Division defeated and dispersed the Boers in the neighbourhood of Thabanchu on the 1st of May. The Boers had 12 killed, 41 wounded, and 26 prisoners. Some skirmishes have taken place on the south of Brandfort.

COLONIAL AFFAIRS.

Saigon, May 5.

Several decrees have been issued, reorganizing the personnel of the French Colonial Governors and Colonial Administrators.

BRANDFORT.

The English have occupied Brandfort after a feeble resistance by the Boers.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

Saigon, May 6.

A telegram from Berlin says that the Emperor of Austria has arrived there to take part in the celebrations connected with the coming of age of the Crown Prince. The speeches made by the two Emperors asserted the solidarity of the Triple Alliance, which had for its sole object the maintenance of peace.

THE WAR.

Saigon, May 7.

Lord Roberts' despatches show that the English are advancing all along the line. Roberts in the centre has arrived on the banks of the River Vet. Hamilton operates on the right, Hunter on the left. The Boers resist strongly.

FRENCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Saigon, May 8.

The municipal elections have taken place in perfect quiet. Some disturbances occurred in the provinces, especially at Romans. Eight new Nationalists were elected in Paris; among them, Messrs. Barillier, Méry, Galli, and Lepelletier.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The English have crossed the River Vet after a sharp engagement. The Boers are concentrating on Kroonstadt.

THE WAR.

Saigon, May 9.

The English have occupied Fourteen Streams on the north of the Vaal river, and also Winberg. The Boers are preparing to make a vigorous resistance at the Zand river.

DISTURBANCES AT WEI-HAI-WEI.

British Officers Wounded.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, May 8.

The Boundary Commission, which has been engaged in delimitating the borders of the leased territory at Wei-hei-wei, have been attacked by hostile villagers. Major Penrose and Captain Pereira were wounded. Thirty natives were killed in the sequel of the affair. The Chinese regiment behaved splendidly.

PRINCE BROGLIE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Hakodate, May 6.

Prince Broglie arrived here on board his yacht *Victoria* this morning. He will leave for Vladivostock the day after to-morrow.

BANK OF JAPAN.

Banking Account.

On Saturday, May 5th:—

Dr.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,508,215
Amount of convertible notes issued	205,584,310
Government deposits	62,292,581
General deposits	8,898,386
Exchange liability	13,078
Total	323,357,588

Cr.	
Discount notes	72,257,595
Foreign discount notes	12,861,034
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,806,314
Exchange liability	2,004,664
Government bonds	54,155,211
Property	2,051,911
Bullion and Specie	89,220,857
Total	323,357,588

Issue Account.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	209,729,091
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	83,977,431
Silver	4,000,000
Total	87,977,431
Securities:—	
Government bonds	18,796,088
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,010,218
Commercial notes	69,895,324
Total	121,751,660

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve:—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	1,507,688
Silver	—	—
General loans	1,008,554	—
Government deposits	—	594,855
General deposits	2,388,747	—

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	F. May 11
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg 2	Sa. May 12
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 3	M. May 14
Hongkong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Th. May 17
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Salazie 4	Th. May 17
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. May 21
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. May 21
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 5	Tu. May 22
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th. May 24
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	Th. May 24
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	W. May 30

1 Left Nagasaki on the 8th inst.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 9th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 25th ult.
4 Left Hongkong on the 7th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 3rd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Su. May 13
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. May 15
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. May 16
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. May 16
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa. May 19
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg	Sa. May 19
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	M. May 21
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	W. May 23
Europe, via S'hai	M. M. Co.	Salazie	F. May 25
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. May 25
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. May 26
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. May 31

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

Yokohama and Shimbasai.

Yokohama—5.30, 6.10, 6.45, 7.19, 8.38, 9.10, 9.35, 10.05, 10.50, 11.35, a.m.; 12.20, 12.57, 1.30, 2, 2.36, 3.10, 3.55, 4.35, 5, 5.33, 6,16, 7.16, 8, 9.13, 10, 10.50, and 11.15 p.m.

Shimbashi—4.50, 5.45, 6,50, 7.25, 7.55, 8.30, 9.05, 9.25, 10.10, 10.45, 11.25 a.m.; 12, 12.30, 1.10, 1.40, 2.25, 3, 3.25, 4, 4.50, 5.25, 6.30, 7, 7.35, 8.20, 9.15, 10, 10.35, and 11.20 p.m.

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CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

PROBLEM 472.

Solvers are requested to make a correction in the diagram of this problem, as published last week. The Rook on Black's K 3 should be Black not White. A White Rook in that position converts the problem into an easy two-mover.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 471.

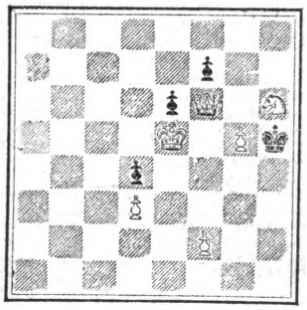
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to B 3	1—K to R 5
2—Kt to K 7	2—Any
3—B to K B5, mate	
	1—K to Q B 5
2—Kt to Q B 7	2—Any
3—B to R 6, mate	
	1—K to Q B 3
2—P to B 4	2—Any
3—Kt to K 7, mate	
	1—P to K 5
2—B to Q 7	2—Any
3—Kt to Kt 6, mate	

Correct solution received from "W.H.S."

PROBLEM No. 473.

By C. W., of Sunbury.

Black.



White.

White to play and mate in three moves.

GAME 588.

A Brilliancy Prize Game.

Mr. Trott, who was in Class II,, gives odds of Q's Kt to Mr. Hubble, of Class V. Played September 4, 1899, in the handicap tourney of the Adelaide Chess Club. Mr. Trott, as winner of this game, was awarded the special prize of 10s. 6d., offered by Mr. T. S, O'Halloran, for the game in the tourney with the most brilliant finish.

(Remove White's Q's Knight.)

White—Mr. F. T. Trott. Black—F. J. Hubble.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—B to B 4	2—Kt to K B 3
3—P to Q 3	3—B to B 4
4—Kt to B3	4—P to Q 3
5—P to K R3	5—P to K R 3
6—P to B 3	6—B to Kt3
7—B to Kt 3	7—B to Q2
8—B to Q 2	8—Kt to B 3
9—Q to K 2	9—Kt to K 2
10—Castles Q's R	10—P to B 4
11—Kt to R 2	11—P to Q R 4
12—P to K B 4	12—Kt to B 3
13—P takes P	13—P takes P
14—B to K 3	14—Q to K2
15—K R to B	15—B to B2
16—B to K B2	16—P to Q Kt4
17—B to K R4	17—B to Q3
18—R to B3	18—P to R5
19—B takes Kt	19—P takes Q B
20—B to Q5	20—Q R to B
21—Q R to B	21—B to K3 (a)
22—R takes P	22—B takes B
23—P takes B	23—Kt to Q so
24—Kt to Kt4 (b)	24—P to R 4
25—Kt to R 6!	25—R to B
26—Q takes R P	26—R to B2
27—Q to Kt5 (c)	27—P to K5
28—Kt to B5 (d)	28—Q to Q2
29—Kt takes B (ch) (e)	29—K to K2
30—R K6 (dbl. ch and mate).	

(a) Black should play P to K B4, and then advance P to K5 if White K P take P.

(b) Mr. Trott plays very carefully all through. His skilful concentration of force on Black's weak point, the K B P, is well worthy of attention.

(c) Necessary before attacking with Kt at B5.

(d) A crusher, leading to an artistic mate.

(e) Kt to Kt 7 (ch), and then R to K6 mate were better, allowing Black no option; whereas in the text Black could prevent the mate by Q takes Kt.

GAME 589.

Centre Counter v. Queen's Gambit.

White—Mr. Riedel. Black—Mr. Griffith.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Q4	1—P to Q4
2—P to QB4	2—P to K4(!)
2—QP takes P (a)	3—P to Q5!
4—KKt to B3 (b)	4—QKt to B3
5—P to QR3	5—QB to Kt5
6—P to K3	6—QKt takes P
7—KB to K2	7—QB takes Kt
8—KB takes B	8—QP takes P
9—Q to R4(ch)	9—P to QB3
10—QB takes P	10—KKt to B3
11—QKt to Q2	11—KB to B4
12—KB to K2 (c)	12—KB takes B
13—BP takes B	13—Kt to Q6
14—KB takes Kt	14—Q takes KB
15—QKt to Bsq	15—Castles KB
16—Q R Qsq	16—Q K5
17—Q R Q2	17—Q R Qsq
18—Q R K2	18—Q Kt8 (ch)
19—K B2	19—Kt5 (ch)
20—K Kt3	20—Q Kt3
21—Q B2	21—Q R Q6
22—K R4 (d)	

22—K R4 (d) and Black announced mate in three moves, which is well worth the young players looking at. (Black can mate in two moves by 1—Kt K R3, and 2—Q K Kt 5, or 2—Kt K K B4 mate!—Chess Ed. *Adelaide Observer*).

(!) Bravo! Mr. G. This counter gambit is, at the furthest, cousin to Brother Charlick's direct 1—P to K 4. Black's 2 is an interesting suggestion of the "Falkbeer-Lederer"—Miron.

(a) Perhaps 3—P to K 3 would have done better.

(b) If White intends to maintain the P he must play 4—P to K B 4.

(c) Better 12—B takes B.

(d) Has no escape.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 4th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 3rd May, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 4th May,—Vancouver, B.C., 19th April, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 4th May,—Kobe, 2nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Admiral Korniloff (16), Russian cruiser, 5,000, Capt. Petroff, 4th May,—Kobe, 3rd May.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, J. Kennedy, 4th May,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General. —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 4th May,—Yokkaichi, 3rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, Captain T. Sakai, 4th May,—Kobe, 3rd May, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 4th May,—Shanghai via ports, 28th April, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Krisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 5th May, —San Francisco via Honolulu, 17th April, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 5th May,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 4th May, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Eskdale, British steamer, 1,923, Dower, 5th May,—Hongkong, 26th April, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 5th May, —Nagasaki and Moji, Coal.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer. 2,312, F. W. Horton, 5th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 3rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Echigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 6th May,—Yokkaichi, 5th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, K. Higo, 6th May,—Yokkaichi, 5th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Breconshire, British steamer, 2,323, Geo. Elliott, 7th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 5th May, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamuro, 7th May,—Bombay via-ports and Kobe, 5th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Wm. Frakes, 7th May,—Hongkong via Moji and Kobe, 6th May, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 7th May,—Kobe, 5th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 7th May,—Yokkaichi, 6th May, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, W. W. Greene, 7th May,—Otaru via ports, 2nd May, General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yashima Kan (38), Japanese battleship, 12,517, Capt. S. Uriu, 8th May,—Shinagawa, 8th May.

Akashi Kan (24), Japanese cruiser, 2,800, Capt. S. Nakamura, 8th May,—Shinagawa, 8th May.

Chitose Kan (30), Japanese cruiser, 4,836, Capt. S. Hosoya, 8th May,—Shinagawa, 8th May.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 8th May,—Yokkaichi, 7th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese stermer, 1,894, De Le Lande, 3rd May,—Otaru via ports, General.— Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Victoria, American steamer, 2,112, J. Panton, 4th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.— Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

J. B. Walker, American barque, 2,105, J. W. Wallace, 4th May,—Hongkong, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Bering, Russian barkentine, 377, Aulin, 4th May,— Korsakovski, Saghalien, Bricks.—Capt. Powers.

Albatross, U.S. Fish Commission steamer 638, Capt. J. F. Moser, 4th May,—Cruise.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 4th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 4th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 4th May,—Niigata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 4th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Centurion, (14), British Flagship, 10,500, Capt. John R. Jellico, 4th May,—Wei-hai-wei.

Alacrity, (4), British Despatch Boat, 1,710, Com. Cradock, 4th May,—Wei-hai-wei.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 5th May,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General, —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,682, W. Townsend, 5th May,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 5th May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Preussen, German steamer, 3,278, R. Heintze, 5th May,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Andalusia, German steamer, 3,449, Ehlers, 5th May, —Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,827, J. Kennedy, 6th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 6th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 875, Suda, 6th May, —Moji, Ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.

Oregon (16), U.S. battleship, 10,288, Capt. G. F. F. Wilde, 7th May,—Nagasaki via Kobe.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. W. Horton, 7th May,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 656, K. Higo, 7th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 8th May, —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Japan, British steamer, 2,795, G. K. Wright, 8th May,—London via ports, Mails and General.— P. & O. S.N. Co.

Idomeneus, British steamer, 4,298, James Riley, 8th May,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 8th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,911, N. Trennt, 8th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 9th May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Wm. Frakes, 9th May,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. G. A. Godsall, Miss Godsall, Mr. and Mrs. Monisty, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Davis,

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Mr. and Mrs. Domhurst, Mr. W. H. Howard, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Bertie, Prof. and Mrs. H. Sharp, Mr. P. Barker, Mr. R. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Adamson and 4 children, Miss Forlong, Mons. P. Portset, Miss E. Raphæl, Capt. A. W. Bewley, Mr. L. M. Wakefield, Miss Mellin, Mr. W. Trood, Mr. N. Hawken, Earl of Drogheda, Mr. H. Murcott, Mr. M. Narion, Mr. Van W. Waltnitz, Dr. A. D. Fordyce, Mr. R. R. Tuthill, Mrs. L. D. Miner, Lieut. B. B. Biret, Mrs. Hammond, Miss Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. H. Grimble. Mr. H. A. Pattman, and Mr. H. E. Reynell, in cabin. For Vancouver :—Mr. E. Wakeford, Capt. and Mrs. Montgomery, maid and valet, Mr. P. H. Bethel-Jones, Mr. P. T. Michell, Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, R.N., Lieut. C. Davis, U.S.A., Rev. Hennesy and valet, Mr. Flanagan, Miss Bolster, Mrs. Drew, Mr. W. Pritchard Morgan, Mr. S. Leshi, Mrs. Ker, Dr. and Mrs. Hart and 3 children, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Pearcy, Mrs. Cronin, Miss Munn, Mr. Henningsen, Mr. and Mrs. Little and 2 children, Mrs. Ricketts and 2 children, Mr. S. R. Bomanji, Mr. J. W. Parmelle, and Capt. N. R. Robertson, in cabin ; 7 intermediate ; 367 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, B.C. :—Mr. A. M. Bisbee, Mr. L. E. E. Bohm, Miss M. L. Blackford, Mr. T. C. Coleman, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. J. H. Craven, Mr. Cuang Po. Hsi, Mr. Andrew Greig, Mr. J. H. Gubbins, Mr. David Glass, Q.C., Mr. H. R. Hunt, Mr. S. H. Hattori, Mr. R. L. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hunt, Mrs. J. M. Junks, Mrs. J. G. Kipling, Mr. K. Kudza, Mr. Julius Kahn, Mr. G. A. Matthews, Mrs. I. Newell, Mr. A. W. Newton, Mr. A. J. Osgood, Mr. J. Q. A. Smith, Jr., Mr. Takemuro, and Mr. Wolde, in cabin ; 20 in intermediate ; 60 in steeragn.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. S. Watanabe, Mr. and Mrs. S. Ichikawa and daughter, Rev. E. C. Smyth, Mr. G. R. Horne, Mr. K. Abe, Mr. T. Tokunaga, Mr. K. Saba, and Master Y. Iwate, in cabin ; Mr. and Mrs. S. Kimura, in second class ; 38 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mr. J. H. Claiborne, Com. A. R. Couden, Dr. V. De Hoon, Mrs. V. De Hoon, Mr. M. Kurakawa, Mr. W. E. Miles, Mr. G. Nagai, Mrs. G. Nagai, Mr. O. H. Noyes, Mr. G. H. Pritchard, C. J. Sawyer, Mr. N. F. Smith, Mr. W. M. Treglown, Miss E. Warner, Dr. E. de Grane, Mr. W. A. Wilson, Mr. L. Wolf, Mrs. L. Wolf, Mrs. L. H. Warner, and Mrs. Charles Thorn, in cabin. For Kobe :—Miss Dickinson, Rev. T. E. Schumaker, and Mrs. T. E. Schumaker and three children, in cabin. For Nagasaki ,—Mr. Wm. Altman, Mr. W. Bogoaraz, Mr. N. G. Buxton, Mr. W. Jochelson, Miss K. Tuttle, and Mr. W. H. Shockley, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Miss Mollie Curtis, Mrs. Bessie Fay, Mr. J. Herrings, Miss Aggie Howard, Capt. F. G. Poole, and Mr. Chwang Hai Kwan, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Mrs. J. W. Billings, Com. Geo. Cowie, Mr. R. A. Dowler, Mrs. A. I. Gillmore, Mrs. L. R. Hawley, and Mr. R. J. McCord, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mr. H. F. Young, and Mrs. Yue Cheory and child, in cabin ; 10, in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong via ports :—Misses Sale (2), Mr. J. Steiner, Mr. F. Ehrissmann, Mrs. Bruce and maid, Mr. L. A. Colten, U.S.N., Lieut. A. C. McKelvey, U.S.N., Mr. P. R. Sargood, Mr. W. E. Sargood, Miss Hunt, Capt. K. R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. L. Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Schwob, Mr. R. Schwob, Mr. Gershon Stewart, Mr. C. R. Joy, Mr. W. H. Ray, Mr. A. Audy, Mr. V. Brady, Mrs. W. T. Payne, Capt. and Mrs. Truitt, Mr. P. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Taber, Mrs. Eldridge, and 1 Japanese, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India* for Vancouver, B.C. :—Lt. Col. W. H. Baker, Mrs. Bannon, Miss Bannon, Mr. P. H. Bethell, Mr. S. R. Bomanji, Mr. and Mrs. Burnett, Mr. F. Burnett, Jr., Miss N. Burnett, Miss Brook, Mr. C. A. Bruce, Mrs. Bolster, Mr. E. Coleman, Mrs. Cronin, Mr. Curtis, Lt. C. Davis, Mr. J. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Denny, Mr. F. H. Denny, Mr. J. O. Denny, Rev. and Mrs. A. Doak, Mr. H. O. Drummond, Mrs. Drew, Mr. W. Errington, Mr. D. H. Evans, Mr. Flannagan, Admiral Fritze, I.G.N., Mrs. Fritze, Mr. H. A. P. Genge, Mr. G. F. S. Genge, Miss E. Getty, Mr. John Gladstone, Mrs. Gowey, Mr. Godard, Mr. and Mrs. Grun, Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Hart and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Hasting, Mr. Henningsen, Mr. K. Hamaguchi, Mr. C. M. Hay, Mr. E. B. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss A. C. Henderson, Miss B. Hegginbottom, Mr. F. J. Hollingsworth, Rev. Hennessay and valet, Mr. J. C. Hunter, Miss Ichimura, Mr. T. Ishido, Mr. F. S. James, Mr. Chs. Jourdain and valet, Mrs. R. E. Keefer, Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Kennedy and 2 children, Miss Ker, Mr. S. Kondo, Mr. B. Kusakabe, Mr. John Laird, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lawrence, Mrs. Little, Miss Little, Master Little, Mr. E. S. Little, Mr. W. A. Magarey, Mrs. A. MacDonald, Miss MacDonald, Mr. P. Marshall, Mr. T. Masahiro, Mr. T. Matsunaga, Capt. R. A. J. Montgomerie and valet, Mrs. Montgomerie and maid, Mr. J. McArthur, Mr. H. B. McKerrow, Mr. A. Melhuish, Major von Meyer, Mr. Chs. F. Meyer, Mrs. C. F. Meyer, Mr. C. Mittemeyer, Mr. P. T. Michel, Mrs. M. Muller, Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., Miss Munn, Mr. H. Nakaya, Dr. K. Nambu, Mr. G. Newcomen, Mr. K. Okura, Mrs. K. Okura, Mr. K. Okura, Jr.. Count E. Orfini, Miss Osborn, Mr. J. W. Parmelee, Mr. Pearcy, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Peirson, Mr. E. Puissant, Mrs. Ricketts and 2 children, Capt. H. R. Robertson, Mr. Rowe, Sir Ernest Satow and valet, Mr. S. Sakata, Mr. Robt. Scott and valet. Miss Shankland, Mr. A. Seymour, Mr. J. H. Smith, Brig-Surgeon L.-Col. H. R. Smith, Mrs. H. R. Smith, Mr. C. A. C. Streatfield, Miss D. Streatfield, Mr. J. W. Thompson, Mr. J. W. Thompson, U.S.N., Mr. A. D. Traill, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Turner, Mrs. Umbsen and child, Mr. L. Wakefield, Mr. St. John Wayne, and valet, and Mr. E. F. Wrigley, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Preussen*, for Bremen via ports :—Mr. A. J. S. Lefroy and servant, Mr. C. W. Ure, Mr. J. Ellerton, Mr. S. Strauss, Mr. R. S. Furlonge, Mrs. N. Caulfield and servant, Mr. K. Kato, Mr. F. Albert, Mr. J. Hartley, Mr. F. Frerichs, and Mr. Henri Grauer, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru*, for London via ports :—Baron and Baroness Hayashi, Mr. and Mrs. J. de Ryke and 5 children, Mr. T. Okubo, Mr. S. Fukuzawa, Miss Sono Fukuzawa, Miss Dening, Miss Conder, Miss Brinkley, Mr. Y. Takeda, Miss A. Hisada, Mr. J. Pritz, Mr. and Mrs. S. Fukuzawa, Mr. R. Hiraoka, and Mr. K. Fukuma, in cabin ; Miss Koh Suzuki, Miss Cooper, Mr. M. Satoh, Mr. A. Sashiro, Mr. T. Suzuki, Mr. K. Makino, Mr. K. Watanabe, Mr. T. Yamamura, Mr. T. Furuya, Capt. S. Narahara, I.J.N., Mr. and Mrs. R. Hirauchi, Mr. J. Murahashi, Mr. T. Ohtsuka, and Miss Y. Shibuya, in second class.

Per British steamer *Doric*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mrs. J. W. Billings, Mr. N. G. Buxton, Mr. Geo. C. Bogue, Mrs. Geo. C. Bogue, Miss Mollie Curtis, Miss E. S. Church, Com. Geo. Cowie, Mrs. Geo. Cowie, Mr. R. A. Dowler, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. A. J. Gillmore, Mr. C. K. Harrington, Mr. Walter H. Howard, Mrs. F. Harrington, Mr. J. Herrings, Mrs. L. R. Hawley, Capt. G. E. Ide, U.S.N., Mr. M. Jochelson, Mr. Changhai Kwan, Mr. W. Maltimaer, Lieut. D. T. Merrill, U.S.A., Mr. R. J. McCord, Mr. F. W. Perkins, U.S.C., Mrs. H. D. Perkins and maid, Miss Perkins and maid, Miss R. C. Perkins, Miss M. Perkins, Miss F. Perkins, Master C. Perkins, Capt. F. G. Porter, Mr. H. E. Reynell, Mr. P. F. Straub, U.S.A., Mr. W. H. Shockley, Mr. E. D. Sanders, Mr. R. Skeel, Jr., Mrs. R. Skeel, Jr., Mrs. T. E. Shumaker and 3 children, Rev. Austin Thomson, Mrs. Austin Thomson, Mr. W. B. Tuttle, Miss K. Tuttle, Miss H. M. Witherbee, and Mr. A. H. White, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Japan*, for London via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. A. Sanders, Miss Thelluson, and Mr. R. C. Venning, R.N.R., in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Beyond a few small retail orders here and there, there is is absolutely nothing doing in all kinds of textiles. Metals, too, are flat.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	2.450 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward ...	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 tc 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

The market is weak at last quoted prices.

American	$2.95 to 2.98
Russian	2.95
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

Market steady at late rates.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.80
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	7.90 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is weak, but without any great reduction in prices. Fine sizes are well maintained, but on full sizes some concessions would be made. Prospects for the new crop are so far excellent.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	1,070 to 1,080
Filatures—Extra, Coarse...	990 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	1,060 to 1,070
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse...	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine...	1,020 to 1,030
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse...	Nominal
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½	940 to 950
Re-reels—No. 2	930 to 935
Re-reels—No. 3	910 to 920
Kakedas—Extra	—
Kakedas—No. 1	990 to 1,000
Kakedas—No. 1½	940 to 950
Kakedas—No. 2	900 to 910
Kakedas—No. 2½	880 to 890

WASTE SILK.

Nothing doing. Prices unchanged, but quite nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium...	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Filatures, Best...	140 to 150
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	55 to 60
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	54 to 55

TEA.

The settlements have so far been 11,700, compared with 17,500 up to the same date last year. It is impossible to give individual quotations, prices varying greatly on various consignments, but the range is from 30 *yen* to 50 *yen* for fine to choicest qualities. There are no common grade on offer. Generally speaking the quality compares well with previous years.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	30 to 50
Choice	
Finest	
Fine	
Good Medium...	Nominal
Medium	
Good Common	
Common	

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, May 9.

Breweries are firm at *yen* 162.50. Oriental Hotels, old shares, cum the right to the new issue, have buyers at *yen* 157.50. Old shares ex the right to the new issue changed hands to-day at *yen* 137.50. Founders' are wanted at *yen* 460. Langfeldts have sellers at *yen* 105. Helms are offering at par. A few Bretts can be placed at *yen* 9. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 220.

Y. U. Clubs debentures can be had at *yen* 108.

Punjom Mines were sold to-day at $ 5.50.

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Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	217.50 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	162.50 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 B.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	157.50 B.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	460 B.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	35 Sa.
Oriental Hotel. preference shares, ¥25	35 Sa.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 9.

Langfeldts can be had at *yen* 110. Engine and Iron Works have sellers at *yen* 220. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90.

Kechau Gold Mines have been sold to Singapore at $25½.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works	220 Sellers.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	155 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co	110 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	153 Buyers.

TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, May 8.

BANKS.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	$303 % prem.	S.
National Bank of China, Limited	28½	Sellers.

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited	54	Buyers.
North China Insurance Company, Limited	Tls. 161	Buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	$295	Sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	80	Sellers.

SHIPPING.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited	30½	Buyers.
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	50	Sellers.

MINING.

Punjom Mining Company, Limited	6	Sellers.
Raub A'lian Gold Mining Company, Limited	55	Sellers.

DOCKS, WHARFS AND GODOWNS.

Hongkong & W'poa Dock Company, Limited	490 % prem.	Sa.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ld.	88½	Sales.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited	125	Sellers.
H'phrey's Estate & Finance Company, Limited	11	Sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	128	Sales.
Green Island Cement Co., Limited	31¾	Sales.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 9.

No alteration in silver or discount from London, but difficulties are spoken of respecting gold shipments to India, which have created a weakness in Bank paper rates without lowering private paper quotations.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0¹⁵⁄₁₆ @ 1/8
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼ @ ⅜
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 ¹¹⁄₁₆ @ ¾
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅞ @
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	259½ @ 60½
— — 6 months' sight	261 @ 62
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50½ @ ¾
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74¼
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27½

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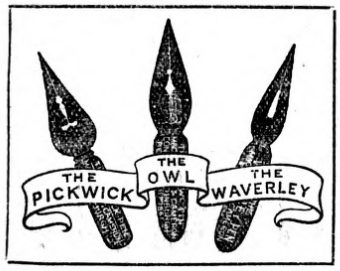

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 19TH, 1900.

DEATHS.

On the 3rd April at Southampton, THOMAS ROSE, aged 67.

Entered into the eternal rest, on the fifteenth day of May, in the city of Tokyo, the Rev. S. J. MILLIKEN.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

CHAROUSEK, the well-known chess-player, died at Budapest on April 18th.

IN the two last days of April there were 12 plague cases at Hongkong and 8 deaths.

THE *North-China Daily News* is still in the van of progress. It is now set-up by linotype machines.

THE recall of M. Doumer, the French Governor-General of Indo-China, is stated to be imminent.

H.M.S. *Robin*, the new river gunboat, which has been put together at Kowloon, has had a very satisfactory steam trial.

SIR FRANK SWETTENHAM, K.C.M.G., Acting Governor of the Straits, has been appointed Commissioner to Weihaiwei. He has been granted three months' vacation leave, to be followed by four months' leave on half-pay from April 29.

ROBERTS is advancing steadily, and Buller is co-operating from Natal, having forced the Biggarsberg and occupied Glencoe.

EXTRAORDINARILY heavy shipments of foodstuffs and material are being made from Hongkong to Port Arthur and Vladivostock.

HERR WILHELM SEHRING, the poet and historian, died on April 25th at Carlsruhe in his eighty-fourth year. He was born at Koenigsberg.

THE British gunboats *Woodcock* and *Woodlark* have surmounted all the rapids on the Upper Yangtze between Ichang and Chungking, having experienced some trifling damage on the way.

FIRE broke out about 2.30 a.m. on Wednesday at Hagoromo-cho, Itchome, Yokohama, in a house occupied by an embroiderer named Yamada Inamatsu. Two houses were destroyed. The cause is unknown.

EXECUTIONS of pirates are said to be of daily occurrence in Canton just now, H.E. Li Hung-chang doing all he can to carry out his promise to the Governor of Hongkong, that he would stamp out piracy on the West River.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN has introduced his Imperial Federation scheme in the House of Commons. It provides for representatives of the Colonies to sit in the House of Lords and on the Privy Council as Lords of Appeal, with life peerages.

RELATIONS between the United States and Turkey are said to be critical, owing to the Sultan's failure to indemnify American missionaries. It is probable that Mr. Hay, the Secretary of State, will send the Turkish Minister his passports.

IT is stated by *La Politique Coloniale* that the King of Cambodia, the Emperor of Annam, and two Laos kings, have been prevailed on to accept an invitation to visit the Paris Exhibition, where preparations are being made to receive them suitably.

THE Horticultural Show which the British Women's Patriotic Association were endeavouring to hold in the Public Hall this month has had to be abandoned, owing to the paucity of entries. It seems a pity, for in Shanghai Flower Shows are a great success.

THE death has occurred at his residence, Leytonstone, of Professor Pepper, formerly honorary director for upwards of twenty years of the Polytechnic, Regent-street. He was the inventor of the celebrated "Pepper's Ghost" and other illusions.

THE annual spring regatta was held at Kobe on Saturday. The sea was rather choppy and there was a strong breeze. The crew stroked by A. E. Cooper easily won the Club Fours. The Senior Pairs was won by W. Pietzecker and C. Mancini and the Tub Sculls by Pietzecker.

AT a special general meeting of the Central Cement Manufacturing Company, held in the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce on the 6th inst., a resolution was passed in favour of establishing a branch manufactory in Formosa, with a capital of from 100,000 to 200,000 *yen*. This sum will be raised in the form of debentures.

HERE is a specimen of the Boer bulletins:—Boer official notices have been found placarded at Campbell and elsewhere saying that in the recent battles the Boers captured 13,000 troops, eighteen cannon, and 300 wagons; setting forth that the burghers were full of valour, that the outlook was bright, and saying confirmation had been received of the report that Russia had invaded India with 2,500,000 men.

THE amount of *saké* manufactured in Nada, in Hiogo Prefecture, during the 32nd year of *Meiji* reached 366,716 *koku*, against 349,904 *koku* for the previous year, showing an increase of 16,722. Below are details:—Imatsu, 52,565 *koku*; East district, 41,788: West district, 74,868; Nishimiya, 110,081; Central district, 87,412.

A CHINESE passenger went ashore at Nagasaki from the British mail steamer *Gaelic* on May 9, and on being examined by the Customs authorities at a jetty in Oura, a quantity of opium and smoking apparatus were found concealed on his person. He was handed over to the Megasaki police, and afterwards was sent to the District Court for trial.

ACCORDING to the *Osaka Asahi* the value of opium paste produced in Formosa amounts at present to over 4½ million *yen*. Materials for manufacture are chiefly imported from Persia and India, to the value of 2 million *yen* annually. As the original cost does not exceed 10 *yen* per 100 *momme*, the annual profit realized by the sale is estimated at no less than 1,600,000 *yen*.

VERY soon the present British halfpenny postage and Revenue stamp will be replaced by one of the same design, but green instead of red. About Midsummer the present one-shilling green stamp will be replaced by a bi-coloured one of that value. The latter will be printed in a combination of green and red. The International Postal Union have asked for these changes.

THE work on the Formosa railway has been pushed since last year with the greatest possible speed. The estimated outlay for this year amounts to 4½ millions of *yen*, of which 539,747 *yen* are set apart for office expenses. It is said that the sum allotted for the Taipeh-Tamsui section is 250,000 *yen*; for Kelung-Hsinchu 2,009,661; the two other sections absorbing 259,700 and 1,440,892 respectively.

ON the 7th instant the Tokyo City Reform Committee voted a sum of 15 million *yen* to be disbursed as continuing expenses for five years in order to carry out extensive improvement works. The programme includes large schemes of road making, and the expenditure is to be met by municipal loans, but the decision of the Municipal Assembly and the sanction of the Government are required to give effect to the decision.

THE U.S.S. *Hancock*, with the members of the Phillippine Commission on board, left for Manila on Thursday. The members of the Commission are Judge Taft, President, Judge Ide, Mr. L. E. Wright, Professor Bernard Moses, and Professor Dean Worcester. These will constitute the supreme authority in the Phillippines. The families of several of the commissioners will stay at Yokohama during the summer to avoid the unpleasant hot season of Manila.

OF late "flower cards" have become extremely popular not only among the nobility and gentry, but even among coolies and *jinrikisha* men. Gambling, remarks the *Yomiuri*, has infected all classes of society. Members of the Diet are among the worst offenders, and some of them make a profession of gambling in the interval between the sessions. The law, efficient as it is, is nevertheless impotent to put a complete check upon the evil. A suggestion has lately been made, therefore, as to the advisability of imposing taxes upon flower cards and imported cards. Investigation are now being made by the authorities to ascertain the amount of the annual sales of these cards in the various prefectures.

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THE IMPERIAL WEDDING.

Tokyo was *en fête* on the 10th instant; that is to say such *fête* as is possible in a city where the lowly buildings do not lend themselves to anything more imposing than the suspension of a few lanterns along road-ways and the erection of crossed flags over gates. A Japanese city can never get into gala costume, as the term is understood in the West. There can not be any wide expanses of festooned banners or any towering tiers of blazing illumination. Everything looks small and unpretentious. Even the crowds never seem to be visited by any access of really lusty enthusiasm. No one thinks of tossing his hat into the air, or even of waving it over his head, and the *banzais* elicited by any event, however exciting, sound more like a fitful exclamation that a sustained, delirious cheer such as one hears from a British concourse. It did not appear, either, that the streets were densely thronged on Thursday. Even at the Sakurada Gate whence the Imperial procession was to emerge, the sight-seers lining the street were not 20 deep, and the general effect produced was rather sombre than joyous. The Japanese, when they go picnicking in the season of cherries or azaleas, present a gay appearance. But no one puts on holiday attire for the purpose of waiting in the streets to see an Imperial procession pass, and it results that the aspect of a Tokyo crowd assembled for such a purpose is comparatively dingy. On the other side of the account, however, must be set the orderliness and good humour that invariably mark the demeanour of a Japanese throng. Throughout the whole of Thursday, though the festival lasted the entire day, not a single disturbance was reported, and such a thing as a drunken rioter did not obtrude himself upon the scene. Everything moved with clock-like regularity so far as the official arrangements were concerned. The Imperial couple left their respective residences at half-past seven in the morning, aud proceeded by different routes to the Palace. This part of the programme was not distinguished by any special display. The Prince rode in an ordinary carriage, duly escorted by lancers and preceded by outriders. He wore his military uniform of Major, and the waiting crowds saw little to distinguish the occasion from one of the every-day comings and goings of His Imperial Highness. The passage of Princess Sada to the ceremony which was to make her the future Empress of Japan, presented features of greater interest, for she wore the old court costume of Japan, and her pretty face was framed in the wonderful coiffure—expansive, angular and inartistic—which, in defiance of the law of the survival of the fittest, still holds the place of honour among Japanese head-dresses, a relic of the days when the country founded its fashions on Korean suggestions. The bride's progress did not elicit any demonstration from the crowds through which her equipage passed, preceded by carriages of Chamberlains, escorted by lancers, and followed by coaches carrying various dignitaries. She reached the Palace nearly half an hour before the Prince—an arrangement which may be regarded as the only mark of deference paid to the traditional inferiority of the fair sex in Japan on this occasion. The Prince, after arriving at the Palace, donned a Japanese costume appropriate to the occasion, and the Imperial couple then repaired to the Sanctuary, the Prince led by the Grand Master of Ceremonies, Baron Sannomiya, and followed by a chamberlain bearing the Sacred Sword; the Princess conducted by a Master of Ceremonies and supported by two maids of Honour. The rites performed in the Sanctuary were particularly interesting. Not for their own sake, indeed, since they consisted merely of the offering of evergreen branches at the Imperial Shrines; the recital of a marriage ritual by the Prince; the drinking of sacred *saké*, and various obeisances before the Altar of the Sanctuary, while a naval squadron assembled in Shinagawa Bay and troops at Aoyama fired salutes of 101 guns. But the noteworthiness of this ceremonial will be understood when we say that it was altogether novel. An Imperial marriage in Japan had never previously been solemnized in such a manner. The old custom did not demand anything more than a public announcement. A certain lady was gazetted to the post of Imperial consort, just as a man who had deserved well of the State might have been gazetted to some high office. No religious element of any kind used to be imported into the procedure, whereas the rites solemnized on Thursday give to the Imperial marriage a character of the highest sancity. The innovation is due, of course, to Marquis Ito. It represents part of the work upon which that eminent statesman is now engaged; the work of constructing a code to regulate all affairs relating to Imperialism in Japan. It is plain that an object lesson taught by the example of the Palace will have a large effect upon the nation, but we are not prepared to say whether any inference may be drawn with regard to a change in other customs which it would be out of place to discuss here.

After the ceremony in the Sanctuary the Imperial couple changed their costumes, the Prince now wearing the usual Court dress, and the Princess donning foreign robes. They then repaired to the presence of the Emperor and Empress; received the congratulations of their Majesties; drank the traditional "cups of felicitation;" and taking their leave, entered a State coach drawn by four horses, preceded and followed by carriages containing high dignitaries of the Household, and escorted by lancers. This part of the great event had been most eagerly awaited by the public, for it was known that the State coach, especially constructed for the occasion, would be an object of great magnificence, and it was rumoured that the Imperial couple would wear Japanese costumes. In one respect the expectation was satisfied. The coach was distinctly gorgeous—a glittering structure of rich lacquer, glowing gold and bright glass—and the four horses were caparisoned in right royal style. But there was no vestige of Japanese costume. The Prince wore his court robes, stiff with gold lace, and the Princess had on a dress just such as any European lady would have chosen under the circumstances. The crowds were perhaps a little disappointed. But they raised a chorus of *banzai* as the procession passed; a very feeble chorus if judged by Occidental standards; but in considering these things we have to remember that silent awe still seems to the average Japanese a mood better befitting the reception of Imperialism than boisterous acclamations. A few hours of comparative quiet succeeded, and in the afternoon at four o'clock the Imperial bridegroom and bride proceeded once more to the Palace where arrangements had been made for a reception on a large scale. All the high classes of officials, the nobility, the principal officers of the Army and Navy, the members of the Foreign Corps Diplomatique, several officers from the foreign men-of-war now in Yokohama, and all foreigners holding orders of and above the Third Class, had been bidden, the result being that some sixteen or seventeen hundred assembled. At first they were all ushered into the Hall of the Phœnix, where various spaces had been partitioned off by means of silk cords for the accommodation of the several groups. Extensive as is the *Hoo-den*, it barely sufficed, even with the addition of its environing corridors, to afford comfortable space for so large a throng. Nothing need be added about brilliant uniforms, gay costumes, and other glittering features. The Palace is in the Japanese style of architecture, and a very grand example of that style. But there are additions of arras, electroliers and other features which disturb the homogeniety of the design and, in our opinion, detract not a little from its beauty. In other respects, however, an assemblage of dignitaries and honoured guests at the Japanese Court presents no traits to distinguish it from a similar gathering in the West. There is the same lavish display of gold lace, the same profusion of stars and orders, something of the same variety of uniforms, and a semblance of the same glitter of gems. Not one Japanese costume is to be seen. The ladies of Tokyo, if they wish to attend such ceremonies, must struggle into Occidental costumes, which many of them have never worn previously and some never expect to wear again save for the purpose of being photographed. For the general throng of guests a delay of some three-quarters of an hour now ensued, during which the Emperor, the Empress, and the Prince and the Princess Imperial gave audience in a separate chamber to Marquis Ito as representative of the nobility, Marquis Yamagata, as representative of the Administration, and Baron d'Anethan as representative of the Corps Diplomatique, received addresses from them, replied thereto, and also received the Foreign Chefs de Mission and their wives. These various personages now rejoined the assembly in the Phœnix Hall, and presently the Emperor and Empress, the Prince and Princess Imperial, and all the Imperial Princes and Princesses at present in the capital, walked into the Hall, passing along a space left vacant in the front of the concourse. Arrived at the centre, the Imperial party paused, bowed graciously, and, after a very brief interval, left the Hall, repairing to the "Hall of Many Foliages" (*Chigusa-no-ma*), where a banquet was served for their Majesties, the Princes and Princesses, the members of the Corps Diplomatique and the highest dignitaries of State. Meanwhile the remaining guests were conducted to the Hall of Abundance and Effulgence (*Homei-den*), and the Eastern Waiting Room (*Higashi Donari*). There a monster buffet had been arranged along the whole length of three sides of the *Homei-den*, presenting a remarkable appearance of artistic profusion, while other parts of the spacious area were set with small tables and chairs where the guests could seat themselves in parties of four or five. It need scarcely be said that these arrangements were very perfect. At about seven o'clock the great throng began to wend its path to the points of exit. On the way thither each guest handed in his card of invitation and received in return a silver *bonbonière*, certainly the most beautiful souvenir of the kind hitherto given in the Palace.

Thereafter followed illuminations and fireworks of the usual kind. There were some exceptional features in the shape of arches and decorative tableaux modelled in accordance with ancient legends; but as we have

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said, a Japanese city offers, in this respect, only a faint reflection of what may be seen in the Occident. In depth of loyalty, however, and in earnestness of hope for the happiness of the newly married couple and the brilliancy of their reign, we dare say that the citizens of Tokyo may claim to be unsurpassed.

THE IMPRESSIONS OF A TIRED PEDESTRIAN.

I am the humble man on foot, unfriended, solitary, and slow. Not for me the pair of smart greys and the resplendent landau, not for me the prancing thoroughbred and the springy dog cart, not even the far from harmless but sometimes necessary *'rikisha*. The former, owing to the malice of mankind, I cannot afford, and the latter no man of acumen and experience engages unless it is absolutely necessary. More especially on an Imperial Wedding day. That comes only once in a life time, and a *jinrikisha* coolie with a stunted conscience and an average of three children to each *tatami* space is not the man to miss the opportunity. It is his harvest. His rapid eye takes in the ignorance or the debility of his fare's mind at a glance, and he doubles, trebles, or quadruples his fare with the quickness of a calculating machine. Distances he multiples in alarming fashion; *cho* become miles, half-*ri* grow to leagues, a ten-*sen* ride is suddenly transformed into an enormous distance for which 50 *sen* is an almost brutally inadequate remuneration. Why not? The *'rikisha* coolie, good honest man, is staunch patriot enough, and rejoices with his betters, but there is absolutely no reason, except his enfeebled conscience, why he should not make private advantage of so rare an event—and he does.

But enough of the coolie. He is not the pleasantest company on a warm Spring day, especially when he approaches one too closely at the end of a smart run to argue his case in a mixture of five words of bad Japanese to two of worse English. Nor will we deal with the other harpies of the tea-houses, the restaurants, and other places where patriotism is made to pay quite as well as in other lands nearer the meridian of Greenwich. We are not concerned with them. These lines are merely intended to record the great event of the 10th May as it appeared to a man in the street, an outsider, unknown to the Board of Ceremonies, unnoticed by all officials, except (unhappy exception) the tax-collectors, unordered and unmedalled, with all his imperfections on his head, and a good deal of the dust of the capital on his clothes.

I have seen a good many state and civic ceremonies in this unofficial way, and with every new experience the suspicion increases that the sacrifices are greater than the gains. I have seen that stately tomfoolery which Londoners and hordes of country cousins crush each other to witness every Ninth of November, and I cannot conceive the Lord Mayor's show which would compensate one for two or three hours squeezing in the smelly company of a Cockney crowd. I have seen two Jubilee processions, and it is my earnest prayer that I may never have to see another. May Her Majesty live to have others, by all means, but may I not be there to see. To wait half a night on a camp-stool, or dozing in a seat for which you have paid two guineas a fortnight before, while the current price of the chairs around you has fallen to five shillings, is to undergo a bitterness of soul that no pageant, however gorgeous, can quite obliterate. Of course it is a great consolation to be able to bore friends for the rest of your natural life with moving accounts of what you saw, but so many millions have the same record, and so many millions more who did not see it will give much better accounts than you ever could, that after all the distinction is not a very valuable one. No, emphatically the best way to view a procession is to attend a cinematograph performance, where every prospect pleases, and your neighbour in the stalls is not (at least externally) vile.

Take the facts in this case. Knowing what a Japanese railway is at a gala time, and having some slight objection to two heavy gentlemen compressing your spine on each side, while a third, standing up, lurches heavily into your waistcoat with each jar of the train, you elect to go up to Tokyo overnight. Your imagination has been fired by what you have read in the papers. You will see a gorgeous State procession. If you get up in time you will catch a glimpse of the Imperial couple dressed in costumes which were considered the mode when Jimmu Tenno was the mould of fashion and the glass of form. You will see the future Emperor of Japan and his fair young bride also in the European costume which becomes them equally as well as the classic habiliments of their native land. You will see great crowds, gorgeous decorations, everywhere evidences of the loyalty and love of a capital which represents, even if rather unworthily, a population of over 40 million brave, ingenious, and intelligent people. Some of this you do see, but what you most want to behold—the cynosure of all eyes—of that, unless you are lucky enough to be a giant in height and strength, you will see very little.

Overnight you stroll about, looking at the illuminations and decorations. You have seen plenty before. You have seen those, elaborately hideous for the most part, which lighted up the dingy City streets in 1897, and the others, somewhat lighter and in better taste, that infused an unwonted warmth into stately facades of the West End. Decorations which, generally speaking, proved that, while England has much to celebrate, she has less taste in celebrations then countries with not a tithe as much history. And you have seen other celebrations in Tokyo and Yokohama, so that the peculiar quaint grace which the Japanese know so well how to throw into all they touch in this line is no longer novel. Besides, it must be said that there is nothing great in these particular decorations. There is a lack of plan. The usual red and white lantern is, of course, everywhere, artificial flowers bloom with almost monotonous frequency, and here and there is a triumphal arch of evergreen, surmounted with some of those terrible Chinese characters which are probably still savage mysteries to you. In out of the way suburbs you find an unexpected piece of prettiness. But there is a certain sameness about everything, now that you are no longer in the globe-trotter stage of receptivity; and especially in the environs of the Palace, near the great blocks of Government buildings, where you naturally expected a grand display, there is but an infrequent flag or two and an arch of evergreen. The Ginza is rather disappointing; its up-to-date shoddiness ordinarily does not please, and even the glare of gas and electric designs, the cloud of lanterns, and the masses of greenery do not suffice to redeem its native ugliness. So it is with rather a sense of disappointment that you seek your bed. Perhaps you expected too much.

You go to bed, but not to sleep. With a praiseworthy desire to carry out your character as one of the crowd, you go to a Japanese hotel. But you are of an unfortunately restless habit, and sleep, always difficult, is next to impossible for you in a Japanese hotel. There is a guest in the next room who *will* talk on the most confidential subjects in a voice which would be very appropriate in trying to obtain the ear of the Diet during a fire of interruptions from Mr. Tanaka Shozo. On the other side is a gentleman with an insatiable appetite for pipes, and his continual tappings on the side of his *hibachi* do not make for slumber. Besides, you get alternately stifled by the weight of the *futon*, and frozen with cold when you fling it off in desperation, and altogether your position is not a comfortable one. You are one of those angular Europeans who never will fit into the usages of Japanese life, much as you try to conquer them. And the sleepless hours lag heavily on.

At last you fall into unconsciousness. But fate dogs you, and at three a.m. a fearsome noise comes to arouse you with a start. It is the outside shutters being opened. No more sleep for you. You lie and feebly curse the Japanese early rising madness. Half-an-hour of scrubbing and bustling about, half-an-hour of high-pitched conversation between the maids and the men servants; then the noise of the guests' ablutions, the bustle of breakfast-getting, and finally an attendant, who has been very uneasy at your laziness, comes in and announces that it is six o'clock, that you have barely time for the morning procession, and that breakfast is over-due. It is no use. You are too feeble in body and mind to stir, and you lie indecisive until all hope of being in time is gone. A pity. Still you have another chance at eleven o'clock. This nerves you to some display of energy, and you go to your bath, which makes a new and altogether improved man of you. With a little yawning you are ready to eat your breakfast and meet your bill, which is rather more than would have sufficed for comfortable quarters and substantial meals at a European hotel. You curse the folly that leads you to do things *à la Nipponne*, though you know perfectly well the frenzy will seize you again when the occasion occurs; and you go out for another stroll to view the capital in its gala dress.

Half-past ten finds you at the entrance of the grounds of the Imperial Palace. There is already a big crowd, and you think it your duty to get in the midst of it. Clearly the best point of vantage is by the big triumphal arch under which the Imperial procession must pass. You station yourself there. You are surrounded on all sides by a seething mass of spectators in *kimono*, in *hakama*, in smart European clothes, in scarecrow ditto, in all that delightful variety of head dress one sees only in Japan, from the modern Lincoln and Bennett to the green and lichen-covered silk-hat of early times, the shapeless billy-cock, the battered straw, the cap of extraordinary hues. There is a general atmosphere of good humour, *sake*, Kirin beer, hair pomatum, oranges, and peppermint. Every moment a pair of *geta* crunch your favourite corns, causing you an agony you try to disguise under a cheerful smile. Two students try to oust you from your position by an agreeable system of tactics. One attacks you in the rear, trying to lever you out by a side pressure. The other stamps on your foot in order to make you stand less steady. But you hold on like grim death, and they retire, like the Boers, "in good order," to repeat their guerilla tactics at some weaker point. But another danger threatens you. An active Japanese is climbing up into the arch just above you, and his footing

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is unsteady enough to disquiet you in the extreme. You are looking up, trying to remember some algebraic formula about multiplying the mass by the square of the velocity, and thus calculating the probable impact, when the expected happens. He comes down and crushes your toes. But he is not disconcerted at all. He says *gomen nasai* quite cheerily, assures you he is not hurt, and begins to climb again. This is too much. It is poor consolation to know that he is not hurt—you would, in fact, witness the breaking of his neck with considerable resignation—but a repetition of that punishment to you is too awful to contemplate. You move away, immediately a rush is made for the vacancy, and you have the grim satisfaction of seeing the human projectile come down again with a crash on another unfortunate. Finding it is safer in the middle of the crowd, you remain there, and are thenceforth engaged in a perpetual football scrimmage, in which elbows and shoulders, and sometimes umbrella knobs, are used with great effect against your ribs. But you have your compensations. You can now see from time to time a carriage containing some richly uniformed officer, sometimes alone, sometimes accompanied by his wife, proceeding from the Palace. What more can you wish for? Every time such a carriage passes, the police and soldiers keeping order make a rush at the crowd, and they dart back in panic, identifying your feet with the public highway in a manner that your shoemaker (or your creator, for that matter) never contemplated.

After three-quarters of an hour spent in this manner you have your reward. First comes the Chamberlain and an outrider, of whom your see one-sixteenth, occasionally eclipsed by the umbrella of a fair onlooker. Then comes a fraction of a lancer with the Imperial Banner, then a company of Imperial Guards, from the ears upwards, then a row of gorgeously gilded and capitally horsed carriages, and in the midst the Imperial Couple. You just see the Prince in uniform, and catch a glimpse of the Princess, charming though vague, at his side, and you notice that His Imperial Highness acknowledges most graciously the salutations of his august father's subjects. Another moment, and he is gone from view. Then follow more carriages, and more guards, but they have little interest for you. You have something more important than them to think about, for the homeward rush has begun, and you are swept forward by the living avalanche till you find yourself eventually on the foot-path, dusty, battered, afflicted with a consuming thirst, and a desire to seek some greener and cooler spot than the arid precincts of the Sakurada gate. A brush up at the "tousovial parlars" (in conventional spelling "tonsorial parlours") kept by a grandiloquent Japanese close by is necessary to make you again decent. And you feel rather as Tony Weller did about marriage, "that it wasn't worth while to go through so much to learn so little, as the boy said about the alphabet," until you remember that you have seen something, if only a little, of a spectacle you can hardly expect to witness again. It was worth it after all, and, though you don't feel inclined to join the crowds which you still see waiting later in the afternoon for the return to the Palace, you go away contented and wishing all earthly blessings on the young couple so happily united amid the prayers and blessings of an entire nation.

The Honours List.

Fifty-eight patents of baronetcy have been conferred in connexion with the Imperial Wedding. As the great majority of the names are unknown to our readers, the list need not be published in full. But some of the new peers have been before the foreign as well as the Japanese public. Dr. Kato Hiroyuki, the well known philosopher, is among them, and so are Mr. Otori Keisuke, one of the staunchest of the old Tokugawa adherents, whose last active post was that of Japanese Representative in Söul at the time of the war with China; Mr. Kaneko Kentaro, the eminent constitutional jurist and administrator; Mr. Oki Morikata, the sometime Governor of Kanagawa, universally popular with foreigners; Mr. Shibusawa Eiichi, the great financier and leader of the Japanese business world; and Mr. Nori Jusuke, a prominent civil engineer who, however, owes his promotion to his lineage rather than to his professional fame.

The Emperor has also presented a sum of fifty thousand *yen* to Mr. Fukuzawa, in recognition of the distinguished services rendered by him since the Restoration in introducing Occidental learning, promoting education, training able men and publishing valuable works. It is understood that Mr. Fukuzawa would have received a patent of nobility had not his desire to remain a commoner been known to the Sovereign.

A number of Decorations have also been bestowed. Prince Kujo, father of the Princess Imperial, receives the Grand Cordon of the Chrysanthemum; Viscount Tanaka, Minister of the Imperial Household, the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun; and Surgeon General Baron Hashimoto and Dr. Baelz the First Class of the Sacred Treasure. It will give universal pleasure to the foreign community to hear that this honour has been conferred on Dr. Baelz. No distinction was ever more fully merited.

The Emperor has further taken advantage of the occasion to make a donation of 80,000 *yen* for educational purposes in Tokyo and 20,000 in Kyoto.

The First Class of the Sacred Treasure has been conferred on the Princess Imperial, and the Emperor has also presented to her, in accordance with old Japanese custom, a dirk of great value.

The Vernacular Press.

Tokyo newspapers have treated the Imperial Wedding as an occasion resembling the New Year. They publish greatly expanded numbers. The *Jiji Shimpo* heads the list with 40 pages; the *Nichi Nichi* is second with 20; the *Kokumin* follows with 16; the *Asahi* is fourth with 12, and the remainder content themselves with 8. As to reading matter, the *Jiji* and the *Kokumin* appear the most interesting. They give valuable accounts of the manners and customs of the country, in relation to wedding ceremonies and the various articles used on such occasions. Poems by the Prince Imperial and the Princess Imperial are also published on separate illuminated sheets, the Prince's poems being transcribed by Marquis Ito and those of the Princess by her own fair hand.

It is stated that the present made by the Foreign Consuls to the Prince Imperial is a gold scarf-ring, with a brilliant one-half of an inch in diameter.

Congratulatory messages have been transmitted to the Emperor and to the Prince Imperial from all the Governments of the Treaty Powers; and the Sovereigns of Austria-Hungary, Russian, Italy, Holland, and Korea have presented to the Prince the highest Orders in their respective gifts.

The Emperor and the Prince Imperial have specially recognised the services of Marquis Ito, Marquis Oyama, and Count Hijikata in connexion with His Imperial Highness' education. The Emperor sent to Marquis Ito a magnificently embroidered six-leaf-screen, and the Prince Imperial sent him a set of three gold cups.

The Prince and Princess Imperial proceeded to Hayama on the 14th instant, where they will spend their honeymoon.

Tokyo journals state that the number of congratulatory telegrams, addresses, and letters received at the Palace in connexion with the wedding of the Prince Imperial was 152,261.

The number of persons subscribing to the Imperial Wedding Memorial Museum has reached 18,537, and their subscriptions thus far aggregate 394,464 *yen*. It does not look as if the required amount of 600,000 *yen* would be obtained.

It appears that the Prince's gifts to Marquis Oyama and Count Hijikata were the same as those made by him to Marquis Ito, namely, a set of gold *sake* cups. A similar present was made to Dr. Baelz.

In Yokohama.

The day was observed in Yokohama as a general holiday, every foreign bank, store, office, etc., being closed in the Settlement; while China town and the Japanese quarters gave themselves up entirely to pleasure. The streets looked very pretty in their gay attire of bunting, evergreens, strings of *go-hei* and particoloured *chochin*; while every house, both on the Bluff and in the town, hung out flags galore. The shipping in harbour were all decked in holiday finery, and at noon the men-of-war in the offing fired a salute, the ships taking part being the *Yashima*, *Akashi*, and *Miyako*, the *Admiral Korniloff* (Russian), *Calabria* (Italian), *Concord* (U.S.), *Endymion* (British), *Jaquar* (German), *Newark* (U.S.), and *Yosemite* (U.S.). The schools all held holiday and the children were entertained at a sports meeting behind Noge-yama.

In the evening the town was illuminated in the pretty Japanese fashion, and joyous crowds thronged the streets until a very late hour.

Cricket.

Occasion was also taken to play the opening match of the cricket season on Thursday between two teams captained respectively by Mr. C. M. Duff and Mr. K. F. Crawford. The ground was in excellent condition and the weather delightful. Play commenced a little after 10 a.m., Captain Duff winning the toss and going first to the wicket. The seventeen members of the team managed to put together 86 runs, of which Duff contributed 23 and S. Wheeler 18. Mr. Crawford's fourteen were all disposed of for 63, the Captain himself scoring 24 and Fradgley 19, out of the total. Bugbirds' and Braess' bowling proved very telling. Duff's team then started a second innings and had knocked up 201 runs for fifteen wickets when stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock, J. E. Moss having made the fine score of 51, G. Braess 40, and S. Wheeler 23. The scores were as follows —

MR. DUFF'S TEAM.

Mr. S. Wheeler, c. Fradgley	18
Mr. A. Kingdon, l.b.w., b. P. B. Clarke	0
Mr. R. G. Hickey, b. P. B. Clarke	0
Mr. H. W. Hickey, run out	0
Mr. A. T. Pomfret, run out	4
Mr. Hudson, b. Fradgley	1
Mr. A. W. Read, b. Fradgley	0
Mr. C. M. Duff, c. Hayes b. Fradgley	23
Mr. H. S. Goddard, c. Fradgley, b. Smart	0
Mr. O. Strome, did not bat	—
Mr. G. Braess, b. Stuart	12
Mr. F. H. Abbey, c. Kilby, b. Fradgley	3
Mr. F. J. Lias, b. Stuart	0
Mr. J. E. Moss, c. Kilby b. Fradgley	10
Mr. F. H. Bugbird, not out	3
Mr. E. Rae, c. Crawford b. P. B. Clarke	1
Mr. C. H. Thorn, c. White, b. Fradgley	2
Extras	9
	86

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maidens.	Wkts.
P. B. Clarke	40	16	1	3
E. W. Kilby	40	21	3	0
E. J. Fradgley	53	22	6	7
F. O. Stuart	35	18	0	3

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MR. CRAWFORD'S TEAM.

Mr. H. Kilby, c. Hudson, b. Bugbird	0
Mr. Crabtree, st. Duff, b. Braess	0
Mr. H. W. Clark, b. Braess	0
Mr. A. J. Hellyer, b. Braess	4
Mr. W. S. Moss, b. Braess	4
Mr. E. W. Kilby, b. Kingdon	0
Mr. P. B. Clarke, st. Braess, b. Pomfret	0
Mr. K. F. Crawford, c. Duff, b. Bugbird	24
Mr. E. J. Fradgley, b. Kingdon	19
Mr. F. O. Stuart, b. Bugbird	1
Mr. E. B. Clarke, b. Bugbird	0
Mr. G. C. Allcock, b. Kingdon	1
Mr. W. J. White, not out	0
Mr. Hayes, c. Braess, b. Bugbird	9
Extras	63

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Runs.	Maidens.	Wkts.
G. Braess	45	12	4	4
A. T. Pomfret	20	10	1	1
H. S. Goddard	15	7	0	0
F. J. Lias	20	10	0	0
A. Kingdon	45	11	5	3
F. H. Bugbird	35	4	4	5

THE ADDRESS FROM KOBE.

The following is the text of the Address which has been presented to the Prince on behalf of the foreign community of Kobe:—

May it please Your Imperial Highness:

The auspicious occasion of your Imperial Highness' approaching marriage inspires in the minds of the Japanese people feelings of respectful interest and joyful anticipation in which resident foreigners are privileged to participate. They appreciate with sympathetic insight the public importance of this event, and they desire to associate themselves with those manifestations of national rejoicing which, amongst a people so devotedly loyal to the Imperial Dynasty, are naturally evoked by the nuptial celebrations of the Heir Apparent to the Throne.

Influenced therefore by these sentiments, we, foreigners of all nationalities residing in Kobe and Osaka, join in respectfully tendering to your Imperial Highness and your affianced Bride the expression of our sincere congratulation for your united happiness and welfare, and we beg that you will deign to accept this address and casquet as a token of our respect, and of the earnestness of our desire to identify ourselves with the great public and social interests of the land wherein we sojourn.

RIOT AT ODAWARA.

The *Jiji Shimpo* and the *Chuo Shimbun* write in very strong terms against the Odawara rioters who smashed some cars on the electric railway. Both journals concur in declaring that such an act on such a day was an insult to the Prince and Princess Imperial on whose account the town was *en fête*.

The inhabitants of Odawara seem to have become incensed against the proprietors of the new electric railway. We can not discover any reason for the sentiment, except that the Railway Company's contribution to the festivities on the 10th and 11th instant was only 5 *yen*, and the people appear to have justly regarded such a sum as altogether mean. Accordingly, when the festival cars were brought out, their bearers deposited them on the tram-way, or employed them as battering rams against the electric cars, and the pastime grew so unruly that the police were finally compelled to effect a number of arrests.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, May 12.

It is very curious to read the comments of some American journals on the recent operations of the Boers at Thabanchu, Reddersburg and Wepener. Roberts is spoken of as being "nearly surrounded, with his forty or fifty thousand men, by a thin line of Boers, having possession of the water-works of the town, and operating both east and west of his railway communications;" the Boers are said to have "enveloped Robert's huge army at Bloemfontein with a cloud of swiftly moving detachments, behind which considerable masses of their combatants are supposed to be concentrated," and it is concluded that "the Boers have Roberts and his army cooped up in Bloemfontein." It must be confessed that no such alarmist views were entertained in our own remote quarter of the world, and that they look very quaint when examined by the light of what actually took place. There can be no doubt that the march of the Boers *viâ* Ladybrand, Wepener and Smithfield into the south-west of the Free State had for its object the cutting of Lord Roberts line of communications with the Orange River. That was the device by means of which President Kruger hoped to verify his prophecy that he would retake Bloemfontein in a week. But the whole affair proved a complete fiasco. The Boers succeeded in entrapping part of a British convoy in an ambush, and in capturing a few companies of British infantry whom they caught moving across country at a distance from supplies of food and water and with only a few rounds of ammunition. But they never got near the lines of communication, and after these first surprises, they effected nothing. A little group of 500 Englishmen held them powerless for ten days, and they finally had to beat a hasty retreat northwards, the purpose of their expedition wholly unaccomplished. They made an effort to strike at the communications in the direction of Kimberley also, but it ended even more futilely. Nobody was less perturbed than Lord Roberts.

Monday, May 14.

Lord Roberts has made a record march. His rate of advance averaged 8½ miles daily from the 1st to the 10th of May, for Ventersberg station, which his cavalry and mounted infantry occupied on the 10th instant, is 85 miles from Bloemfontein. To move an army at that pace even in the absence of opposition would be a fine feat, considering that no assistance can be derived from the railway; but it becomes a very remarkable achievement when we remember that the Boers have stubbornly resisted the advance of the British force, and that three battles have had to be fought *en route*, one at Brandfort, one at the Vet, and one at the Zand. Roberts' object in pushing forward so rapidly is to prevent the Boers from making an organized stand and entrenching themselves strongly. Had Methuen been able to adopt similar tactics on his march towards Kimberley there would have been no Maggersfontein. The wisdom of the delay made by Roberts at Bloemfontein is now apparent. He was determined not to move until his preparations having been completed, he could count on advancing steadily, instead of having to check his forward movement at some point where every day's delay would have enabled the enemy to concentrate an opposing force.

From Ventersburg to Kroonstad in 29 miles. The telegrams say that a decisive battle was expected in the neighbourhood of the latter place on the 13th instant. But the estimate seems defective. So soon as Roberts arrives in the vicinity of Kroonstad his reasons for great haste cease to be imperative. Already the Boers have made all their preparations for the defence of that place. We may assume, therefore, that the British attack will not be delivered precipitately. The tactics of the English General are to avoid needless sacrifices of life: he prefers manœuvring to frontal attacks. An interesting illustration of that method was furnished recently at Thabanchu. On the 5th of May, the Boers retired from Thabanchu in the face of Rundle's advance and Brabant's imminent arrival. But being anxious to delay the British progress and perhaps, to cling to a position whence they could continue to threaten Roberts' communications, they left a force in possession of an almost inacessible kopje near the town. Rundle, acting of course under instructions, made no violent attempt to dislodge them. He left some troops to watch them, while Ian Hamilton pushed on northward and Brabant swept round to the east. On the 8th, the Boers, seeing that their presence accomplished nothing and that they were in danger of being cut off, abandoned the position and effected their escape. The Zand River fight also illustrates Roberts' strategy. He assured himself of the dimensions of the enemy's front by simultaneous reconnaissances in force on both wings, and then he outflanked them. The Boers must have been in great strength; at least twenty-five thousand men, for to occupy a front of 20 miles with a smaller force would have been to court serious disaster. Roberts fortunately had a still more numerous army. If it had been necessary for him to draw troops from his centre in order to deliver outflanking blows, the mobility of the Boers would always have enabled them to concentrate an effective force at the threatened point. A telegram published by the *Japan Times* puts Roberts' army at 35,000. That, of course, means the force under the Field Marshal's immediate command. But even then we believe it to be an underestimate. Broadly speaking, Roberts' plan of campaign is to drive the Boers back over the whole extent of the Free State. He is determined not to leave them any opportunity of threatening his communications. The main advance is the centre, where he himself leads an army of probably fifty thousand men. On his right, moving in the district between Winburg and Vicksburg, is Rundle with, perhaps, twenty thousand men, having advanced from the Bloemfontein-Thabanchu-Ladybrand line. On his left are Methuen and Hunter; the former, with fifteen thousand men, occupying the district between Kimberley, Boshof and Winburg; the latter, with fifteen thousand men, pushing northward from Warrenton. Thus the British front may be said to extend over 170 miles, unequally divided by the Bloemfontein-Kroonstad Railway, Methuen having to guard more than 100 miles, and Rundle only 60. But the country on the west of the railway in the direction of Boshof and Kimberley is unsuited for the Boers' operations, and an advance by them on that side is scarcely to be apprehended. Hence Methuen's task is comparatively easy. On the other hand, the frontier of the Free State takes a large eastward sweep beyond Vicksburg, and if Rundle continued to advance in a direction parallel to Roberts' line of progress, he would expose his line of communications to enterprises on the part of the Boers from Van Reenan's Pass and Harrismith. It is here, we believe, that Buller's cooperation will come in. Roberts at Ventersburg has reached a point nearly due east of Reenan's Pass and Harrismith, and therefore threatens to cut the latter's communications with Kroonstad. Meanwhile Rundle will soon be advancing from Vicksburg in the direction of Bethlehem, the terminus of the Ladysmith-Harrismith Railway *viâ* Reenan's Pass. Now, therefore, is the moment for Buller to strike. If he can force the Pass, he marches direct upon Harrismith and Bethlehem, joins hands with Rundle, and sweeps the whole of the north-eastern section of the Free State. As to the forcing of the passes, it is undoubtedly a tremendous undertaking, but the time for the attempt is certainly now.

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On this hypotheses, the distribution of the British forces would seem to be approximately as follows :—

The Centre under Roberts	50,000
The Right Wing under Rundle	20,000
In Natal under Buller	40,000
The Left Wing under Methuen	15,000
The Warrenton column under Hunter	15,000
On the lines of Communication	35,000
In Cape Colony	10,000
Under Carrington, Plumer and in Mafeking	15,000
Casualties	20,000
Total	220,000

It will be remembered that on the 4th inst. Ian Hamilton prevented the junction of two Boer forces, and inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. The telegraph now says that the Boers are hemmed in at Klokolan and that Rundle is fighting there. There are two Klokolans: one a mountain 30 miles east of Winberg; the other a town on the road between Ladybrand and Vicksburg. There can be little doubt, we think, that the former place is indicated. The Boers in their retreat from Ladybrand to Kroonstad, might either keep to the road on the extreme east, which would take them first to Vicksburg and then to Bethlehem; or they might strike due north, cross the Winburg-Vicksburg road at Trommel, and thence proceed *viâ* Senekal and Ventersburg to Kroonstad. The former route would remove them from the fighting area for a considerable time, and the probability is that in taking the latter they were intercepted by Hamilton and driven into laager at Klokolan, just south of Trommel. It is also possible that the force intercepted was that retiring from Vicksburg in the direction of Winburg. At any rate we may conclude that for once the Boers have relied too much on their mobility.

The news that a special relief column for Mafeking has passed through Vryburg will take the public by surprise—not the British public alone, but the Boer public also, we imagine. Vryburg is 127 miles beyond Kimberley and 96 miles south of Mafeking. Thus in 10 or 12 days this column should be within striking distance of Mafeking. The wonder is how it made its way to Vryburg undiscovered and unopposed—if it has really made its way thither, for we find the news difficult to believe. The only conceivable hypothesis is that, while Methuen threatened the Boers at Barkly, the relief column crossed the Vaal at some point westward of the Harts, and marched northward, keeping that river constantly on its right flank. Still we can not understand how it achieved the feat of getting past the Boers, and how Roberts allowed it to run the risk of being completely severed from its base, as it might have been at any moment by a movement of the Boers from Warrenton. If the thing has been done, it must stand as a most daring feat unjustifiable by anything save success. Of course the column may have made a very wide circuit through Bechuanaland, but in that case it would scarcely have emerged at Vryburg. This is one of the most interesting incidents of the whole war.

Since this article was in type news comes that Roberts has occupied Kroonstadt unopposed, although for weeks past we have heard of extensive preparations made there for resistance by the Boers. It may be presumed that the war is now over for the Free State, and that the Transvaalers are reduced to their own resources. Roberts' march is very remarkable. He has averaged 10 miles a day for 12 consecutive days.

Tuesday, May 15.

The Leeuw River, at which Rundle and Brabant were halted on Sunday, is immediately on the north of Winburg. We confess to being sceptical about the resistance which the telegram published elsewhere foresees for these Generals. If the Free State burghers could not be induced to resist at Kroonstad, where they had plenty of time to mass their forces, entrench themselves and make vigorous preparations for defence, it is not easy to perceive why they should make fruitless and disjointed resistance here and there throughout the State, especially with Roberts and French holding the principal roads of retreat to the Transvaal. It appears to us that the fate of the Free State is practically sealed, and that the burghers will not do much more fighting. Their desertion by the Transvaalers is singular. The latter are reported to have said that they would not fight any more for the Free-staters. But it is the Free-staters that have been fighting for the Transvaalers throughout. England had no quarrel of any kind with the Free State. President Steyn induced his misguided nationals to throw in their lot with their neighbours, not for the redress of any grievance or the repelling of any aggression, but simply in accordance with a scheme of ambition.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Saturday, May 12.

Mr. Yamamoto, President of the Bank of Japan, addressing a meeting of bankers in Osaka on the 8th instant, explained that though the Bank is precluded from hoping to attract foreign capital by raising its rate of interest, the circumstances of the time seem to call imperatively for a contraction of the amount of money in circulation, and no course suggests itself for that purpose except to raise the rate of interest. Some inconvenience is thereby inflicted on the commercial public, but the President considers that unavoidable.

Mr. Yamamoto then went on to draw an interesting contrast. In 1890, he said, there were 372 banks in England but the number has now fallen to 250, with a total capital of twelve hundred million *yen*, or an average of 4.800,000 *yen* per bank. In Japan, on the contrary, there are 1677 banks with a total paid-up capital of 210 million *yen*, being an average of a hundred and twenty thousand *yen*. There are in fact nearly seven times as many banks in this country as in England and each Japanese bank works with a fortieth of the capital of an English bank.

The President might have capped this comment by comparing the amount of currency in circulation in some foreign countries with that circulating in Japan. Let us take the United States, with its huge population of 77,395,000. The total money in circulation on April 1st, 1900 was $2,021,274,506, being at the rate of $26.12 per capita, or 52 *yen* per head of the population. In Japan the total amount in circulation at the date of the latest returns was 314,105,408 *yen*, being at the rate of a little less than 7 *yen* per head of the population. Nothing conveys a more vivid impression of the smallness of Japanese financial affairs than such a contrast as this.

Monday, May 14.

At a general meeting of commercial and industrial representatives held in Osaka on the 8th instant, some important resolutions were adopted. Premising that the positive policy of expansion adopted by the Government after the war with China must not be limited to armaments, but must extend also to industrial and commercial development, the meeting proceeded to declare that the import and export trade must be protected; that all industries using domestic raw materials must be encouraged; that, whether by direct or indirect means, exports must be increased; that no recourse should be had to temporizing and superficial methods of restricting imports—as by raising the Bank of Japan's rate of interest—; that the country must adopt the open-door policy in fact as well as in theory by permitting foreigners to hold shares in all enterprises, to own land and to work mines; that the financial system must be amended—this is not explicable—and that suitable means must be adopted for collecting the scattered money of the people and utilizing it as industrial and commercial capital.

This subject was farther ventilated at a meeting between six representatives of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and three of the Cabinet Ministers—namely, Marquis Yamagata, Count Matsukata, and Baron Sone—which took place on the 10th instant in the Premier's residence. Baron Shibusawa, Mr. Amenomiya and the other representatives urged that steps must be taken to bring about the introduction of foreign capital, but the Minister of Finance is reported to have remarked that to bring in foreign capital with the right hand and pay it out with the left was a futile proceeding, and that Japan's great need was the development of an effective spirit of saving. If every unit of the population saved 5 *yen* annually, there would result a sum of 200 million *yen* for the promotion of industry and commerce, but if the people spent as fast as they earned, wealth could never be accumulated. We do not imagine, however, that Count Matsukata confined himself to the enunciation of a platitude of that kind.

Tuesday, May 15.

Addressing a meeting of business men at Hakata in Chikuzen, Marquis Ito spoke in a strain that might almost be called alarmist with reference to the exodus of specie and the excess of imports over exports. He noted that Japan had received 360 million *yen* in gold from China, and that she had sold war bonds amounting to 40 million *yen* the year before last. It was commonly supposed that the greater part of this money had been paid away for the country's increased armaments; but, in point of fact, only 160 millions or 170 millions had gone for that purpose. What had become of the remaining 230 or 240 millions? There could be no doubt, the Marquis thought, that it had left the country in payment of the excess of imports which had taken place every year since the war. There was, however, no new source from which gold could be drawn, and, if the present drain continued, the specie reserve must gradually dwindle away, and the nation would find itself with an unredeemable currency, just as had been the case before 1885, with this difference, that the misfortune would be felt much more widely and keenly than it had been felt then inasmuch as enterprise had become so much more active. It was idle to talk of the introduction of foreign capital as a remedy. Foreign capital would not come for the mere asking. The people must be prepared to help themselves, and, without attempting to indicate any definite remedy, the Marquis earnestly directed the attention of his hearers to this all-important subject.

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A NEWSPAPER ABOLISHED.

Tuesday, May 15.

We are sorry to see that a journal published in Christian interests has offended against the Press Law by inserting matter disrespectful to the Imperial Family. The newspaper is called *Seinen no Fukuin* (Young Men's Gospel), and is said to be edited by a former student of the Doshisha. We have not read the offensive article, and naturally our Tokyo contemporaries, in referring to it, confine themselves to giving the heading. From that heading, however, we gather that the writer allowed himself to discuss the recent Imperial marriage in terms at once cruel and insulting. Freedom of speech is admirable in its way, and modern experience indicates that the atmosphere of liberty is the best antidote for all extreme views. But there are limits to the application of every principle and if the contents of the *Seinen no Fukuin's* article be such as the title suggests, the publication is calculated merely to do mischief. The *Official Gazette* announces the suppression of the paper and the confiscation of the plant, and two arrests are said to have been made. We give the writer full credit for sincerity of faith, and we are not without admiration for his courage, but it would have been better had he remembered the injunction of the Master whom he desires to serve before he penned such a diatribe. The *Nippon*, alluding to the incident, observes that the offending paper is rumoured to be under the supervision of a foreigner, and supplements its statement of the rumour by the curt comment *sa mo aran* (very likely). Unfortunately it can not be denied that the *Nippon* has cause for such a remark, but it might have qualified it by reference to the tone of the local foreign press in connexion with the Imperial Wedding, and by reference to the warmly worded addresses from the foreign communities.

Thursday, May 17.

The crime of *lèse majesté* is so exceedingly rare in Japan that considerable excitement has been caused by the case of the *Seinen no Fuku-in*. The particulars, as published by Tokyo newspapers, go to indicate that the affair belongs to the category of offences committed by men whom indigence has rendered desperate. The writer of the article was Yamakawa Hitoshi, a youth of 21, and the fair copy was made by Morita Bunji, a lad of 19. Yamakawa seems to be one of nature's failures; or at any rate, he has hitherto been attempting to make his livelihood in lines for which he is entirely unadapted. He received some education at the Doshisha, probably because it cost little, and he then became a sort of hanger-on in the establishment of Mr. Akiyama Teisuke, of the *Niroku Shimbun*. By that gentleman he was sent to the Seiji Gakko, established in recent years by Mr. Matsumoto Gumpei, for teaching the sciences of politics and economy. But in connexion with some question of starting a magazine in the school, Yamakawa showed such a want of discipline that he was expelled. He again sought assistance from Mr. Akiyama, but was ultimately given up by that gentleman also as a hopeless youth. Ultimately he started the *Seinen no Fuku-in*, but to such straits was he driven for the purpose of keeping body and soul together that he had to devote his nights to the occupation of distributing newspapers. The *Seinen no Fuku-in* (Young Men's Gospel) did not attract purchasers, and in a fit of desperation Yamakawa conceived the idea of publishing something which would make a sensation. He had probably derived the idea from observing the success which has rewarded similar efforts on the part of the yellow journals of Tokyo. He is to be pitied.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* declares that Yamakawa is a product of the times. Our contemporary elaborates its thesis very cleverly, the gist being that the hysterical patriotism so blatantly proclaimed by some folks, and their tyrannical manner of thrusting it down the throats of the people, can not fail to excite feelings of resentment, and even to drive giddy persons to demonstrate their protests by extreme measures. Nishino Buntaro, Viscount Mori's murderer, was an example of the madness wrought by this diseased patriotism, and Yamakawa Hitoshi is an instance in the opposite direction; an instance of the reactionary delirium that such extravagant doctrines beget. Doubtless the incident will be used by the conservative section of educationists to support their argument against the dangers of Christianity. They will say that Yamakawa imbibed his disloyal notions at the Doshisha. But they are themselves responsible for him.

It will be easy to find an answer for the *Mainichi* in the fact that Yamakawa's folly was inspired simply by the desperation of penury. But no thoughtful person, we think, can deny our contemporary's contention that patriotism is over-done in Japan, and that by screaming themselves hoarse in the market place, its exponents will ultimately become a public nuisance, and will bring into disrepute not themselves but the cause they represent.

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.

Remonstrances continue to be received from Seattle with reference to the inflow of Japanese immigrants. The acting Japanese Consul writes that on the 15th of April the *Riojun Maru* brought 1,500 immigrants, of whom 590 were for Seattle. On the 17th of the same month, the *Goodwin* brought 1,000 to Tacoma. Two or three days previously to the despatch of the Consul's letter, 700 arrived at Portland, and there was then a rumour that the *Tosa Maru*, which left Yokohama on the 24th April, would bring 1,000. The Labourer's Union in Seattle was becoming much excited over this question, and the press was taking it up vigorously. The acting Consul recommends, therefore, that the people in Japan be earnestly warned of the hopelessness of engaging in such enterprises. Many, if not a majority, of the emigrants can not anticipate anything better than to become objects of charity.

The difficulty presenting itself to the Japanese Government in this matter is obviously want of power. Officials have no authority to interdict immigration without some enabling legislation by the Diet. An urgency ordinance would scarcely be warranted by the facts. Probably the origin of the trouble is to be found in the indiscriminate encouragement offered to emigrants by companies which find their account in inducing men to make the essay, and which take no thought whatever for the issue. It appears that the most effectual remedy is applicable through the medium of local governors, who should endeavour to convey to the people in their jurisdiction a true conception of the perils involved in such wild enterprises. We do not doubt that full instructions in that sense have already been given to the various prefectures.

CONTRASTS.

Some of the advertisements appearing in the newspapers at present offer striking contrasts. In one and the same column we find it announced that several Japanese banks of good repute pay interest at the rate of 5.84 per cent. annually on daily balances of current account for all amounts of not less than 100 *yen*, and that the four foreign banks of Yokohama pay interest at the rate of 2 per cent. annually on daily balances of current accounts for amounts not less than 500 *yen*. That is a very remarkable difference: nearly three times as much interest in one case as in the other, and payable, moreover, by the Japanese banks on everything over 100 *yen*, but by the foreign banks on nothing less than 500 *yen*. It would be hard to find anything more forcibly illustrating the gulf that separates the financial world of Japan from the financial world of the Occident. If these banks were situated in different countries, it would be easy to understand the discrepancy in their rates, but they are all in Japan, and their places of business are within a few miles of each other. Moreover, while the Japanese banks are in urgent need of capital and can not attract deposits even by paying 5.84 per cent. on ordinary current accounts and 6.57 on special current accounts, the foreign banks get large deposits though they pay only 2 per cent. Does not this show the fruitlessness of talking about the import of foreign capital into Japan? Does it not show that some great gulf has still to be bridged before money begins to travel hither from abroad? In spite of the high rate of interest that they pay to depositors and clients the Japanese banks reap handsomer profits than the foreign banks doing business in a neighbouring field with capital obtained at much cheaper rates. Cooperation is certainly the need of the time, but how it is to be brought about we do not perceive.

KEROSENE IN YEZO.

Numerous reports are reaching Tokyo of kerosene wealth in Hokkaido. It is alleged that the island offers prospects not inferior to those of Echigo. The places where oil is said to exist are numerous. At Nukimi-mura on Soya-strait considerable quantities can be obtained without recourse to machine-boring. In fact the oil has long overflowed into the sea, and local knowledge of the phenomenon is attested by the fact that, in stormy weather, boats have been in the habit of passing near Nukimi-mura as the sea there is always comparatively calm. Also at Nigori-kawa near Hakodate; at Kayanuma-gori near Shiribeshi; at Itaibetsu on a branch stream of the Uriu River; at Kotanimura and Tsukisamu-mura near Sapporo, and, finally, in the neighbourhood of Abashiri, rumour alleges that rich wells exist, at some of which a hundred bushels a day may be obtained by ordinary digging without any machinery. The names of Messrs. Okura Kihachiro and Amenomiya are mentioned in connexion with the enterprise. They are said to have acquired, or applied for, leases of some of the wells. It will strike our readers that Japan is beginning to reveal a wealth of mineral deposits not hitherto suspected. Hokkaido with its coal, its gold, and its kerosene may prove a veritable treasure island. Iron is now the great desideratum. If some one could discover really rich deposits of that ore, the country would be happy.

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DOMESTIC POLITICS.

It is doubtless remembered by our readers that when some agitation was recently made by the Liberals for the purpose of obtaining practical recognition of the services rendered by them to the Government, they were said to have been induced to leave the question in abeyance until after the wedding of the Prince Imperial. Now, therefore, the journals of Tokyo are busily bringing the topic again upon the *tapis*. They assert that the Liberals have applied to have their claims fully considered, and that no further procrastination will be possible. These cries of wolf have been so frequent that it is hard to place any confidence in their recurrence. At any rate everything is still hopelessly vague. No one ventures to predict whether the Ministry will admit some of the Liberals to its ranks; or whether there will be a complete reconstruction of the Cabinet; or whether the Prime Minister will defy the Liberals and dissolve the Diet next session should it prove intractable.

Mr. Hoshi Toru has allowed himself to be interviewed on this subject. He thought it worth while to contradict an industriously circulated rumour to the effect that the Cabinet is employing the Tokyo-street-railway concession as a bait for the Liberals. The concession, he declares, is a problem entirely apart from politics, nor has political influence been obtruded into the field at all. In point of fact the Government has given the charter to the *Sampa-godo* (three-companies union), and the only matter now under consideration is the question of method. Turning then to the relations between the Ministry and the Liberals, he spoke at some length, the gist of his remarks being that the Liberals are content to advance towards their goal of party cabinets step by step; that their coalition with the Yamagata Ministry has been dictated throughout by considerations of public utility rather than by ambitious projects; that Marquis Yamagata is not likely to resign in consequence of any demands preferred by the Party, but, that means of satisfying such demands will probably be furnished by the voluntary retirement of some Ministers who are are not unwilling to sacrifice themselves for the good of the country; that Marquis Ito would scarcely consent to form a cabinet now, inasmuch as his ideals with regard to political parties are not yet satisfied nor his arrangements with the House of Peers complete; that although Marquis Yamagata is not the man to cling to office for the sake of office, neither is he the man to abandon the helm when serious problems of finance and foreign politics call for solution; and that whatever arrangement is made will probably secure the assent of the influential leaders of the Liberals, though among the rank and file there may be some disaffection.

THE KOBE WATER WORKS CASE.

In the *Kokumin Shimbun* we find an excellent article on the subject of the above case. The writing is characterized by all the fairness and moderation that usually distinguish the *Kokumin's* columns. From the point of view of the strict letter of the law, our contemporary thinks that Mr. Morse's case may not be valid, but it appears to entertain no doubt that, morally speaking, he has justice on his side. The writer asks very pertinently how any thinking person can suppose that the statement of a sterling rate on the back of the bonds had no significance whatsoever. Why was an English "translation" put upon the bonds if it was not to have a value and not to be regarded as a translation? The Kobe folks deny that they gave any promise to redeem the bonds with sterling at a fixed rate. They allege that they merely undertook to cause a fixed sterling rate to be recorded on the bonds. In fact, their contention is that the sterling figures were intended to give information as to the sterling equivalent of the bonds at the date of issue, and not to convey any pledge as to a sterling rate of redemption. But they do not deny that a discussion took place originally between themselves and Mr. Morse as to what rate should be shown on the bonds, or that ultimately they conceded a higher rate in deference to his desires. How is that to be interpreted? Can there have been any reasonable doubt in the minds of the Kobe negotiators that Mr. Morse was bargaining for a rate of redemption? The *Kokumin* thinks not. It believes that although the Japanese text on the face of the bonds did not contain any provision with regard to a sterling rate, both of the contracting parties understood that a sterling rate of redemption had been agreed to between them. If then Mr. Morse is cast in this case merely because of a technical flaw, a grave charge of *mala fides* will lie at the door of the Japanese, and the country's credit must suffer much injury. The *Kokumin* hopes that the question will not be allowed to go to an appeal court, but that an agreement will be come to by the parties as quickly as possible.

THE EARTHQUAKE ON THE TWELFTH.

A very severe shock of earthquake was felt in Tokyo at 2.24 a.m., and in Yokohama at 2.24.10 a.m., on the 12th inst. No damage was caused in either city, but a very slight increase of the shock must have had more or less disastrous effects. The motion seems to have been chiefly horizontal, attaining a maximum of 2.4 m.m. in that direction, whereas the vertical component was comparatively insignificant, and as the vertical motion is chiefly responsible for damage, the immunity is explained so far as Tokyo and Yokohama are concerned. The area of disturbance was very wide, extending from Hakodate to Kyoto, and the centre seems to have been near the Rikuchiu coast, a constant origin of seismic activity. Sendai appears to have been greatly shaken up, and all the northern districts were severely visited, but no serious injury is yet reported.

Intelligence from the north indicates that the earthquake caused much more damage than the first reports led us to suppose. In Tokyo and Yokohama only one shock was felt, but in Sendai, Fukushima and Miyagi there was a succession of tremors, and the people seem to have been thrown into considerable alarm. The first hypothesis, namely, that the centre of disturbance was in the sea off Rikuzen and that the shock had its origin in a subsidence at the Tuscarora Deep, is now abandoned in favour of a supposition that the seismic energy was volcanic, but as usual the conviction is confirmed that these phenomena defy the explanations of scientists. Accurate details of the damage done have not been collected, but it is stated that in Sendai 40 houses were more or less injured and 5 people wounded; in Fukushima, 12 houses suffered; in Toda-gori (Miyagi Prefecture), 30 houses were overthrown and many persons and animals were injured, and from Iwamura comes a similar report. The railway also has suffered between Semine and Konohida and in the neighbourhood of Hanaizumi.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

From Korea comes a statement that in addition to the large area recently acquired by Russia at Masampho, she has also obtained possession of some 200,000 *tsubo* of land at Chinnampho, and that the latter area is outside the foreign settlement, though within the treaty limits. This second acquisition was not made recently. The bargain is said to have been struck nearly two years ago. Being private property, the land could be purchased without specially attracting attention, but, as its immediate occupation was not contemplated, the persons residing on it were not required to move immediately. The idea is that Russia made this purchase with the object of having a station between Port Arthur and Masampho.

The Emperor of Korea has shown considerably courtesy towards the Japanese who were connected, indirectly, with the building of the Sōul-Chemulpho Railway. His Majesty recently entertained them at a banquet, and spoke in warm terms of the relations between Korea and and Japan. He also insisted that Mr. Omiwa Chobei should accept the post of superintendent of railways, and although Mr. Omiwa did not by any means covet the honour, he had to consent finally, and to proceed to the Palace to receive his commission. It is stated that he was obliged to wear Korean costume for the purpose of presentation to the Emperor, and that as he is now in his sixty-sixth year, this masquerading in foreign garb did not commend itself to him.

The Sōul correspondent of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* says that the Korean Government has issued an ordinance declaring that severe penalties shall be inflicted on any Korean subject who enters into such relations with a foreign Power as are calculated to injure Korea. An elaborate definition is given of which constitutes injurious relations; for instance, the employment of foreign troops; the borrowing of foreign money or ships; the soliciting of foreign influence as a means of obtaining office in Korea; the use of foreign Powers as a weapon of intimidation; the sale of land to foreigners in places not sanctioned by treaty; the lending of one's name to a foreigner desirous of buying land; or the concealing of the fact that another person has thus lent his name, and so on. Between every line of this strange document one can read the embarrassments that beset the unfortunate Sovereign of Korea, but it is impossible to avoid the reflection that his Majesty has himself been eminently guilty of some of the unpatriotic sins against which he now warns his subjects.

Telegrams in the *Jiji Shimpo* from Sōul say that the Department of Education has decided to engage an English teacher, the British Representative giving his good offices for the purpose, and that, in consideration of the advice of the French Representative, the services of several Freachmen will be secured, one to act as adviser to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce; one to be teacher in the industrial school; one to be general manager—of what we do not gather—and five to act in the capacity of engineers.

The latest rumour about land acquisitions in Korea is that a Japanese subject is found to have purchased the island of Wŏl-mi-to, which is near Chemulpho and in the vicinity of the place where the *Kowshing* was sunk in 1884. The purchase is said to have been made last year for a sum of 150,000 *yen*, and it is

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added that the Korean official responsible for the transaction has been dismissed from office. Perhaps this incident is the proximate cause of the Ordinance referred to above. It appears pretty plain that there has been no lack of Japanese enterprise in Korea. A considerable quantity of land here and there is in Japanese posession. Russia found, for example, when she came to peg out her claim near the foreign settlement at Masampho, that about 4 acres in the most eligible part of the lot were already owned by a Japanese subject. How that complication has been dealt with we do not yet know.

The Emperor of Korea is said to have purchased the German consulate and the site on which it stands for the purpose of making an addition to the palace. The consulate was the private property of Mr. Walter, and the price obtained for it from the Court is put at 30,000 *yen*.

Another telegram alleges that the Sōul Government is being pressed by the American Representative to grant a concession of a gold mine at Kaichhōn in Phyŏngan-do.

The second public sale of settlement land at Masampho took place on the 30th ultimo. Comparatively low prices were realized. Eleven lots were purchased by a Russian, formerly an engineer of the Port Arthur Railway, but now said not to have any official connexion; one by a Russian connected with a German firm in Nagasaki; sixteen by an Austrian, who is described as the overseer of the Fusan agency of the Russo-Chinese Railway; six by the Japanese Department of Communications, for the purpose of building post and telegraph offices; two by the Japanese Consul; sixteen by three Japanese subjects, and two by the Western Hongwan-ji of Kyoto. Thirteen lots did not find purchasers.

Mr. Kwŏn, whose arrest on landing at Chemulpho has just been announced, was Chief of Police in Sōul at the time of the *coup d'état*—November 2nd, 1896—when the Prime Minister Kim was murdered, and the King took refuge in the Russian Legation. Kwŏn escaped to Japan, and has remained in hiding ever since. It is not clear what sin he is supposed to have committed. Public opinion inclines rather to the belief that he was sinned against. At all events he appears to have grown weary of exile, and in spite of the urgent remonstrances and warnings of his friends, he repaired to Korea and gave himself up. Such, at any rate, is the latest version. It may be presumed that Mr. Kwŏn had received some guarantee of safety.

The Korean Government seems to have been driven to desperation by the repeated applications for mining concessions that have recently reached it. It is said to have refused three preferred by American citizens, and also to have postponed further consideration of the Japanese application for Chiksan. Meanwhile, France has entered the field as an applicant.

The *Jiji Shimpo's* telegram announce that Mr. Gubbins, H.B.M. Chargé d'Affaires in Korea, has reached Sōul, as also has a French Jurist, appointed to serve as instructor in law to the Korean Government. Mr. Gubbins was to have proceeded to Korea *viâ* Japan, but at the last moment it seems have been considered desirable that he should take up his duties with the least possible delay. He is not accompanied by his family. Considering the important duties that Mr. Gubbins was performing in Japan, and considering his exceptional qualifications as a Japanese scholar for their discharge, we are not sure that the public service is to be congratulated on his transfer to Soul; and so far as he is personally concerned, residence in the Korean capital will not be as agreeable as residence in Tokyo. But the appointment undoubtedly means promotion, and also opens up a new field for the exercise of the great abilities of which Mr. Gubbins has often shown himself the possessor. It indicates, further, a new departure, from a diplomatic point of view, since it may be regarded, we think, as an evidence of the Foreign Office's final abandonment of its old-fashioned theory that Korea was little better than an appanage of China. That theory led to unfortunate results in the war of 1894-5, and it was doubtless responsible for the unvarying selection of a member of the Chinese staff of the Legation to represent Her Majesty in Sōul, as well as for the previous union of the two posts of Minister in Peking and Minister in Sōul in one and the same official. Mr. Gubbins belongs to the Japanese branch of the Service. He has an intimate knowledge of Japanese politics, and, indeed, of everything relating to Japan, and these facts give to his appointment a significance which Lord Salisbury must have fully foreseen when he made the nomination.

The *New York Tribune* has an amusing picture entitled, "Don't interfere with the animal at meal-time." An immense white bear, open-mouthed and of the fiercest mien, rises over a bone labelled Korea and advances snarling against a lilliputian mannikin standing on *geta* and armed with a Japanese umbrella, which he flirts in the face of the monster. The mannikin wears a costume evidently supposed by the artist to be Japanese, but bearing no sort of resemblance to any dress seen in this country. However, there is no mistaking the intention of the picture. Japan is supposed to have nothing better than an umbrella to stay the onset of the great white bear.

Apparently Korea's reluctance to grant any further mining concessions to foreigners has been overcome in favour of an American citizen. The Emperor is said to have promised a concession at Kyŏng-chu in Kyŏngsan-do, and although the Minister concerned has not yet given the necessary documents, it is supposed that there will not be any ultimate difficulty.

THE PEST.

Monday, May 14.

Five new cases of pest occurred in Osaka on the 10th instant. The disease is no longer confined to the Western quarter of the city: it has now invaded the eastern quarter and the southern quarter also. Of the 5 cases reported on the 10th, 2 were in the southern quarter. Numbers of rats are said to be dying in various parts of the city, and in every instance the plague bacillus is found in their bodies. In view of these alarming symptoms, and of the fact that the man who was recently taken ill in Shizuoka Prefecture has since died of the malady, which he had evidently contracted during his sojourn in Osaka *en route* for Shizuoka, it has been decided to revive the system of medical inspection of passengers arriving in Tokyo by the Tokaido Railway.

It is evident that there was some truth in the charges recently preferred against the Osaka Authorities that they had concealed the fact of the pest's recrudescence. The Governor of Osaka, Mr. Kikuchi, is publicly reprimanded in the *Official Gazette* for having failed to forward reports to the Home Department.

A case is reported from the northern district also of Osaka. It occurred on the 9th instant and terminated fatally on the 12th.

Tuesday, May 15.

Another case of pest is reported from Shizuoka. It occurred at Omiya-machi, and seems to have ended fatally in a few hours. There is no news, however, of any fresh case in Osaka, and it must be confessed that although the presence of the disease in Japan is a too patent fact, the Authorities seem to struggle very successfully against its rapid spread.

Wednesday, May 16.

Two more cases of pest have occurred in Omiya-machi, Shizuoka Prefecture, making three cases in all for that district. Another case is also reported from the Western Ward of Osaka.

The Russian Authorities in the north have notified that all vessels coming from Japan, with the exception of those arriving in Saghalien from Hakodate, shall be regarded as from infected ports, and shall be subjected to medical inspection and other precautionary measures at Vladivostock.

The Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture on Monday issued a notification containing instructions for the purpose of preventing the spread of plague. These regulations deal with railway passengers from Osaka, inspection being again enforced; and the reporting to the police by hotel-proprietors of all guests who may arrive from the infected districts. Anyone failing to observe these regulations is liable to a fine of from 50 *sen* to 1.50 *yen*.

THE NOBILITY.

The addition of 60 new peers to the nobles' list has naturally suggested to Japanese publicists some considerations about the growth of the titled class. When the peerage was created in 1886, the total number of peers was 533, and with their families they aggregated 3,430. In 1898 the number of peers had grown to 716, making 4,523 with their families. Adding the 60 new creations, there are now 776 peers, or 243 more than there were originally. The entailed property (*sesshu zaisan*) of the peers prior to the latest additions, stood as follows:—

	In number.	Yen.
Princes	11	1,156,200
Marquises	33	5,929,913
Counts	89	4,484,595
Viscounts	363	4,946,987
Barons	220	140,016
	716	16,657,721

It is well understood that this last figure does not by any means represent the property really owned by the peers: it merely represents the sum registered by them under the provisions of the law which compels them to set aside a certain amount as entailed property, for the purpose of supporting their titles. If it represented their whole property, they would certainly be the poorest nobility in the world. Japanese journalists are beginning to consider seriously whether the rapid increase of the number of peers and of their families will not lead soon to the serious impoverishment of the order, and whether it might not be wise to limit the transmission of certain titles to two or, at most, three generations.

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CRITICISM.

We have become accustomed to listen patiently to the criticisms of the German and French press, and even of German and French military men, with reference to the operations of the British troops in South Africa. It does not immediately occur to us that either the Germans or the French have any heaven-derived right to pose in the role they have assumed, but we recognise that the failures made by our generals in the beginning of the war deprive us of the pleasure of protest, however numerous be the fingers of scorn raised against us, and whatever be the quality of the persons raising them. After all, England's back is broad enough to bear a great deal of abuse, and as long as she profits fully by the experiences she has purchased so dearly, we can afford to let our friends rail. They are in the comfortable position of not having to give practical proofs of their own competence, and we have nothing worse to wish them than that they should remain wise in their own conceit. It is to be observed that the Germans have now persuaded themselves of their qualifications to criticise the British navy also. The guns, the quality of the crews, the discipline and the training are all denounced as defective. The *Vossische Zeitung*, for example, writes as follows :—

"It is not at all impossible that Great Britain would experience as much disappointment in a naval war as now in her struggle on land. A portion of the English press have acknowledged that all is not as it should be: but the general public hardly know the extent of the corruption rampant in the navy. Many of the guns are made of bad material, are faultily constructed, and have wrong calibre. Guns must be manufactured with the utmost precision, else they are likely to burst and can not be depended upon for accurate shooting. Krupp, for instance, owes his reputation to the fact that nothing is allowed to leave his works ere it is thoroughly tested and able to pass the most rigorous inspection. Now in England it is very common for cabinet ministers to be interested in large industrial establishments, and to draw large sums as shareholders or directors. It is, therefore, easy to understand that government contracts are not always given to the most reliable firms. Thus the guns obtained from the Italian branch of the Armstrong Company are said to be very faulty. (Naturally a part of the Italian artillery also leaves much to be desired.) Faulty calibre is a serious matter. For if the ammunition of a gun should run short, it may be found that ammunition supplied for another gun nominally of the same calibre is useless, and a gun is put out of action. To this must be added that many ships are armed with old, inferior guns, and therefore hardly able to cope with an enemy carrying the best modern artillery.

"The quality of the crews leaves much to be desired. Their discipline is not good, and that counts almost for more nowadays than personal courage. Their training also is faulty. There can be no doubt that the British navy have ships which might well be the envy of any nation; but, on the average, that navy is certainly not what it is 'cracked up to be,' and it may with certainty be assumed that the German—excepting, of course, in point of numbers—is much more serviceable."

What are we to say to all that? The infallible Germans may be right about our guns, our crews, our discipline and our training, but what about the "Cabinet Ministers interested in large industrial establishments," and the "contracts not given to the most reliable firms?" We must be very grateful to the Germans for pointing out these things. They would not be playing a friendly part if they did not give us the benefit of their invaluable criticism, and we have also to be thankful that their own Navy furnishes a model which we can imitate.

"JAPAN'S FAILURE IN FORMOSA."

Under the above heading we find an article in *Harper's Weekly*, written not so much for the purpose of demonstrating Japan's want of success in Formosa, as with the object of showing that the province of Fuhkien ought to become American territory. The connexion of ideas may not be immediately apparent, yet it is simple enough. If Japan has failed in Formosa she would have less chance of succeeding in Fuhkien with its twenty millions of inhabitants. Therefore, in the event of China's breaking up, Fuhkien ought not to go to Japan. But why should it go to America? There we find a missing link in the chain of reasoning. Mr. William N. Brewster, the writer of the article, puts the matter thus :—

It would seem to be the height of folly for Japan to attempt to handle a whole province with ten times the Formosa population on the mainland. Disastrous failure would be certain. All this points to the possible possession of this great province by America in the not distant future. In case China breaks up, as now seems most probable, America cannot escape a share of the responsibility for the government of her next-door neighbour. Japan's failure in Formosa will naturally throw this province, which Japan seems to want but can never govern, to America as the nearest great power that has not already marked out its "sphere of influence." It is not safe to prophesy with too much confidence in such a matter, but the past two years have realized far stranger and more improbable events in American history.

Mr. Brewster, in a word, regards America as residuary legatee of Japan's failures. He does not pretend that America has any moral right whatever to Fuhkien, but he wants a slice of China for his country, and, as the greater part of eligible Chinese territory has been ear-marked by European Powers, he suggests Fuhkien, since Japan only has advanced any pretensions to it. His method of proving that Japan has such pretensions is this :—

That the Japanese have designs upon Fuhkien is is no longer even an open secret. It is no secret at all. Japanese exploring parties are often met; the Japanese flag is flying on Chinese junks by the score; there is a large Japanese concession of land and a settlement at Foochow, and one at Amoy; a Japanese railroad is to be built; Japanese Buddhist churches, avowedly for political purposes, are being organized all along the coast. The meaning of all this, and much more in the same line, is so plain that he who runs may read. American interests here are very great and may be developed indefinitely. This province is close to the Philippines. Let the reader take a map and study the relation of Fuhkien Province to the Philippines and Formosa, and then it will be no longer necessary to emphasize the importance of this question from the American stand-point.

The Japanese Buddhists will be surprised to learn that they have "organized churches all along the coast avowedly for political purposes," and if Mr. W. N. Brewster believes anything of the kind, he must be a remarkably credulous person. Concerning his indictment of Japan's methods in Formosa, it is based on the assertions of Dr. Wykeham Myers, recently made to an interviewer of the *North-China Herald* and published by that journal:

The interviewer says: "I was anxious to get some clear idea of how, under present conditions, the island is divided up, and Dr. Myers was good enough to draw me a diagram which showed roughly but clearly the state of affairs. The chain fringing the eastern side of the island is, so to speak, the background to the present political trouble. Running westward from these to the coast-line is the plain land, in which, as one nears the coast, are to be found the big towns. At present the land immediately at the base of these hills is divided up into territories which have been granted to various banditti chiefs on terms of absolute independence." After telling of the revolts of the populace and the changes of administration and policy, each change seeming to make matters worse, Dr. Myers is quoted as saying:—"They [the Japanese rulers] conferred with the robber chiefs under the most humiliating conditions, and finally ceded large tracts of Formosan territory to these men. Notable among the chiefs is Lim-Siau-Nian, who holds the southernmost tract of land, running from the hills clear to the coast-line. Koa Thih-haw, another robber chief, holds a large tract of land farther north, while between these and to the north of them are a number of smaller grants."

Upon being asked, "How much of Formosan territory is left under Japanese jurisdiction?" Dr. Myers replied, "Supposing that the treaties and arrangements made by Dr. Goto, the present civil administrative chief, are allowed by the Japanese to remain in force as at present, there is only a narrow strip on the western side of the island, bounded by a line running close to the east of the chief cities on that coast, which the Japanese attempt any jurisdiction over."

In answer to the question whether Japan had granted extra-territorial rights to these men, Dr. Myers, while expressing the opinion that the Government had not been consulted by its representatives in Formosa in the concessions, said, "I cannot deny that these banditti chiefs hold sovereign rights." So much for at least two-thirds of the territory. Not only have the Japanese not succeeded in establishing their authority over it, but they have been forced to make formal treaties with not only one rebel, but several, and have recognized a number of small states under the government of these feudal lords.

But how about the strip of land along the western coast over which the Japanese exercise a degree of authority? Are the people well treated, and contented with their new masters? Let the English adviser of the new régime speak. Evidently Dr. Myers's advice is little followed by his employers, or he would have a different story to tell. "Notwithstanding this confusion, Dr. Goto has to show that Formosa can do something for itself, or at least be less of a burden on the mother-country, whose apparently unbounded generosity he has almost exhausted. To do that the people in the narrow strip of Japanese territory are taxed with a new and extremely heavy tariff. Besides that, they are made to pay export taxes. The method of collection is by no means a satisfactory one, moreover."

"What is the result of this on the people?"

"Those that the Japanese can get at are oppressed almost to ruin," Dr. Myers said. "Another result is that the tariff offers such an enormous premium to smuggling that syndicates have been formed in China and elsewhere which are actively and most remuneratively engaged all along the coast-line in evading the regulations governing the export and import of goods. As to the bandit Lim Siau-Nian, whose territory is to the south, and runs from the hills clear to the coast-line, he can bring whatever he likes into the country, arms included. It goes without saying that he takes the opportunity."

We imagine that Dr. Myers' statements must be considerably discounted in view of the fact that he no longer holds a post under the Japanese Government, and that his loss of office was due to differences of opinion with Dr. Goto, whose proceedings he so severely criticises. At all events we should like to hear Dr. Goto's views before arriving at any conclusion. Meanwhile, it is very interesting to note how appetite has come with eating in the case of some Americans. Three or four years ago such views as those expressed by Mr. Brewster would have sounded very strange in the mouth of an United States citizen.

THE PRESENTATION TO MR. & MRS. A. C. READ.

We have received the following letter, which speaks for itself, from Mr. J. F. Lowder :—

Ye Olde Manor House,
South Norwood Hill, Surrey.
April 8th, 1900.

MY DEAR LOWDER:

I write these lines to ask you to be good enough to convey in such manner as may seem to you most desirable, our renewed and most grateful thanks to all those kind friends who presented us on our departure from Japan with the very beautiful and costly souvenir which has just arrived home in safety, and now adorns the side-board of our quaint old dining-room. It is impossible for me to adequately express how sincerely my wife and I appreciate the kindly thought and feeling of so many Japan residents towards us, which is very deeply reciprocated on our part, and I can assure you and all of them that the silver punch bowl and goblets and the accompanying address, signed as it is by all whom we were privileged to call friends in Japan at that time, will ever be amongst our most jealously guarded treasures and be handed down to those who come after us as cherished heir-looms.

With our united kindest regards to all,

Believe me to remain, yours very sincerely.

A. C. READ.

J. F. LOWDER, ESQ., Yokohama.

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NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Italian Government has declared Port Said an infected port in consequence of the appearance of pest there.

A strike of labourers is reported from the Arakawa copper mine in Akita Prefecture. The details are obscure.

An explosion of gas has occurred at the Yuge-mura coal mine in Fukuoka Prefecture. Two miners were killed and eight injured.

The third-class cruiser *Chihaya*, now under construction at Yokosuka, will be launched on the 26th instant, according to the present programme.

The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has sent his son to Japan to conduct some investigations. The young man arrived at Kobe on the 14th instant.

The *Official Gazette* publishes the Bill passed by the Diet last session, providing for co-operation between the courts of law in Formosa and Japan.

The Japanese Consul telegraphs from Vancouver that numbers of Japanese immigrants are in a destitute condition in that district, and that he is devising measures to succour them.

It is reported that H.I.H. Prince Nashimoto has been betrothed to the eldest daughter of Marquis Nabeshima, and that the wedding ceremony will be conducted according to the rules observed at the recent marriage of the Crown Prince.

The line-of-battle ship *Mikasa* (15,362 tons), the building of which is in the hands of Messrs. Vickers, Maxim and Company, will be finished by next May, it is expected. Captain Serata has been appointed to take command of the crew which will navigate her to Japan.

We are to have a Japanese reprint of that perennially entertaining book, the "Travels of Marco Polo." The work is said to cost 70 *yen* in England at present, and the Kyoyeki Shosha of Takekawa-cho in Tokyo think that it will pay to bring out a new edition, which they propose to sell for 8 *yen* to subscribers, and for 9 *yen* to subsequent purchasers. Then will be two volumes.

According to the *Shogyo Shimpo*, a meeting of the Four Elder Statesmen, Marquis Ito, Count Inouye, Marquis Yamagata, and Count Matsugata, is to take place in a few days, for the purpose of discussing the general question of Japanese finance. It is thought that this conference will have considerable influence on the compilation of next year's budget.

It is stated that seven dogs were seized with rabies in Tokyo during the first week of the present month and that they bit thirty people. The police authorities have consequently issued instructions urging the muzzling of dogs, immediate recourse to medical assistance in case of bites, and the forwarding of information to the nearest police station when any symptoms of rabies or of illness are perceived in a dog.

A company has been formed to build an electric railway from Fujisawa to Enoshima *viâ* Katase, and thence to Kamakura. The railway will reach Enoshima at the celebrated Shichiri-ga-hama, or "Seven-league beach." The company's capital is put at 200,000 *yen*, and 24,000 has been paid up as security. The sanction of the Home Department having already been obtained, work will probably be commenced at an early date, and it is expected that the line will be open for traffic next year.

News from China is to effect that the Chinese Delimitation Commissioners at Weihai-wei were attacked and besieged by the rioters, and that Governor Yuan being unable to effect their rescue, applied for assistance to the British, who dispersed to mob and saved the Commissioners.

We observe that the science (?) of phrenology is being taken up in Japan. Such at least we presume to be the translation of the term *kosso-gaku*, which Mr. Takahara, Principal of the Commercial College, promises to explain by lecture and experiment at the Imperial Hotel this evening (16th), under the auspices of Messrs. Sonoda Kokichi, Yokoyama and Hara Ryozaburo. These names indicate a serious undertaking.

The affairs of the Ota (Mito) Railway do not appear to be mending. We explained in a previous issue that the railway is indebted to the Fifteenth Bank in the sum of 280,000 *yen*. Attempts have been made to induce the Bank not to press its claim at present, but no success has been achieved, and the shareholders, who have paid up 400,000 *yen*, are threatened with the loss of all their money unless they can find a purchaser for the line. A general meeting is to be held to decide the fate of the undertaking.

The *Official Gazette* publishes the convention concluded by Japan with China in connexion with the administration of the special Japanese settlement at Amoy. Speaking briefly, all the functions of municipal government are delegated to the Japanese community—the making and repairing of roads and bridges, the construction of drains, the policing of the settlement, and so on. The Japanese have been taught by experience how to draft a convention of this kind.

On the 7th inst. a train which left a station on the Hoshiu (Buzen-Bungo) Railway at 11 a.m., was derailed near Natsuyoshi. The engine fell down an embankment dragging with it five wagons. There was only one passenger carriage, the train being made up chiefly of good's vans, and as that carriage did not leave the rails, no passenger was injured. In the account of the accident given by vernacular journals, we do not find any allusion to the driver or stoker of the engine, but it is unlikely that they escaped serious injury.

According to the *Kokumin Shimbun*, a member of the firm of Messrs. Oppenheimer Frères of Yokohama has instituted a suit for libel against the *Niroku Shimbun*, that journal having published a statement to the effect that the gentleman in question attacked his wife in a hotel in Yokohama and beat her severely. We are glad to see that some one takes the trouble of invoking the law's protection against journalistic slanders in Japan. As a rule they are left severely alone, and one result is that the newspapers lose all sense of responsibility.

The meeting of steamship and railway companies held a few days ago in San Francisco to consider the formation of a conference for the purposes of Trans-Pacific freight, came to an agreement, and the result will be a general raising of rates. This issue is somewhat unexpected, for the President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, who attended the meeting on behalf of that Company, was understood to be determined to claim certain concessions. It appears, however, that the principal of these concessions has been secured, namely, a rebate on the freight of silk piece-goods, and that the organization of the conference has thus become possible.

Two fresh cases of pest are reported from Osaka, both in the Western Ward, where the disease has been from the first markedly prevalent. The victims were a woman and a little girl, and both cases ended fatally in a very brief time.

A general meeting of the principals of normal schools is now being held in the Mombusho. A number of more or less important questions have been submitted by the Minister of Education for discussion by the meeting.

A serious collision is reported to have taken place on the 14th instant between the miners of the Atsuji and Höö coal-mines in Fukuoka Prefecture. The police had much difficulty in restoring order. As yet the cause of the trouble is not published.

A Belgian gentleman now staying at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo is said to be endeavouring to promote a grand scheme for a big syndicate composed of Japanese, Germans, Frenchmen, Belgians, and Chinese, the object being to exploit mining and railway enterprises in China first and afterwards in Japan.

The financial difficulty among the Ashikaga weavers has not been settled, as was hoped at one time. It has not been found possible to effect an arrangement with regard to the cheques issued by Mr. Sekida, to the amount of fifty thousand *yen*, and proceedings in bankruptcy have been commenced. Mr. Sekida's victims are said to have invaded his premises and threatened to kill him, but that procedure does not appear to have improved the position. The sufferers are all in the two towns of Sano and Ashikaga.

The *Chiuo Shimbun* justly remarks that Count Inouye's recent utterances on financial topics seem to have been greatly misunderstood. People imagine that he advocates a negative, retrogressive policy. No one acquainted with the Count could suspect him of anything of the kind. He is all for the pushing of great enterprises and the vigorous development of the nation's resources. But he believes that strength is being frittered away by division and subdivision, and that the need of the time is co-operation, so as to secure economy in organization and to make capital efficient.

It is stated by the *Chiuo* that Baron Kodama, Governor-General of Formosa, and Mr. Goto, Chief of the Civil Government Department, have interested themselves greatly in the problem of spreading Japanese influence in Fuhkien. By giving substantial aid to schools, fostering the establishment of a newspaper, promoting the organization of a sericultural station, and encouraging navigation, they have succeeded in winning much public approval, so that the people of Fuhkien have come to regard Japan as a most desirable neighbour, and are showing a disposition to take her for a model in everything. There are traces of the enthusiastic penman in this paragraph, but we may assume that it contains some grains of truth.

The various cement companies seem to have almost succeeded in forming a trust. They held a meeting on the 11th instant in the Yanagi-ya restaurant, Tokyo, and decided that each of the confederating com-

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panies should put up a sum of ten thousand *yen* to form a joint capital; that in future when tendering for Government contracts the price of cement should be raised by from 40 to 50 *sen* per barrel; and that if a tender was received by an outsider, none of the confederated companies should supply cement to him, the penalty for violating this agreement being a fine of one *yen* for every barrel supplied. Detailed regulations are in process of compilation.

Contradictory reports are circulated with reference to the effect that will be produced on Trans-Pacific freights by the agreement reached in the recent conference at San Francisco. Mr. Mutsu, Japanese Consul at the latter place, telegraphs that the rate for tea will be $1.50 per 100 lbs., and that for fancy matting $1.25 per 100 lbs., but that there will be no additional charge for Eastward cargo. Other authorities state, however, that the freight on Eastward cargo will be increased 25 per cent. As to the fact that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has obtained a special rate for silk piece-goods, it is beyond question.

The returns of the income tax collected last year show a result much more favourable than the estimates of the Finance Department contemplated. The figure set down in the estimates was 3,830,000 *yen*, whereas the amount actually collected was 4,894,624 *yen*, showing an excess of 1,059,624 *yen*. The collection was made up as follows:—

	Yen.
Juridical Persons	1,602,454
Bonds and two Shares	255,977
Individuals' Incomes	3,036,193
Total	4,894,624

It is, at any rate, an exceedingly paltry figure; so paltry that one is impelled to suspect extraordinary falsification of returns on the part of tax-payers.

It is stated that the negotiations which have been going on since 1898 with the proprietors of the Hanyang mine have now at length been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and experts will soon be sent to China to complete the arrangements for a constant supply of iron to the Foundry at Yawata. The Foundry is to commence work next July. It is said to be a very complete and well equipped affair, as indeed it should be, seeing that it has cost the country fifteen million *yen*. We read in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* that the annual output is expected to be 71,000 tons of rails; 10,000 tons of Bessemer steel; 25,000 tons of iron plates; 15,000 tons of manufactured iron; and 5,000 tons of Martin's steel. If these expectations are fulfilled, the Foundry will not only supply all Japan's domestic wants, but will also leave a margin for export.

The Minister of Justice, addressing the meeting of the Judges and Public Procurators now assembled at the Department of Justice, laid great stress on the importance of not sticking with slavish closeness to the text of laws; of not attaching too much importance to trifles, and of supplementing the deficiencies of the Codes by a judicious application of legal principles. His Excellency called attention to the facts that during last year 1,368 cases had been carried to appeal courts on the motion of public procurators and that 503, or 36.5 per cent., had been given against the appellants, whereas out of 5,443 appeals by suitors or defendants, only 1,695, or 31 per cent., had failed. From these figures it appeared that the public procurators preferred appeals on less solid grounds than did suitors themselves, whereas the opposite ought to be the case. We may add that the Minister alluded to criminal cases only.

The torpedo-destroyer *Usugumo* reached Kagoshima on the 14th instant, having left Hongkong on the 5th.

His Excellency the United States Representative on Wednesday conducted the Philippine Commissioners to the Palace and introduced them to the Emperor. Afterwards the ladies of the party were introduced to the Empress by Mrs. Buck.

A telegram says that the battle-ship *Asahi*, having been docked at Portsmouth after her recent accident, was found entirely free from injury as to her hull. It was expected that she would be able to get out in about two weeks on a flood tide.

With regard to the Hawaiian problem, telegrams have been received in Tokyo stating that the United States' Navigation Law and Customs Tariff will not go into force until the forty-fifth day after April 30th, when the Bill was duly sanctioned. All labour contracts concluded subsequently to the 12th of August, 1898, when annexation was declared, will be void, but labourers who arrived in Hawaii under such contracts will be allowed to remain. The latter concession was not included in the original Bill. On the contrary, the Bill provided that all these labourers must be returned to Japan within a period of 12 months. The Senate Committee, however, struck out that harsh provision.

Mr. Dole, hitherto President of the Republic, is to be Governor of the islands in their new character of a "territory," and Mr. Cooper will be Secretary.

A fundamental question seems to have caused the dissolution of the tribunal recently organized in Hawaii for the purpose of investigating the losses suffered by Japanese subjects in connection with the measures taken by the Sanitary Authorities. The President of the United States had suggested the organization of the Court as a means of ascertaining how much compensation should be paid, but the Hawaiian President assigned to it the duty of determining whether any compensation should be paid at all. This discrepancy was naturally crucial. Japanese newspapers now predict that the claims must lie in abeyance until the islands pass definitely under American jurisdiction on the 15th of June. It is alleged that the Hawaiian Government had every intention originally of giving compensation for losses resulting from the sanitary precautions, and that a sum of five hundred thousand dollars was then available for the purpose. But the money had to be devoted to other objects, and out of that fact grew the idea of rejecting the claims.

The United States Military Attaché with the Boer Army is Captain Carl Reichman. A rumour has been spread that he "led the Boer attack on Colonel Broadwood's column at Koorn Spruit, when 450 British were captured," and some credulous newspapers have published pictures of him on the strength of that report. It is an amusing idea. Is there anything too absurd to be credited by a section of the public? What is stranger still is that the *Philadelphia Press* and the *Literary Digest*, which insert the picture with the wonderful legend printed under it, do not appear to have the least appreciation of the dishonour and disgrace that would be inflicted on the American Army if Captain Reichman had done what he is supposed to have done, and do not apparently suspect that, supposing him to have been guilty of such an act, to stand up before a platoon af musketry would be his lawful fate if captured by the British. There are no American officers who would be guilty of such things. The *Philadelphia Press* aud the *Literary Digest* evidently are entirely ignorant of an officer's respect for his cloth.

H.I.H. Prince Kanin seems to have been received with remarkable cordiality in Paris. A member of the *Chuo Shimbun's* staff, being in his Imperial Highness' suite, has communicated the particulars to that journal. It seems that not only were the usual ceremonial visits interchanged, but also the President gave a banquet at the Elysée in honour of the Prince. Sixty guests were invited. The Prince took in Madame Loubet, and on her left sat the President of the Chamber of Deputies, while the President had on his right Madame Jules Ferry and on his left Madame Kurino, the wife of the Japanese Representative. Prince Iwakura and Mr. Hayashi, chief commissioner of the Japanese section in the Exhibition, were also among the guests. We learn from the same authority that the proprietors of the *Figaro* also gave a banquet in honour of the Prince.

An Imperial Ordinance has been issued directing that the Fifth National Exhibition shall be held in Osaka from March 1st to July 1st, 1903. The site chosen is in the south district of the city at Imomiya within the Tenno-ji area. As nearly three full years of interval remain, it is to be hoped that ample preparations will be made and that sufficient steps will be taken to give publicity to the project in foreign countries. The Japanese have hitherto shown themselves invariably deficient in that respect. It never seems to strike them as worth while to scatter prospectuses broadcast and advertise freely in foreign countries as all European or American projecters of similar enterprises do. The Fifth Exhibition, it will be observed, is to run for four months only. People in Occidental countries can not possibly discover its existence in time to pay it a visit if they hear nothing of it until after it has been opened.

We learn from the *Jimmin* that there is a great tendency at present to suicides by lovers. The *Jimmin* thinks that this custom had its origin at the end of the seventeenth century, when two or three cases occurred in Osaka. They were made the subjects of poems that contributed materially to create a false conscience about such acts. Above all, our contemporary condemns in strong terms the so-called suicides in which a man, being unable to win a woman's love, kills her and then kills himself. Instead of being regarded as a common assassin, his true character, such a man is counted a sort of hero by the public. The *Jimmin* observes that the suicide of two lovers because they can not live together in this world is not due to real love, but to a spurious passion with no depth of perseverance or endurance. That is very true, but do not these unhappy lovers imagine that they will be united beyond the grave? It is to that belief, as we have always understood, that they owe the incentive to their rash act at least as much as to a feeling of despair or impatience. The *Jimmin's* teaching is wholesome, but something seems wanting to supplement it.

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LEGAL DECISIONS RELATING TO LAND IN KOBE.

IT is worth while to draw attention to a decision rendered on the 3rd instant by the Kobe Local Court with reference to an attempt on the part of a Japanese land-owner to recover possession of a lot of land from a foreigner who held it. A British subject, CREAGH, purchased from a Japanese subject in 1888 the right of tenure of some land for building purposes, the agreement being that the tenure should continue for 50 years in consideration of a lump sum paid by CREAGH in satisfaction of rent for that term. In short, CREAGH purchased the superficies of the land in a manner that guaranteed him against all interference for 50 years. In a few years CREAGH died, and the superficies was sold by his executors to an American citizen, SMITHERS, who also having died, the superficies became his wife's property. She duly registered her accession at the United States Consulate in 1897, but she failed to register it at the prefectural office until March, 1900. Meanwhile the original owner of the land had also died, and it had been sold and re-sold, finally coming into the hands of one FUKAZAWA. Land in Kobe having appreciated enormously since 1888, the new owner, FUKAZAWA, became anxious to recover possession of the property. We do not say that he did not believe in the validity of his right to recover it. We merely explain the apparent facts. He therefore brought suit to oust Mrs. SMITHERS, his grounds being, first, that the tenure had been transferred without the consent of the owner; secondly, that Mrs. SMITHERS had omitted to register her acquisition of the title at the prefectural office, according to law; thirdly, that she had failed to pay rent; and fourthly, that her right of tenure was a simple lease and not a superficies. It will be seen that this suit incidentally involved the question of the relations between an owner and a superficiary, since it raised the point whether the latter can transfer a superficies to a third party without consulting the former. The Court decided in favour of Mrs. SMITHERS. It ruled, in the first place, that CREAGH had obviously obtained a superficies, not an ordinary lease, since his avowed object had been to own buildings on the land. It further ruled that the lump sum paid by CREAGH at the outset had been intended to be in commutation of all rent, and that, consequently, no rent was thereafter payable on the land for fifty years. It further ruled that a superficiary who has acquired his title in such a manner is at liberty to transfer the title to some one else without seeking the owner's consent; in other words, that a superficiary is absolutely independent of the owner from the beginning to the end of the term of the superficies if the rent has all been paid in advance. And it finally ruled that although Mrs. SMITHERS' had certainly failed to register her title at the prefectural office in 1897, the failure did not invalidate her title but merely exposed her to a fine. All this is in plain accord with the text of the law, but it furnishes an object lesson as to the law's practical meaning, and will probably remove the last doubts lingering in the minds of some persons with regard to the quality and value of a superficies.

"THE ANTI-FOREIGN SPIRIT IN JAPAN."

A MR. R. VAN BERGEN publishes in the April number of the *Review of Reviews* a singular article entitled "The Anti-foreign Spirit in Japan." We quote two paragraphs:—

> The Japanese possessed no written codes, and in criminal cases torture was resorted to for many years to extract a confession. Besides this, the *joi*, or anti-foreign spirit, was daily growing more and more rampant among all classes, and there was ample evidence from cases brought against Japanese and adjudicated in their courts that foreigners could not obtain justice against a native. These facts prevented the heads of legations at Tokyo from recommending a favorable consideration of Japan's reiterated requests, until on July 17, 1894, it was suddenly announced that Lord Salisbury had signed the revised treaty, granting all of Japan's demands on condition that it should go into effect after five years, and provided that at that time the written codes should have been in operation for one year. After this decisive act of Great Britain the other treaty powers could no longer resist, and Japan's most ardent desire was fulfilled.
>
> While the masses of the Japanese were jubilant as the time drew nigh when no consular court should continue to afford much-needed protection, it was not the foreigners only who looked with apprehension upon the approaching date. The government of Japan dreaded the excesses of its uncontrollable subjects. Had not the native courts arduously and indiscriminately defended every native guilty of an unprovoked assault upon a foreigner? Had not acquittal uniformly followed the most flagrant case of cheating or embezzlement committed upon an alien? These facts could not be denied. But while this line of conduct had not displeased the government at a time when it could not be held responsible, it was now deemed necessary to invoke the highest power, the emperor's writ, in restraining the ardent patriots from such embarrassing behaviour. An imperial rescript was issued a few days prior to July 17, 1899, strongly advocating a more civil and just line of conduct. This rescript was unheeded. The majority of those natives whom business or social relations bring into contact with foreigners looked upon it as a mere formality to allay fears. With the strongly biased actions of the judges before them, the people could come to no other conclusion.

Mr. VAN BERGEN then proceeds to refer to the Kent case. His account of it is remarkable. He sets out by declaring, as an established fact, that the Japanese quartermaster entered KENT's room and struck him before KENT raised his hand in self-defence. No one believes anything of the kind. Assuredly it was not proven. Mr. VAN BERGEN further gives the judgment of the lower court condemning Kent to six months' imprisonment, but says nothing of the higher court which reversed that judgment and sentenced Kent to 10 days' detention, and similarly ignores the facts that the quartermaster himself was sentenced to 10 days' detention and was dismissed from the service of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. The Kent case could not fail to injure Japanese reputation considerably, and we are not inclined to say anything in mitigation of the punishment it is bringing on them, for the lesson will probably be wholesome. But we find it amusing that Mr. VAN BERGEN should be so ready to denounce Japanese injustice when his own idea of justice is not only to give a garbled and misleading account of the case, but also to publish the sentence of the lower court and suppress the fact of its reversal by the upper. Mr. VAN BERGEN's other statements in the paragraphs quoted above show the same recklessness. He alleges that at the time of treaty revision in 1894, the Japanese had no written codes. That is false. The Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure had been in operation for 13 years, and the Code of Civil Procedure for three. He alleges that "in criminal cases torture was resorted to for many years to extract a confession." That is equally false. Torture had been finally abolished twenty years previously. It is true that Mr. VAN BEEGEN does not actually say that the system of torture was in force when treaty revision took place, but his words convey that impression, and were evidently intended to convey it. He alleges that "there was ample evidence from cases brought against Japanese and adjudicated in their courts that foreigners could not obtain justice against a native." That is equally false. An exhaustive record published in these columns three years ago showed that of all the cases brought by foreigners against Japanese up to that time, the great majority had been given in favour of the foreigners. He alleges that "the *joi* spirit was daily growing more and more rampant among all classes." That is equally false. The *joi* spirit can not be said to have any practical existence at all in Japan. He alleges that "the majority of those natives whom business or social relations bring into contact with foreigners looked upon the Emperor's Rescript of last July as a mere formality to allay fears," and he adds that "with the strongly biased actions of the judges before them, the people could come to no other conclusion." That is not the least of his falsehoods. There had been no evidence whatever of such bias up to the time of the publication of the Rescript. On the contrary, any Japanese looking through the records of the courts might have been disposed to accuse them rather of pro-foreign bias. He alleges that "the Japanese mob was jubilant" over the Kent case. That also is flagrantly false. The Japanese mob, whatever that may mean, never evinced any sentiment whatever, and Mr. VAN BERGEN, if he paused to think, would know perfectly well that it did not. Finally, he alleges that "there is no safety for a foreigner in Japan," while we are all going about our business comfortably, mixing with the people on friendly terms, and living in absolute security. We wonder what instinct of blind animosity to the Japanese impels an educated man like Mr. VAN BERGEN to publish such a tissue of malicious falsehoods as the above. For every grain of anti-foreign feeling in Japan, he and his fellow-thinkers can show a pound of anti-Japanese feeling. The amusing thing is that if any advocate of the Japanese were to indite a series of such gross misstatements as those put forward Mr. VAN BERGEN in the *Review of Reviews*, he would find himself hounded out of society, whereas we venture to predict that Mr. VAN BERGEN will find many endorsers and sympathisers. He predicts that "the

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condition of affairs must necessarily come to light and finally will result in serious trouble with Japan." Yes, if there were many Mr. VAN BERGENS, trouble would surely be inevitable.

FOREIGNERS AND BUSINESS TAX.

The *Asahi* has a note about the refusal of foreigners to pay the business tax. The 15th instant was the date appointed for payment, but only one-third of those liable have met the call. The French and German residents, our contemporary says, are conspicuous in their opposition. One well-known German resident called at the local office, said that he was not under any obligation to pay the tax, and wished to return the notice served on him. The local office was of course unable to give him any satisfaction. It had merely obeyed instructions. It is certainly most unfortunate that some definite understanding can not be arrived at in this matter. The attitude of the section of the foreign residents who are unwilling to pay will surely be misconstrued by the Japanese public at large, with the result that fresh ground will be afforded for the too-prevalent idea that in his relations with the Japanese the average foreigner is an arbitrary, masterful, and defiant sort of person. There is not the least unwillingness on the part of foreigners, whatever their nationality, to pay whatever taxes they are justly liable for. But many of them believe that the treaties confer exemption from any tax upon their house property or on the rent of their land. They have stated their reasons for that view, and, pending a settlement of the question, they are unwilling to pay. Their proper course, in our opinion, would be to pay, trusting their diplomatic Representatives to recover the money for them should it be proved to have been wrongfully collected. But, whatever view may be entertained about that matter, it can not be too clearly understood that there is no desire to defy the Authorities or to evade liabilities. There is a discussion, that is all; and until some final decision is reached, the foreign resident hesitates to pay, especially as, in one instance at all events, he has been desired by his Consul not to do so.

BRITISH WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE "BLUEBEARD" PERFORMANCES.

RECEIPTS.	Yen.
Afternoon performance	148.50
Evening performance, 19 April	686.00
Evening performance, 21 April	487.00
Sale of programmes, 28 April	50.05
	1,914.55
Donation from Mr. Arnould	50.00
Sale of costumes, etc.	34.65
Total	1,999.20

DISBURSEMENTS.	Yen.
Hire of Hall and Electric Light for 20 Rehearsals	200.00
Printing and Advertising	44.00
Costumes and Refreshments	375.29
Coolie Hire, Scenery, Insurance and Petties..	98.82
Total	718.11
Surplus	1,281.09

M. H. BOWDEN, Hon. Treas., B.W.P.A.

The public reception given to the officers and crew of H. M. S. *Terrible* by the community of Hongkong included an illuminated address, presented to Captain Scott, by Sir John Carrington, Chief Justice, on behalf of the colony; a smoking concert, an athletic sports meeting, fire works, dinners, reviews, etc.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank send us the following:—

SECOND LIST.

Already acknowledged	¥1,457
W. W. Till	100
Tom Thomas	25
E. M. H. Hampden	50
A. H. Dare	50
Lady Pelley	10
David Rice	20
Madame Kuruma	10
R. Holme	100
J. C. Hartland	10
M. Hudson	10
Red Riding Hood	3.30
J. T. Lowder	50
J. R. Parsons	25
	¥1,920.30

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—At the late meeting of the diocesan council of the Nippon Sei Kookwai, in the district of Kyoto, a committee was appointed to endeavor to do something to further the movement for the relief of the sufferers by the famine in India. This committee was appointed first to gather contributions from Church people in our own district, and next to do what might be possible to awaken general interest in the subject among the Japanese people. It is to this last point that I wish to call your attention and that of your readers. The dimensions of this great calamity are so enormous that it is out of the question to look for relief to the people of the British Empire only. Starvation affecting a population as large as that of the whole Empire of Japan, or greater, can be relieved only by the efforts of the charitable throughout the whole world. As the constituency which we represent, composed as it is entirely of Japanese, with a little handful of Americans co-operating with them, has no connection with India or the British Empire beyond that of a common humanity, we are able to appeal to the Japanese people solely on this latter ground, and confidently count on your support for our appeal. We desire also through your columns to appeal especially to missionaries and other Christian workers to do what lies in their power, through the various Japanese Churches with which they are connected, to make this movement general among the Japanese people, and so not only save many lives for which there is else little hope, but also bring the blessings of unselfish charity upon the givers, and help in some degree to bring about the longed-for reign of universal brotherhood and peace among the nations.

I may add that while we have no wish to become almoners for the general community, contributions of those who may desire so to send them will be received by Mr. Tamamura Hatsutaro, Heian Jogakuin, Kyoto, or myself, and forwarded with the contributions of our Church to the Archbishop of Calcutta.

THEODOSIUS S. TYNG,
Chairman of Committee.

Nara, May 12th, 1900.

P.S.—Our Committee has prepared for distribution a circular containing a phototype of some children rescued from the famine, which we shall be glad to send on request so far as our means permit.

In connection with the Indian famine, the following paragraphs from the *Times of India* are of interest: —"There are now (April 14) nearly five millions on relief, an increase of 94,000 being reported during the last week. Increases of 38,000 occurred in the Central Provinces and Hyderabad, 32,000 in the Bombay Native States, and 23,000 in Bombay. There was, on the other hand, a decrease of 54,000 in the Central Indian States. Subscriptions towards the relief of the famine-striken continue to pour in from all quarters. Within the last week a sum of Rs. 15,000 has come from Shanghai followed by Rs. 20,000 (third instalment) from Singapore." "The list of subscriptions to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund which is now (April 18) issued shows a total of over thirty-nine lakhs, apart from 8½ lakhs held by the Comptroller-General as the unexpended balance of the Fund of 1897. The total sum received so far from the Mansion House Fund is Rs. 2,500,000. Edinburgh has sent about Rs. 75,000, Shanghai a second instalment of Rs. 30,000, and Amoy Rs. 1,182." The Navy Department at Washington have secured a 5,000 ton steamship to carry foodstuffs collected by private citizens for the famine-stricken in India.

TAXATION IN YOKOHAMA.

A friend in Yokohama incidentally furnishes some information which our readers will doubtless find interesting:—

Two days ago I received by a messenger two white and two green tax papers, calling upon me to pay a total of $69.81 as ½ year's Imperial and Ken tax. As nothing was stated concerning the details, I at once sent to the Tax Office to ask how the amount was made up. The explanation was not clear although every civility was shown. My messenger was referred to the tax book of which I had a copy, but I failed even then to comprehend the matter. While pondering on the problem, I saw passing an Officer formerly in the police and now in the Revenue Tax Office. Soliciting his aid, I explained my difficulty. He most kindly sat down and went into the matter, making out the following, which comes within a few cents of the amount claimed, and he rendered the facts so clear that I think it may be of interest. Account as sent in:—

Imperial Tax—

For ½ year.

Business tax	35.90 6/10
Com. tax	4.30
Ken tax	1.50
Ken Business tax	14.36 2/10
say	$56.56

Imperial tax to be paid by May 15th, Ken tax by May 31st.

As explained, the $35.90 was

Tax of $5 per $10,000 on wholesale trade of $2,621.22	1.31
Tax of $15 per $10,000 on retail trade of $11,000	16.50
Tax of $40 per $1,000 on rental of $1,200	48.00
4 Employes $1 each	4.00
for 12 months	$69.81
now collected ½	$34.90
difference, perhaps they taxed some other employé 1 *yen*	
Com. tax 1 *o/o* on 975.34 for 12 months, say	$9.00
for 6 months	$4.50

Ken tax is 40 *o/o* on total of Imperial Tax and so runs out.

I asked if this was all. He said no, there will be Town Tax and Income Tax. I seem to be in a tight place. My income is my business, so if I have to pay on that I pay twice on the same thing. The property comes in first: I pay ground rent, then house tax, then the rental tax, 40 per cent., then ken and town tax, and finally income tax on receipts from it. Surely "the burden laid upon us is heavier than we can bear." In spite of your asserting that taxes are lighter here than at home, the rental tax surely of 40 per cent., is abnormal. Why not, at least for the first time, put a detailed translation in English on the back of account, as they do in the land-rent receipts? The average man is willing to pay all just dues; but he wants clearly to know what those dues are; the more so since he has no voice in the matter of fixing the same.

As to Bike tax, do you not see the *jinriki* owners' hand in it? Why ¥6.50 here and ¥1 in Tokyo. Even there they are all against any improved transit, hence the muddle.

Certainly we think that some steps might be taken to render the facts clearer. Our correspondent is not quite right about the tax on bicycles in Tokyo. The amount is not one *yen* but 3 *yen*. At least, that was the rate at the close of last year, but we believe that it has since been raised. We do not think that the *jinrikisha* owners have anything to do with the matter.

SAILING RACES.

Only three of the 17-raters entered for Saturday's yacht race, and of these *Bonito* did not start, but *Devonia* and *Wettinge* sailed over the No. 3 course, 4½ miles, the latter taking the prize. The times were as follows:—

	Rating.	Start.	Harbour Entrance.
Devonia	16½	2.25.15	2.31.35
Wettinge	17	2.24.33	2.32.15
	Finish.	Club time allowance.	
Devonia	gave up	1.03	
Wettinge	3.32.5	—	

Mr. H. W. Irwine officiated as officer of the day.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

(Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense, responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

THE INCOME TAX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Whatever may be the tax, and under whatever condition it may be imposed by the Government, citizens should pay it.

I understand you to hold that a tax on the rent of a lot in the former Concession is in no sense an additional tax on the land. Can such a view be reasonable? The tax already imposed on the land is a tax on the value of the land,—rationally supposed to be its value at the time of purchase? The value of the land at present is ascertained by its rental income. This is probably in every instance much more than it was at the time of purchase. It is doubtful whether any of this land at its purchase was worth what its land tax would require it to be worth to make ends meet. Ten years ago a lot (say 500 *tsubo*) in the Tsukiji Settlement, Tokyo, could be bought for 1,500 *yen*. The rental value would not be more than 90 *yen* a year, whereas it was taxed 142 *yen*. To cover only the land tax imposed it should have been worth not less than 2,367 *yen*. This same land has increased in value many fold, because the income (rent) from it has increased. And this income is just the same whether the owner lives on it, or rents it to another. A tax is now to be imposed on the rent derived from the land, only when the owner lends it to another. You tell us that this tax is not of the same nature as the tax already paid. Both are taxes appertaining to the land. One is levied per *tsubo* at an estimated value; the other is levied per *tsubo* also at an estimated value fixed by the rent value.

It seem to me that by deducting the land rent already paid from the income derived from rent, and calculating this income tax on the remainder is, in a measure, conceding that the two taxes are similar and levied on the same property. "This land," it is equivalent to saying, "should yield so much tax. The land tax is deficient; but from the total amount which the land should yield the tax already paid will be deducted, and the deficiency only must be paid."

But just here is where the French citizens no doubt objected—viz., that the land tax already paid was pretty high,—high enough to place the owners of Concession lots at a considerable disadvantage. And this brings up the question of the concluding remark of my former letter. I believe it can be shown that the land tax now paid by Concession land owners will more than cover both the land tax and the income tax payable on the rent of land anywhere outside the former Settlements. I do not profess to know by just what method of valuation land is classified in Japan; but, adopting methods familiar to me in America, I see no reason why land on opposite sides of a canal or street (all other things being equal) should differ so widely in the land tax as 8 *sen* and 28 *sen* a *tsubo*. And this disparity is what led me to make the remark I did.

There is one point which I think needs a little more light. You say the French protest, if universally applied, would exempt nearly all incomes derived from business, for example, a lumber merchant's income would escape since the trees in the forest have already been taxed. Are the cases truly parallel? I think a second thought will convince one that they are not. If the trees in the forest should again be taxed while standing there according to what they would bring if placed on the market, then the cases would seem similar. No transformation or new combinations of these lots takes place. They are not ploughed and sowed: the business carried on on them is taxed and a revenue derived from it. None object to this.

There are other questions growing out of the unique position now occupied by land owners in the former Concessions. For instance the income from renting houses might be mentioned. I think most of the foreign citizens have reported the house rents. But it must be borne in mind that the house and lot is rented together for so much, say 600 *yen* a year. Is any discrimination to be made and part of the tax to be laid on the lot and part on the house? I confess that more people than the lot owner will be puzzled over exact calculations. Probably in the point of time-saving it would be better to over-pay than to insist on scrupulously exact figures.

Very truly,

E. SNODGRASS.

Tokyo, May 12th, 1900.

CHINA NOTES.

A Canton correspondent of the *North China Daily News* learns from a very trustworthy source that the Government officials anticipate a great rebellion in Kuangtung province some time during the summer, and are making every effort to arm the troops with rapid-firing guns. Over 5,000 Mausers arrived at Canton recently, being portion of a contract for 15,000 ordered in December last by Li Hung-chang. The heads of the discontented people are also buying and smuggling into the province Mausers, machine guns, and ammunition in great quantities, sufficient at the present moment to put a force of over 25,000 men in the field. The delay in the breaking-out of the anticipated rebellion is due, it is stated, to the fact that the rebel chiefs desire to have 50,000 men, at least, who must be armed like modern troops to form the nucleus of the insurgent army. Viceroy Li seems to be alive to the danger in his province, and is said to be quietly making his preparations to meet the crisis. Telegrams between Canton and Peking are constantly going backwards and forwards, reporting progress of the armament of the troops in the South. It is therefore expected that Viceroy Li will give even larger contracts for modern arms and ammunition, which his opponents welcome, as they anticipate capturing these arms, etc., for their own use at some time.

The funeral of the late Sir Nicholas Hannen took place in Shanghai on Sunday, April 29. The procession to the Cemetery was led by the Volunteers, English, German, and French, and after them came the gun carriage, with its sad burden, on either side of which walked a party of marines from H.M.S. *Hermione*. The chief mourners, in carriages, came next, and then a large body of sailors from the *Hermione* and the warships of the other Powers in port, followed by naval and military officers; the representatives of the Bar and representatives of the French Municipal Council, the Cosmopolitan Council, and the Imperial Maritime Customs, and the Chinese authorities. The various Foreign Consulates united in doing honour to the late Chief Justice, and amongst the occupants of carriages in the cortège were the representatives of Russia, Portugal, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and all the other nationalities. The Consular officers were in full uniform and many of them personally conveyed handsome wreaths. H.M.S. *Hermione* landed 125 bluejackets and 18 marines, the whole being under the command of Lieut. Good-enough. The eight marines who carried the coffin were the same men who bore the late Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Charles Mitchell, to his last home. The officers of the various foreign warships in port attended in full uniform. The Rev. W. Gilbert Walshe officiated, and there were also present the Rev. C. J. F. Symons, the Rev. F. L. Hawks Pott, and the Rev. Henry Dalzell, chaplain of H.M.S. *Hermoine*.

Commenting on the Spring Meeting of the Shanghai Race Club, which has just concluded, the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—

There is a general complaint that while the racing is good, and the public come up in full numbers, the meetings themselves nowadays, are very tame. Old residents especially may be heard deploring the absence of the fun that used to characterise the racing formerly. But the conditions have entirely changed. In the old days almost everybody lived in town, the jaunt to the races was a jaunt into the country, and the meeting was a kind of grand picnic where everybody knew everybody else, and all about their ponies and their hopes and fears. Everyone had some personal interest in the sport, and each race was not merely a spectacle which you went to the rails to look at if you felt so disposed, and then turned away contented. The interest in the races has been weakened by dilution, there being ten events a day now, where six or seven would be quite enough, and by being spread over a much greater number of people. There is a great deal of reason, too, in those who blame the prominent position occupied by the pari-mutuels for the absence of gaiety at the races. Three-fourths or more of the men and half the ladies go about all the afternoon with Bank-notes in their hands, and are thinking all the time of their losings and winnings, and asking for and exchanging tips. It is good business, no doubt, but it is fatal to gaiety. It is impossible for a place that has become as large as Shanghai now is, to remain the one happy-go-lucky, friendly, jovial family that it was at the race-meetings of yore. The amount that passed through the pari-mutuels made a total for the three days of something over $103,000.

In view of the recent disturbance at Wei-hai-wei, the following paragraph from the *N. C. Daily News* is of interest:—We learn from Wei-hai-wei, under date the 2nd instant, that Colonel Bower and Major Penrose, escorted by Capt. Pereira and a company of the 1st Chinese Regiment, left to delimit the boundary of the territory leased to Great Britain on the 25th ultimo with the Chinese Commissioners, Taotais Li and Yen, and Capt. Liu of the Chinese navy. Three days later Colonel Bower sent for reinforcements, anticipating trouble, it is supposed. On the 30th further help from the Chinese Regiment was sent, 170 men making a night march, under Major Bruce. Most of these men returned to Wei-hai-wei on the 2nd instant. It is understood that everything is quite quiet, but that the people have detained the unfortunate Chinese Commissioners on the ground that they have sold the territory to the British without the knowledge or sanction of the Emperor.

Ma Kie-chang, who is a large holder of shares in the old Bank of China and Japan, and who has been the ringleader of the Chinese who refused to pay their calls, has been arrested in Hongkong at the instance of the Bank of China and Japan. If the Bank should be able to compel him to pay his calls, remarks a Shanghai contemporary, there is little doubt that the other recalcitrant Chinese shareholders will follow suit.

The native correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* in a recent letter, has the following obituary notice of a Palace official:—

Much joy has been of late manifested in the Capital at the news of the sudden death of Li Lien-yin, *alias* "the Man with the False Smile," the favourite (sham) eunuch of the Empress Dowager, which occurred on the 26th ultimo, after only a couple of hours of illness passed in extreme agony. This has led to the supposition of poison at the hands of the man's enemies, of which he had very many, and this is somewhat confirmed by the fact of his burial within seventy-two hours of his death. This is a most unusual circumstance, for even amongst the ordinarily well-to-do, the respect due to the dead requires that one hundred days, at least, should elapse before burial, in order that the due number of Buddhist and Taoist prayers should be said before the body is placed beneath the sod. Doubtless there were good reasons for the dead eunuch's family adopting this course which will gradually leak out in good time. The eunuch left an estate valued at 38 million taels, one-third of which is in hard cash, obtained through bribes and "presents" from Princes of the Imperial House desirous of place and power, down to the official of the 7th rank or district magistrate who wants his "name recorded in the Grand Council books for immediate substantive preferment." Nothing was too small or insignificant for Li Lien-yin. All was fish for his net. As a matter of fact the man's annual income from these sources is said to have been something incredible in figures, for once any person was "honoured" by being allowed to send him a gift, it became the duty of that one to send the eunuch something at the end of each year in order not to be "forgotten." These 12 million or so taels are deposited in gold shops, banks, pawnbroking insitutions, wholesale drugshops, etc., and can be withdrawn at any time. His landed estates are spread over the three provinces of Chihli, Shansi and Honan, namely, nearly 200,000 mow in Chihli, 150,000 mow in Honan and 500,000 mow in Shansi—all cultivated lands. Whole streets of houses in Peking and Taiyuenfu (capital of Shansi) stand in the Li family's name, whilst the value of precious stones and jadestone and bronze antiquities received as "presents," or bought by the eunuch in a career of ten years' favouritism, is almost incalculable. Being a connoisseur in antiquities, Li not only eagerly accepted such "presents" but paid enormous sums for such things as the bronze sacrificial utensils of the Shang (B.C. 1066-1154) and Chou dynasties (B.C. 1122-1255). For instance, hearing a Chêkiang family possessed a beautiful bronze sacrificial utensil of the first-named dynasty, a beautifully-cast urn, nearly five feet high, Li Lien-yin sent, in 1893, two special agents to buy the thing. The owners being in no wise poor refused to part with a treasured heirloom that had belonged to the family for over 700 years; but pressure was put upon them by aid of the then Governor of the province, and it was finally sold to

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the eunuch's agents for Tls. 120,000—how much they charged their principal for it is not known—it being also promised to give a substantive Taotaiship to a member of the family in Shantung and good appointments at Peking to two others then acting as 3rd class Secretaries in the Boards of Punishments and Revenue. All these promises were made good within a month of Li Lien-yin's receipt of the bronze urn. Amongst his collection of antiquities is a large bronze vessel, standing on a tripod, though nearly seven feet high, covered with hieroglyphic characters and figures of birds and animals, alleged to have been cast by the Emperor Yü, the Great (Ta Yü, B.C. 2205-2197), for which Li paid an enormous sum which, although the Empress Dowager also wished to possess, he flatly refused to part with. As to the money "presents" this remarkable eunuch was in the habit of receiving, the following may be taken as an instance. It will be remembered that the Empress Dowager's ex-secret emissary to Japan, the notorious Liu Hsiô-hsun was under a ban in 1898 being sentenced by the then Viceroy Tan of Canton to summary decapitation for irregularities in the Weising lottery, of which Liu then had the monopoly in Kuangtung province. Liu managed to get introduced to the eunuch shortly after the "coup d'etat" of September 1898, by the payment of a present of Tls. 400,000 cash, and obtained further commendation by offering to search the world over, at his own expense, and arrest Kang Yu-wei, the Reformer. Liu's visit to Japan was in this connection and also to try to persuade the Japanese to refuse protection and hospitality to the Reformer and his friends.

Liu had a companion named Ch'ing K'uan, an exscribe of the Board of Revenue, for whose arrest a reward had been offered by that Board. when he went up to Peking to purchase the favour of the eunuch. Liu got his patron to cancel the sentence of arrest against Ch'ing K'uan, for which the latter paid the eunuch Tls. 150,000, and was then appointed to assist Liu in catching Kang Yu-wei. Ch'ing K'uan's deficiencies in the accounts of the Board of Revenue, being at that time a Treasury scribe, amounted to nearly Tls. 600,000, the discovery of which caused him in 1897 to flee to Shanghai where he met Liu Hsiô-hsun and became his close companion. These two bribes aggregating Tls. 650,000 were considered by the eunuch to be only "ordinary" cases, which were of "nearly every day occurrence!"

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, May 12th:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,562,167
Amount of convertible notes issued	197,840,694
Government deposits	62,091,514
General deposits	5,980,703
Exchange liability	483,381
Total	312,523,461

CR.	
Discount notes	65,565,044
Foreign discount notes	11,913,520
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,686,979
Exchange liability	1,689,611
Government bonds	54,056,211
Property	2,051,758
Bullion and Specie	88,560,135
Total	312,522,461

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	200,555,360

Bullion and Specie:—

Gold	81,681,554
Silver	4,000,000
Total	85,681,554

Securities:—

Government bonds	17,060,588
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,096,581
Commercial notes	64,716,627
Total	114,873,806

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	2,295,877
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	119,335
Government deposits	—	202,083
General deposits	—	2,917,683

SPRING MEETING OF THE N.R.C.

PATRONS.—H.I.H. Komatsu-no-Miya, H.I.H. Fushimi-no-Miya, and H.I.H. Arisugawa-no-Miya.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE.—Sir Ernest Satow, K.C.M.G., President; Dr. Wheeler, Vice-President; Y. Asada, Esq., A. J. Easton, Esq., Jas. Dodds, Esq., F. Strahler, Esq., Baron d'Anethan, Count Orfini, T. Thomas, Esq., R. D. Robison, Esq., W. W. Till, Esq., E. Knaff, Esq., G. Philip, Esq., S. Isaacs, Esq., W. F. Mitchell, Esq., T. Rinoiye, Esq.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—W. W. Till, Esq., Chairman; T. Thomas, Esq., Geo. Philip, Esq., J. C. Nicholson, Esq., A. J. Easton, Esq., K. Mori, Esq., V. Blad, Esq.

CLERK OF THE COURSE.—A. J. Easton, Esq.

SECRETARY.—Mr. J. E. Beale.

FIRST DAY.—MONDAY, 14TH MAY.

The Spring Race Meeting opened under the most favourable circumstances with regard to weather. After the heavy rain of Sunday there was a delightful coolness in the air, while the blue skies and bright sun allowed the course and the fine scenery beyond to be seen at its best. There was a large company, but the ladies were not in great force, though perhaps there were more than usual for the opening day. The racing was capital. Favourites generally justified the expectations formed by their backers, but there was one great surprise—the Mandarin Plate—where Boxie, a a warm favourite, was unexpectedly beaten by Excelsior, whose lucky supporters won a fine dividend of 106 *yen*. Surprise, a new importation, proved a very easy winner of the Shanghai Plate, showing a clean pair of heels to Mr. Darcy and Miyajima. The Russian pony Mira, who ran so finely last autumn, also showed that she had not deteriorated by winning the Cosmopolitan Stakes in capital style. Faule Grete also ran well, winning two races. The Pari Mutuel was conducted by Messrs. Eyton and Pratt, while an excellent luncheon was supplied by Clausen's Hotel. Following are details of the events:—

1.—The NEWCOMERS' PLATE, for Country breds, Maidens at date of entry and Australian Subscription horses of 1900; weight as per Scale, Country-breds allowed 7lb.; Winner ¥200, Second, ¥50; Entrance, ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Scherz's Faule Grete, *137lb., carried 3lb. over.....(Mr. Mottu) 1
Messrs. King & Satsuma's Molly, *137lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 2
Mr. Lowder's Wallaby, *137lb. .....(Mr. Riddle) 3
Mr. L. Mottet's Cousine, *137lb. .....(Kubota) 0
Mr. Russia's Dobriak, *137lb., carried 3lb. over.....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. P. P. C.'s Pirouette, *140lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. Hugo's Moonshine, *130lb., carried 3lb. over.....(Goto) 0
Mr. Tor's Torquay, *140lb.....(Katsu) 0
Mr. States' Michigan, *137lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. News' Estafette, *140lb. .....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Ayame, *133lb.....(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Avis' Kittiwake, *140lb.....(Hakodate) 0

* Maidens—Allowance Deducted.

Time, 1.25¼.

Dobriak was leading by a head for the first furlong, but was then challenged and overtaken by Faule Grete, Molly and Wallaby also passing him soon after. Faule Grete entered the straight with a slight lead, and, despite a strong bid by Molly, came in an easy winner by three lengths. About the same distance between second and third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Cousine 3, Dobriak 5, Molly 42, Pirouette 2, Moonshine 14, Faule Grete 57, Torquay 2, Michigan 1, Estafette 2, Ayame 53, Wallaby 13, Kittiwake 3; total, 985 yen—Faule Grete, 15.50 yen.

2.—The MONGOLIAN PLATE, for Subscription China Ponies of Autumn, 1899, and Spring, 1900, Non-winners in Japan at date of entry; weight as per Scale; Winner ¥200, Second, ¥50; Entrance, ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Nemo's Boxie (late Dot Rose) 141lb. .....(Ichi) 1
Mr. Scherz's Huckebein (late Hellas), 150lb. (Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. Tandem's Firefly, 153lb .....(Mr. Elliott) 3
Mr. Worthington's Rebuff, 147lb. .....(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Morokoshi, 150lb. .....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Avis' Siskin (late China Rose), 147lb.(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Starlight's Saturn (late Rover), 150lb. (Nakagumi) 0
Mr. Russia's Prostyak (late Enigma), 150lb. (Horikoshi) 0
Mr. News' Excelsior (late Black Prince), 147lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. Iris' Toyokawa, 150lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 153lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Strathcona, 150lb...(Mr. Easton) 0

Time, 1.37.

Boxie went away with a long lead, with Huckebein next and the rest close together. Boxie was never troubled, and entered the straight several lengths ahead. A hollow race ensued down the home stretch, Boxie cantering in three lengths ahead; a length between second and third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Boxie 105, Rebuff 2, Morokoshi 17, Siskin 5, Saturn 1, Prostyak 4, Huckebein 36, Excelsior 56, Toyokawa 4, Torcross 26, Firefly 10, Stratchcona 10; total, 1,380 yen—Boxie, 12 yen.

3—The ALL-AGED STAKES, for Country-breds; Maidens at date of entry 10lb. allowance; weight as per Scale; Winner ¥200; Entrance, ¥10. Three-quarter of a Mile.

Mr. Yodo's Saikio, *140lb. .....(Sugiura) 1
Mr. Avis' Peacock, 142lb.....(Hakodate) 2
Mr. R. Field's Tomboy, 145lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 3
Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta, 145lb. .....Rikizo) 0
Mr. R. Field's Mazette, 135lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0

* Mare—Allowance Deducted.

Time, 1.22¾.

Saikio went away with the lead, with Peacock second, Tatsuta next, and Tomboy just heading Mazette. Saikio led all the way round, Tomboy displacing Tatsuta just after the trees. A fair race ensued down the straight, Hakodate riding Peacock for all he was worth, but he failed to catch Saikio, who won by a short length. Bad third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Tatsuta 49, Peacock 23, Tomboy 87, Mazette 11, Saikio 194; total, 1,320 yen—Saikio, 8.50 yen.

4.—The CRITERION STAKES, for China Ponies; weight as per Scale; Winner ¥250; Entrance, ¥10. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Worthington's Standard Rose, 150lb.(Hayashi) 1
Mr. Hugo's Sunshine (late Blaubart), 147lb. (Goto) 2
Mr. Avis Nightingale, 147lb. .....(Hakodate) 3
Mr. Tatsuta Suzume, 144lb. .....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Nishimura's McMorse, 150lb. .....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Starlight's Pollux, 150lb. .....(Katsu) 0
Mr. States Oregon, 150lb., carried 2lb. over...(Mr. Pakenham) 0
Mr. Campredon's Coquelicot (late Kotaka), 147lb....(Horikoshi) 0

Time, 1.36⅘.

Standard Rose took the lead, with Sunshine in attendance, the rest stringing out. Standard Rose entered the home stretch with a lead of about a length, and a fine race ensued down the straight. A blanket would have covered Standard Rose, Sunshine, and Nightingale for half the way down, but Standard Rose kept ahead and won by three-quarters of a length; a good third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Sunshine 28, Standard Rose 175, Suzume 87, McMorse 34, Nightingale 9, Pollux 4, Oregon 10, Coquelicot 16; total, 1,815 yen—Standard Rose, 9.50 yen.

5.—The SYDNEY STAKES, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn, 1899, Non-winners, and Australian Subscription Horses of Spring 1900; weight 147lb.; Winner, ¥300, Second, ¥50; Entrance, ¥10. Five Furlongs.

Mr. Scherz's Faule Grete, 147lb.....(Mr. Mottu) 1
Mr. Tatsuta's Oimatsu, 147lb. .....(Rikizo) 2
Mr. May's Non Such, 147lb., carried 7lb. over (Mr. Pearson) 3
Mr. Hugo's Moonshine, 147lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Nemo's Sardegna, 147lb.....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Worthington's Nun Nicer, 147lb.....(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Kobu, 147lb.....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Avis' Kittiwake, 147lb. .....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Russia's Dobriak, 147lb.....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Scherz's Tante Lotte (late Etoile), 147lb. (Korosaka) 0
Mr. News' Estafette, 147lb. .....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. P. P. Co.'s Pirouette, 147lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. Tor's Torquay, 147lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Messrs. King and Satsuma's Molly, 147lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 0

Time, 1.10.

Mr. Scherz declared the best of his two to win. Oimatsu made the running to the straight, when Faule Grete, who had been racing third till past the trees, came away, and, going with a great stride, won by a length. A good third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Moonlight 8, Sardegna 32. Nun Nicer, 4, Oimatsu 175, Kobu 7, Kittiwake 2, Dobriak 5, Tante Lotte 13, Faule Grete 149, Estafette 3, Pirouette 6, Torquay 2, Non Such 10, Molly 15, The Field 2; total, 2,165 yen—Faule Grete, 13 yen.

6.—The MANDARIN Plate, for Subscription China Ponies Autumn, 1899, and Spring, 1900; weight as per Scale; winners in Japan at date of entry 5lb. extra; winners of more than One Race at date of entry excluded; Winner ¥200, Second, ¥50. Entrance ¥5. Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. News' Excelsior, 147lb. .....(Mayeda) 1
Mr. Nemo's Boxie, 141lb. .....(Ichi) 2
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 153lb. .....(Sugiura) 3
Mr. Tatsuta's Morokoshi, 150lb. .....(Rikizo) 0

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Mr. Nishimura's Sobu, 155lb.....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Starlight's Saturn, 150lb. .....(Nakazumi) 0
Mr. Russia's Prostyak, 150lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Schetz's Huckebein, 150lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Strathcona, 150lb...(Mr. Easton) 0
Mr. King's Mikozuki (late Donatello), 152lb.
(Mr. Kingdon) 0

Time, 2.33⅘.

Boxie, who was a hot favourite, made the running all the way round, entering the straight ahead of Excelsior and Torcross. A splendid race ensued up to a few yards of the post, the first two racing neck and neck. Just before the finish, however, Excelsior shot a few inches ahead, winning by a touch. Torcross a poor third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Boxie 188, Morokoshi 10, Sobu 15, Saturn 3, Prostyak 1, Huckebein 19, Excelsior 16, Torcross 4, Strathcona 15, Mikazuki 107; total, 1,890 yen—Excelsior 106 yen.

7.—The COSMOPOLITAN STAKES, for Country-breds and Australian Subscription Horses; weight as per Scale; Winner ¥250, Second ¥50; Entrance, ¥10. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Russia's Mira, *140lb. .....(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. R. Field's Tomboy, 145lb. .....(Goto) 2
Mr. Nishimura's Piber, *140lb. .....(Takahashi) 3
Mr. Nemo's Savoia, *140lb.....(Kobayashi) 0

Time, 1.23.

Tomboy made the running, with Mira in close attendance. At the trees Mira challenged Tomboy, and came away, entering the straught a length a head. This advantage she more than maintained, winning easily by two lengths. Bad third.

PARI MUTUEL.—Savoia 130, Piber 75, Mira 228, Tomboy 54, Total 2,435 yen—Mira 9.50 yen.

8.—The SHANGHAI PLATE, for China Ponies; weight as per Scale; winner ¥250; Second ¥50; Third ¥25; Entrance, ¥5. Mile and a Half.

Mr. Hugo's Sunrise, 150lb. .....(Goto) 1
Mr. Worthington's Miyajima (late Okayama), 153lb.
(Hayashi) 2
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb. .....(Kobayashi) 3

Time, 3.29⅗.

Miyajima made the running from Sunrise till first past the post, when they were racing neck and neck, Mr. Darcy being lengths behind. The two leaders kept company, Sunrise having a slight advantage, to the trees, when Sunrise came right away, and, entering the straight with a long lead, won in a canter by many lengths. Mr. Darcy came up in the straight, and was only beaten by half a length for second.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Sunrise 272, Mr. Darcy 125, Miyajima 95; total, 2,460 yen—Sunrise, 8 yen.

9.—The MELBOURNE STAKES, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn 1899, Non-winners, and Australian Subscription Horses of Spring, 1900; weight 147lb; Winner ¥300, Second ¥50; Entrance, ¥5. One Mile.

Mr. Hugo's Moonlight, 147lb. ..... (Goto) 1
Mr. David Jackson's Fin McCoul, 147lb.
(Mr. Hudson) 2
Mr. Russia's Zorka, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 3
Mr. Hugo's Moonbeam 147lb.....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Tobu, 147lb..... (Takahashi) 0
Mr. Starlight's Aldebaran 147lb. .....(Katsu) 0
Mr. P. P. C.'s Claquette, 157lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. State's Michigan, 147lb.....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. Tandem's Silver Tail, 147lb. .....(Kobayashi) 0
Mr. H. Klingen's Quibus, 147lb.....(Nakagumi) 0
Mr. Rodenstein's Tasmania, 147lb.....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. May's Non Such, 147lb.....(Mr. Pearson) 0

Time, 1.56⅘.

Mr. Hugo declared best to win with Moonlight if able. Moonlight made the running, and won very easily. The rest straggled in, Tobu, who was much fancied, being only fifth.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Moonlight 244, Moonbeam 5, Tobu 197, Aldebaran 5, Zorka 16, Claquette 3, Michigan 1, Silver Tail 15, Quibus 6, Tasmania 43, Nonsuch 7, Fin McCoul 12; total, 2,750 yen—Moonlight, 10 yen.

SECOND DAY.—TUESDAY, 15TH MAY.

The Ladies' Day passed off with great *éclat*. The weather was magnificent, even better than on the opening day, and the sport, which furnished several surprises, was good. The Nankin Stakes ended, as was expected, in an easy win for Boxie. Saikio was strongly favoured for the Spring Stakes, but allowed Peacock to beat her. The Queensland Plate was a complete surprise. Oimatsu was the favourite, Molly having the next largest backing, but Silver Tail, who ran very well, managed to carry off the event. The Ladies' Purse was won by Aberdeen, the favourite; Sunrise, who was greatly fancied, being only third. Excelsior was the only one in the Peking Cup, and Mira had quite a hollow thing in the Yokohama Derby, winning by many lengths. She broke Tatsuta's record of 2.55⅘ for the mile and a half made last year. The Manchurian Stakes proved disastrous for the knowing ones, McMorse, who was not heavily backed, beating Sunrise, who was a warm favourite. The Taiwan Stakes was simply a walk-over for Huckebein, but the last race of the day, the New South Wales Cup, was much more sensational. Faule Grete was enormously fancied for this event, but bitterly disappointed her backers, being unable to come up with Fin McCoul, who made the running all the way round. In the Queensland Plate Mr. Nishimura's Kobu fell and broke his back, the poor animal having to be killed. The jockey was also rather seriously hurt.

It should be mentioned that his Majesty the Emperor presented a prize consisting of a splendid silver bowl for the Yokohama Derby, which was won by Mira, while Viscount Aoki gave a smaller silver bowl for the Taiwan Stakes. There was a very large attendance, but perhaps, socially speaking, the day was not quite so successful as the Ladies' Day is at most spring races. The fact that neither the Emperor nor any of the Imperial Princes was present had, of course, something to do with the matter. His Majesty, we are given to understand, wished to attend the races, in which he takes great interest, but engagements arising out of the Imperial Wedding prevented him doing so.

The Ladies' Purse was presented to Mr. Kingdon, the successful jockey, by Mrs. M. Kirkwood, who made a neat little speech, and was presented with a bouquet; Baron Sannomiya presented the Emperor's prize, Mr. Neville receiving it on behalf of the owners; and Miss Aoki gave the Viscount's prize to the successful owner.

1.—The NANKIN STAKES, for Subscription China ponies of Autumn, 1899, and Spring, 1900; weight as per Scale; winners in Japan at date of entry 4lb. extra; of more than One Race excluded: Winner ¥250; Entrance, ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Nemo's Boxie, 141lb. .....(Ichi) 1
Mr. Scherz's Huckebein, 150lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. King's Mikazuki, 152lb. .....Mr. Kingdon) 3
Mr. Iris' Toyokawa, 155lb. .....(Fujisaki) 0
Mr. Worthington's Rebuff, 147lb. .....(Tomioka) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Morokoshi, 150lb. .....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Sobu, 155lb. .....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Avis' Siskin, 147lb.....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Russia's Prostyak, 150lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 153lb, ...(Sugiura) 0

Time, 1.36⅜.

From a good start Boxie went away, closely attended by Sobu, with the rest of the field stringing out. At the trees Huckebein, who had been in the ruck, came up and displaced Sobu. On entering the straight the favourite was leading by a length, Huckebein running gamely second, while Mikazuki had displaced Sobu. The favourite was never troubled and won by a couple of lengths.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Boxie 200, Rebuff 3, Morokoshi 6, Sobu 16, Siskin 3, Prostyak 3, Huckebein 54, Toyokawa 3, Torcross 15, Mikazuki 20; total 1,615 yen—Boxie 7.50 yen.

2.—The SPRING STAKES, for Country-breds; weight as per Scale; Maidens at date of entry allowed 10lb.; Winner of Race No. 2, First Day, 7lb. extra; Winner ¥200; Entrance, ¥10. Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. Avis' Peacock, 142lb.....(Hakodate) 1
Mr. Yodo's Saikio, *140lb. .....(Sugiura) 2
Mr. R. Field's Tomboy 145lb. .....(Goto) 3
Mr. Tatsuta's Ayame *130lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
* Mares—Allowance Deducted.

Time, 2.0⅗.

Saikio was leading past the post, but going up the dip Peacock again got on terms and soon after passed the favourite. She then came away with a long lead, and though Saikio made up some of the distance in the straight she was unable to reach Peacock, who won easily by three lengths. Tomboy was a fair third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Ayame 11, Peacock 116, Tomboy 53, Saikio 208; total 1,940 *yen*—Peacock 15 *yen*.

3.—QUEENSLAND PLATE, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn, 1899, Non-winners, and Australian Subscription Horses of Spring 1900; weight, 147lb,; winner of Race No. 4, First Day, 7lb. extra; Winner ¥250, Second ¥50; Entrance, ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Tandem's Silver Tail, 147lb. .....(Kobayashi) 1
Mr. Tatsuta's Oimatsu, 147lb. .....(Rikizo) 2
Messrs. King and Satsuma's Molly, 147lb.
...(Mr. Kingdon) 3
Mr. Hugo's Moonshine, 147lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Nemo's Sardegna, 147lb.....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Worthington's Nun Nicer, 147lb. ...(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Tobu, 147lb.....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Kobu, 147lb.....(Fujisaki) 0
Mr. Avis' Kittiwake, 147lb. .....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Russia's Dobriak, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Scherz's Tante Lotte, 147lb. .....(Mr. Hudson) 0
Mr. News' Estafette, 147lb.....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. P. P. C.'s Pirouette, 147lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. States' Michigan, 147lb..... (Mr. Pakenham) 0
Mr. Tor's Torquay, 147lb. .....(Nakazumi) 0
Mr. Rodenstein's Tasmania, 147lb. ...(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. May's Non Such, 147lb, ...(Sugiura) 0
Mr. L. Mottet's Cousine, 147ib.....(Kurosaka) 0
Mr. Lowder's Wallaby, 147lb. .....(Mr. Riddle) 0

Much difficulty was experienced in getting this big field off. After several false starts they got away fairly well together, Silver Tail making the running from Oimatsu and Molly, the rest tailing off. At the bend Silver Tail was still ahead, but in the straight the favourite made up some of the distance, and a fine neck-and-neck race ensued down to the post. Oimatsu, however, was unable to reach Silver Tail, who won by a short head. Good third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Moonshine 22, Sardegna 10, Nun Nicer 12, Oimatsu 198, Tobu 55, Kobu 3, Kittiwake 3, Dobriak 7, Tante Lotte 3, Estafette 8, Pirouette 2, Michigan 3, Torquay 3, Silver Tail 21, Tasmania 16, Non Such 18, Molly 81, Cousine 2, Wallaby 12, The field 1; total, 2,400 yen—Silver Tail, 103 yen.

4.—The LADIES' PURSE (Presented), for China Ponies; to be ridden by Members of the Club or Visitors, whose names must be sent to the Committee before the meeting and approved by them; weight as per Scale, with 5lb. added; Entrance, ¥10. One Mile

Mr. Worthington's Aberdeen, 155lb.(Mr. Kingdon) 1
Mr. Nishimura's McMorse, 155lb. (Mr. Nishimura) 2
Mr. Hugo's Sunrise, 155lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 155lb.....(Mr. Andreis) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Suzume, 149lb.....(Mr. Riddle) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 155lb. .....(Mr. Pakenham) 0

Time, 2.11⅕.

Aberdeen got the best of the start, but Sunrise went ahead going up the dip, and then made the running to the trees, the two being close together nearly all this distance. Aberdeen then challenged and passed Sunrise, who was also overtaken down the straight by MacMorse. An excellent race between Aberdeen and MacMorse ensued down the home stretch, but Aberdeen won by half a length.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen.—Sunrise 259, Mr. Darcy 34, Aberdeen 335, Suzume 20, McMorse 23, Oregon 28; total, 3,495 yen—Aberdeen 9.50 yen.

The Ladies' Cup was presented to the winning rider, Mr. Kingdon, by Mrs. Montague Kirkwood, and on the call of Mr. Kingdon a cheer was given for the lady donors.

Mrs. Kirkwood, in handing the prize, said:—It gives me very great pleasure to present you this Purse, subscribed to by the ladies of Tokyo and Yokohama, and with this cigarette box, a present from myself. You have ridden the race in your usual brilliant style and you have had the good fortune to ride the best pony, belonging to two of the oldest and best supporters of the Yokohama turf. You have added another to your many victories, and have shown us how a race should be well ridden and successfully won.

5.—The PEKING CUP, for Subscription China Ponies of Autumn, 1899, and Spring, 1900, Non-winners in Japan at date of entry; weight as per Scale; Winner ¥200, Second ¥50, Third ¥25; Entrance, ¥5, Mile and a Half.

Mr. News' Excelsior, 147lb.....(Mayeda) 1
Mr. Tytherleigh's Strathcona, 150lb.....(Ichi) 2
Mr. Tandem's Firefly, 153lb. .....(Kobayashi) 3
Mr. Tatsuta's Morokoshi, 150lb. .....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Russia's Prostyak, 150lb. .....(Higaki) 0
Mr. Iris' Toyokawa, 150lb. .....(Goto) 0

Time, 3.27.

Strathcona made the running from Excelsior and Prostyak, Firefly racing fourth. On passing the post first time the favourite and Strathcona were neck and neck, but at ¾-of-a-mile from home Excelsior came away, and at the half mile was leading by many lengths. Strathcona made up some of the distance in the straight, but Excelsior was never troubled, and won by three or four lengths. Firefly, who had passed into third place near the Trees, was fairly close up.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Morokoshi 34, Prostyak 30, Excelsior 293, Toyokawa 24, Firefly 94, Strathcona 191. Total 3,375 yen—Excelsior 10.50 yen.

6.—The YOKOHAMA DERBY, for Country-breds and Australian Subscription Horses; weight as per Scale; Winner ¥250, Second ¥50, Third ¥25; Entrance, ¥10. Mile and a half.

Mr. Russia's Mira, 140lb.....(Horikoshi) 1

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Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta, 145lb.....(Rikizo) 2
Mr. Nishimura's Piber, 140lb.....(Takahashi) 3
Mr. Nemo's Savoia, 140lb. .....(Kobayashi) 0
Mr. Starlight's Aldebaran, 130lb. .....(Katsu) 0

Savoia made the running, but they passed the post close together, Savoia leading, Tatsuta second, and the favourite third. Going up the hill Mira came away and at the half mile was several lengths ahead. She was never troubled after this, and finished many lengths ahead, though Tatsuta was doing all he could. Piber was nowhere.

The prize was presented by Baron Sannomiya on behalf of the Emperor, and cheers were given for his Majesty and the Baron.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Savoia 54, Tatsuta 141, Piber 54, Aldebaran 23, Mira 372; total 3,220 yen. Mira 8 yen.

7.—The MANCHURIAN STAKES, for China Ponies; weight as per Scale; winners of One Race at the meeting 5lb. extra; of two Races, excluded; Winner, ¥250; Entrance, ¥10. Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. Nishimura's MacMorse, 150lb. ...(Takahashi) 1
Mr. Hugo's Sunshine, 147lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. Hugo's Sunrise, 150lb. .....(Goto) 3
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb, ...(Ichi) 0
Mr. Worthington's Standard Rose, 150lb. (Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. Worthington's Miyajima, 153lb. .....(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Avis' Nightingale, 147lb. .....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Starlight's Pollux, 150lb. .....(Katsu) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 150lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. Campredon's Coquelicot, 147lb. ...(Horikoshi) 0

Time, 2.23 1/5.

Mr. Hugo declared Sunrise to win if able. Mr. Worthington declared best to win. Sunrise made the running for some distance, but fell behind half a mile from home, MacMorse and Sunshine both passing her, while Standard Rose pressed her hard, Sunshine being close on to MacMorse, but the latter won a capital race by a length. Fair third. Standard Rose was fourth.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Sunshine 16, Sunrise 234, Mr. Darcy 11, Standard Rose 95, Miyajima 139, MacMorse 44, Nightingale 44, Pollux 9, Oregon 5, Coquelicot 7; total, 3,020 yen—MacMorse, 62 yen.

8.—The TAIWAN STAKES, for Subscription China Ponies of Autumn, 1899, and Spring, 1900, Non-winners in Japan at date of entry; to be ridden by members of the Club or Visitors, whose names must be sent to the Committee before the meeting and approved by them; weight as per Scale with 5lb. added; winners of One Race at the Meeting, 5lb. extra; of Two Races, excluded; Winner ¥200; Entrance, ¥5. Half a Mile.

Mr. Scherz's Huckebein, 155lb. .....(Mr. Grose) 1
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 158lb. .....(Mr. Pakenham) 2
Mr. Worthington's Rebuff, 152lb., carried 2 lbs. over (Mr. Pearson) 3

Time, 1.3.

Huckebein got the better of the start, and went away closely attended by Torcross, who kept a length or so behind until just before the straight, when Huckebein drew away and won easily by three lengths. Rebuff was nowhere.

The prize, a handsome silver bowl presented by Viscount Aoki, was handed to the winner by Miss Aoki.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Rebuff 97, Huckebein 332, Torcross 155; total, 2,920 yen—Huckebein, 8 yen.

9.—The NEW SOUTH WALES CUP, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn, 1899, Non-Winners and Australian Subscription Horses of Spring 1900; weight 147lb; winner of Race No. 9. First Day, 5lb; Winner ¥250, Second ¥50; Entrance, extra ¥5. Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. David Jackson's Fin McCoul, 147lb. (Mr. Hudson) 1
Mr. Scherz's Faule Grete, 147lb.....(Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. Nishimura's Tobu, 147lb.....(Takahashi) 3
Mr. May's Non Such, 147lb. .....(Kobayashi) 0
Mr. L. Mottet's Cousine, 147lb.....(Kurozaka) 0
Mr. Hugo's Moonbeam, 147lb.....(Goto) 0
Mr. Russia's Zorka, 147lb .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Lowder's Wallaby, 147lb. .....(Rikizo) 0

Time, 2.14.

Fin McCoul led passing the stand, shortly after which Tobu challenged, but soon fell behind, Faule Grete running into second place. The favourite tried hard to reach Fin McCoul, but was beaten by a length.

PARI MUTUEL 5 yen—Moonbeam 15, Tobu 66, Zorka 15, Faule Grete 349, Non Such 18, Fin McCoul 128, Cousine 14, Wallaby 45; total, 3,250 yen—Fin McCoul 23 yen.

THIRD DAY.—WEDNESDAY, 16TH MAY.

The concluding day, like its predecessors, was favoured with beautiful weather, and the attendance was almost as large as on the Ladies' Day. The sport was capital, and productive of a good many surprises. The opening race, the Brisbane Cup, should have been an easy thing for Moonlight, and she was at first warmly backed, but on her appearance in the field it was at once apparent that she was lame, and Fin McCoul then attracted the majority of backers. Soon after the race commenced Moonlight fell out, disabled, and Tobu had a fairly easy win, earning his supporters a pretty little dividend. Sunshine was the favourite in the Cezarewitch, but had to play second fiddle to Nightingale. This was also a surprise and brought a fine haul to the lucky speculators. The Prix des Haras ended equally unexpectedly, Piber securing a win which brought in 50 *yen*, Peacock and Saikio being the favourites.

The China Champion was a very good race. Mr. Kingdon rode Aberdeen in very fine fashion, and scored one of the best wins of the day. The Mixed Champion resolved itself into a match between Peacock and Mira. There was no question as to the superiority of the Russian mare, and she started so warm a favourite that her success only earned her backers a dividend of 6.50 *yen*. The China Subscription Consolation was a win for Firefly, who justified the expectations formed on his previous efforts, which have several times secured him a place. The Mixed Consolation should have been Tomboy's race, but the very bad start destroyed his chances and he could not regain the lost advantage in the distance, though probably if the race had a little longer he would have beaten Savoia. The Solace ended in a magnificent win for Mikazuki, due principally to the splendid riding of Mr. Kingdon, who has added to his laurels this meeting, and has proved himself the best gentleman rider in the club. Suzume and Miyajima made a dead heat for second. The Australian Consolation was marked for Oimatsu, and he proved his form by scoring an easy win.

In the Prix des Haras Piber broke the records of Idaho (1.50¾) and Mira (1.55¾), and in the Mixed Consolation Savoia lowered her own time of 1.23⅝ to 1.23¼, carrying seven lbs. less. Details:—

1.—The BRISBANE CUP, for Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn, 1899, Non-winners, and Australian Subscription Horses of Spring, 1900; weight 147lb.; winners of One Race at the meeting 7lb. extra, of Two Races, excluded; Winner ¥250, Second ¥50; Entrance, ¥5. One Mile.

Mr. Nishimura's Tobu, 147lb.....(Takahashi) 1
Mr. David Jackson's Fin McCoul, 149lb. (Mr. Hudson) 2
Mr. Tandem's Silver Tail, 154lb. .....(Kobayashi) 3
Mr. Hugo's Moonlight, 154lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Russia's Zorka, 147lb. .....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Rodenstein's Tasmania, 147lb.....(Sugiura) 0

Time, 1.56.

Fin McCoul was much favoured, it being rumoured that Moonlight had gone a little lame. This was apparent when they faced the starter and after finishing a quarter of mile Moonlight retired from the race. Tasmania made the running for a good distance, but finally Tobu came away, and entered the straight with a lead of a couple of lengths. A good race ensued down the front, Silver Tail trying hard to reach Tobu, but this was not possible, Tobu winning by a length. Meanwhile Fin McCoul rushed up on the last few yards into second place, beating Silver Tail by a neck.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Moonlight 153, Tobu 15, Zorka 7, Silver Tail 27, Tasmania 9, Fin McCoul 114; total 1,625 yen—Tobu 97.50 yen.

2.—The CEZAREWITCH STAKES (Handicap), a forced entry at ¥10 of all China Ponies entered at the meeting; Non-starters Half Forfeit; Winner ¥300, Second ¥100, Third ¥25. One Mile.

Mr. Avis' Nightingale, 142lb. .....(Hakodate) 1
Mr. Hugo's Sunshine, 147lb.....(Goto) 2
Mr. King's Mikazuki, 140lb. .....(Mr. Kingdon) 3
Mr. Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 145lb. .....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Worthington's Standard Rose, 154lb. ...(Mr. Hudson) 0
Mr. Worthington's Miyajima, 149lb.....(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Suzume, 136lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Sobu, 141lb., carried 2lb. over...(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Starlight's Pollux, 140lb., carried 2lb. over...(Katsu) 0
Mr. Scherz's Huckebein, 150lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 140lb. .....(Sugiura) 0

Time, 2.11⅜.

Mr. Worthington declared best to win. Sunshine made the running to the dip, when Oregon took up the lead. He was soon displaced, however, by Nightingale, and Sunrise, who had been going fourth or fifth, ran into second just past the trees. Nightingale entered the straight two lengths ahead of Sunrise and though the favourite ran well down the home stretch Nightingale was not troubled and won by a length and a half. Huckebein was two lengths behind Sunrise.

Huckebein was disqualified, Mr. Mottu dismounting before weighing.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Sunshine 111, Mr. Darcy 10, Standard Rose 19, Miyajima 17, Suzume 25, Sobu 16, Nightingale 29, Pollux 3, Huckebein 15, Oregon 2, Mikazuki 25; total 1,360 yen—Nightingale 42 yen.

3.—The PRIX DES HARAS (Handicap).—For Country-breds and Australian Subscription Horses; a forced entry of ¥10 for all entered at the Meeting; Non-starters Half Forfeit: Winner ¥300, Second ¥100, Third ¥25. One Mile.

Mr. Nishimura's Piber, 140lb.....(Takahashi) 1
Mr. Yodo's Saikio, 247lb. .....(Sugiura) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta, 145lb.....(Rikizo) 3
Mr. Hugo's Moonshine, 127lb., carried 1lb. over...(Kobayashi) 0
Mr. Worthington's Nun Nicer, 132lb. ...(Hayashi) 0
Mr. Avis' Peacock, 145lb.....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Russia's Zorka, 137lb., carried 4lb. over (Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Scherz's Faule Grete, 148lb.....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. P. P. C.'s Pirouette, 129lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. H. Klingen's Quibus, 144lb., carried 14lb. over...(Nakagumi) 0
Mr. David Jackson's Fin McCoul, 146lb. (Mr. Hudson) 0

Great difficulty was experienced in effecting a start. At last they got away well together. Saikio made the running, closely attended by Peacock, the rest tailing off. Piber displaced Peacock half the way round, and Tatsuta soon after came up into third. At the trees Piber challenged Saikio, and passed him on entering the straight. A capital race ensued down the straight, but Saikio was unable to regain the advantage, Piber finishing with a length to spare. Faule Grete was last. The time was a record.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Moonshine 18, Nun Nicer 19, Tatsuta 97, Piber 55, Peacock 209, Zorka 14, Faule Grete 39, Pirouette 7, Saikio 103, Quibus 8, Fin McCoul 40; total, 3,045 yen—Piber 50.

4.—The CHINA CHAMPION.—For China Ponies; a forced entry for winners at the Meeting, of One Race ¥10, of Two Races ¥20, and of more than Two Races ¥40; optional to beaten Ponies at an Entrance Fee of ¥25; weight as per Scale; Winner, ¥500. Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Worthington's Aberdeen, 150lb..(Mr. Kingdon) 1
Mr. Nishimura's MacMorse, 150lb. ...(Takahashi) 2
Mr. Hugo's Sunrise, 150lb. .....(Goto) 3
Mr. Nemo's Boxie, 141lb. .....(Ichi) 0
Mr. News' Excelsior, 147lb.....(Mayeda) 0
Mr. Avis' Nightingale, 147lb. .....(Hakodate) 0

Time, 2.47.

Excelsior made the running, and passed the post first attended by Sunrise, Aberdeen lying third. Thus they went up the rise, Aberdeen going very leisurely, two or three lengths separating him from the first two. At the Shakespeare, Excelsior dropped behind and Sunrise led. Aberdeen then began to go ahead, and by the trees they were racing level, MacMorse, who had come up from the ruck, being also close up. Aberdeen entered the straight on level terms and immediately after headed Sunrise. Half way down MacMorse rushed into second, and made a splendid struggle for first, but was unable to catch Aberdeen, who won by half a length. A length between second and third. Mr. Kingdon's win was a most popular one.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Boxie 49, Excelsior 115, Sunrise 70, Aberdeen 343, MacMorse 155, Nightingale 22; total 3770 yen—Aberdeen 10 yen.

5.—The MIXED CHAMPION.—A Champion Race for all Country-bred and Australian Subscription Horses; a forced entry for winners at the Meeting, of One Race ¥10, of Two Races ¥20, and of more than Two Races ¥40; optional to beaten Horses at an Entrance Fee of ¥25; Winner, ¥500; weight for age. Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Russia's Mira, 140lb. .....(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. Avis' Peacock, 140lb.....(Hakodate) 0

Time, 2.24¾.

Peacock made the running, Mira lying easily behind. They proceeded thus to the Shakespeare, when Mira came on terms, and, going at an easy gallop, entered the straight with a slight lead. The two came down the straight well together, Mira evidently not being at all troubled, the jockey applying neither whip nor spur. Peacock was close to her heels, however, and the win was only by rather more than a length. Mira, however, could have won by more if she had been pressed.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Mira 350, Peacock 156; total 253 yen—Mira, 6.50 yen.

6.—The CHINA SUBSCRIPTION CONSOLATION, for

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Subscription China Ponies of Autumn, 1899, and Spring, 1900, Non-winners in Japan at date of entry, that have started and not won a Race at the meeting; weight as per Scale; winner ¥175, Second ¥25; Entrance, ¥5. One Mile.

Mr. Tandem's Firefly, 153lb. .....(Kobayashi) 1
Mr. Tytherleigh's Strathcona, 150lb....(Mr. Easton) 2
Mr. Russia's Prostyal, 150lb. .....(Horikoshi) 3
Mr. Worthingtou's Rebuff, 147lb.....(Tomioka) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Morokoshi, 150lb. .....(Rikizo) 0
Mr. Avis' Siskin, 147lb.....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Iris' Toyokawa, 150lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 153lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Time, 2.14⅘.

Torcross made the running till the rise was nearly mounted, with Strathcona second, but then Firefly, who had been going third, came on terms, and at the half mile was leading by a length. After this he was never troubled, entering the straight with a long lead, and winning by three lengths. Prostyak rushed into third place three-quarters of the way down the straight.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Rebuff 5, Morokoshi 37, Siskin 21, Prostyak 18, Toyokawa 11, Torcross 98, Firefly 252, Strathcona 107; total, 2,745 yen—Firefly, 10 yen.

7.—The MIXED CONSOLATION, for Country-breds and Australian Subscription Horses that have started and not won a Race at the Meeting; Country-bred Maidens at date of entry 10lb. allowance; weight for age; winner ¥175, second ¥25; Entrance ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Nemo's Savoia, *140lb. .....(Ichi) 1
Mr. R. Field's Tomboy, 145lb .....(Goto) 2
Mr. Scherz's Tante Lotte, *140lb.....(Kurozaka) 3
Mr. Tatsuta's Ayame, *130lb.....(Miyagawa) 0
Time, 1.23¼.

Savoia had much the best of the start, and went away with a long lead, Tante Lotte being second, and Tomboy third. Tomboy soon got on terms with Tante Lotte, and they ran thus to the trees, when Tomboy came into second place, and pressed Savoia. The latter reached the straight with a lead of two lengths, and, though Tomboy made a fine race down the straight, he was unable to reach the other, who won by best part of a length. Tante Lotte a bad third. Ayame was nowhere. Tomboy's failure appeared to be owing to his bad start, which cost him several lengths.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Savoia 187, Ayame 57, Tante Lotte 53, Tomboy 365; total, 3,310 yen—Savoia 16 yen.

8.—The SOLACE, a Consolation Race for all China Ponies that have started and not won a race at the meeting; weight as per scale; winner ¥175, second ¥25; Entrance, ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. King's Mikazuki, 147lb. .....(Mr. Kingdon) 1
Mr. Worthington's Miyajima, 153lb. .....(Hayashi) †
Mr. Tatsuta's Suzume, 144lb.....(Rikizo) †
Mr. Hugo's Sunshine, 147lb.....(Goto) 0
Mr, Nemo's Mr. Darcy, 150lb. .....(Kobayashi) 0
Mr. Nishimura's Sobu, 150lb. .....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. Starlight's Pollux, 150lb. .....(Nakazushi) 0
Mr. States' Oregon, 150lh. .....(Sugiura) 0
Time, 1.38¼.

The favourite made the running for some distance, but was overhauled at the trees by Miyajima, and fell back into the ruck. Miyajima and Suzume came up the straight neck and neck, but a hundred yards from home Mikazuki made a fine dash, and, quickly coming up with the other two, a neck and neck race ensued to the finish, Mr. Kingdon, by fine riding, landing his animal's nose just in front of the other two, who made a dead heat for second.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Sunshine 268, Mr. Darcy 14, Miyajima 53, Suzume 75, Sobu 58, Pollux 5, Oregon 15, Coquelicot 54, Mikazuki 75; total, 3,085 yen—Mikazuki, 37 yen.

9.—The AUSTRALIAN CONSOLATION, a Consolation Race for all Australian Subscription Horses of Autumn, 1899, and Australian Subscription Horses of Spring, 1900, Non-winners, that have started and not won a Race at the meeting; weight 147lb. winner ¥200, second ¥50; Entrance, ¥5. Three-quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Tatsuta's Oimatsu, 147lb. .....(Higaki) 1
Mr. May's Non Such, 147lb. .....(Kobayashi) 2
Mr. Tor's Torquay, 147lb. .....(Nakazumi) 3
Mr. Rodenstein's Tasmania, 147lb....(Mr. Hudson) 0
Mr. Hugo's Moonshine, 147lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Nemo's Sardegna, 147lb.....(Ichi) 0
Mr. Worthington's Nun Nicer, 147lb. ...(Tomioka) 0
Mr. Avis' Kittiwake, 147lb. .....(Hakodate) 0
Mr. Starlight's Aldebaran, 147lb. .....(Katsu) 0
Mr. Russia's Dobriak, 147lb.....(Horikoshi) 0
Mr. Scherz's Tante Lotte, 147lb. .....(Mr. Gross) 0
Mr. P. P. C.'s Pirouette, 147lb. .....(Miyagawa) 0
Mr. States' Michigan, 147lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Mr. H. Klingen's Quibus, 147lb.....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. King & Satsuma's Molly, 147lb....(Takahashi) 0
Mr. L. Mottet's Cousine, 147lb. .....(Kuroyaka) 0
Time, 1.26⅘.

After several false starts Oimatsu got away with a good start, and made the running all round, winning by a couple of lengths. Torquay was a good third.

PARI MUTUEL, 5 yen—Moonshine 18, Sardegna 32, Nun Nicer 9, Oimatsu 271, Kittiwake 12, Aldebaran 10, Dobriak 10, Tante Lotte 50, Pirouette 4, Michigan 5, Torquay 8, Quibus 7, Tasmania 38, Non Such 35, Molly 112, Cousine 8; total 3,645 yen—Oimatsu 12 yen.

The prizes at the Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club were won by 13 owners with 21 different horses.

WINNING OWNERS.

Mr. Nemo	3
Mr. Worthington	3
Mr. Russia	3
Mr. Nishimura	3
Mr. Scherz	3
Mr. Avis	2
Mr. Tandem	2
Mr. News	2
Mr. Hugo	2
Mr. Wada	1
Mr. David Jackson	1
Mr. King	1
Mr. Mori	1
Total races	27

WINNING HORSES.

Mira	3
Faule Grete	2
Aberdeen	2
Boxie	2
Excelsior	2
Saikio	1
Standard Rose	1
Sunrise	1
Moonlight	1
Peacock	1
Silver Tail	1
Huckebein	1
Fin McCoul	1
Tobu	1
Nightingale	1
Piber	1
Firefly	1
Savoia	1
Mikadzuki	1
Oimatsu	1
McMorse	1

CRICKET.

MR. K. F. CRAWFORD'S TEAM V. MR. C. M. DUFF'S.

A match was played on Saturday afternoon between teams captained by Crawford and Duff. The former's eleven went first to the wickets, and compiled 113, the Captain doing most of the hitting, and putting together 55 by pretty cricket. Duff's team replied with only 69, P. B. Clarke's 14 being the top score. Stuart bowled well, capturing 7 wickets for 26 runs. Score:—

MR. CRAWFORD'S TEAM.

Mr. H. W. Kilby, b. P. B. Clarke...	1
Mr. G. C. Allcock, b. E. W. Kilby	26
Mr. A. Kingdon, c. E. W. Kilby, b. P. B. Clarke..	0
Mr. F. H. Bugbird, c. Hickey, b. P. B. Clarke ...	12
Mr. K. F. Crawford, c. E. W. Kilby, b. Lias ...	55
Mr. G. Brady, c. Hickey, b. P. B. Clarke	2
Mr. Hickey, c. and b. E. W. Kilby	0
Mr. A. Pumfret, st. Duff, b. P. B. Clarke	6
Mr. F. O. Stuart, b. Lias...	0
Mr. A. W. Read, b. P. B. Clarke	0
Mr. T. A. Hayes, not out	1
Mr. A. T. Hellyer, b. P. B. Clarke	3
Extras	7
	113

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.
Mr. P. B. Clarke...	92	55	3	7	1
Mr. H. A. Stewart.	30	14	2	—	—
Mr. E. W. Kilby...	35	18	1	2	—
Mr. F. J. Lias ...	25	19	1	2	—

MR. DUFF'S TEAM.

Mr. P. B. Clarke, c. Reid, b. Kingdon...	14
Mr. E. W. Kilby, b. Stuart	9
Mr. T. A. Hickey, l.b.w. b. Stuart...	5
Mr. J. E. Moss, b. Stuart	2
Mr. Crabtree, c. Kingdon, b. Stuart	7
Mr. C. M. Duff, l.b.w. Stuart...	3
Mr. H. W. Clarke, b. Stuart	6
Mr. S. Moss, b. Stuart	0
Mr. F. J. Lias, not out	0
Mr. H. A. Stuart, b. Pumfret...	11
Mr. A. Scott, b. Pumfret...	9
Mr. F. Pollard, b. Pumfret	0
Extras	3
	69

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M. O.	W.
Mr. A. Kingdon	50	16	5	1
Mr. F. H. Bugbird... ...	30	9	4	—
Mr. F. O. Stuart	50	26	1	7
Mr. A. Pumfret	32	14	3	3

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The *Hongkong Telegraph* publishes the following telegram from Labuan, dated the 30th April:—"The Sultan of Sulu has arrived here on his way to Singapore. The object of his visit is said to be to solicit England's aid for the purpose of remedying the abuses of the Americans in the Sulu Archipelago in imposing customs duties in defiance of the Protocol of 1877."

According to the *Fiji* the silk trade of Yokohama from the 1st June last till the 30th April this year, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, was as follows:—

	1899. Bales.	1898. Bales.
Stock at end of May.....	1,440	8,547
Arrivals 116,436		97,425
Sales 110,675		104,270
Stock at end of April in following year	7.201	1,702

Mr. Peter Terry, whose death is announced at the age of 95, undoubtedly deserved the description of "father of the news trade." He founded the wholesale newspaper branch of the business with which his name was associated as far back as 1818, at a time when, as he often related, newsvendors had to wait for their copies of the *Times*, as they were slowly printed by a machine at the rate of 1,100 copies an hour. Mr. Terry had the distinction of being the chief founder of the Newsvendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution, a benefit society in which he continued to take a prominent interest until the close of life.

The trade between Japan and America has made marked progress during the past few years, remarks the *Jimmin*. Exports to America for the year ending June last amounted to $26,706,493, while imports for the same period aggregated $17,264,688, leaving a balance of $5,441,806 in favour of the former. Compared with the volume of trade transacted between America and China during the period under review, the figures show an augmentation by $656,674. Five years before, namely, during the year ended June, 1894, exports to and imports from America did not exceed $19,426,522 and $7,289,971 respectively, and therefore the increase for 1899 reached $13,277,873 for the former and $7,289,971 for the latter. Since 1894 the excess of exports has gradually decreased. At the end of that year the amount stood at $15,431,707; in 1895 at $19,061,240, but by 1898 the figure had fallen to $9,451,805, which, compared with the gross total for 1894 and 1895, shows a decrease of $5,987,902 and $9,609,435 respectively. The cause of diminution is ascribed to an enormous augmentation in imports of raw cotton, steel and iron, kerosene, flour, alcohol, tobacco, leather, &c.

The British Revenue returns for the year ending March present a total far surpassing any figure of which the country has had previous experience. The revenue paid into the Exchequer was no less than £119,839,000, or eleven and a half millions more than the revenue of the previous year. It is true that some part of this enormous total represents an anticipation of next year's revenue due to the rush to clear goods through the Custom House before the new taxes were imposed. But even allowing for this factor the rise in the year's revenue still remains unprecedented. It must be realised, too, that the rise is to no appreciable extent due to increased taxation. A few small taxes were imposed last year, but they in no way made up for previous reductions. In rough figures it may be stated that the revenue of the United Kingdom has in five years increased from £100,000,000 a year to £120,000,000 a year, solely by the growth in the national prosperity. That is a fact which may with advantage be noted by the pessimists who, less than five years ago, were prophesying the commercial downfall of England.

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A. B. M. UNION.

The Annual Conference of the missionaries of the American Baptist Missionary Union in Japan was held at Yokohama, May 2nd to 5th, inclusive. The conference met in the chapel of the Theological Seminary at 75 Bluff, and opened with a thoughtful and timely sermon by the Rev. C. K. Harrington, on the "The three great sayings of Isaiah in which he crystalizes his doctrine of faith."

The officers for the year are as follows:—President, Rev. W. B. Parshley, Yokohama. Vice-President, Rev. E. H. Jones, Sendai. Secretary, Rev. R. Austin Thomson, Kobe. Statistician, Rev. J. H. Scott, Osaka. Executive-Committee, Rev. C. D. H. Fisher, Tokyo; Rev. A. A. Bennett, Yokohama; Rev. R. Austin Thomson, Kobe. Preacher, next year, Rev. H. Topping, Tokyo. The reports on the work of the year from the various standing committees as well as from the five Girls' Schools and the Kindergartens were all of a very encouraging character, The recent agitation against Mission schools has not been as injurious as at first feared but rather has been stimulating both to teachers and students increasing their efficiency and earnestness. Our Boys' school, now the Duncan Academy, has moved into its new quarters in Ushigome, Tokyo, and is evidently on the road to prosperity, judging from the number of pupils and the work accomplished. During the Conference four very important subjects to missionaries were discussed; "Bible and Tract selling and distribution," "How can the Theological Seminary be made of a spiritual help to our native and foreign workers?" "The Infilling of the Holy Spirit for work." The discussion on these subjects was helpful and interesting to all present.

The increasing difficulty of getting workers and means for work from home was acknowledged; several stations at present time being in need of new men to carry on work already opened. Five new missionaries are needed at once to fill urgent vacancies without attempting to open new work.

A Conference of all the Japanese Baptist workers was held in Tokyo at the same time and was fairly well attended from the different sections of the country. A fine spirit of harmony and good-fellowship prevailed between the two conferences and it was felt that such meetings will do a great deal towards bringing about unity in the work as well as a much better understanding between the workers and of the needs and responsibilities of those engaged in preaching the gospel and building up the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ in this empire.

A glance at the statistics for the year will give a slight idea of the extent of the work. Male missionaries on the field 13 (absent 4). Lady missionaries, 18; Total 54. Ordained native preachers, 7; unordained preachers, 38. Male teachers 26, female teachers 42, Bible-women 22, total 162. Organized churches 25. Preaching places 74. Baptisms for the year 176. Total membership 1885. S. Schools 80, S. S. scholars 3874. Theol. Sem. 1, students 16. Girls' schools 5, pupils 276. Academies 1, students 55. Kindergartens and other schools 8, pupils 369. Amount received from tuition, *yen*3, 936.93. Amount contributed by members for church expenses, repairs, etc., *yen* 2,818.48. While the figures are not quite as good as last year, yet they are not discouraging and it is felt that the work, as a whole, is satisfactory.

AMERICAN NOTES.

The Hon. J. A. Bingham, ex-United States Minister to Japan, a noble gentleman and most lovable friend, died at Cadiz, Ohio, on March 19.

Philadelphia is no longer entitled to be called "the Quaker City." A late religious census shows that in a population of 1,500,000 only 1,925 persons are members of the Society of Friends.

Thirty miles of overhead telephone and telegraph wires are to be put underground in Chicago within the next six months, and an agitation has been started to bring down the overhead trolley within the business part of the city because of the frequency of accidents for which it is held responsible.

Six small vessels are being fitted out by the U. S. Navy Department for service in surveying the waters of the Philippines. These vessels will be armed and are intended as well for blockade work. Spanish charts of the Philippines are woefully faulty and the Navy Department will endeavor to make a complete set of charts.

On April 24th, the Hon. Matthew S. Quay was refused a seat in the United States Senate, on the appointment of the Governor of Pennsylvania, by a vote of 33 to 32. The entire time of the Senate that day was devoted to debating the question, many ofthe greatest lawyers and orators in the body delivering speeches. As the day's session wore on and the hour for the final vote approached the galleries filled until they were thronged with multitudes, while other multitudes were unable to gain admission. Senator Vest's vote of "no," brought about Mr. Quay's defeat.

A gift of $200,000 has been made to the board of directors of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, by Mr. Meyer Guggenheim and his seven sons, Isaac, Daniel, Murray, Solomon R., Benjamin, Simon and William. The money is given in memory of Barbara, the deceased wife of Mr. Guggenheim, and will build a new hospital for private patients on Fifth Avenue, between One Hundredth and One Hundred and Fifth streets. The site which is to be occupied by the new hospital buildings, nine buildings altogether, and which includes the whole block, was bought some time ago, and the plans are all drawn.

A telegram dated New York, April 23, which appears in the Manila papers, says:—Great destruction has been caused by dynamiters in New York. The Welland Canal, connecting Lakes Ontario and Erie, has been dynamited and several locks destroyed. The Welland Canal enters Lake Ontario a short distance from Buffalo, N.Y. It is 26¾ miles in length, 14 feet in depth, and has 55 locks. Cutting off Niagara Falls, it gives free passage from the Atlantic to the great chain of lakes, and its value to commerce cannot be estimated.

President Hill, of the Great Northern Railroad, announces that his plans for a new line of American transpacific steamships have been changed. Some time ago he prepared plans for several 10,000-ton vessels, but further investigation has convinced him that the future carrying trade across the Pacific must be done at a small margin of profit, and that immense cargo carriers will be necessary. He has, accordingly, ordered two ships each of 20,000-tons capacity and intends to order more. The steamships will be placed in commission in the fall of 1901.

Apparently the municipal officers of New Orleans are not contented with an expenditure of over $2,000,000 on the drainage system of the city, for a proposal to issue about $15,000,000 in bonds to further improve the sewerage system of the city was to be submitted to its citizens on April 17 for approval by them. The Baltimore *Manufacturers' Record*, in describing the conditions under which the bonds will be issued, remarks that this will be one of the largest, if not the largest, issue of municipal securities ever proposed in the south. The interest on the bonds will be paid from a special tax levy and from other sources, which it is calculated will raise $500,000 annually.

The formation of trusts, remarks the *San Francisco Chronicle*, is going on in free-trade Great Britain about as rapidly as in this country. The organization would doubtless be quite as rapid if the press advertised the plan as much as it is advertised here. Nobody, however, except those entering the combinations appears to care anything about the matter, and a paragraph of a dozen lines is all that the editors of the leading papers will spare to a consolidation to which papers in the United States would devote five or six scare heads and a column or two. The *London Daily Mail* lately gave only twenty-eight lines to the organization of a worsted spinners' trust which consolidated 106 firms and whose capital is $88,000,000.

The New York *Evening Post* says:—Inquiry was made on April 19 concerning a report that the publishing houses of Harper & Brothers and D. Appleton & Co., both of which lately failed, might be combined under one management. It was said that G. B. M. Harvey, now the financial head of the Harpers, would become the head of the reorganized Appletons. It was further said that this move would be the first step toward the formation of a big book publishing trust, that within a few months all the large concerns would be united, to decrease the cost of production and do away altogether with competition in the reproduction of European successes. Such a trust could dictate terms to news companies and the reputable retail firms.

President Garrett Droppers, of the University of South Dakota, has an interesting article in the current *International Monthly* on Japan. In forecasting the future he says:—"Japan has, during the year, reached the goal of her ambition. She now stands on a footing of complete equality with western nations, having all the rights and privileges of a great and civilized Power, having also the responsibilities and cares that go with authority. She will be judged, and justly judged, by exacting standards of criticism. As she is apparently a notable exception to the rule of nations, her actions will be more minutely scanned than are the actions of those nations which have an acknowledged reputation and position in the political system of the world. The crux of Japan's success will lie in the administration of justice. In ordinary cases, the judicial decisions of her courts will doubtless be intelligent and impartial, but whether the judges can maintain a judicial attitude in the stress of party passion, especially if some semblance of a patriotic move be involved in the case, remains to be seen. Every nation prefers to administer its affairs in its own way without too much advice from foreign nations."

A recent visitor at the White House, referring to the lack of chaplains with the volunteer regiments in the Philippines and elsewhere, says that Miss Helen Gould of New York is maintaining nine or ten chaplains in the army at her own expense. These men are not officially recognized as chaplains, but as ministers and Y. M. C. A. workers. They voluntarily and unofficially do practically the same work. Miss Gould, it is stated, pays each one of these men $30 a month and his expenses. The latter amount to more than salaries in the Philippines. It is thought that Miss Gould's monthly payment is something like $2,000. She has been maintaining these Christian workers since last fall, when the regiments first began going to the Philippines and attention was brought to the failure of Congress to provide for the chaplains. Her great work is not generally known, as all her deeds of this kind are done in the most quiet way.

The Democrats are confident that the Republican blunder on the Puerto Rican tariff will give them the control of the next House of Representatives, which can be accomplished by carrying eight congressional districts now represented by republicans. This looks comparatively easy on the face of the returns of the last congressional election, when ten Republicans were elected by less than 500 majority from California, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Minesota, Ohio, and New York. Fifteen or twenty had less than 1,000 majority, and the close districts—that is, those which have been represented alternately by both Republicans and Democrats during the last few years with the shifting of public sentiment—number between forty and fifty. The fact that the Democrats can always depend upon a solid south gives them a great advantage to start with, no matter what the issue may be. There is no doubt that the political fate of several northern representatives is imperilled by their vote upon the Puerto Rican bill, and a number of Republican members who sustained it purely as a matter of party loyalty expect to lose their seats. Privately the Republican leaders express great anxiety, but they are opposed to taking a back track, because that would be a confession of error, and, in their opinion, would weaken rathen than strengthen their cause.

An attempt is being made by the "regular" Democrats to fasten the responsibility for Admiral Dewey's appearance in the presidential field upon ex-Senator Gorman, John R. McLean, Bradley B. Smalley, David B. Hill, W. C. Whitney, Henry Watterson, Daniel Lamont, ex-Secretary Onley, Perry Belmont, and other anti-Bryan democrats, who, it is claimed, have encouraged the hero of Manila to believe that he can secure the presidency, and are using him as a stool pigeon to divert the public and break up the plans of the leaders of their party. This is stoutly denied both by Admiral Dewey and all the rest concerned. The Admiral declares that there is no intrigue, that his announcement was made without consulting political leaders on either side, and is due entirely to the encouragement he has received, not from the politicians, but from the people. Mr. McLean declares in most positive longuage, too positive to print, that he had nothing whatever to do with the announcement of his brother-in-law, was never consulted, and is not in his confidence. Senator Gorman says he has no acquaintance with Admiral Dewey, although he recollects having visited his office two or three times on business when he was chief of a bureau of the navy department. Mr. Gorman disavows all responsibility for and previous knowledge of the Admiral's announcement, and says that he has not seen him or communicated with him directly or indirectly since he returned to the United States.

The annual overflow of the Mississippi into the Mississippi valley has occurred, the swollen river having burst over its extensive levees, flooding the surrounding country. All of the cities in the country around New Orleans are surrounded by a vast sheet of water, and the damage done to property is enormous. Many lives have been lost in this sudden overflow, and thousands of families are homeless. The damage done to the young crops of rice and sugar reaches the millions. New Orleans is situated right at the delta of the Mississippi river, into which empty the Ohio, Alleghany, Missouri, and a number of other rivers. This overflow is the result of the spring thaws in the north, and the event is one of almost annual occurrence. Millions have been expended by the Government in constructing and keeping up vast levees to guard against these inundations, but the object has never yet been fully accomplished. When the Mississippi rises in the spring vast quantities of sand are carried down to the delta, where they dam the river to a considerable extent

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and cause these floods. A great deal of labour and money has been expended in dredging the mouth of the river, but to no effect, as the inundations are annually repeated. The Government is doing all in its power to give assistance and relief to the unfortunate population, but the task is a difficult one.—*Manila Times.*

WITH NUMBER THREE.

By Rudyard Kipling.

Chapter I.

All the world over, nursing their scars,
Sit the poor fighting men broke in our wars,
Sit the poor fighting men, surly and grim,
Mocking the lilt of the conqueror's hymn.

Dust of the battle o'erwhelmed them and hid—
Fame never found them for aught that they did.
Wounded and spent, to the lazar they drew,
Lining the road where the legions went through.

Sons of the Laurel, that press to your meed—
Worthy God's pity most ye that succeed—
Ye that tread triumphing crowned toward the stars,
Pity poor fighting men broke in our wars!

The sun had faded the red cross on her panels almost to brick colour, had warped her woodwork and blistered her paint. For three months she had jackaled behind the army, now at Belmont, now at Magersfontein, now at Rensburg, and in that time had carried over 1300 sick and wounded.

In her appointments, her doctors, her two nursing sisters, and her nineteen orderlies there was neither veneer nor pretence, coquetry of uniform nor the suspicion of official side.

She was starkly set for the work in hand, her gear worn smooth by use and habit, detailed for certain business only, and to that business most strictly attending.

As she started from no known platform I came aboard early, and while we lay silent as a ship in port, the big stock-pot purring in the kitchen, the bottles clicking in the pharmacy as the doctor counted them over, I felt that peace had never been in our generation—that No. 3, hospital train, iodoform scented, washed, scrubbed and scoured, had plied since the beginning of time.

Know now that hospital trains have the right of way over all traffic, and since their crews feed aboard them need only stop to water and change engines.

We slipped out of Cape Town into the twilight at a steady twenty-five mile an hour on our 600-mile journey north.

Some day you in England will realize what it means to handle armies and their supplies over this distance on a single three-foot-six line.

The war has been a war of shunting and sidetracking, telegraphs and timetables; so we may hope that the railway men, who have worked like devils, will not be overlooked when the decorations come ripe.

Because the line runs through Cape Colony, and because Cape Colony is—we have the highest authority for it—loyally trying to be "neutral," every bridge, every culvert, every point at which the line may be cut or blown up was guarded by a little detachment of armed men.

These are drawn chiefly from local corps, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteer Rifles. They do not like the work; they love still less the "loyalty" which has made the fatigue necessary.

Said a dust-spotted, begrimed sergeant of the "Duke's" as Number Three, double-headed, panted up the Hex River Pass into the karroo: "We've been here since November. I don't mind telling you we're pretty sick of it. We sit here and patrol the line. Lovely work!"

The setting of the picture hardly varied a hair's breadth.

The single track, lifting and dancing in the heat; the brown, hairless hills dusted with split stones; the sleek mirage, the knot of khaki figures, the dingy tents, repeated themselves as though we were running in circles.

Here was a water tank. Number Three drank of it, sucking thirstily; here was a speckle of ten houses and a refreshment room, which we had no need to enter; here was a new laid siding, and Number Three flung them all behind her; but from the men with rifles, the red eyed, bristle bearded, disgusted track watchers, there was no escape.

Suddenly we overhauled a trainload of horses, Bhownagar's and Jamnagar's gifts to the war; stolid saices and a sowar or two in charge.

"Whence dost thou come?"

"From Bombay, with a Sahib." He looked like a Hyderabadi, but he had taken off most of his clothes.

"Dost thou know the name of this land?"

"No."

"Dost thou know whither thou goest?"

"I do not know."

"What, then, dost thou do?"

"I go with my Sahib."

Great is the East, serene and immutable. We left them feeding and watering as the order was.

A few miles farther on—forty or fifty are of no account in this huge place—were guns, infantry and buck wagons, rumbling toward De Aar, and, I think, New South Wales Lancers. Then a Victorian contingent camped by the way-side, happier than the "Duke's," because they were nearer the front, but wrathful in that certain Canadians still farther up the line had the audacity to make a camp called Maple Leaf.

They wanted news of the Burmah Military Police—long men on little clock-work ponies, recently landed and vanished. Corps have a knack of disappearing bodily in this country.

Of the Burmans I knew nothing, but could furnish information more or less accurate of some Malay Light Horse lately seen in Cape Town, and of some Yeomanry details.

"Ah!" said Australia, with a rifle, by a water tank, "wait till you see our Queensland bushmen. My word! They're something."

Then he expressed a private and unprintable opinion about those arrogant Canucks up the line, which opinion twisted the other way I got back again from a Canadian, an Eastern Province man, a few hours later.

Strictly in confidence, I may tell you the colonial corps are riding just the least little bit in the world jealous. They have each the honour of a new country to uphold, and it is neck and neck between them.

So I sat joyously on the rear platform while Number Three ran the links of empire through my hands.

English of the Midlands, Cockney, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, Africa-born, Queenslander (he had been in the Sunnyside "daur" and "blew" furiously), Victorian and Canadian—one after another, we picked them up and dropped them with a flying word.

There was nothing wrong with that chain, and by the same token it seemed to have got hold of something at last, for a truckload of Boer prisoners slid by in charge of a few disreputable bearded cornets.

"Ho?" said an orderly, critically. "And where did you pick them up?"

"Round Paardeberg. There's more to follow. Most of these is Transvaalers."

"That's all right," said the orderly.

The army, you see, is collecting Transvaalers and has come a long way for samples.

"An' which might be prisoner and which is guard?"

Said the head cornet, with a battered helmet, "I'm a sergeant of the Northamptons in charge."

"Oh, you are, are you? Then what are you doin' with Labby's friends? Take 'em along. Mr. Labouchere won't be pleased at you."

But the sergeant was mightily pleased, save that his prisoners had not washed for some time. He said it.

Then we drew to the home of lies, which is De Aar—a junction, the pivot of many of our manœuvres and a telegraph centre.

It smelled like Umbala platform in the hot weather, and they kept a hell there of fifty naked telegraph operators, sweating under the blazing kerosene lamps, each man with two pairs of hands and some extra ears.

Outside was thick darkness, and the shunting of trucks—thousands of trucks—but the steady boom of the racing instruments beat through all other noises like the noise of hiving bees.

There was some need to work, and at least one very good reason in the shape of a big saloon that glided past us in the night, a lit window revealing just a chair and a neat empty table.

The Sirdar was on the move; going down to Naauwpoort to arrange surprises, and it is not at all healthy to be idle when Kitchener passes by.

Therefore, and before this war is over, you will hear all sorts of baseless tales from a certain type of officer who has been made to work; and you must not believe them.

After De Aar time-tables ceased.

We were cut adrift on the Sargasso sea of accumulated rolling stock between that place and Orange River.

Here the rumours begin.

There has been a killing—the first satisfactory killing—at Paardeberg, up the Modder. Roberts held Cronje in a ring of fire, burning day and night. That was none of our concern.

We had some news that many wounded waited for us at Modder—thirty officers, at least, and twice as many men—all more or less bad cases.

Here and there one could catch the name of a dead man, and the sister's lips tightened.

Was So-and-so alive? Well, he was a week ago—some one had seen him.

And Such-another? Oh, Such-another had been buried a week back.

Could Number Three go ahead? Oh, yes; but there was a block at the Modder, and Kimberley was sending down a trainful.

Number Three whistled madly. Her business was to get up, load and get away again. Belmont, with the bullet holes through the station name board, interested her not, nor Graspan either. She had been that road too often—hot on the heels of the very fight itself. She checked despairingly, fifth in a line of long trains on the red smear of Modder Plain. The old bridge, wrecked by the Boers, was now all but repaired.

At present Number Three would go over the trestle, but as to when Number Three would get across authority could not say, and whistling was just waste of steam.

Merciful rain had laid the dust, which normally lies ten inches thick, and one could look all across the brick red land.

By this time you probably know more about Modder than I; will have seen a hundred photographs of the naked, coverless plain that tilts to the thin line of trees and the dirty little river; lifting again northward, as a slow wave of the Atlantic lifts, toward Shooters Hill, where the naval gun played.

North of this again, a bluish lump in the morning light, rises Magersfontein.

At that precise moment—but the camp fills and empties as swiftly as the river—most of our men were out with Roberts nearly thirty miles to the westward. Vast empty acreages showed where their accommodations had stood. Men, horses and wheels had wiped out every trace of herbage, and the diminishing perspective of their patient single files attested how far afield the camp oxen must go to graze. Horsemen by twos and threes wandered forth attacking interminable distance in which they were swallowed up. Sidings solid with trucks spurred left and right across the plain, and the trucks on the main line backed up to the very shoulders of the resetters repairing the bridge.

Chapter II.

Number Three fought her way inch by inch, and was met by a little knot of army sisters. In civilization their uniform is hideous, but out here one sees the use of the square cut vermilion cape. Everything else is dust coloured, so a man does not ask where a sister may be. She leaps to the eye across all the camp.

"And where are our wounded?" asked Number Three.

"Still coming in from Paardeberg. They're being dressed. You'll get them later. Where are your spare doctors?"

We had come up with six surgeons taken from the big Wynberg and Rondesbosch hospitals, where for months they had lived on a promise of work at the front.

They were not R. A. M. C. men, but house surgeons, fresh from the home hospitals, young, enthusiastic and happy, though their baggage had been cut down to the thirty-five pound scale, and they had not the ghost of a notion where they were going.

They were uncarted like stags on Modder platfrom, gazed awhile, met a man in authority, and were swiftly commandeered. Two or three doctors lay dead or wounded across the plains, and it was a hot press for the medical service.

Half a mile across the plain, behind the graves of the Highland Brigade, lay the hospital tents, and thither loaded mule and ox wagons were heading. Like Number Three, they had been at work a weary while. There came no surprise or bewilderment, hardly even any pity, to the onlooker as the big Red Crosses lurched and pitched. This, said the wagons, is the custom with the wounded. Stricken men are gathered as soon as possible by the bearer companies, whose casualty list is a heavy one.

They are dressed for the first time swiftly and efficiently; they are then put into the tilted wagons till they reach the hospital that sends them to the rail. The rail takes the badly wounded to Cape Town and the sea that leads to Netley.

This is the system, said the wagons, and here was the system all naked to the glaring day.

Three nights had the wagons been on the road—rained upon, thundered over and lightened about, jolted and jerked and jarred—but the long and short of it was that of 800 wounded the wagons had lost not one.

Would the hospital take delivery, please, said the wagons, and they drew aside to rest, for their cattle were very, very tired.

As for Number Three. No, it would not be wise to visit Magersfontein. The train might be filled and sent away at any moment.

There was an old official ring about this, and I was not the least surprised that we waited eleven hours—time to have gone to Magersfontein and back on all fours. But I am glad I stayed by Number Three. It is early days to make that field of blood a show place, and—one can collect shells on other beaches when peace comes again.

The station was the centre of local society.

The staff, including a German Prince, lived across

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the road in a battered caravanserai with scores of ponies tied to the veranda.

The platform was banked with Red Cross cases, badly needed at Kimberley, and with mail badly needed by the men who came up, fingered them curiously and slunk away. Business first, mails later.

The telegraph office was a small edition of De Aar—hideously overworked.

A knot of sappers came up from the river, where they had been stamping ballast under a new siding, Other sappers with "R. P. R." on their hats followed.

These last were the details of the Railway Pioneers. skilled mechanicians, and the like, of Johannesburg, and under the grime and the khaki one met a host of a certain weird dinner given in the Gold Reef city two years ago.

One gets used to privates with visiting cards, and it is perfectly natural to discuss bacteriology, West African exploration, and the ethics of publishing, the intricacies of the bankruptcy act and the prospects of the Labour party in South Australia with spurred troopers.

So it was not disconcerting to meet men of the Chitral siege, once prisoners in the hands of Omra Khan, old schoolmates, Indian staff corps men doing duty as "tail-twisters" in the transport, lost acquaintances of ten years ago, side by side with the fellow-passenger of three weeks ago, unrecognizable to-day under the sunburn, hair and dust.

It was only an undress rehearsal for the day of judgment.

A detail of army service men on route for Kimberley spread themselves at ease on their baggage and chaffed a quartermaster sergeant who had lost his sword, but by the regulations was miserably tied to the empty scabbard till he could return the thing to store.

A knot of excited Life Guards demanded news of French's division.

"Out since Sunday week and no news. We belong to 'em. We were sick. We want to rejoin. Do you know where he is?"

A colonial suggested that cavalry divisions always suspend operations for a corporal of horse and two dozen troopers.

A gunner driver in a cart pored over a three days' old Cape paper, for there is no news at the Modder.

A man with a drawn face came out of nowhere and told a story. His wife had died at home of influenza, was dead and buried. His people could look after the children, thank God! but it hurt—it hurt cruelly. He spoke and vanished.

Half a mile up the line a private of Highlanders was cooking potatoes and semolina together. He was in luck. He had helped "swipe" a Boer wagon overturned by our shell fire, and picked up the semolina from the dust.

A knot of officers had made themselves a rude mess house in a roofless hut, with a blanket for shade. One of them wished to see a sister of Number Three—to tell her that So-and-So was dead.

A little gathering moved across the dust to look for the graves of the Highland Brigade. Even now the nameboards are split and blistered, and the date carries us back a thousand years.

And so it went on, hour after hour, this procession of faces, this tangle of half caught tales.

Toward evening the remnants, as it were, of a battalion moved from the hospital tent in broken squads, one man supporting another.

They were our "light" cases—men denied the merciful cushioning shock of a severe wound—in acute and annoying pain. They would go down to Naauwpoort by the Kimberley train, but first they must be called over.

They reached the platform haltingly; their uniforms were darkened in places by patches as of carelessly spilled varnish, and sometimes their trouser hems were gummy with the same stuff.

They sat down by companies in the dust, half a score of regiments mixed.

Their officers got them fruit and cigarettes; the mere sound filled their companies' water bottles.

They chaffed greatly in undertones, but they did not say one single word which by any construction could be considered even coarse. They did not complain, they did not growl, they did not curse. They were going to Naauwpoort to get well. In a few days they would return. They had outmarched and outmanœuvered their enemy—on a couple of biscuits a day, but they had also outmarched their provisions. Their companions were now attending to that enemy, and they were content.

On their departure Number Three waked to life.

The wagons were coming in from the hospitals. The doors of the cars flew back; orderlies went to their stretchers; the side boards were ripped out of the bunks; the cook put the last flavouring to the big stock-pot; the sisters stood to attention, each in her ward—a doctor and a sister are responsible for half a train apiece—and the blessed morphine needles were made ready. They want rest from pain our wounded. Food and clean sheets will often bring it, but on occasion we must help nature.

The worn, chipped and scratched rifles clattered into the arm racks, the thin dusty kits followed, and after them the loaded stretchers.

"Fractured thigh," said an orderly.

"Which? Left or right?" said the Sister.

"Right," said the man, and he was slipped on to his back accordingly, injured leg outside, where it could be got at easiest.

"Special," said the orderly. Here was a clean stomach wound. He could eat milk and slops in a bunk marked to that effect, and the gentlemanly Mauser would suffer him to live. Down the car he went, thinking nobly of his soul, and in no way approving of milk diet.

Entered one amputation below the right elbow—very cheery. Full diet for this amputation, but no full diet for yonder lung shot, who cannot lie down without pain.

Were there any sick?

There were no sick, and the doctors thanked heaven. They would sooner bring down three trains of wounded than one of sick.

Dysentery, that milks the heart out of a man and shames him before his kind; rheumatism which is the seven devils of toothache, in the marrow of your bones; typhoid of the loaded breath and the silly eye, incontinent and consuming; pneumonia that stabs in the back and drives the poor soul, suffocating and bewildered, through all the hells of delirium—we are clear of these for this journey.

The clean aseptic bullet kiss and the shell splinter are all our care.

Quietly and quickly, but above all quietly, come the stretchers.

Fractured shoulder; elbow joint; lung, again from right to left, but nothing vital reached; shattered forearm (owner says explosive bullet); two head cases, both will live. Eye, head and neck, upper arm; thigh again; two or three clean shots through the thigh (owners very hungry); shoulder smashed and top of finger shot off (owner much annoyed at this little extra); forearm again, and "please, sir, the bandages are pinchin' me horrid."

It isn't the bandage, but the doctor does not say so. He exhibits the merciful squirt and the bandages miraculously loosen themselves.

One colonel, bearded like the heavy swell of the sixties; another colonel (the Highlanders must have been catching it cruelly); a major; a bearded captain (on investigation this turns out to be a lieutenant, aged 23, when he is shaved); and a sprinkling of subalterns and doctors.

In each man's bed is a bag holding shirt, pajamas, towel, brush, sponge, soap and toothbrush. They call it the Good Hope bag, but it was evidently invented by a thoughtful she-angel.

Man after man shakes off or is helped out of the creased, dirty, greasy, gloomy, blood-stained khaki, nestles in the luxury of clean body clothes between clean sheets. They have rest; now they must have food—thick soup for choice, if they will only stay awake to drink it, and milk and brandy for the stomach and lung people.

Chapter III.

Theoretically, 600 miles of rail should be bad for wounded men. Practically it does them all the good in the world.

In the first place, they are cleanly and honourably out of it. Not for weeks the sun and the dust, the foul water and the weary marching; the booted sleep and the plug-plug of the rifle butt against their shoulder.

Many of them will be permanently lost. The ship will take them to England, they will find their billets waiting, and they will return to live before the faces of their fathers.

Moreover, these are they who have come out of a winning fight. Cronje's end is certain. They left the guns pounding the soul out of his laager by the Modder.

It is not as was that terrible journey after Magersfontein, when doctors and sister had to sit up with weeping men—men who had been killed in heaps of a sudden one day and damned in heaps by their general the next—men who tried to explain but broke down and turned their faces to the wall and cried miserably and hopelessly.

Number Three's staff will remember that Magersfontein trip as long as they live.

This is distinctly a better business. They are going off to sleep, like tired children already—thirty-one officers and sixty-six men. They will be different people to-morrow.

The doctors look at the sisters and nod joyously.

A good train load; no one will be lost, and that little end car for once need not do duty as a mortuary.

Number twenty-seven wants something solid to eat. Number twenty-seven won't get it. He is shot through his stomach, and it is a miracle that he is not under the Modder dirt. He can have some more milk and brandy.

"Please, sister, there's a colonel hoppin' about the alleyway."

A sister advances to cut him off. Mere doctors are helpless here. They dare not herd colonels like ostriches. Besides, he has one sound leg. He says so.

"But you are to get on your back and lie down," is the order.

"But, please, sister, I feel quite fit."

"But I say so."

A wave of the hand eliminates the colonel. He will hop no more to-night.

A fractured Victorian (shoulder and collarbone by the look of it) and a child with a slung arm have dodged the eye of authority for a few minutes, and, sua dente diabolo (but I know Australians liked tea), are drinking tea in the staff carriage.

The child is 19. He has one month's service. He does not appreciate a sister's drawing comparisons between him and a 17-year-old middy carted off the field at Graspan. It was his first engagement; he was scooping potted meat out of a can when the advance began. Then he was firing. A bullet hit his rifle on the trigger guard, broke up and continued through his hand, which is now extensively bandaged. It hurts a little.

"Of course it does if you let it hang down like that," says the sister, and she deftly loops up the sling, while the child blushes adorably.

He argues impersonally on the advantages of retaining the forefinger of the right hand. Not his forefinger by name but abstract forefinger. One wants it for shooting and writing, don't you know. Oh, there are a heap of things one can do with it.

Then the colour goes out of his face and the sister whirls him into bed.

The Victorian turns pale dun and thinks he will lie down.

One finds out later with other men that the first was a most plucky child and would not take chloroform when they dressed him. His hand is horribly cut up, and his rifle in the rack is smashed across the stock. The nickel nosed bullet has sunk a quarter of an inch into the steel trigger guard. It would be unfair to steal that rifle.

The child is asleep. He looks about 13.

Now the covers are drawn on the lamps, the night watches are set and we take our last turn down the corridor.

A thunder storm chases Number Three southward, the lightning spills all over the veldt and the sun-warped roofs leak.

Thirty or forty or fifty thousand men are lying tentless in this downpour, but it must be flooding out Cronje in the bed of the Modder.

Our children are here asleep—deeply and beautifully asleep, all except one man whose eyes shine like the eyes of a prepared moth.

"What is the matter?"

"I haven't slept in these"—he picks up the sheet—"since the third of November. It's too comfortable to sleep. Oh, Lord, it is comfortable." He squirms luxuriously in his bunk.

Through the long night when we stop all voices are lowered. Footsteps halt before us and voices whisper.

"Have you any New South Wales Lancers, sir, please?"

"No, we have not. Have we any Oxfords? Yes, a sergeant, but nobody is coming to wake up this train. Yes, we are full; but they are all doing well. No—They are in bed and asleep, and you must go away." All this in tense whispers.

Doctors and sisters call it an easy night. They are not actually on their feet or fanning a pneumonia case from 11 to 6.

Well, they had their reward in the clean rain-washed morning, when every runnel of the Karoo was bankful and the waste water (some day we shall get big dams with a system to them) spilled away profligately.

Our children were hungry—mutinously hungry. Officers fancied this and fancied that; milkmen wanted to know why they were not full dieters and sent verbal messages by orderlies asking for more—much more.

"You won't get any breakfast till they're all fed," said to me an orderly with a pyramid of porridge basins. "You'd better fill up on Osborne biscuits, You see 'arf of 'em 'aven't the use of their 'ands."

So they stoked them—"the 'arf that 'adn't the use of their 'ands"—and they redressed their bandages, and they washed their little faces and combed their little hair, and then the cry went up for tobacco.

Some of the men had changed past recognition during the night. The lines of pain, the terse, drawn expressions, were gone. They had rested, their bellies were full, they were smoking.

You must remember that a wounded man is not a sick man. He is generally in superb physical condition; he has been off all liquors for some months, and so responds readily to stimulants, his blood is clean, and he breathes the best of air. Give him half a chance and he will clamber up again hand over fist.

Then, all animal needs satisfied, some of them wanted to send word home, and that was a full morning's job.

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The usual form ran: "Dear Mother—Just a few lines to tell you I was hit at Parbederg on February 18, when we fought Cronje. I was hit in such-and-such a place, but please do not worry about me, as I am coming on all right. It was a bit hard in the carts, but I am lying in bed in the train here and we are all going down to the hospital, and I am quite comfortable, and I shall be all right in a few weeks, so please do not worry about me, because I am all right and doing well."

Their first throught in every instance was that she should not worry. One man—a Celt, be sure—launched into some description of the fight (I saw him later at Wynberg covering sheets and sheets) and a few others had business matters to adjust; but for the bulk, the word, the assurance, and the message of love sufficed.

Remember, it was not the army that you and I know, but the army of the People, heavily laced with Reservists, family folk who have kiddies and businesses over the sea. Blacksmiths, gardeners, club porters, and small shopkeepers were among those represented, and their physique was almost as admirable as their spirit.

One man only of all that train broke down—and small blame to him. He was a badly shotten "lunger," and there seemed no way to make him easy, sitting or lying! He got out his home photos—the little tintype one carries in the inside pocket—and the cruel home sickness atop of the pain took him and broke him for a minute or two. I think he had come out of some well ordered country house, for he returned to the manner of lodge porter in his talk.

There were quiet men, deeply concerned for the probable loss of a working arm; there were mildly—oh, so mildly!—riotous men, who staggered about visiting from bunk to bunk; there were funny men, worth their weight in silver to the ward; there were angry men brooding over that last shot which stretched them and meditating revenge; there were just men, admitting that their enemy up in a tree had sighted more quickly than they, "but my section got him with four bullets, and he came down like a pheasant, sir;" there were silent men, breathing quickly, counting each turn of the wheels, and there were doubting Thomases who needed particular information about Wynberg Hospital.

I heard a good deal of all sorts, but I did not hear one word of complaint.

So it is in the base hospital. From at least a thousand wounded men at Rondebosch and Wynberg under fairly intimate circumstances, orderlies out of earshot and the talk running free, I did not gather one whimper.

A badly hit man—fracture or stomach—is, of course, glad he is going home—till the steamer comes around. Then he is not so pleased.

A slightly wounded man takes all the ward to witness that so soon as he is mended wild horses won't keep him away from his family. Ten days later he is lying—lying like a skirmish line under pompom fire—to his doctor with intent to rejoin. The hospitals have their own esprit de corps, and tents are proud to be able to say they are all going back.

But our boys wanted rest before all things; and Number Three hurried them to it. Our little world on wheels had hardly come to know itself when we were half way home.

A little letter writing; a small "smoker" between two cool windows where wounded colonels and subalterns met in pyjamas and talked over good men killed, while the idle rifles clicked in the rack behind; another ravenous meal or two ("Which will you 'ave, sir? Steak or rissole?" "Oh, both, I've been dreaming of steaks since Jacobsdal!"); another and an easier night, and then the thrice blessed firs of Wynberg, the waiting hooded ambulances, a good road and Number One and Two Hospitals just around the corner.

Once more the business of the stretchers, the tally of fractures and perforations, the whispered cautions, and the louder words of good cheer.

It is not in the official bond, but Number Three's staff, a little worn with night watching, dusty and heavy eyed, will see the boys up to their beds. They know every one of the cases now, and a word or two in season will be profitable.

In an hour Number Three stands empty and stripped. Blankets, sheets and bedding must be renewed; a hundred things go to the wash, and they swish and swill the floors.

To-morrow night its work begins again.

The latest official investigations show that the amount of leaf tobacco produced during last year and retained in the Monopoly Bureau and in various branch offices throughout the empire does not fall short of 2,254,727 *kwan* (1 *kwan*=8⅓ lbs.). It is said that over 100,000 *kwan* are secured in each of the three districts, Otawara, Moki, and Tsuruki, while 50,000 or 60,000 *kwan* are held in Matsumoto, Iino, Wakamatsu, Nagoya, Mito, Maiko, and Bato.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE BOER RETREAT.

Shanghai, May 10.

The Boers have abandoned Ladybrand and Ficksburg.

LORD SALISBURY ON THE SITUATION.

In a speech delivered by Lord Salisbury at the Royal Academy banquet, the Prime Minister eulogised the careful neutrality that had been maintained by all the Powers. Nevertheless, as regard the future, Great Britain must rely solely on her own strength. The military efficacy of the great nations were increasing daily and he questioned the wisdom of trusting to the Navy alone. As conscription was unacceptable, he urged the creation of rifle clubs everywhere. The responsibility rested with the people to ensure the security of the country by placing it in the position of an armed nation.

THE CHESTER CUP.

The result of the Chester Cup was as ollows :—

Roughside	1
Empress	2
Baldur	3

THE BOERS AT ZAND RIVER.

Later.

General Hutton's mounted infantry reconnoitred the Zand river and found the enemy in considerable force. General Broadwood's cavalry, with Gen. Ian. Hamilton's force, performed the same operation with similar results.

FOURTEEN STREAMS.

General Hunter reports that he occupied Fourteen Streams unopposed. The enemy retired precipitately, abandoning their ammunition and personal effects.

THE ZAND CROSSED.

Shanghai, May 11.

A despatch from Field-Marshal Roberts, dated the 10th inst., says that we are now across the Zand River. The enemy are still holding a strong position, but we are gradually pushing them back.

EXODUS FROM THE TRANSVAAL.

A large number of foreigners are now quitting the Transvaal, including officers and ambulance men.

THE ZAND RIVER.

Later,

Roberts telegraphs from the Zand River at 1 o'clock on the afternoon of the 10th that the enemy are now in full retreat. They occupied a position 20 miles long. Our line was necessarily longer, with widely scattered forces. The cavalry and horse artillery are now pursuing by three different routes.

BULLER.

Shanghai, May 12.

Great activity is reported on Buller's part, but the correspondents are forbidden to divulge his movements.

A SUCCESSFUL DAY.

Roberts telegraphs from Rietspruit on the evening of the 10th that he had a successful day and has driven the enemy from point to point. We are now eight miles beyond the Zand River. The Cavalry and Mounted Infantry are at Ventersburg.

HONGKONG.

Mr. George Wyndham, Under Secretary of State for War, has approved of the plans for a new Hospital at Hongkong, and the necessary documents are leaving for the Far East this month. Every effort is to be made to erect the building at the earliest possible date.

THE WEI-HAI-WEI DISTURBANCES.

The Hon. St. John Brodrick, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Office, has instructed Colonel Durward to continue the demarkation at Wei-hai-wei even without Chinese co-operation.

TO THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING.

Shanghai, May 13.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent, telegraphing from Cape Town, says that the special Mafeking relief force has passed through Vryburg.

THE TRANSVAAL INVADED.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Kimberley, says that the British patrols from Fourteen Streams have entered the Transvaal.

NEARING KROONSTAD.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Geneva Siding, on the morning of the 11th instant, says that the British forces have arrived there, 14 miles from Kroonstad.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN ON THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham with regard to the general conditions of the settlement in South Africa, said that Her Majesty's Government was not prepared to again recognise the independence of the Republics. Their territories must be incorporated in Her Majesty's dominions under the British flag, but individual liberties should be preserved.

KROONSTADT OCCUPIED.

THE FREE STATERS GIVING UP.

Later.

Roberts has occupied Kroonstadt unopposed. President Steyn fled after vainly endeavouring to persuade the burghers to continue their opposition. The Transvaalers said they would fight no more for the Free State, and made for the Vaal River.

RACING.

The Jubilee Handicap has been won by Sirenia, with Merry Methodist second and Royal Flush third.

THE SURRENDER OF KROONSTAD.

Shanghai, May 14.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Kroonstad, under date of the 12th inst., that a Field Cornet surrendered the town. Field Marshal Roberts and General French camped on the north-eastward, and Roberts sent General Hunter and Colonel Weston to cut the railway. They succeeded last night, but unfortunately after the last train had left the Free State. The opposition is practically over. The Boers are now entrenching at the Vaal river.

RUNDLE AND BRABANT.

Later.

A telegram from Maseru, dated Sunday, says that Rundle and Brabant are advancing in line across the country, and that they are now camping on the Leeuw River. They may meet heavy resistance, since though the Free State concentration is broken up, individual commandos are ready to attack any weak point.

FRENCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Shanghai, May 15,

The Nationalists have finally gained 49 seats out of 80 in the French Municipal Elections. The Paris newspapers regard this as somewhat ominous.

THE BOERS DEMORALIZED.

The recent movements of Field Marshal Roberts have absolutely paralyzed all dis-

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cipline and concerted opposition on the part of the Boers. They flocked from the entrenchments, which had been half-heartedly constructed. President Steyn personally whipped them out of the train.

STEYN RETIRES TO HEILBRON.

President Steyn has gone to Heilbron, which he has proclaimed as his new capital.

BIGGARSBERG MOUNTAINS FORCED.

Reuter's Agent, telegraphing from Pietersmaritzburg under date of the 14th inst., says that a telegram from Buller announced the successful forcing of the Biggarsberg Mountains, and that the occupation of Dundee is expected to-day.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has introduced in the House of Commons the Commonwealth Bill, but said that he must ask the House to amend the Bill in order to retain the power of the Court of Appeal. But he proposed to introduce in the House of Lords immediately a scheme to appoint for seven years one representative from Canada, South Africa, Australia, and India, respectively, as members of the Privy Council, they to act as Lords of Appeal and to receive life peerages, also to continue to sit in the Lords after the expiration of the septennial term; the Imperial Government to pay the salaries.

THE BOER WAR.

Shanghai, May 16.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Kroonstad under date of 14th, says that it is reported that the whole of the Boer forces are concentrating on the Vaal river, leaving the Biggarsberg and the southern and western borders. It is concluded that the Free Staters fighting on the Vaal do not now exceed 2,000.

The health of the British troops and horses is excellent and food and water are plentiful.

BULLER'S SUCCESSES.

General Buller occupied Dundee on the 15th, after operations lasting for 4 days; 2,500 of the enemy have left for Glencoe.

THE STATE OF DUNDEE.

The collieries at Dundee have been wrecked.

MAFEKING.

The Boers on the 12th furiously bombarded Mafeking, destroying and afterwards occupying the native quarter. The British attacked and surrounded them on Saturday night. The Boers lost 7 killed and 17 wounded.

THE BOER DELEGATION.

The Boer delegates are in New York

GLENCOE OCCUPIED.

Shanghai, May 17.

Buller occupied Glencoe on the 15th inst., unopposed. The Boers fled precipitately during the night. They numbered 4,000, and got off with their ambulance and 11 guns.

The Transvaalers have evacuated the Biggarsberg Mountains. The number of the Free Staters on the Drakensburg is much reduced.

THE NEWMARKET STAKES.

The result of the Newmarket Stakes is Diamond Jubilee, first; Chevening, second; and Guidwife, third.

THE AMERICAN PRESS.

The leading papers of New York deprecate the idea of deluding the Boers with false hopes, when they are merely to be used as puppets in the Presidential Election.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

SOUTH AFRICA.

Saigon, May 11.

The English have occupied the Zand River after a sharp engagement. The Boers are concentrating in the neighbourhood of Kroonstadt.

THE EXHIBITION.

Saigon, May 12.

The installations at the Exhibition are being rapidly finished. The Colonial Exhibition in the Palais du Trocadéro attracts numerous visitors.

THE WAR.

Saigon, May 13.

The English continue to advance northward in three columns, fighting constant battles the while. Lord Roberts arrived in the morning at a point 8 miles to the South of Kroonstadt.

SPAIN.

Demonstrations have taken place in the principal towns of Spain against the levy of taxes. Grave disorder has broken out in Barcelona, Valencia, and Seville.

OBITUARY.

Saigon, May 14.

Vice-Admiral Zédé has died at Brest.

THE WAR.

Roberts entered Kroonstad unopposed on May 12th. The Transvaalers set out for the Vaal River. Steyn has established his seat of government at Lindley.

FRENCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Saigon, May 15.

Nineteen Nationalists and eleven Republicans have been elected as Municipal Councillors in Paris. The candidates on the list of the Republican Defence have triumphed in most of the principal towns. Everything passed off quietly.

THE BANK OF INDO-CHINA.

Saigon, May 16.

The privilege of the Bank of Indo-China is extended by decree in consequence of the engagement undertaken by the Bank to double its capital, to found new branches and to include in its operations loans on crops.

THE WAR.

Buller has commenced to advance. He has gained possession of the Biggarsberg Passes and has occupied Dundee.

BULLER.

Saigon. May 17.

General Buller has occupied Glencoe. The Boers to the number of 4,000 retired north.

MAFEKING..

A rumour is current that Mafeking capitulated on Sunday.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE EARTHQUAKE.

Hakodate, May 12.

This morning, at half-past two o'clock, a heavy. and long continued earthquake was felt here.

(FROM THE "MANILA TIMES.")

ARMY OFFICER IMPRISONED.

New York, April 30.

The Supreme Court of the U. S. has reviewed the case of Ex-Captain Oberlin M. Carter, of the United States Army, who had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for five years at the Military Prison of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in addition to paying a fine of $5,000, for embezzling and defrauding the United States Government of over a million dollars in gold, in connection with harbour works and dredging contracts in the South, a year and a half ago. This sentence was passed on Carter by a military court-martial and the sentence was approved and officially decreed by President McKinley and Mr. Secretary of War Root. Later, however, on March 1st, Carter's counsel brought the case before the Courts of New York and obtained a Writ of Error. This procedure delayed the execution of the sentence, and Carter obtained his freedom under heavy bail, pending a review of the case by the Supreme Court of the United States. It was thought probable that it would be one or two years before the Supreme Court would take the case into consideration, and that when it did it would sustain the Writ of Error. The High Court upholds the decision of the Court Martial in sentencing Carter to five years' imprisonment. Carter has, therefore, been returned to prison at Fort Leavenworth to complete the term of his confinement.

STRIKES IN AMERICA.

New York, May 2.

A big strike has occurred among the building trades of Philadelphia. The workers have been agitating through their trades' unions for some time for the adoption by the employers of the eight hours' working day, but the master builders have refused to accede to the demands of the workers. The trades' unions of Philadelphia have therefore called a strike among the building trades, and 3,000 men stopped work.

(FROM THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.")

TROUBLE IN NORTH BORNEO.

Labuan, May 3.

On the night of Friday last the town of Kudat and its environs were attacked by a native force under the command of Mat Sater, the half brother of the late Mat Salleh, the notorious rebel chief. The town itself suffered severely, the Government magazine and a maxim gun being captured by the rebels. These were, however, subsequently retaken. Two of the British North Borneo Constabulary were killed and seven wounded, including Mr. G. N. Malcolm, Wing Officer of the force. Twenty-five Chinese were killed and the environs of the town were entirely destroyed. Many refugees have arrived here. The cause of the outbreak and the attack upon Kudat is the general dissatisfaction amongst the natives with the rule of the Chartered Company.

Labuan, May 4.

The S.S. *Taganac* is overdue and has probably been requisitioned for the relief of Kudat, either at Sandakan or the former port. The *Marudu* sailed at midnight yesterday for Gaya with extra police. There is no further news from Kudat.

The departure of Rajah Brooke's expedition, presumably for the Trusan River, is assuming a more important phase, as it is now rumoured that he intends to compel the people of Brunei to pay poll-tax.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 1	Tu. May 22
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China 2	Tu. May 22
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 3	Tu. May 22
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China 4	Th. May 24
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 5	Th. May 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen 6	Sa. May 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 7	W. May 30
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Indus	W. May 30
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. May 31
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	Th. June 7
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. June 9

1 Left Hongkong on the 14th inst.
2 Left Vancouver on the 8th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 3rd inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 16th inst.
5 Left Hongkong on the 15th inst.
6 Left Hongkong on the 16th inst.
7 Left San Francisco on the 11th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Hamburg	Sa. May 19
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Sa. May 19
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Tu. May 22
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamashiro Maru	W. May 23
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	W. May 23
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Salazie	F. May 25
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. May 25
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. May 26
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. May 30
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. May 31
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa. June 2
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	F. June 8

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CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 472.

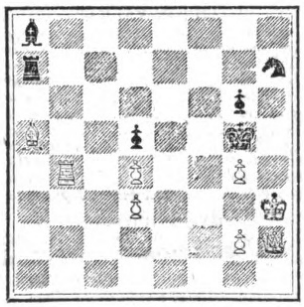
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to R 4	1—K to K 5 or Q 5
2—Kt takes P dis ch	2—K takes Kt
3—Q to B 5, mate	
	2—K to K 6
3—Q to K sq, mate	
	2—K to Q 4
3—Q to Q 4, mate	
	2—K to B 4
3—Q to K B 4, mate	
	1—K to K 7
2—Q to Q 2 ch	2—K to B 8 (must)
3—Kt to K 3, mate	
	1—K to B 7
2—Q to Q 2 ch	2—K takes P
3—R to Kt 4!! mate	
	2—K to Kt 8
3—Q to Kt 2, mate	
	1—Any other
2—Q to Q 2 ch	2—K to K 5 (must)
3—Kt to Q 6, dbl. ch, mate	

Correct solution received from "W.H.S."

PROBLEM No. 474.

By A. KNIGHT, BASTROP, TEX.

Black.



White.

White mates in three moves.

GAME 590.

BRILLIANCY PRIZE, NEW YORK TOURNAMENT, 1889.

RUY LOPEZ.

White—Weiss.		Black—Pollock.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	16 Kt Q2	Q K2
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	17 P QKt4(e)	BxPch(f)
3 B Kt5	P QR3	18 K Rsq	Q K8
4 B R4	Kt B3	19 P R3	KtxB(g)
5 P Q3	P QKt4	20 RxQ	RxRch
6 B Kt3	B B4	21 K R2	B Kt8ch
7 P B3	P Q4	22 K Kt3	R K6ch
8 PxP	KtxP	23 K Kt4	Kt K7
9 Q K2(a)	Castles	24 Kt Bsq	P Kt3
10 Q K4	B K3	25 Q Q5	P R4ch
11 KtxP(b)	KtxKt	26 K Kt5	K Kt2(h)
12 QxKt	Kt QKt5(c)	27 RtxR	P B3ch
13 Castles	KtxQP	Mate is forced by	
14 Q R5(d)	BxB	28 K R4	B B7ch
15 PxB	R Ksq	29 P Kt3	BxP mate.

Notes (abridged).

(a) Castles, followed by P to Q 4, is better play here.

(b) Kt to Kt 5 is preferable.

(c) Sound and brilliant.

(d) Q to Kt 3, followed by Q to B 3, is better for White.

(e) If Kt to B 3, Kt takes B P.

(f) Splendidly played.

(g) A magnificent sacrifice such as has very seldom occurred in actual play.

(h) Really magnificent.

GAME 591.

It is very strange that Pillsbury should be unable to snatch a game from Blackburne in any of the Cable Matches, even under most favourable circumstances. In the game below, which was played in the last cable chess match between England and America, Blackburne handicapped himself at starting with the Philidor's Defence, selecting besides the most unfavourable variation (3...B to Kt5), so much so that he had to give up a Pawn in the first half-dozen moves, and so practically conceding to his formidable opponent Pawn and move at the start. Asking him why he chooses this defence, he said, "Well, I want to get out of the Ruy Lopez." Pillsbury should have won the game, but he gave Blackburne a chance to assume the attack, and he handled it with such consummate skill that the game might be taken as a classical specimen all through, when nothing else but a dull game was expected.

The board was keenly watched by an appreciative crowd. Blackburne played with unerring accuracy, and never gave his opponent the least chance from the moment he took the attack into his hands.

Pillsbury's message proposing a draw was couched in flattering terms to the English Master. There is an interesting phase in the game which may be specially pointed out—viz., if Pillsbury had been tempted to attack the Rook again with 48. Kt to Q3. then Blackburne had a little trap prepared with 48, P to B6; 49, Kt takes R, P takes P and White could not save the game. However, Pillsbury was to careful to fall into his trap, although the combination is subtle enough to come off under ordinary circumstances.

The following is the game:

PHILIDOR'S DEFENCE.

White—H. N. Pillsbury. Black—J. H. Blackburne.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	35 P QKt3	K Kt3
2 Kt KB3	P Q3	36 P B4	P KB4
3 P Q4	B Kt5	37 Kt K3	R Kt7
4 PxP	Q K2	38 P KR3	K Kt4
5 Q Q5	P QB3	39 K R2	Kt B6ch
6 QxP	QxQ	40 K Rsq	Kt Q7
7 PxQ	BxP	41 Kt Qsq	R B7
8 QKt Q2	Kt Q2	42 Kt K3	R Kt7
9 Kt B4	B B2	43 K Ktsq	P B5
10 Kt K3	KKt B3	44 Kt Qsq	R B7
11 KtxB	KtxKt	45 Kt B2	K R5
12 B QB4	Castles	46 Kt Q3	K Kt6
13 Kt Kt5	QR Ksq	47 Kt Ksq	R Kt7
14 P KB3	KKt B3	48 R Bsq	P B6
15 Castles	P KR3	49 KtxP	KtxKtch
16 Kt R3	P KKt4	50 PxKt	RxRP
17 B K3	KtxP	51 P B4	KxBP
18 PxKt	RxP	52 R B3	P B4
19 BxKtP	RxB	53 K Bsq	P Kt3
20 BxP	R Ksq	54 K Ksq	R R7
21 P B3	R K7	55 K Qsq	K K5
22 QR Qsq	Kt K4	56 R Kt3	K Q5
23 R Q2	QR K5	57 K Bsq	P R4
24 RxR	RxR	58 K Ktsq	P R5
25 R Kt sq	Kt Kt3	59 PxP	KxP
26 K Bsq	R B7	60 R Kt6	RxP
27 B K3	Kt R5	61 RxP	R R6
28 B B2	Kt B4	62 R QR6	K B6
29 K Ksq	B Kt5	63 P R5	P B5
30 K Bsq	BxB	64 R R8	R Kt6ch
31 KtxB	Kt K6ch	65 K R2	R Kt7ch
32 Kt Ktsq	Kt B5	66 K R3	B Kt8
33 Kt Qsq	Kt Q7	67 K R4	R Kt5ch
34 R Rsq	K Kt2	Drawn	

INTER-VARSITY CHESS.

Oxford and Cambridge combined defeated on April 21 the American universities, Harvard, Columbia, and Yale, in a cable chess match, after a two days' struggle, by the score of 4½ to 1½. While the British victory was anticipated, the overwhelming defeat of the Americans was a matter of surprise. The Oxford contingent of the British team was in good form and proved much stronger than was expected. The trophy, represented by Professor Isaac L. Rice, will therefore remain in England for another year, as last year's match was won by Oxford and Cambridge by scores of 3½ games to 2½. The following is a summary of the pairings and the score:

American.		British.	
Rice (H.).....	½	Tattersall (C.).....	½
Hunt (P.)	0	Softlaw (C.)	1
Sewell (C.)	0	Ellis (O).....	1
Cook (Y.)	0	George (O.).....	1
Hopkins (H.).....	1	Soddy (O.)	0
Austell (Y.).....	0	Wiles (C.)	1

The Americans had the first move on boards 1, 3 and 5.

The Oxford and Cambridge representatives occupied private rooms at the British Chess Club, a few members of which, including Sir George Newnes, were present during the exchange of messages. The American players conducted their games in the Knickerbocker Athletic Club's theatre in New York, which was filled with early visitors, mostly college men and *alumni*, who eagerly watched the progress of the games as illustrated on six boards. Mr. Stanley H. Chadwick, secretary of the Brooklyn Chess Club, acted as umpire for the British team, and Sir Henry Henniker, M.P., accepted a like office for the American players.

NOTES.

We regret to inform the world that our old friend H. E. Bird is in a bad way, and, it is said, has left for ever the familiar corner in the Divan. In his illness, which arises from the gout, which has troubled him for so many years, the veteran has not been left high and dry. Chess players all over the world will rejoice to learn that Mr. Bird is in a sort of cottage hospital at Tooting, and that the few pounds per week required for expenses and little luxuries are forthcoming.—*Birmingham Weekly Mercury.*

Deutsches Wochenschach (Berlin) gives the following figures, showing the percentage of wins in master tournaments and the number of such contests used for a basis of calculation: Lasker (4) 76.6, Pillsbury (5) 70.3, Dr. Tarrasch (10) 69.99, Burn (12) 68.82, Anderssen (5) 66.57, Zukertort (9) 66.35, Steinitz (9) 64.85, Blackburne (22) 64.83, Schlechter (8) 57.72, Mason (19) 55½. Albin is the last in the table of sixty players, with 33.78 per cent.

The seventh national Italian chess tournament is now being played. The first prize, a costly Sevres vase, is the gift of the King of Italy. The Prince of Naples, who is honorary president of the Italian Chess Union, gives the second prize, and Baron Sonnino the third. In addition, there are other prizes, consisting of medals and money.

The Paris chess tournament was expected to open on May 15th. It is probable that the following experts are taking part in the contests; Pillsbury, Showalter, and Marshall from the U.S.: Tschigorin, Lewin, and Lebedew from Russia; Alapin, Albin, Marco, and Schlechter from Austria; Brody and Maroczy from Hungary; Walbrodt, Lipke, and Mieses from Germany; Janowski from France; Blackburne, Burn, Mason, and Lee from Great Britain.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 10th May,—Kobe, 8th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 10th May,—Otaru via ports, 5th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tantalus, British steamer, 2,299, B. Husband, 10th May,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 9th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Patroclus, British steamer, 3,323, E. G. Dickens, 10th May,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 9th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Bennington, (6) U.S. gunboat, 1,710, Com. Arnold, 10th May,—Nagasaki, 8th May.

Joseph B. Thomas, American ship, 1,807, W. B. Brown, 11th May,—New York, 29th Nov., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Hancock, U.S. Army Transport, 3,356, Struve, 11th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu.

Sambria, German steamer, 3,500, G. Schmidt, 11th May,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 4th May, General.—C. Illtes & Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 10th May,—Seattle, Washington, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sarnia, German steamer, 2,052, Fuchs, 12th May,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 6th May, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hamburg, German steamer, 6,590, P. Läneschloss, 12th May,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 11th May, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 12th May,—Yokkaichi, 11th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 12th May,—Shanghai via ports, 5th May, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 12th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 11th May, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 12th May,—Otaru via ports, 7th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 13th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 12th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,429, K. Ono, 13th May,—Keelung via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wheeling (6), U.S. gunboat, 1,000, Com. W. T. Burnwall, 13th May,—Shanghai.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 13th May,—Yokkaichi, 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 14th May,—Kobe, 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indrani, British steamer, 3,226, R. N. Hill, 14th May,—New York via ports, and Shanghai, 9th May, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Turbo, British Tank steamer, 2,659, Fairfield, 14th May,—Batoum via Singapore, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 15th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 25th May, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

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Thordis, Norwegian steamer, 2,415, Wilhelmsen, 15th May,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 13th May, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Chingwo, British steamer, 2,517, H. C. Harris, 15th May,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 14th May, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Benlarig, British steamer, 2,452, R. Kroble, 15th May,—London via ports, and Kobe, 14th May, General.—Cornes & Co.

Gisela, Austrian steamer, 2,640, F. Mosca, 15th May,—Trieste via ports, and Hongkong, 9th May, Mails and General.—Browne & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 15th May,—Otaru via ports, 10th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salazie, French steamer, 2,089, Negre, 16th May,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 15th May, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, J. R. Stewart, 16th May,—Baltimore via Singapore, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 16th May,—Yokkaichi, 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 17th May,—Otaru via ports, 12th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 17th May,—Yokkaichi, 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, W. E. Filmer, 17th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 16th May, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Jean Bart (10), French cruiser, 4,162, Capt. Aubin, 17th May,—Kobe, 16th May.

DEPARTURES.

Breconshire, British steamer, 2,323, Geo. Elliott, 9th May,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma., Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 10th May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. Greene, 10th May—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceanien, French steamer, 2,080, R. Schmitz, 11th May,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, E. W. Haswell, 11th May,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Endymion (12), British cruiser, 7,350, Capt. R. L. D. Cumming, 11th May,—Kobe.

Eric, American schooner, 498, Chas. Roos, 12th May,—Port Townsend, Ballast.—Kaitsu Gomei Kaisha.

Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,149, C. de la Perrelle, 12th May,—Amoy, Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Calabria, Italian cruiser, 2,800, Count A. Contelli, 12th May,—Kobe.

Jaguar, German gunboat, 899, Captain Kinderling, 12th May,—Kobe.

Yashima Kan (38), Japanese battleship, 12,517, Capt. S. Uriu, 12th May,—Yokosuka.

Akashi Kan (24), Japanese cruiser, 2,800, Capt. S. Nakamura, 12th May,—Yokosuka.

Chitose Kan (30), Japanese cruiser, 4,836, Capt. S. Hosoya, 12th May,—Yokosuka.

Miike Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,053, S. Kawamuro, 7th May,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, N. Mumezono, 12th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Admiral Korniloff (16), Russian cruiser, 5,000, Capt. Petroff, 13th May,—Nagasaki.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 13th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 13th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 13th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tantalus, British steamer, 2,299, B. Husband, 12th May,—Singapore, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Eskdale, British steamer, 1,923, Dower, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 14th May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,429, K. Ono, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sambria, German steamer, 3,500, G. Schmidt, 14th May,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Patroclus, British steamer, 3,323, E. G. Dickens, 15th May,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 15th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 16th May,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 16th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Carlisle City, British steamer, 1,894, Thos. Aitken, 16th May,—San Francisco via ports, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer. 1,507, C. Christiansen, 16th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 16th May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sarnia, German steamer, 2,052, Fuchs, 16th May,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Idrani, British steamer, 3,226, R. N. Hill, 16th May,—Vladivostock via Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Yosemite (10), U.S. cruiser, 6,179, Capt. G. E. Ide, 16th May,—Uraga Dock.

Haddon Hall, British barque, 1,332, O. B. Pritchard, 17th May,—Tacoma, Wash., Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 17th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 17th May,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hancock, U.S. Army Transport, 3,356, Struve, 17th May,—Manila via ports.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Major Y. Sagara, Mrs. Sagara, and Mr. R. A. Currie, in cabin; Mr. T. Sagara, Mr. H. Kubo, Mr. H. Nakamura, and Mrs. I. Tamura, in second class: 65 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. A. C. S. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Robertson, Mr. F. Natividad, Mr. A. Hockwald, Mr. Cocksedge, Dr. W. Wallaeger, Mrs. Wilcockson, Mrs. Henry, Mr. H. J. Marshall, Lieut. R. F. Peiniger, R.A., Mr. W. F. Ackland, Mr. F. Leybourn, Mr. F. Henderson, Mr. F. S. Goodison, Mr. J. F. Boulton, Alderman J. J. Meakin, Mr. Gillard, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Morrison, in cabin. For San Francisco :—Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Nelson and child, Mr. Tam Pui Shun, Mr. Percy Crighton, Mr. George Coutts, Mr. V. D. Little, Miss Alice Bryan, Miss L. Swenson, Mr. G. C. Holberton, Rev. and Mrs. F. M. Royall and child, Mr. J. Stern, Mr. S. G. Hill, and Miss Josephine Christensen, in cabin.

Per German steamer *Hamburg*, from Europe via perts :—Consul & Mrs. R. G. E. Forster and children, Mr. O. Meyer, Mr. C. Raab, Vice-Consul A. Boje, Mr. G. Brown, Mr. H. Kapperer, Mr. J. A. L. Roos, Major Prendergast, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, Lieut. V. Grumkow, Mrs. Rubatell, Mr. L. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Raspe, Mr. and Mrs. Clement, Mr. Ure, Mr. Paul, Mr. Goedkoop, Mr. and Mrs. Gysin and child, Miss Gysin, Mr. and Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Payne, Capt. and Mrs. Thomsen, Mr. Blumer, Mrs. Mackenjie, Mrs. Ribeiro and child, Mr. L. Terkeltoba, Mr. J. T. Burge, General Stabel, and Mr. and Mrs. V. Rensselaer, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mrs. W. C. S. Smith, Mr. Y. Tanuma, Mr. N. Hozumi, Mr. K. Tanaka, Mr. Thos. Inglis, Mr. T. Shibusawa, Mr. T. Harada, and Mr. Claude L. F. Duhain, in cabin; 2 in European steerage; 133 Asiatics in steerage. For Nagasaki :—Mr. Nesbit, and Mr. Smith, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Mr. J. J. Brenneman, and Mr. W. O. Rowe, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Mr. Robt, M. McWade, Mrs. M. McWade, Mr. Francis Grey. Mrs. M. J. Stratford, Mr. W. F. Aldrich, and Mr. John Webster, in cabin; 52 Chinese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, from Marseilles via ports :—Mr. Harper, Mr. Maraganasamy, Mr. Rasoal Namazie, Mr. d'Audigier, Mr. Chaumont, Mr. Ah Young, Mr. W. A. Freeman, Mr. J. Lefroy and servant, Mr. R. Joy, Mr. Cox, Mr. Stephens, Mr. Larsen, Mr. N. Jackson, Mr. G. Sands, Mr. L. Spraque, Mr. Georges Mudge, Mr. G. W. Yor, Mr. Y. Yesaki, Mr. E. B. Bruley, Mr. Steiner, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Fruitt Mr. Ng. Yat Seeng. Mr. F. Hart, Mr. H. Fitzgerald, Mr. R. Randolph, and Mr. J. A. Quinn, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

American cotton has been reshipped to Liverpool, in view of the state of the market and the fact that prices are much lower here than at home. There is no business in cotton yarns, and nothing in shirtings beyond a few retail sales. A small business in some lines of fancy cottons and woollens. Metals dull.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	2.450 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 to 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12.50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅜ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market as last reported.

American	$2.90
Russian	2.80
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

Little doing in refined. Brown sugars quiet.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	7.90 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is again much depressed. The new crop appears somewhat superior to last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	990 to 1,000
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	920 to 930
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1½	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

The market remains very dull. Prices are falling, and reports from Europe indicate a further decline.

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QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	150 to 155
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	145 to 150
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	95 to 100
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	90 to 95
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	135 to 140
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	130 to 135
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	30 to 40
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	30

TEA.

The demand is for the best qualities, for which prices at opening averaged 10 per cent. higher than last year. Supplies are now arriving freely and prices rule easier.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	38 to 40
Choice	36 to 37
Finest	34 to 35
Fine	32 to 33
Good Medium	30 to 31
Medium	28 to 29
Good Common	No stock
Common	

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 17.

London silver $\frac{1}{16}$ lower and discount down to $3\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. have not affected the course of exchange locally, all rates being unaltered.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0$\frac{1}{16}$ @ ⅛
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼ @ ⅜
— — 4 months' sight	2/0$\frac{15}{16}$ @ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0¾ @ $\frac{11}{16}$
— — 6 months' sight	2/0$\frac{1}{16}$ @ ⅞
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	260½ @ 59½
— — 6 months' sight	262 @ 61
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾ @ ½
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74¼
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27½

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 17.

Oriental Hotels old shares ex new have buyers at *yen* 142.50. New ordinary shares are wanted at *yen* 40. Founders have buyers at *yen* 500. Engine and Iron Works have sellers at *yen* 220. Helms can be had at par. Offers of Grand Hotels are wanted.

YEN.

Yokohama E. & I. Works	220 Sellers.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	155 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	110 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	153 Buyers.

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, May 17.

Breweries—Shares are obtainable at *yen* 175 per 1st October. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 220. Oriental Hotels, old shares now have buyers at *yen* 140. New ordinary shares are wanted at *yen* 35. Founders' shares have buyers at *yen* 460. Helms can be had at par. Bretts can be placed at *yen* 9. Laundries have sellers at par.

Debentures—Y. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	220 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	160 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 B.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	157.50 B.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	460 B.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 St.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	35 B.
Oriental Hotel. preference shares, ¥25	35 Sa.

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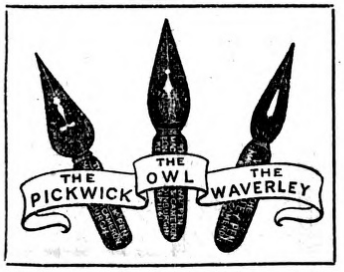

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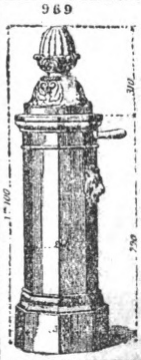

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 26TH, 1900.

MARRIAGE.

On Saturday, April 28th, at the Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, Penn., U.S.A., by the Rev. Dr. Haughton, assisted by the Ven. Prescott Evarts, JEROME DAVIS GREENE to MAY, only daughter of the late Marshall Tevis, Esq., of Philadelphia, U.S.A.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MAFEKING has been relieved. The Boers are in full retreat on Pretoria.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY refuses to abandon the attitude of strict neutrality in the war.

SIR JOHN BRIDGE, the well-known police magistrate of London, is dead. He was born in 1824.

THE revenue of the colony of Hongkong in 1899 was $3,610,143, and the expenditure $3,162,792.

THE dispute between Turkey and America is in a fair way of settlement, the Porte having promised to pay America's claim.

APPRAISERS place the loss by fire in Ottawa at $3,912,000, gold, and up to May 7th, the relief funds exceeded $600,000.

HIS HONOUR JUDGE WILKINSON returned to Yokohama on Tuesday by the C.P.R. steamer. He will make but a short stay here.

MR. PATRICK CAMPBELL, husband of the famous actress, joined the Imperial Yeomanry as a trooper for service in South Africa, and has fallen at the front.

THE Imperial German mail steamer *Hamburg* made a very smart run to Kobe, having averaged 16.5 knots an hour. Her passage occupied 21¾ hours.

A SUM of 100 *yen*, the offertory taken at the Union Church, Yokohama, has been forwarded to Mr. Eddy, of the Y.M.C.A., Madras, for the Indian Famine Fund.

THE Variety Entertainment to be given in the Public Hall on June 5th, in aid of the funds of that institution, promises to be a most enjoyable affair. Rehearsals are actively proceeding.

CAPT. BRINKLEY'S house in Tokyo was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. Everything was lost, including his library, MS.S. of over 20 years' collection, etc.—a very heavy loss indeed.

PROPERTY worth millions of dollars has been swept away by the floods in the Southern States. Vast damage was done to bridges, railroads, and dykes. It is estimated that the total property loss will reach $60,000,000.

AMONG the spectators at the Indian Famine Concert on Monday evening was Sir Edmund Fremantle. The veteran Admiral seemed to enjoy the programme, and especially the whimsicalities of Mr. Brady, to the full.

As there are still many districts in Tokyo to be supplied with water, an enlargement of the works has become necessary. The authorities are preparing to commence the work, which is anticipated to cost *yen* 650,000. The pipes will arrive from abroad about August or September.

A TELEGRAM from Sapporo announces that a conflagration occurred at Toyohira-mura on the 20th instant, and that, in consequence of a strong south-east wind, the flames spread rapidly, destroying 250 houses. Sparks carried to Sapporo caused a fire there, and 20 houses were reduced to ashes.

THE Maoris of New Zealand have been refused permission to take an active part in the South African campaign, but they have not been behind the rest of the Empire in doing their share towards the relief funds. They have already contributed over £1,000, principally raised by means of native entertainments.

A BETTO named Suzuki Fukumatsu on the afternoon of the 19th inst. stole a bicycle belonging to an employe of Messrs. Vantine & Co. While engaged in arranging for its sale to a Chinese dealer in Honmura road, he was arrested. It then transpired that he had been engaged in the big robbery at the Uyeno Fine Arts Exhibition.

TELEGRAPHING from Formosa on the 18th inst., the Governor-General says three cases of pest occurred at Taipeh on the 17th, and two deaths; at Taichu on the 18th there were 10 new cases and five deaths; at Tainan nine cases and five deaths. From the beginning of the year to the present there have been 654 cases and 459 deaths.

A WOMAN named Hatakeyama Yone (27), residing at Yeirakucho Ichome, Yokohama, committed *shinju* with an artist at Takigashira, Negishi, Yokohama, on the morning of the 21st inst. Both parties partook of a narcotic and then waded out to sea, but it being low tide some fishermen found them, though not before life had left the body of the man.

THE *Netherlands States Gazette* contains the statutes of the Netherlands-Japanese Trading Company, established in Amsterdam and purposing to trade principally with Japan, both on own account and on consignment, and all business connected with it. The company may establish agencies and branches in other places. The capital is fl.100,000 in 100 shares of fl.1,000, of which twenty are taken and paid up, and the remainder within ten years.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Grand Hotel, Ltd., was held at the Grand Hotel on Monday for the purpose of considering a proposition by the Board of Directors to erect a new three-storied wing on the site of the present "Annex" building. The proposition was unanimously approved. The new building will have fifteen suites of apartments, provided with private baths, etc., besides other special features for the comfort of guests.

THE Salvation Army make an appeal through the local head of their organization, Colonel Henry Bullard, for funds for the Indian Famine. This gentleman points out that the S. A. "have extensive operations in the most affected areas, including, Rajputana, Gujerat, Panch Mahals, the Punjaub, and N. W. Provinces, and through the medium of our Officers have exceptional facilities for distributing help to the most needy." Donations should be sent to Colonel Bullard, Salvation Army Headquarters, Ninami-Sakumacho Itchome, Shiba, Tokyo.

SOME of the hospitals in South Africa are to be provided with a luxury that will be much appreciated. Through the generosity of the Edison-Bell Phonograph Company, the sick and wounded at Wynberg, Woodstock, Bondebosch, Naauwpoort, and Bloemfontein are to be supplied with phonographs by means of which they can communicate viva voce (but through the medium of the post) with friends in England. They will also be able to fit on to their machines cylinders sent to them from England. A greater luxury for men in hospital could scarcely be imagined.

MANILA papers report a furious engagement at Cagapan, Mindanao, between United States troops and some insurgents toward the end of April. The insurgents remained strongly intrenched and were not dislodged when the latest news came to hand. Another telegram reports the siege of 30 men of the 43rd infantry in a church at Cantubig, Samar. Though the roof was burnt over their heads the Americans held out for five days until relief arrived. Yet another telegram tells of the capture by General Funston of several tons of Aguinaldo's confidential correspondence, including documents implicating several business firms in Manila. Among Aguinaldo's other letters *The Manila Times* says that there were communications to and from Admiral Dewey and Consul General Wildman.

WITH the object of encouraging emigration to the fertile regions recently opened up by the Trans-Siberian Railway, the Russian Government has given orders for the issue of tickets at a very cheap rate. These special tickets are issued for Tobolsk, Irkutsk, and, beyond there, for Vladivostock and Port Arthur. One ticket, apparently, will cover a whole family, and will be available at something like 114 stations on the line of route. The zone tariff has been adopted. From any point in Russian Europe to Tobolsk the price per head has been fixed at two roubles. Beyond Tobolsk to any spot in the vast Siberian region the charge for these emigrant tickets will be 4½ roubles a head—that is to say, that for about 14s. 6d. one will be able to travel a distance of over 6,000 kilometres, or something like 4,000 miles.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Saturday, May 19.

Mequatling's Nek, which General Rundle has just occupied, is the point where the road from Vicksburg to Winburg crosses the Klokani mountains. It is only 45 miles from Thabanchu. Thus Rundle is evidently advancing much more slowly than Roberts did on the march from Bloemfontein to Kroonstad. But Rundle has a difficult task. Not only is he moving in mountainous country where the utmost caution is necessary, but it is also his business to clear out all the Boer commandos on the east of the Bloemfontein-Kroonstad line, so to secure Roberts' right flank against any enterprises such as the Boers recently undertook. The Yeomanry under Welsh are plainly moving up the Basuto-Land frontier of the Free State. It will be seen by looking at the map that Roberts' extreme right, namely, the Yeomanry, is greatly recessed. In fact, the three positions, Kimberley, Ladybrand, and Kroonstad, lie at the angles of a right angled triangle, Ladybrand being at the right angle and Kimberley and Kroonstad at the extremities of the hypotenuse, while Rundle, at Mequatling's Nek, finds himself on the Kroonstad-Ladybrand side, about twice as far from the former place as from the latter. It looks as if Lord Roberts had ordered Rundle to sweep right across to the east of the Free-State, and get possession of Bethlehem, while the Yeomanry move against Harrismith and the rear of Van Reenan's Pass. Roberts himself will of course make Heilbron his next objective point. It is 55 miles from Kroonstad.

Meanwhile attention is concentrated on Mafeking, where the Boers are evidently making a final effort. Fifty killed and wounded was a heavy loss for the little garrison last Saturday, but they fought gallantly and inflicted a severe reverse on their assailants. The question is, did the Boers renew the attack on Sunday and Monday after their failure on Saturday? If so, they have departed from their Ladysmith traditions. But they know that little time remains available, for the relieving force must be close at hand, supposing that it really passed through Vryburg at the time recently mentioned. The loss of Mafeking would not signify much, though all England would grieve to hear that the brave garrison had been obliged to capitulate after more than six months' resistance against heavy odds.

Monday, May 21.

The position is becoming very desperate for the Boers. From every side the British are closing in on them. If they had to contend against Roberts alone they might still make a strong stand on the line of the Vaal so as to cover Potchefstroom, Johannesburg and Heidelberg. But Hunter has already crossed the Vaal and reached Christiana, and there is no doubt that Methuen can cross in the neighbourhood of Hoopstad. It is true that the columns of both Hunter and Methuen are far from the direct line of advance against Pretoria. Supposing that Methuen crosses into the Transvaal below Hoopstad, he would still have 70 miles to march before reaching Klerksdorp, and Hunter at Christiana is still 120 miles from the latter place. At first sight it appears that neither Methuen or Hunter was intended to take any direct part in the attack on Pretoria. The role assigned to Methuen was to guard Roberts' left flank against enterprises by the Hoopstad-Boshof Boers; and Hunter's immediate purpose was to guarantee the Mafeking relief column against having its communications severed in the neighbourhood of Warrenton. But it is doubtless part of Lord Roberts' programme that these columns should contribute directly to the final result, for which purpose they will probably advance down the Vaal in the direction of Klerksdorp, which place is in railway communication with Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp and Johannesburg. Then there is the Mafeking column. We know nothing of its composition, but it can scarcely be less than ten thousand strong. The operations of this column strike us as perhaps the most remarkable incident of the war. Roberts' change of direction after Cronje's flight from Maggersfontein; the subsequent advance against Bloemfontein; the really fine rush of the cavalry from the Modder to Kimberley; the marching of the column that entered Bloemfontein from the south, and Roberts' last advance against Kroonstad—all these were very admirable in their way. But the absolute secrecy observed in organizing and despatching the Mafeking relief column; its disappearance into space; the public's ignorance of its very existence until news suddenly came of its passage through Vryburg, 127 miles from its point of departure and only 96 from its destination—this is the performance that will attract most attention and merit most praise. Until it reached Vryburg the column probably moved in British territory. But there were many secret enemies *en route*, and we can not doubt that, had not extraordinary precautions been taken, the Boers at Bloemhof and Warrenton would have been kept accurately informed of the column's movements, and would have seized the unique opportunity thus offered for the kind of enterprise they particularly effect. We did not, for our own part, suppose that the relief would have been attempted from the Kimberley direction, in view of the perils and difficulties attending such an essay; but Roberts has known when to take a risk, knowledge that is characteristic of his ability as a general. On the whole Mafeking is the most picturesque chapter of the story. Its resistance has been quite an illustrious feat of arms, enhanced by the final attempt of the Boers and the fiasco that attended it, and the manner of effecting the relief has been a species of *coup de théâtre*. What, now, will be the role of the Mafeking relief column? It deserves some rest, but it stands at the entrance of the easiest route to Pretoria, and its advance along the 150 miles of road that separate it from the Transvaal capital would certainly facilitate Lord Roberts' task materially. Then finally there is Buller, who seems bent upon forcing the passes of the Drakensberg and effecting an entry into the Transvaal by the historical route of Majuba and Laings Nek. Thus the Boers are veritably threatened from every side, and the possibility of a northward trek is obviated by Carrington's presence beyond the Limpopo. It is not difficult for President Kruger to choose an appropriate text for the occasion. The bulls of Bashan are encompassing him most manifestly on every side. No wonder that a peace party is forming in Pretoria.

Wednesday, May 23.

Things appear to be moving with extraordinary rapidity at the seat of war. Our news on the 21st was that Methuen had entered Hoopstad, and now the telegraph says that the British have occupied Klerksdorp, which is nearly 90 miles distant from the former place. Evidently Methuen can not have reached Klerksdorp, unless our previous account of his doings was incorrect, which is not a satisfactory explanation. If Klerksdorp has really been occupied, the occupiers are probably the troops of Roberts' left wing. North-west of Kroonstad, at a distance of 55 miles, lies Vier-fontein, which is in railway communication with Kroonstad. A few miles beyond Vier-fontein the Yster Spruit enters the Vaal, and immediately above and below the point of affluence there are two drifts, Doods Drift and Klerks Drift. It is possible that Roberts decided to throw his left wing forward in order to effect the crossing of the Vaal at the drifts, in which case his troops, after crossing, would have found themselves within 15 miles of Klerksdorp, which they at once proceeded to occupy. The meaning of that would be that a large flanking movement has been effected by sending a column over the Vaal 75 miles westward of Viljone's Drift, where the direct railway to Johannesburg and Pretoria is carried over the river. These troops will now move upon Potchefstroom—35 miles east of Klerksdorp—, and thence will turn the position of the Boers defending the Vaal at Viljone's Drift on Roberts's direct line of advance. If that be the state of affairs at present, the position of the Boers has become more hopeless than ever. They have probably entrenched Pretoria very strongly, and, if twenty thousand of them decide to garrison the place, the siege may be a protracted affair, for Roberts will certainly not proceed by the method of escalade. But there is little chance of their making any effective resistance southward of their capital. It is true that Johannesburg is capable of defence, being surrounded by heaps of tailings which can easily be turned into forts. But any Boers that allow themselves to be shut up in Johannesburg must abandon all hope of taking part in the defence of Pretoria, for Roberts is strong enough to invest both places simultaneously. There will thus be a necessity to choose, and the choice must fall on Pretoria. At the same time, we have strong doubts about the Transvaalers' protracting the struggle. Everything that they looked to achieve has failed; the whole prospect that induced them to plunge into war has faded. Instead of driving the British out of South Africa, they are now themselves driven to the very walls of their capital, and since they can no longer entertain any expectation of foreign intervention, nor look to beat back their assailants, it is hard to see what they could gain by standing a siege. If it be true that the whole of the force assailing Mafeking has been captured—a story which probably must be received with reserve—then the road to Pretoria lies open to the relief column, and the distance is much the same as that from Kroonstad to Pretoria. Moreover, Buller's mounted division is said to have reached Laings Nek, from which we infer that the Transvaal will be pierced from that point without serious difficulty. The Boers must see that the game is up.

THE "LESE-MAJESTE" AFFAIR.

Tuesday, May 22.

It does not appear rational that any great fuss should be made over the sensational article recently published by the *Seinen-no-Fukuin*. A giddy youth of twenty-one, unable to climb to fame or to keep the wolf from the door, penned some silly remarks about the Imperial wedding, in the hope that he would at least become notorious and an object of public interest. To raise a commotion about the event is to play the game of the offender. At first, indeed, the public

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seemed to appreciate these considerations. The incident was scarcely noticed by the press. But presently the *Mainichi Shimbun* published an article alleging that such acts are the products of the nation's hysterical tyranny of patriotism, since one excess begets another. That theory involved a species of excuse for the writer of the disloyal article; a very shadowy extenuation, but still an extenuation. Then the *Yorozu Choho* came out unequivocally. It declared that no praise could be too strong for the courage and philanthropy of the writer of the diatribe. "Heaven does not speak," said the *Yorozu*, quoting an old Chinese proverb; "it makes its voice heard through the mouths of men." Now the *Mainichi's* editor is a prominent Christian, and the *Yorozu Choho* is associated with Mr. Uchimura Kanzo and other eminent followers of the Nazarene. Hence those disposed to draw strained inferences found here an opportunity to accuse the Christians in general of fomenting disloyal sentiments among the people. That is a charge often made in the past, but the Christians have hitherto been able to defy their accusers to advance any evidence in support of the accusation, and have justly claimed that, next to fearing God, their creed inculcates the duty of honouring the king. Unfortunately a weapon has now been forged to attack them. We need scarcely say that the *Nippon* leads the assault: Chauvinism against indiscretion. Christianity had nothing whatsoever to do with the analytical philosophy of the *Mainichi Shimbun* or with the erratic enthusiasm of the *Yorozu*, but the two journals have Christian connexions, and that is enough for the extremists.

Wednesday, May 23.

Messrs. Honda, Kozaki and Uyemura, all well-known leaders of the pro-Christian movement, have considered it advisable to protest, through the columns of the *Kokumin Shimbun*, against the insinuation that Christianity had any connexion with the publication of the matter which has led to the suppression of the *Seinen-no-Fukuin* and the apprehension of its editor and two others, all of whom, we may mention, have been committed for trial. Yamakawa, who penned the obnoxious article, is not a Christian. He has never been baptized and has no relations with any sect. Morita Bunji, the lad of 19, who made a clean copy of the article, is a Christian, being a member of the *Kanda Fukuin Kyokai*, but it would be extravagant to suppose that because a youth of 19 acted the mechanical part of amanuensis, the matter he copied represented the sentiments of Christians in general.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

Saturday, May 19.

Predictions of a political crisis continue to be freely uttered. One newspaper undertakes to declare that an arrangement will be made by the 25th, but does not venture to foretell whether there will be a reconstruction or an overthrow of the Cabinet. Another is confident that there will not be any "earthquake," but that the settlement will take the form of giving portfolios to two or three of the Liberal leaders, and also nominating others to the new post of *Chef de Cabinet* in the various Departments. It is noticeable that the latter posts have not yet been filled, their duties being discharged at present by the Vice-Ministers of Departments. Some observers think that an arrangement on that basis would be willingly accepted by the Liberals, first, because their fever of office hunting has been considerably abated by the receipt of increased parliamentary stipends; and secondly because there is no question of policy on the *tapis* at present warranting a split with the Cabinet, and the Liberals having been instrumental in restoring a measure of stability to the Cabinet and peace of mind to the nation, appreciate the unwisdom of renewing the reign of unrest merely for the sake of shouldering themselves into power. We certainly think that the Liberals have deserved well of the nation and of the Government. They stepped into the breach when things were threatening to fall into a chaotic condition, and when a policy of destruction seemed to have become the fashion among party politicians in Japan. It thus became possible for competent men to take charge of the country's interests with some feeling of confidence, and the result is that from a welter of change and instability the nation has now enjoyed tranquil and good government for nearly two years. That the present Cabinet has showed remarkable competence, no one will be disposed to deny. It has gone on its way resolutely and calmly, doing the right thing and trusting to time for its vindication. At one moment the Foreign Office under Viscount Aoki became a cynosure of attack, but if public opinion were polled today, there would be an almost unanimous verdict that Viscount Aoki has been one of the most successful Foreign Secretaries ever possessed by Japan, and that he has displayed the specially admirable faculty of wearing his laurels in private. It will be a source of genuine regret for Japan's sake if another era of unrest is to be inaugurated merely because of some personal ambitions. The Liberals doubtless appreciate these points, but they justly urge that, after all, whether in cooperation with the Cabinet or in opposition to it, they have had constantly before their eyes an unchanging goal, the establishment of party government, and that unless they make some progress towards it, they will stand convicted of abandoning their principles. There are many considerations making for compromise.

Monday, May 21.

The *Jimmin* being the organ of some of the Liberal leaders, if not of the whole Party, its comments on the present political situation have special interest. The gist of its writing is that a coalition Cabinet is the best plan under the circumstances. Of course the ideal would be a party cabinet, but since such a change would be too sudden, the halfway house of a coalition is the only satisfactory resource. To continue the plan hitherto pursued would be the worst method of all.

These are very plain utterances and one wants to learn something of the reasons on which they are based. Why should a continuance of the existing arrangement be called an intolerable plan? To the eyes of impartial observers the present arrangement seems eminently satisfactory. The country's affairs both at home and abroad, have been smoothly and successfully administered. There are no grounds for complaint on the part of the people nor has the Cabinet's name been associated with any failure. The *Jimmin* is evidently conscious that no fault can be found nor any defect indicated. Yet a reason has to be assigned, and our contemporary discovers one in the mood of the nation. People have grown tired, it says, of things as they are: they want a change. It is certain that people grew very tired of the state of affairs existing when the political parties pursued destructive tactics only, checking all progress and interrupting the course of Government. But we can not detect any signs of weariness now. No section of the press assails the Cabinet. Indeed, we can not remember that any period since 1878, when the first political party was organized, has been so free from censures of officialdom. It is difficult to reconcile such an absence of open symptoms of discontent with the theory that the nation longs for a change. However, the *Jimmin* may be right. After all, the life of British Cabinets is frequently terminated by popular caprice. Something new is craved for and the nation votes a re-organization of the Ministry. Justin McCarthy has admirably described how mutability of national fancy destroys cabinets in England. Japan's Occidentalization has seemingly reached to that feature also.

The latest statements about political changes may be summed up very briefly. We have, first, the *Kokumin Shimbun*, which alleges that things will not be settled as speedily as some people appear to anticipate, but that some changes are certainly pending. Then we have the *Asahi Shimbun* which professes to know that a meeting recently took place between the three great Choshiu statesmen, Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata and Count Inouye, on which occasion Marquis Yamagata expressed his desire to be relieved of the weight of responsibility now borne by him, saying that it had become too heavy, owing to the attitude of the Liberals and the financial proposals made by Count Matsukata. He begged that either Marquis Ito or Count Inouye would take his place, and he declared himself willing to serve under either, as would also be Marquis Saigo and Count Matsukata. To this Count Inouye replied that he had definitely resolved not to enter the Government again, and Marquis Ito answered that he was not prepared to do so. Therefore they both urged Marquis Yamagata to remain in office. Concerning this story, we may say that we do not credit it. Then comes the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* with a pertinent reminder that Cabinets, according to the Japanese Constitution, are nominated by the Emperor and hold office at his pleasure. Such a thing as a party Cabinet is not contemplated, nor could it come into existence in any openly recognised form. It might happen that the Sovereign, finding men of exceptional ability and trustworthiness in a particular party, should delegate to them the duty of organizing a Ministry, and thus a party Cabinet would exist in effect, though not in officially recognised shape. Anything else would be unconstitutional, and party politicians would do well to keep the fact before their eyes. As to the theory of this contention, we agree with the *Nichi Nichi*, but it seems to us that time has left the constitution somewhat in the rear, and that its provisions can no longer be successfully invoked to stem the tendency of political development.

Tuesday, May 22.

There continues to be much talk about Cabinet changes, but it is obviously irresponsible and uninteresting. The only fact which seems to emerge clearly is that the Ministry has made some kind of promise to give favourable consideration to the wishes of the Liberals. Tokyo journals undertake to describe what Marquis Yamagata is prepared to do and what he is not prepared to do, but it is plain that not one of them has any definite information on the subject. Mr. Hoshi Toru has again been interviewed, and is represented as saying that Marquis Yamagata finds himself much embarrassed, which is not

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at all improbable. One journal is persuaded that even though the Liberals refrained from preferring any demands, the Cabinet would break-up, owing to financial difficulties, but as the finances are understood to be in a satisfactory condition, no credence can be attached to that statement. Altogether it is evident that every one is groping in the dark, and that those who are in a position to speak with confidence, carefully keep silence.

THE UNITED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Wednesday, May 23.

The committee of the United Chambers of Commerce of this country has elaborated a bill for relieving the financial condition now existing in this country, and it is expected that the measure will obtain the approval of the Chambers by a large majority. In the first place, the Committee applied itself to determine the causes of the difficulties besetting Japanese merchants and manufacturers, and came to the conclusion that they are, insufficiency of capital; unsuitability of the methods of industrial undertakings; incomplete provision of the machinery of commerce; defective means of communication. As to the remedies, the Committee proposes the following:—The establishment of an industrial bank. The introduction of such fiscal changes as shall quickly restore to circulation all monies collected by the Treasury, and shall facilitate payments on account of taxation, notably by accepting cheques instead of money, and in connexion with this latter point the Committee suggests that efforts should be made to extend the system of bills and cheques and promote credit transactions. It need scarcely be said that the establishment of a special savings bank is urged, the idea being that if the method of prize-bearing shares were fully adopted, the scattered money of the people might be collected, and rendered available as capital for business purposes. The Committee also recommends that the privilege of owning real estate and of holding shares of every description shall be extended to foreigners, and that they shall be in every way encouraged to start enterprises on their own account and in conjunction with Japanese in this country. Then come suggestions as to founding a school for training practical men of affairs; as to sending youths abroad for the purpose of studying commerce and industry; as to increasing the number of industrial experimental stations; as to establishing commercial and industrial museums, and as to the development of export facilities in general. The Committee thinks that endeavours should be made to promote the manufacture of all articles suitable for taking the place of imports, and that the Government should employ domestic commodities as far as possible in preference to foreign. Other suggestions are the founding of an East-Asian Bank in Kobe to work in conjunction with the Specie Bank of Yokohama in promoting trade; the assistance and encouragement of unions among manufacturers and producers of goods for export, and the removal of abuses now impeding such enterprises; speedy completion of railway communications, and the granting of special traffic rates to domestic manufacturers both over railways and in steamers of companies receiving navigation aids from the Treasury.

The Committee was absolutely unanimous with respect to allowing foreigners to hold shares of every description. But when the question of land-ownership came up for discussion, it encountered some opposition. The Osaka and Okayama delegates spoke strongly in its favour, but the representative of Nagoya, Mr. Okuda, and the representative of Yokohama, Mr. Otani Kahei, raised objections. Neither of these gentlemen opposed the principle, but Mr. Okuda thought that the step would be premature, and Mr. Otani believed that this privilege ought to be reserved as a weapon for negotiating the complete recovery of Japan's tariff autonomy when the time comes for that measure. Experience had shown, he thought, that Japan could not hope to obtain anything without giving some equivalent in exchange. The Committee, however, set aside these objections and passed the draft by a large majority.

A protest has been lodged from another quarter, however, namely, the *Nippon Kogyo Kyokai* (Japan Industrial Association). The members of that body hold that the privilege of land-ownership should not be granted unconditionally. Foreigners complain that so long as the privilege is withheld, they can not feel any security in organizing industrial enterprises. The Association denies all lack of security, but, at the same time, recommends that this sentiment on the part of foreigners be placated by giving to them the right of owning land on condition that they use it for industrial purposes within a certain time.

It is stated that Baron Shibusawa asked Marquis Yamagata, Marquis Saigo, Count Matsukata and Baron Sone to attend the meeting of the Chambers when this bill comes up for discussion, but that the four Ministers thought is advisable to refrain from doing so.

Thursday, May 24.

On the 23rd instant, the United Chambers of Commerce held a meeting in Tokyo to consider the proposals embodied in the report of the Committee which had been appointed for the purpose of drawing up a programme in connection with the present financial crisis. We have already stated in detail the recommendations of the Committee, and it now remains to note that they were all passed by the Chambers. No discussion was provoked except with reference to the provision that the privilege of owning real estate, holding shares of all kinds and engaging in mining enterprises, should be extended to foreigners without restrictions. Baron Shibusawa Eiichi, President of the Tokyo Chamber, left the chair for the purpose of speaking on this motion. His speech, as reported by the vernacular press, was short but strong. The line of argument was that the time had come for Japan to divest herself completely of old fashioned prejudices and to sweep away every obstacle that tended to impede her industrial and commercial development. Baron Shibusawa acknowledged that at the time of the Restoration he had been one of those who were ready to cut down foreigners wherever they found them, yet he now stood before the meeting as an open advocate of granting to foreigners every privilege enjoyed by Japanese subjects. It appeared to be apprehended by some timid folks that if foreigners were allowed to come in, own land, hold railway shares and work mines, they would acquire some sort of mastery in Japan, but he ventured to say that the Japanese people could hold their own in any struggle with foreigners, and he was persuaded that the country could not afford to check its progress and be distanced in the race of development for the sake of preserving some antiquated theories of isolation.

This speech, coming from a man of such eminence and well-known caution, must have produced considerable effect. But some members of the Chambers were disposed to think that the question was too important to be disposed of precipitately, and others showed a disposition to limit the concessions. When a vote was taken, however, a large majority pronounced in favour of the proposal without any modification whatever.

The only Tokyo newspaper that discusses this decision editorially is the *Nippon*, and such of our readers as are acquainted with the political complexion of that journal will be prepared to learn that it condemns the vote of the Chambers. We are bound to confess, too, that the *Nippon's* method of argument will probably convince a great many people. As to the merits of the question itself, our contemporary stands on contemptibly weak ground. It speaks of the troubles that beset Korea in connexion with concessions as to mining and land-ownership, says that it sympathises profoundly with the neighbouring empire, and hints that similar troubles may be anticipated by Japan if she follows the lead of the United Chambers, since foreigners do not radically differentiate her from either Korea or China. Apparently the *Nippon* fails to perceive that such defective discrimination on the part of foreigners is justified and confirmed by writings like that of the *Nippon* itself, for if a Japanese journal classes its own nationals in the same category with Koreans in respect of their ability to compete with Occidentals, how can the average Occidental be expected to see more clearly? This pusillanimous and antiquated line of thought will not appeal to Japanese intelligence, we trust; but we have not the same confidence about our contemporary's more subtle thesis that the Japanese will be thought ridiculously changeable if they now propose to voluntarily surrender safeguards and reservations which, a year ago, they deemed essential. There is no doubt, the *Nippon* says, that the Japanese Government's refusal to embody these concessions of land-ownership, mining, and so forth in the revised treaties, was dictated by deference to public opinion in Japan, and there is further no doubt that had they been able to grant them, revision could have been effected on lines still more favourable to Japan. What has happened, then, to warrant a complete surrender of the position within a few months of the operation of the revised treaties? Has public opinion changed? No, only the opinion of business men has changed who think solely of their own interest; andnot even of genuine business men, but of mere speculators who hope to find in these concessions a means of giving a fillip to the stock market. Yet these, the *Nippon* adds, are the very men who, two years ago, urged the State purchase of private railways on the ground that in time of emergency, danger might arise from leaving the lines of communication in non-official hands. Here, however, the *Nippon* makes an interesting confession. It avers that in thus advocating State ownership, the business men only pretended to be interpreting national thought; in reality they were pleading for their own pockets.

This charge of inconsistency and precipitancy, shallow as it is, will probably influence some people, comical as it must seem to every one that a man like Baron Shibusawa should be classed with unpatriotic speculators. Unless we are much mistaken, a different note will be struck by journals which have more right to be regarded as exponents of intelligent public opinion. At any rate the significance of the step taken by the United Chambers can scarcely be questioned.

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BUSHIDO.

Very few of our readers have ever heard of *Bushido*, we presume. The literal meaning of the term is "the way of the soldier," just as *Shin-to* signifies "the way of the Gods." But while we have a single word, "religion," for the latter, we have no satisfactory equivalent for the former. The practice of rectitude presents itself to the mind of a Japanese under the guise of "treading a path" undeviatingly. When he says *michi wo fumu*, he means the following of the road indicated by ethical sign-posts. *To* is the Chinese pronunciation of *michi*, and thus the *samurai no michi* of pure Japanese become *Bushido* in classical terminology—"the religion of the soldier" in short. Mr. Nitobe Inago has taken *Bushi-do* as the subject of a brochure which an American publisher—the Seeds and Biddle Company of Philadelphia—presents to the world in very attractive guise. As a rule, peaceful folks do not want to hear about soldierly ethics. They associate the idea with bloodshed, battle and violence in general. But *Bushido* is concerned with such matters in only a very secondary degree. In the phraseology of trial by court-martial, all offences justiciable by such a tribunal are classed under the universal heading of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." A Japanese would render that notion in the form "conduct contrary to *Bushido*." *Bushido*, in short, is the system of ethics that every Japanese officer and gentleman ought to obey. To know exactly what that system inculcates, is to know what kind of moral standard the educated Japanese of feudal times endeavoured to attain. Mr. Nitobe explains the matter in detail, and as a matter of course, his explanation displays great research. If he shows any fault it is enthusiasm. The way of the *samurai* leads us, under his guidance, to realms of moral nobility which, we venture to think, were never fully illustrated in the *samurai's* practice. On the other hand, we are persuaded that this creed belonged to a very high grade of ethics, and that it inculcated the pursuit of ideals which few, very few, students of Japanese life and manners have ever thought of attributing to the *samurai*. Naturally Mr. Nitobe sets out with an explanation of *giri*. He tells us that *giri* corresponds with the English term "duty," but he is inclined to think that the word ultimately degenerated into mere "propriety," under guise of which many deeds were done that shock our moral sense, as when a mother sacrificed her younger children to save the life of her first-born, or a daughter consented to sell her chastity in order to pay debts contracted by a dissipated father. We should not have thought that a mother or a daughter adopting such a course could be said to obey the dictates of "propriety." To English minds each would appear to be doing what she considered "right"; bowing to her sense of duty at any cost of suffering. However, that is a mere question of terminology. Our own experience in Japan has shown us that the sphere of *giri's* operation is wider than that where our English "duty" holds sway. An Englishman never considers it his duty to do a thing that is in itself wrong; but the Japanese *giri* has an altruistic sense in which duty to another takes precedence of the principles of abstract right. The *giri* of *Bushido*, however, was simply the duty of observing all the dictates of the code, bravery, honour, loyalty, truth, justice, magnanimity, courtesy, and chivalry. But this duty did not extend to dealings with women. There the *Samurai* failed completely, judged by an Occidental standard. Neither did his sense of chivalry forbid him to have recourse to devices of the most dishonourable kind in warfare. His conduct certainly illustrated the maxim that all is fair in love and war. With these limitations, however, *Bushido* was a noble code of ethics; not perhaps quite so fine as Mr. Nitobe believes, but incomparably finer than any Occidental imagines who has not made a careful study of the *Samurai's* career. Mr. Nitobe is the first to treat this interesting subject.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Kwŏng, the former chief of Police in Sŏul, who recently returned to Korea from his hiding place in Japan and was arrested immediately on landing, is said to have taken that apparently rash step in consequence of services rendered by him to Lady Om, the Monarch's favourite. The telegraph now tells us that he has petitioned to be confronted with some one—we can not tell who—in open court before he is executed. He is not likely to be executed in any case, we imagine. Will Koreanever have a respite from these intrigues, emeutes, and judicial assassinations? What is her malady? There are sufficient symptoms of serious sickness, but no one seems competent to diagnose them.

The latest sensation in Sŏul seems to have been connected with the Government's desire to borrow half a million of *yen* for coinage purposes. Korea, as our readers know, has adopted the gold standard, but for her the measure has remained a magnificent abstraction, for she has no gold. Her attempt to carry the system into practice did not extend beyond establishing a mint at Chemulpho, where some nickel coins were struck. Recently she moved the machinery to Yŏng-san, but then the difficulty occurred that she had no metal to coin nor working capital for the mint. It was under these circumstances that she signified her desire to borrow half a million, and a favourable response was at once received from various quarters, each of the would-be creditors have an axe, or several axes, of his own to grind, in the form of concessions. While all were haggling, the sharp American, Mr. Hunt, stepped in and became the successful party. So it is said at any rate, but rumour does not undertake to explain what conditions are attached. The *Jiji Shimpo's* special correspondent, from whom we obtain these details, adds that a Japanese also would fain have lent the money, but he condemns the Japanese method of procedure as wanting in wiliness. The way "to get" the Korean is not to frighten him at first by a big proposal, but to put forward some insignificant trifle as a bait, and then gradually to draw him on and entangle him until he has no choice but to be pliant. The Japanese attach more importance to the signature of Mr. Brown than to that of the Emperor himself. That is where they make a mistake. Mr. Brown's signature may be more trustworthy, but there is much more capital to be made out of an unimplemented promise which has received the Sovereign's sign manual. A very pretty political creed, is it not?

There has been a demonstration in Sŏul against the electric railway. It took the forms of a scheme to wreck the station in the vicinity of the Bell Tower. Apparently the Authorities were able to deal with the trouble.

A telegram published by the *Tokyo Asahi* says that Mr. Hunt has obtained the perpetual right of carrying on mining operations at Unsan, in consideration of a payment of 300,000 *yen*.

The explanation of the telegrams we have received from London about the comments of the *Times* and Mr. Brodrick's statements in Parliament on the subject of Russia in Korea is that the news of the Koje-Island Convention has only now been published in Europe. Our readers are already acquainted with the facts. We need only say that Russia has obtained from Korea a pledge that the Island of Koje shall never be alienated to any Foreign State, including Russia herself. That is a very harmless kind of pledge as it stands, though of course we all know that it means more than it says. There is, moreover, a special qualification. Both Great Britain and Japan have required that their rights shall not be affected by the guarantee, and Korea has made that reservation. Hence what Russia has obtained is a pledge that Koje shall never be leased or ceded to any foreign Power, including herself but excluding England and Japan. We understand that Great Britain, in this instance, has insisted on the maintenance of the engagement given by Korea at the time of the restoration of Port Hamilton, and that Japan took her stand on the special situation created by her interests and her neighbourhood. It would be idle to imagine that the pledge has no significance from a Russian point of view, but its import has certainly been much limited by the reservations that Japan and England have secured.

PRESS LAW.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, although it was always very outspoken in its condemnation of the old press law, nevertheless opposed the abolition of the right of suspending a journal, its contention being that the time had not arrived for such a step. It now insists that the existing law should be enforced with greater rigour. The best plan would be to re-invest the Authorities with the power of suspension, but pending that reform, it is the duty of the Government to make every possible use of the law as it stands, for much of the matter now published by newspapers and periodicals is distinctly demoralizing. Our contemporary alludes, of course, to yellow journalists, headed by the *Yorozu Choho*, who have no respect for the privacy of domestic life, and who, in not a few cases, if they do not actually resort to black-mailing, at all events make money by circulating villainous falsehoods detrimental to the reputation of individuals. Apparently public opinion is still insufficiently developed in Japan. It does not interfere to prevent these scandalous abuses, and the law is either inadequate in its provisions, or incompetently applied, for in no one instance has a suit for libel resulted in the effectual punishment of the accused. We entirely agree with the *Nichi Nichi* that something is needed. To us the trouble has always seemed the indifference of society. People shrug their shoulders and say "it is only a newspaper." Thus the status of the press is constantly lowered, and its sense of responsibility blunted. No quarter should be given to these wretched parasites who batten on slander and falsehood. They should be hounded out of society, and haled before the criminal courts whenever they offend.

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ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

A number of administrative appointments are gazetted, principally with regard to the newly created office of *Chef de Cabinet*, and the newly denominated office of *Somucho*, which, we are disposed to think, may be best rendered by Permanent Under-Secretary, though the literal translation of the term does not convey that meaning. In the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, War, Navy, Justice and Communications, the present Vice-Ministers of State are gazetted Permanent Under-Secretaries, holding in conjunction the office of *Chef de Cabinet*. In the Department of Finance, Baron Tajiri, the Vice-Minister, is appointed Permanent Under-Secretary, but the post of *Chef de Cabinet* goes to Mr. Hirayama Seishin, hitherto a Judge of the Administrative Court. Also in the Departments of Education, and of Agriculture and Commerce, while the Vice-Ministers are similarly appointed to the position of *Somucho*, Mr. Koba Sadanaga and Mr. Okano Keijiro become *Chefs de Cabinet*. It will be observed that in no case has an outsider been brought in. Of course party politicians will by-and-by be appointed *Chefs de Cabinet*, that being the obvious purpose of the post. But for the present the matter is left in abeyance in the case of all the Departments except three.

Very considerable changes of organization are announced in the cases of the Army and Navy Departments. Possibly the experiences recently gained at the Naval manœuvres may have had something to do with this. In the Naval Department the following new bureaux and sections are created:—The *Kiyoiku Hombu* (educational bureau); the *Kansei Hombu* (ships stores bureau); the *Komu-bu* (harbour-affairs section), one at each naval station; the *Yobikwan-bu* (reserve-ships section), one at each naval station; and the *Heiki-sho* (armaments bureau), one at each naval station except Kure. In the Army Department, a *Jinji-bu* (section of personal affairs) is added to the former *Hokan-bu* (section of law), and the combined sections become the *Homu-kyoku*. There are also added to the organization of the Naval Department a *Gunjuhin-ko* (naval requisites section), one at each naval station; a *Sokuriyo-ko* (surveying section); and *Kaigun Boro* (outlook stations). These details are not complete, but our object is merely to give our readers a general idea of the changes effected.

THE COMMEMORATION MUSEUM.

Only four hundred and thirty thousand *yen* have been subscribed for building the Commemoration Museum, and at least six hundred thousand is wanted. The subscription list closes at the end of this month, and there are consequently great doubts whether the required amount will be obtained. The *Jiumin* vehemently attacks the nobles in connexion with this matter. It notes that there are 482 nobles living in Tokyo, and that if the subscriptions of Counts Ii and Date, Prince Tokugawa and Marquises Hachisuka and Tokugawa be excepted, the subscriptions of the thirty-six who alone have have put up anything, aggregate 6,745 *yen*. Our contemporary thinks that a very paltry sum. But is the stricture just? The average is 187 *yen* per head, which may be regarded as fully the equivalent of £100 in England. The nobles of Japan are by no means wealthy.

TOKYO AFFAIRS.

The Tokyo City Council has rejected the alternative plans of harbour construction submitted by Mr. Furuichi, as explained in a recent issue of this journal, and has approved of the original plan, which locates the docks near Shinagawa. This decision will dissatisfy the citizens of the Kyo-bashi and Nihon-bashi districts, but it appears that the alternative plans—there were two—would have involved increased expenditures of over 5 million *yen* in one case, and over 15 millions in the other; and, in the opinion of the Council, would have not have been as advantageous as the Shinagawa scheme.

It would almost seem as though there were some real prospect of the harbour's being constructed. Mr. Hoshi Toru, speaking on the 22nd at a meeting of the *Gunshi Konshin-kai*, held at the Yaomatsu restaurant, said that the work would require an expenditure of 40 million *yen*, and that the city had a right to expect the Government to contribute one-third, in accordance with the precedent of Osaka. As to the means of obtaining such a sum—13 million *yen*—there might be doubts, in view of the present state of the finances, but a simple plan suggested itself, namely, that the State should hand over the lands held by it within the limits of Tokyo Prefecture. These lands cover a wide area and are now unproductive—for example, the old store-house site at Asakusa and the tracts set aside as military and naval property. Mr. Hoshi considers that they could be sold for the amount needed. He said nothing about the proposed method of raising the remaining 27 millions, but a municipal loan is doubtless the idea.

Mr. Hoshi at the same time spoke of the City Improvement Scheme, explaining that the Municipality intends to spend 15 millions in the course of the next 5 years, the money being obtained by the sale of bonds.

THE SO-CALLED "BAKAN-BOYCOTT."

Nearly two weeks have now passed since one at least of the Yokohama local journals re-produced from the columns of the *Kobe Chronicle* a statement that an organized movement, based upon antipathy to foreigners, had been commenced in Bakan, its object being to prevent them from doing business in that place. The Kobe journal alleged that of the four branches of foreign firms doing business at Bakan, three had received notice to quit, and it suggested the advisability of a representation to the Minister of State for Home Affairs. Subsequent inquiry showed that the *Kobe Chronicle* had been entirely misinformed. There had not been any movement of the kind. One foreigner on the expiration of his lease had declined to pay the increased rent justly demanded by his landlord for a renewed lease, although the demand was quite in accord with existing conditions. The other foreigners remained undisturbed, and are said to have been much chagrined that such a false complexion should have been imparted to their really friendly relations with the Japanese. The *Kobe Chronicle*, on learning how greatly it had been misled, took immediate steps to correct the error and to give a true version of the facts. So, at least, we are informed. But we have not observed any contradiction in the columns of the Yokohama journal by which the original misstatement was reproduced.

THE PEST.

Saturday, May 19.

A case of pest has occurred in the suburbs of Osaka, at Hidamachi in Toyo-no-gori. As usual the invasion of this quarter by the dread disease was heralded by the discovery of a number of dead rats. Since the recrudescence of the malady in Osaka, the cases have totalled twenty-four, a record which looks very paltry compared with the returns from some parts of India. Undoubtedly the Japanese sanitary authorities are making a good fight. It is to be devoutly hoped that they may be able to hold their own.

From Nagasaki also comes news that a case of pest occurred on the *Taichiu Maru*, a steamer belonging to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, which entered that port on the 16th instant from Formosa.

Wednesday, May 23.

There has been another case of pest in Osaka. The sufferer was a child, and death ensued very quickly.

From Hashimoto-machi, in Wakayama Prefecture, news comes that a boy of 14 has been attacked by a malady closely resembling pest. He had been ill for nearly a fortnight before the ominous swelling under the arm made its appearance. The medical experts have not yet agreed, however, that the case is undoubtedly one of pest.

There is, further, a possibility that Yokohama has been invaded. A coolie who arrived from Osaka by the *Nobuyoshi Maru* and took a lodging at the Satsuma-ya in Miyoshi-cho, developed symptoms of the malady and has been isolated for treatment. All requisite precautions have been adopted with reference to the lodging-house.

The statement that a case resembling pest had occurred at a cheap lodging-house in Yokohama created considerable alarm, but happily the malady was found to be of an entirely different character. From Osaka, however, news come of another fatal case, a little girl of eight. Up to the present, there have been thirty cases since the recrudescence of the malady, namely, 25 in Osaka, 4 in Shizuoka, and 1 in Nagasaki. Every one of these seizures has ended in death. In Formosa, the record for this year is 654 cases and 450 deaths.

MARKET PRICES.

Thursday, May 24.

Another illustration of the gulf that divides the European money market from the Japanese is furnished by the quotations on the London and Tokyo Exchanges. Japanese 5 per cent. War Bonds are announced as standing at £105 13s. 1½d. in London, whereas the quotation in Tokyo on the 16th instant was 933 *yen*, or less than £95. If there were any effective communication between the markets, such a wide discrepancy would be impossible. Of course the explanation is that the bonds quoted in the Japanese market are redeemable in *yen*, whereas the bonds sold in London are redeemable with specie. The British public do not understand the *yen*, or, if they do, are still sceptical about Japan's ability to maintain the convertibility of her notes. It is curious, however, that if the 5 per-cents sell for over 105, the 4 per-cents fetch only 82. The proper proportion would be 105 and 84. Incidentally we may call the attention of the Kobe Municipality to these figures, for the sake of the evidence they afford that Mr. Morse must have intended from the first to insist on a fixed specie rate

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when buying water-works bonds. He knew perfectly well, as everybody knows, that bonds redeemable with *yen* would find no purchasers abroad.

The tone of the London market is altogether firmer. The rate of discount is telegraphed at 3⅛; consols stand at £101⅝, and the stock of the Japanese 4 per cent. new loan is at £82¼.

CONCERT AT THE TOKYO ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

A concert in celebration of the Prince Imperial's Wedding was given by the Tokyo Academy of Music on the afternoon of Sunday, the 20th. We are unfortunately unable to give any account of the performance, for, although our representative attended by invitation, he could not obtain admission, the hall being so full that even standing room was not available. It might be well, perhaps, if the directors of these ceremonies refrained from issuing tickets for a greater number than the hall can accommodate. Possibly, however, Sunday's concert was exceptionally well attended on account of the nature of the occasion. We append the programme:—

1. Orchestra—Symphony, B minor (unfinished). First Movement.....Schubert.
2. Chorus—Requiem, C Minor.....Cherubini.
3. Orchestra—
   a. Andante religioso.....Junker.
   b. Morris Dance .....
   c. Shepherd's Dance, from Henry VIII. ..... } German.
4. Chorus—
   a. Veni Sancte Spiritus .....Koeber.
   b. Veni Creator .....Casciolini.
5. Orchestra—Wedding March .....Mendelssohn.
6. Chorus, Orchestra and Organ—"And then shall your light," (from the Elijah)...Mendelssohn.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The "Boxers" appear to have made their way to Peking. Having harried all the Roman Catholic converts in the districts of the original unrest, these insurgents have attacked a village of Catholics some 23 miles from Peking, murdered a number of converts, variously stated at from 13 to 72, and then effected an entry into the capital where their presence seems to be causing no little uneasiness. Telegrams says that the Foreign Ministers are taking measures to guard the Legations, and that an American war-ship has been summoned to Tientsin. There has been much talk of the Peking Government's temporizing with these people, if not actually encouraging them, but probably the rumour is based solely on some appearance of lack of vigour in dealing with the rioters, who may have grievances which, in the opinion of the Peking Authorities, call for consideration. Now that the insurgents have reached Peking, however, the Government will have to show its hand plainly. It is in incidents of this kind that the chief danger to China's integrity lies.

The *Hakuai Maru* has brought another batch of Chinese students to Japan. They arrived on the 18th instant. There are eight military men, and ten cadets who are to attend a military college. Japan is becoming quite an educational academy for the rising generation of the Chinese nation. It cannot be doubted that the effects of this movement will be felt by-and-by, but the question is, will the Chinese empire last long enough to give these students an opportunity.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Captains Uryu and Serata, of the Imperial Navy, are promoted to be Rear-Admirals.

Telegrams received in Tokyo indicate that there will not be any summoning of foreign marines to Peking for the present.

It is stated that a plot to poison the newly adopted Prince Imperial in Peking has been discovered, and that a chamberlain concerned in it has been arrested.

The business troubles in Ashikaga are said to be spreading. The banks have refused to honour several other cheques, in addition to those of Mr. Sekida.

Negotiations are proceeding with regard to the lands owned by Japanese subjects within the plot selected by Russia at Masampho. It is expected that the Japanese will sell.

A villa belonging to Dr. Baelz at Hayama was partially destroyed by fire on the morning of the 20th instant. The conflagration originated in connection with a stove. There was no insurance, we believe.

The despatch-boat *Chihaya*, now under construction at Yokosuka, is to be launched to-day. It is expected that the Emperor will attend the ceremony. The *Chihaya* is a vessel of 1,250 tons displacement and 6,000 horse-power, and her speed is to be 21 knots.

Mr. Wanami, a member of the House of Representatives, and three others have been sentenced by the Yokkaichi Court to 45 days' imprisonment and a fine of 7 *yen* for gambling. They have appealed against the judgment, which certainly seems very heavy.

The *Official Gazette* announces that ships about to leave Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki, Moji, or Shimonoseki for foreign ports will henceforth be able to receive certificates of health (*Kenzen-shosho*) from the Medical Inspection Station (*Kenyeki-jo*) on payment of a fee of 5 *yen*.

The Emperor is to attend the ceremony of distributing certificates at the Naval College on the 25th instant. With regard to the Imperial Visit to Yokosuka on the 26th instant, it is stated that His Majesty will leave Shimbashi by the 10 a.m. train and return to Shimbashi at 7 p.m. The launch will take place at 2 p.m.

Tokyo journals state that from the beginning of this month it became possible to obtain post-office orders direct on Seattle, instead of sending them round by San Francisco as has hitherto been the case. We have not seen any official notification in that sense, but we presume that the statement is correct.

A number of copies of the *Yorodzu Choho* and the *Niroku Shimbun* have been confiscated on the ground of containing matter prejudicial to public morality. We are not surprised at this incident. The two journals in question have been in the habit of inserting matter which, whatever may be the ultimate purpose of its publication, is certainly scandalous and demoralizing.

There has been a disturbance in the principal school in Nagasaki. The affair had its origin in arbitrary conduct on the part of a number of the senior students. They called the juniors together, and then, singling out a dozen of them, administered personal chastisement. The director happened to be absent in Tokyo, and pending his return, the 49 lads who had thus taken the law into their own hands, were suspended, which sentence added fuel to their discontent. We do not know how the matter has ended.

The earthquake on the 12th instant, which is supposed by some to have been caused by a subsidence at the Tuscarora Deeps, and by others to have been of volcanic origin, seems to have been severely felt in Hokkaido. There is news that it caused an extensive land-slip in Kamiiso-gori of Oshima, and that a lake about 20 miles in circumference was formed. No loss of life is reported.

The three champion events at the Uyeno bicycle races on Sunday last, the mile, the five miles and the twenty miles, were all won in fine style by Mr. Benjamin Mason. For the twenty miles, ten started, but only five finished. These five kept in a bunch up to the last few hundred yards, when Mr. Mason, who had been riding beautifully and with excellent judgment, came away easily and won by about 50 yards.

No such heat has been felt in Japan for many years at this season as that experienced on the 22nd instant. The thermometer stood at 28° C. in Tokyo at 2 p.m., and the Central Observatory reports that the average temperature throughout the empire was 7° or 8° above the normal register. It is supposed that we shall emerge from these unusual conditions by a violent atmospheric disturbance.

The Prince and Princess Imperial left Tokyo on the 23rd and proceeded to Ise, Nara, and Kyoto. They stopped the first night at Numazu, and the next day went to Yamada in Ise. On the 25th, the Prince worshipped at the Great Shrine and made the report required by the new law. On the 26th, the Imperial couple continued the journey to Kyoto. On the 27th, the shrine of *Jimmu Tenno* at Unebi in Yamato will be visited, and there also the necessary announcement will be made, after which the Prince and Princess will return to Kyoto and spend some days there, coming back to Tokyo early in June.

It has finally been decided that the much-talked-of Imperial library shall be erected in the Uyeno Park, on or near the site of the present Musical Academy. The choice of position led to a great deal of discussion, but the Authorities arrived at the conclusion that Uyeno's only drawback, remoteness, would soon be remedied by electric railways and other aids to communication. The library will be a very extensive building, covering 1,200 *tsubo* (one acre), and costing a million and a half of *yen*. It is to be gradually constructed, the work extending over four years, and being finished, according to the present plan, in 1904.

The Judges of Japan have signed a petition to the Government asking for more consideration in the matter of emoluments. They do not use the vulgar word "salary" or even the more euphonious "emoluments." They speak of *yutai*, which is a prettily vague expression, literally signifying "better treatment" but intended, we do not doubt, to embody the idea of larger salary, in the first place, and greater consideration in the second. A tangible plea advanced by the judicial petitioners is that the pay of Local Governors having been improved, the "balance" has been disturbed, and should be restored. We think that every one must sympathise with the judges in this matter. They are underpaid, and their position does not carry with

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it the dignity that ought to attach to the discharge of such duties as those devolving on them.

While congratulating Great Britain in the successes her arms are now achieving on South Africa, and on the ability displayed by her diplomatists in "holding off" the world, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* thinks that the latter result has been materially assisted, so far as the Orient is concerned, by Japan's attitude. It does not attempt to place England under an obligation to this Empire, but it ventures to express a hope that the facts will be appreciated, and that they will have the effect of drawing England and Japan closer together. The *Yomiuri's* belief is that every relaxation of vigilance on the part of Great Britain in the Far East creates an opportunity for Russia.

Mr. Poncey, a gentleman connected with Aguinaldo's Government, though in what capacity we do not know, is again in Japan. On the 20th instant he visited Mito, and delivered a lecture which is said to have been very well attended. A certain romantic interest attaches to the struggle for independence made by the Filipinos, but one can not disguise from oneself the fact that independence in such cases means the satisfaction of the leaders' ambition rather than of the people's aspirations. Under American rule the individual Filipino will enjoy a much fuller measure of liberty and will be much better governed than he would be under an administration of his own contriving. We do not know what Mr. Poncey hopes to effect in Japan, for the sympathy he obtains here can not be of a very practical nature.

Unfavourable news continues to arrive from Ashikaga. The disposition now is to lay the blame on the Mitsui Bank, which is said to have refused to honour the cheques of Mr. Sekida, though it had originally been disposed to do so. A committee of the silk-weavers waited on the manager of the Bank, and urged him to take up 35,000 *yen* worth out of the 50,000, but he declined to do so. Meanwhile the endorser of the cheques, Mr. Wada Akizo, has absconded, and nothing remains except an attachment of his property as well as of that of Mr. Sekida. Steps to that end have been taken. It is thought that there will be much embarrassment in consequence of this affair, but one can scarcely believe that such a small amount will be severely felt.

A new plan for the construction of a harbour has been prepared and presented to the Tokyo City Council. Our readers have learned that the former plan contemplated making Shinagawa the nucleus of the port, such being the idea best adapted to natural conditions. But as that arrangement would of course involve a shifting of the centre of the capital southwards, it provoked considerable opposition on the part of the population of the Nihon-bashi and Yeitai-districts, the result being that Professor Furuichi, in conjunction with Professor Naoki, has prepared a new scheme, locating the docks at Reigan-jima and thus bringing the harbour into the neighbourhood of Tsukiji. This second programme is now under consideration. We trust that the realm of harbour construction is not to be invaded by the jealousies and disputes that obstructed for such a long time the progress of street-railway enterprise.

The arrangements have finally been completed for despatching a deputation to receive the Buddhist relics which the Siamese Government is giving to Japan. The deputation consists of 15 persons, its head being Mr. Otani Koyen, and its second in command, Mr. Nanjo Bunyu. Rumour says that Mr. Nanjo was very reluctant to be included in the party, but that he found it impossible to refuse. The deputation leaves Kyoto on the 22nd by the *Hakata Maru*. It is to have a great send-off, several hundreds of priests assembling at the Kyoto station to say farewell, and an equally large party accompanying it to the ship in Kobe. Strange to say, a Buddhist organ, the *Bukkyo Zasshi*, throws ridicule on the whole affair by means of a cartoon representing parts of the skeleton of a horse. Siam retains the head, and gives a hoof to Japan. It is almost impossible for a Japanese to resist the opportunity of making a jest if it presents itself, but this performance by the *Bukkyo Zasshi* seem to us to be clumsy and far-fetched.

Signal success has not attended the attempts to raise money for establishing a fine arts museum in commemoration of the Imperial Wedding. According to the estimates of Mr. Katayama, a building of 350 *tsubo* at 1,500 *yen* per *tsubo* would be required. Thus the cost of the structure alone would be 525,000 *yen*, whereas the sum thus far obtained is only 402,371 *yen*, and the subscription list closes at the end of this month. The question then is whether to reduce the dimensions of the project, or to delay its execution for three or four years, putting the money out to interest in the meanwhile. It will be observed that this forecast does not take any account of the furnishing or maintenance of the museum, though those points are at least as important as the building. Apparently the time has been ill-suited for the starting of such an enterprise. As for ourselves, we were doubtful of its success from the outset. Our present expectation is that the Committee will fall back upon the Imperial Household Department, which generally saves all situations of the kind.

A scheme is on foot to start a sugar-refining company in Formosa. Some excellent names are connected with the project; those of Count Inouye, Mr. Masuda, Prince Mori and the Mitsui. The expert is Mr. Suzuki Tozaburo. He holds that the production of sugar in Formosa can be quintupled without much difficulty, in which case not only would Japan's domestic needs be supplied, but there would also be a surplus for export. At present she buys 30 million *yen* worth of sugar from foreign countries every year. Her own sugar-refineries have been almost completely driven out of the field, and she has become dependent upon over-sea sources. Formosa is believed to furnish the means of remedying that state of affairs. There have been many projects of sugar-refineries in Japan, as our readers are aware, and we all foresaw that an enterprise of that nature would surely be started so soon as some measure of security for life and property existed in Formosa. The new company ought to prove a success. It seems to be commencing on a comparatively small scale: only half a million of *yen* for capital. But the idea is to put up five millions eventually.

An armed raid on a Japanese doctor's house was made at Kobe on Monday night. Two men, one of them armed with a sword and the other with a pistol, entered the house of Dr. Yamaguchi Jirohei, 16 Moto-machi, Rokuchome, and succeeded in getting away with a gold watch, two gold rings, and various articles of clothing. The value of the stolen articles is 700 or 800 *yen*.

"SUMMARY OF JAPANESE LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAXATION."

This handy little volume, by Mr. Oyama Yokichi of Nagasaki, should be of the greatest use to foreigners. It sets out in a clear, succint form all the information needed by tax-payers in Japan. There is a Japanese section also, so that the book will serve for natives as well as foreigners. Mr. Oyama does not, however, tell us anything about local taxes, which are the great source of perplexity to foreigners, and he has omitted to add an index to his work, so that the accessibility of his information is impaired. Nevertheless, the book should prove a great help.

CONFLAGRATIONS.

A fire occurred at Naraomura in Nagasaki Prefecture on the 22nd instant. The number of houses destroyed is not stated, but the conflagration must have been very serious, for seven lives were lost and thirty-seven persons injured.

On the 21st, a fire broke out at Tsunodate-mura in Akita Prefecture. The houses reduced to ashes were 267, and three persons were slightly injured.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE JAPAN METHODIST CHURCH.

The twelfth annual conference of the Japan Methodist Church was held in the Central Tabernacle, Hongo, Tokyo, from the 9th to the 16th inst.

Rev. J. Scott, D.D., President, called the conference to order at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9th. After the opening devotional exercises the following were elected to the various offices by ballot. President, Rev. J. Scott, D.D.; Secretaries, M. Takagi, B.D., and D. R. McKenzie, B.A.; fraternal delegates to Methodist Episcopal Church, G. M. Meacham, D.D., and M. Takagi, B.D.

There were present during the conference 26 ministers and 14 laymen from the various parts of the work. On the 10th no session of the conference was held owing to the Imperial Wedding, but a prayer-meeting was held to ask for Divine blessing upon the Royal bride and groom and the Imperial family.

The report of the statistical committee showed an increase of 42 in membership during the past year, and 164 baptisms, total membership now being 2,381. The givings of the Japanese Church were *yen* 4,692.10, being a little over two *yen* per member, and an increase of *yen* 300.93 as compared with the contributions of last year. Reports from the West Coast and from the North were very encouraging and hopeful.

The Conference decided to raise the standard of salary to be paid by self-supporting churches from *yen* 25.00 per month to *yen* 35.00 per month, and all churches not able to reach that standard within two years are to cease to be independent churches and be put upon the Foreign Missionary Society for such support as may be necessary.

A sum of fifty *yen* was deemed necessary for the preparation of Sunday School literature and the S. S. Committee recommended that this amount be asked from the Foreign Missionary Society. An amendment requiring the raising of the money by the Sunday Schools in Japan instead of asking the Foreign Missionary Society for it was carried by a large majority, manifesting a healthy spirit of self-reliance.

A resolution asking the Conference to provide a constitution for the organization of societies in the local churches along the lines of the Christian Endeavour constitution and encourage the organization of such societies was defeated. There were many who thought that such organizations were unsuited to the work and conditions in Japan, and so, because of their lack of familiarity with it, voted against the resolution, but the vote in favour on this, the first occasion that it has come before the Conference, speaks well for the intelligent interest taken in the progress of aggressive Christianity in the world at large and augurs well for its adoption in the near future.

The Conference closed on Wednesday, May 16th, at 10 p.m., after a very satisfactory and inspiring meeting.—*Communicated.*

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OSAKA AS THE CAPITAL OF JAPAN.

MR. NAKAHASHI TOKUGORO has written a clever brochure for two purposes, first, to induce the Government to establish a free port at Osaka, and secondly, to prove that the capital of Japan should be transferred without delay to that city. The author is a great believer in free ports as a means of promoting national prosperity. He finds that among all the countries of the world Germany is making the greatest strides of prosperity at present, and he attributes the fact partly to her wisdom in establishing free ports at Hamburg, Bremen, and Stettin. We share Mr. NAKAHASHI'S faith in the usefulness of free ports, but we find that he is guilty of a slight inaccuracy when he says that "neither in England nor America has a single specimen been ever established in its complete form," and that Japan must go to Germany, Belgium, or Denmark for a perfect model. Apparently he has forgotten Hongkong, which has been a free port for more than half a century. The omission is unfortunate because the extraordinary prosperity enjoyed by Hongkong, and the enormous tonnage of vessels entering that harbour every year, would have furnished a striking and easily accessible object lesson in support of Mr. NAKAHASHI'S thesis. It will be understood, of course, that the proposal does not extend to exempting from import dues goods landed at the projected free port. Custom houses would have to be established at the outer limits of the free-trade district, so that dues could be collected from merchandise passing into the interior. But no charge or restriction of any kind would be imposed with respect to the use of the harbour. Mr. NAKAHASHI thinks that Osaka might thus be converted into the half-way house of all the trade between the two continents of America and the 400 millions of persons inhabiting China, Japan, Indo-China, the Philippines and the Dutch Indies. As to the details of his scheme, they are that the Government should take over the present works of harbour construction at Osaka; that it should buy up at 10 *yen* per *tsubo* an area of 5 millions of *tsubo* lying between the city and the sea, on the east and west, and the Yamato-gawa and the Yodo-gawa on the south and north; that, having set aside one million *tsubo* for roads and public purposes, it should sell the remainder at 20 *yen* per *tsubo*, thus realizing 30 million *yen*, which should be appropriated to the free-port establishment fund; that the privilege of land ownership within this district should be granted to all nationals without distinction; and that the present scope of harbour construction should be extended so as to include the widening and deepening of the Aji-kawa, thus making room for docks and new wharves, and enabling small steamers to go up the river and assist in distributing commodities.

This is a fine plan, worthy to have emanated from a city so remarkable for enterprise as Osaka. Being, for our own part, thorough believers in free ports and free trade, we can not but endorse Mr. NAKAHASHI'S suggestion, so far as the harbour is concerned. Osaka is already constructing for itself a harbour which will greatly affect its prosperity. The Kobe people appear to watch with indifference the progress of the works, but it can scarcely be doubted that Kobe will suffer materially, for there will cease to be any reason why goods destined for Osaka should call at Kobe *en route*, as they do at present. The free-port project, however, is a still more drastic measure. We are persuaded that it would tend to enrich Japan, and that Osaka, if thus treated, might become the great entrepot for the Trans-Pacific and Trans-Asian trades. Concerning the transfer of the capital from Tokyo to Osaka, however, Mr. NAKAHASHI'S arguments are not convincing. No inference as to Tokyo's permanent disabilities can be drawn from its present condition, for, although it is a miserably backward city, all its defects are capable of remedy. The only serious question is whether the citizens of Tokyo are really qualified to occupy the metropolis of the empire. Judged by their acts, they certainly are not. By steadily refraining from constructing a harbour they not only impose upon themselves a heavy tax, since everything they buy has to be saddled with an additional charge on account of defective facilities of transport, but they also turn away the tide of prosperity from their doors. They can not even get soberly to work for the purpose of furnishing themselves with street railways, though other cities of far less pretensions have long been equipped in that respect. They are struggling to make roads, but the work is done in a hopelessly unscientific manner. Altogether, their method of procedure does not suggest that they have a valid title to the position they occupy. But they may awake at any moment from their torpor. Whether the day of their awakening will be a fortunate one for Yokohama we are not prepared to say. It is scarcely possible, however, to seriously contemplate the transfer of the capital to Osaka. The vested interests opposed to such a measure are enormous, and Mr. NAKAHASHI fails, in our opinion, to establish any valid case against Tokyo. In fact it seems almost a pity that he should have included in the same brochure his programme of a free port and his dream of a new capital.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama send us the following:—

THIRD LIST.	yen.
Amount already acknowledged.....	1,920.30
H. J. Sharp	25.
F. W. Voegelein	20.
R. J. Kirby	20.
"Chota Meru".....	6.
A. G. Smith	25.
F. Schroeder.....	5.
Little F. Schroeder	1.
F. W. Mitchell.....	200.
Yen	2,222.30

N.B.—Contributions for this Fund are earnestly requested.

"JOKOHAMA, SWEDEN."

A correspondent writes:—The London Board School boy knows a great deal about the Principles of Agriculture, Physiology, Biology, Electricity and Magnetism, Acoustics, Light and Heat, Comparative Anatomy, Differential Calculus, Spectroscope Analysis, Astronomy, Psychology, Music and Drawing, and Transcendental Philosophy; but he is rather weak in a common-place subject like geography, which is too abject to be dignified with a capital letter. A person in Yokohama on Tuesday received by the Canadian mail a parcel from one of the principal London newspapers. Some responsible person had evidently scribbled "Smith, Yokohama," on a piece of scrap paper, and had handed it to an office boy whose duty it was to pack and address parcels. The confidence displayed in the said office boy's geographical knowledge was scarcely justified, for this is the address as it finally appeared "——— Smith, Esq., Jokohama, Sweden." Fortunately St. Martin's-le-Grand was in command of sufficient learning to rectify the error, and the parcel arrived without the delay consequent on a journey to King Oscar's dominions.

HIGHER COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.

The sixth annual exhibition of the H. C. S. English Speaking Society—which, under the energetic supervision of Baron Noiba Kanda, is doing such excellent work in Tokyo—was held in the Lecture Hall of the Higher Commercial School on Saturday evening. As usual a most interesting programme was set for discussion, and the lads acquitted themselves well:—

PART I.

Song: Welcome." Members of the H. C. S. M. S,
1. Opening Address .....*Prof. N. Kanda.*
2. Selection from Blackie's "Moral Culture .....*R. Kondo.*
3. Sources of Success in Business (Original) .....*K. Murase.*
4. "Wanted, A Boy."
   Mr. Bacon.....*S. Matsuzaki.*
   1st Boy .....*Y. Takatsu.*
   2nd Boy.....*T. Nakashima.*
   3rd Boy .....*O. Kozaki.*

Song: "Babylon is Fallen!" Members of the H.C.S.M.S.

5. Story of John Maynard (By J. B. Gough) .....*K. Sato.*
6. A Commercial University in Japan (Original) .....*T. Kirita,*
7. "The Interviewer" (By Mark Twain),
   Author .....*K. Ono.*
   Interviewer .....*S. Nagamatsu.*

Song: "Abraham's Daughter." Members of the H. C. S. M. S.

8. On National Character (By E. Everett) .....*E. Takeda.*
9. Behind Time (By Freeman Hunt) *K. Ozawa.*
10. The Influence of International Trade (Original) .....*S. Uyeda.*

Song: "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!"

PART II.

Song: "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground." Members of the H. C. S. M. S.

11. "The Return of the Prodigal Son." (Concluding Chapter of the "Eventful History of Mr. Aoki Tarozaemon.")

Scene I.—Mr. Aoki's Home. Scene II.—Arrival of Mr. Aoki. Scene III.—Mr. Aoki as a Teacher of English at a Private School.

Mr. Aoki Tarozaemon.....*Y. Nakano.*
Mr. Aoki's Father.....*Y. Nomura.*
Mr. Aoki's Brothers { *Jiro* ...*I. Atsumi.* / *Saburo.K. Takaiwa.*

Song: "Bonnie Dundee." Members of the H. C. S. M. S.

12. Just a Few Words to My Fellow Students (Original) .....*T. Taku.*
13. Scene from *Pickwick* "Bardell v. Pickwick."
   Judge .....*S. Mori.*
   Sergeant Buzfuz .....*F. Kaneda.*
   Sam Weller .....*S. Matsuda.*
   Usher .....*K. Sato.*
14. Sergeant Buzfuz's Speech .....*S. Matsumoto.*
25. The True Duty of Japan to China (Original) .....*K. Debuchi.*

Song: "Good Night." Members of the H.C.S.M.S.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The promoters of the railway between Otaru and Hakodate recently received official sanction for the scheme. The charter, however, is said to be only for 8 years.

Some members of the Kanagawa Prefectural Assembly belonging to the Progressist Party are about to apply to the Minister of the Home Department for the transference of Governor Asada.

A man named Kimura Manjiro, residing at Kobe, has presented to the Sanitary Bureau designs of an invention for ridding houses of rats and thus minimising the chance of plague. The idea is to secure a constant current of air through the hollow parts of a house, thus making life unbearable for the rats.

The Meiji Fire Insurance Company recently held its general meeting in Tokyo. During the last fiscal year premiums were secured to the amount of 390,000 *yen*, which, together with a sum of 120,000 *yen*, brought over from the previous year for current risks, and other receipts amounting to 80,000 *yen*, make up a gross total of 590,000 *yen*. Of this amount 200,000 *yen* were set apart to cover risks insured; 130,000 *yen* as reserves on risks, and a certain portion deducted as working expenses, the remainder—130,000 *yen*—being declared net profit. The figures may be tabulated as follows:—

	Yen.
Net profit for the current business year.....	136,676
Carried over from the previous year's account	154,554
Total	291,230
Distributed :—	
To Reserve	80,000
To Dividends (at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum)	35,000
Carried over	176,230

The total reserve of the Company has increased to 500,000 *yen*.

The *Shogyo* publishes statistics showing the amount of goods exported from Tokyo during the week ending the 7th instant.

	Amount.
Iron	1,001,860 catties.
Oil cake	66,109 *kwan*.
Salt	235,606 *kwan*.
Kerosene	6,135 cases.
Imported woven goods ...	35,333 catties.
Bean refuse	30,635 sheets.
Rice bran...	423 tons.
Sugar	113,129 *kwan*.
Cotton yarns	150,910 catties.
Cotton fabrics	627,593 catties.

As to imports the figures are as follows :—

	Amount.
Rice	1,081,815 catties.
Coal	5,286 tons.
Timber	5,910,262 catties.
Cotton fabrics	1,552,384 catties.
Wood	208,695 *kwan*.
Charcoal	247,163 *kwan*.
Cotton yarns	131,580 catties.
Fish	779,427 catties.

Fishing, it is said, has been extremely successful this year, and the amount received in Tokyo is expected to exceed by 30 or 40 per cent. the maximum figure recorded for the previous years.

The *Jiji* publishes the following statistics of the Finance Department showing the volume of trade transacted throughout the empire during the latter half of last month :—

	Latter half April. Yen.	Total from Jan. Yen.
Exports	6,771,367	58,341,168
Imports	14,306,502	110,382,677
Excess of imports ...	7,535,135	51,041,509
Exports of gold	6,050,000	21,165,802
Import.....	192,481	1,001,280
Excess of exports ...	5,857,519	20,164,522
Export of silver	52,918	642,027
Import.....	1,546	19,238
Excess of exports ...	51,372	622,789

Compared with the first half of the month the figures show an increase in the export and decrease in the import of merchandise. The excess of imports, and demand for capital in connection with tea and silk, &c., considerably increased the amount of loans from the Nippon Ginko, so that at the end of April the issue of notes to the extent of 6 million *yen* above the legal limit was absolutely indispensable. The beginning of May, however, witnessed repayments steadily coming in, so the over issue has now decreased to 2¼ millions approximately.

The *Keizai Zasshi* publishes investigations of the Bank of Japan showing the amount of money to be received by the Treasury and the various companies during the month of May :—

National taxes—	Yen.
Farm and country house lots (for the 6th period)...	8,304,295
Hokkaido land (for the 4th period) ...	8,905
Taxes in arrear payable in installments	7,348
Business tax for the half year	2,927,737
Total	11,248,285
Calls on companies' and debentures.	
Tokyo Gas Works Company (10 *yen* per share)	70,000
Odawara Electric Railway Company (7.50 *yen* per share)	100,000
Kochiya Kerosene Oil Company (5 *yen*)..	50,000
Japan Industrial Bank's debentures ...	1,350,000
Total	1,570,000
Grand total	12,823,285

As to the amount of money to be distributed by the Treasury and the various companies during the period under notice, the figures stand as follows:—

Interest on public loan bonds.	Amount in Yen.
5 per cent. Pension Bonds	635,716
Naval Bonds	219,915
Total	855,631
Dividends of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha...	990,000
Total	1,845,631

Thus the amount of absorption exceeds that of distribution by 10,977,654 *yen*, and the effect upon the market may not be inconsiderable. In the previous month the distribution exceeded the amount absorbed by 1,128,000 *yen*; yet there was a serious tightening in the market resulting in the raising of interest and the issue of notes above the legal limit. There can be therefore no second opinion as to further depression during this month.

The *Nichi Nichi* says the world's iron output last year amounted to 40,500,000 tons, showing an increase of 4 million tons in comparison with the figures for 1898. America stands highest on the list with 13,838,634 tons; next come England and Germany, with 9,399,169 and 8,029,306 tons respectively. The gross total for these three countries comprises more than two-thirds of the entire output. As regards Japan the amount is quite insignificant, though increasing yearly. Below are the comparative figures for the past 10 years :—

Year.	Amount in Catties.	Year.	Amount in Catties.
1888	30,324,069	1889	33,424,569
1890	35,021,756	1891	28,854,906
1892	31,446,663	1893	28,345,663
1894	32,390,394	1895	42,995,663
1896	45,622,369	1897	46,652,275

It is worthy of notice that the amount of import is steadily increasing—a fact which clearly illustrates the dependence of commercial and industrial prosperity upon the use of iron. Strange to say, however, the figure considerably decreased last year. In the 31st year of *Meiji* (1898) the import of iron and steel, with the exception of machinery and locomotives, amounted to 446,860,700 catties, valued at 13,002,591 *yen*, but in the 32nd year the amount suddenly fell to 234,685,001 catties, valued at 11,329,011 *yen*. This diminution might at first sight seem a cause for congratulation but it is to be regretted that it was simply the result of a decline in commerce and industry caused by the unusual stringency of the money market.

According to the *Jiji*, the Bank of Japan has been indirectly making purchases of gold dust through native merchants since April last year. The average amount thus secured by the Bank is estimated to have reached 70,000 *yen* per month, the quantities offered for sale varying from 100,000 to 130,000 *kwan*. The Bank seems to have expected to procure a much larger amount, but, declining to pay the price demanded, was entirely beaten out of the field by the Chinese, who offered more favourable terms. It is said that the latter are now engaged in the export of dust to Shanghai.

A special general meeting of the Osaka Railway Company was held on the 15th instant, when resolutions were passed arranging for amalgamation with the Kwansei Company.

On the 11th instant the following sanitary regulations were issued by the Central Board of Police :—

1. Restrictions shall be imposed upon owners of land or buildings with regard to the construction of drains and water courses. These shall be made of brick, stone, or glazed porcelain, in such a way as to effectually prevent the leakage of dirty water, width, depth, and gradient being determined in proportion to the quantity of water to be discharged.

2. A receptacle for dirty water can only be constructed with the sanction of the police authorities.

3. Persons coming within the purview of these regulations are required to take steps, when occasion requires, for disposing of poisonous or dangerous substances, or substances emitting an offensive smell or containing much sediment, or liquids discharged in connection with surgical operations or the cleaning of a corpse, or other things which are deemed injurious.

4. Places where dirt, rubbish, or any other impurities are dealt with must be situated at a distance of at least 10 *ken* from a dwelling house or houses, and over 5 *ken* from a well containing drinking water.

5. Places where dirt and rubbish are burnt must be beyond the limits of a city or town, and at a distance of at least 30 *ken* from dwelling houses or public highways, and 5 *ken* from a well yielding drinking water. They must be surrounded by fences over 9 feet high, and the destructor in which the rubbish is burnt must be provided with a chimney over 50 feet high.

6. Restrictions are also imposed with regard to the position and construction of water closets, the transportation of excremental matter, and the construction of vessels for holding them.

The *Jiji* publishes some remarks from Mr. Ichihara, naval Aide-de-Camp of the Formosa Government Office, with regard to the condition of the island. Work on the railway between Taku and Tainan is pushed on with great speed, and it is expected that traffic will be commenced by June this year. As to the Kelung harbour-works similar expedition is noticeable, two dredgers having recently been purchased, and materials for the construction of projecting embankments tested. The convertible notes of the Nippon Ginko are accepted by the people at a premium of 10 *sen* per *yen*, and those of the Formosa Bank have fallen to 94 *sen*. Graduates from the Japanese language school now number over 200, of whom some are employed in the General Government Office, but most as teachers in elementary schools in Taipeh, Taichiu, and Tainan. The streets within the walls of Taipeh are lined with fine shops and stores like those of the Ginza in Tokyo. The roads have been laid out after the fashion of the Kobe settlement, at a cost of seven *yen* per *tsubo*, and with two rollers for occasional repairs. In this respect Tokyo is inferior to Taipeh. The trade of the natives consists in the sale of merchandise imported from Hongkong, at comparatively low prices. Goods handled by the Japanese are sold at almost double the rates set by the natives, and there is thus a tendency for the latter to monopolise commerce. The strength of the bandits has considerably declined; there is now no chief with over 70 followers, and half of these are not properly equipped. Still arms are secretly imported from China in junks. The number of Japanese residents in Formosa has now increased to over 40,000, and that of registered natives to 2½ millions. The population of the Pescadores is supposed to be some 100,000. The principal production of Taichiu is the matting known as *Taikomushiro*. Hats of this stuff are supposed to last for ten years. Encouragement of the cultivation of the raw material will be a source of considerable revenue.

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INDIAN FAMINE CONCERT.

Yokohama is ever ready to contribute its mite in the cause of charity. Few places respond more readily to the call, whether it comes from those immediately surrounding or from lands far distant. We were therefore a little surprised that the Indian Famine Concert did not draw a fuller house at the Public Hall on Monday night. All the performers, save one, were old friends, and their contributions, whether vocal or instrumental, were capitally given and in most cases heartily received and encored. Mr. N. G. Maitland, the new arrival, made a brilliant first appearance, with Handel's charming old-world air "Where'er you walk,"—and as an encore "In Happy Arcadie"—demonstrating by his treatment of the themes the capabilities of his well-trained and sympathetic baritone voice. He has captured a very sure place in the affections of Yokohama concert-goers. Mr. Vincent's pianoforte playing was very charming and received a full meed of recognition; and Mr. Brady, whether reciting or singing, proved as versatile as ever. The full programme was as follows:—

PART I.

Overture.

2.—Vocal Duet.." Fading Flowers "..... *Franz Abt.*
The Misses PAGE.

3.—Character Sketch..." The fallen Star." An Old Actor's Story.
Mr. G. G. BRADY.

4.—Song....." Where'er You Walk "..... *Handel.*
Mr. N. G. MAITLAND.

5.—Piano Solo...(*a*) "Spring-tanz," op. 27, No. 2 *Kjerulf.*
(*b*) "Caprice," op. 59...*Gottschalk.*
Mr. W. KARL VINCENT.

PART II.

6.—Song....." Chant Hindou " (with Violin obligato)...*H. Bemberg.*
Mr. E. W. MAITLAND.

7.—Cello Solo....." Romance "..... *Vicodé.*
Mr. R. SCHMIDT.

8.—Song....." Thy Blue Eyes "..... *C. Bohm.*
Mrs. IRWINE.

9.—Violin Solo.....(*a*) "Aria" ..... *Bach.*
(*b*) "Gavotte"..... —
Miss HELENA PAGE.

10.—Humorous Song..."When I was a boy at school."
Mr. G. G. BRADY.

THE CLUB HOTEL, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of this Company was held at the Hotel on Monday afternoon, Mr. H. C. Litchfield presiding over a very small attendance.

The CHAIRMAN presented the report, which was as follows:—

THE REPORT.

The Profit and Loss Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31st March, 1900, are now submitted to you.

The Gross Receipts for the past year were ¥64,419.70, including Rents and Transfer Fees: and the Expenditure was ¥56,051.39, leaving a balance of ¥8,168.31, which, with the amount of ¥1,891.23 carried over from last year, makes a total of ¥10,159.54 at Credit of Profit and Loss.

The Directors propose to declare a dividend of ¥5 per Share for the past year, which will absorb ¥9,250 out of the above profits, leaving ¥909.51 to be carried forward to new account. At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 10th day of January last a full explanation of the troubles they had had with the former Manager was given by the directors. It is now therefore only necessary to explain that the sum of ¥6,802 recovered from the said Manager has been applied in reducing the Sundry Debtors Account which stood in the books on 30th September last at ¥8,266.17.

The thanks of the Company are due to Mr. Cecil Guinness, your auditor, for the very exhaustive examination he has made into the accounts of the Company, and your directors have much pleasure in recommending his re-appointment as auditor for the coming year.

The retiring Directors are Mr. H. C. Litchfield and Mr. T. L. Brower, who by the articles of association are eligible for re-election, but Mr. T. L. Brower does not wish to serve.

HENRY C. LITCHFIELD, Chairman.

Yokohama, 28th April, 1900.

BALANCE SHEET—31ST MARCH, 1900.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

DR.	Yen.
To Firing and Lighting	4,660.61
„ Stores and Provisions	22,234.15
„ Insurance	2,113.60
„ Registration Fees	234.20
„ Auditors Fees	700.00
„ Washing	1,083.52
„ General Expenses	6,436.59
„ Salaries and Wages	15,997.29
„ Repairs and Improvements	656.28
„ Interest	1,935.15
„ Balance	8,268.31
	64,319.70

CR.	Yen.
By Gross Receipts	64,066.70
„ Transfer Fees	43.00
„ Rent	210.00
	64,319.70

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

DR.	Yen.
To Property	166,500.00
„ Furniture	35,311.90
„ Stock	11,543.19
„ Steam Launch	6,469.14
„ Sundry Debtors	1,783.02
„ Insurance Value of Current Policies	1,488.75
„ Cash in hand	289.77
„ Cash in hand H. & S. Bank	5,318.99
	228,704.76

CR.	Yen.
By Capital	185,000.00
„ Unclaimed Dividends	235.00
„ Loan Account	30,000.00
„ Sundry Creditors	3,310.22
„ Profit and Loss Account	10,159.54
	228,704.76

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	Yen.	Yen.
To Balance of Yen 10,159.54 to be disposed of as follows:—		
„ Dividend of 5 per cent. for year	¥9,250.00	
„ Amount carried forward	909.54	
		10,159.54
		10,159.54

CR.	Yen.
By Balance from 31st March, 1899	1,891.23
„ „ „ Working account	8,268.31
	10,159.54

I have compared the above Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Company and find the same to be in accordance therewith.

CECIL GUINNESS, Auditor.

Yokohama, April 28th, 1900.

Commenting on the report the Chairman said:—It will be observed from the comparison of the report with that of the previous year that the gross profits are less than in the former year by 7,532 *yen*; yet we are able to declare a dividend of 5 *yen* per share and to carry forward the sum of *yen* 909.51. The directors have considered it advisable to write down many of the items of account and for this purpose have absorbed the reserve fund for fluctuation of property, 30,000 *yen*, a reserve which existed, according to the statement made by former directors, to provide for this, and which only existed on paper. The present directors considered that this item created a false impression, and that a sounder policy would be writing down of the properties at once. This has accordingly been done. The ground and building were valued at 191,871 *yen*; that has been written down to 166,500 *yen*; the furniture was 39,940 *yen*, which has been written down to 35,311 *yen*; and stock 16,674 *yen*, which has been written down to 11,543 *yen*. No reduction has been made in steam launch account, as the directors consider, since the settlement of the disputed accounts with the builders, the value placed upon the launch is a correct one. As to sundry debtors' account of 1783 *yen*, the item represents good debts, which have been collected since date of account. The directors consider that the position of the company as now shown is a sound one and that under new management and careful control the prospects are good. The past year has been been a trying one, but the directors hope the chief difficulties have been surmounted. The directors are anxious the Board should be a full one; there is plenty of work still to be done, and new men bring new ideas and fresh energy. It is for the shareholders to elect two new members. Mr. Cecil Guinness audited last year's accounts and in addition prepared a special report founded on a re-audit of five previous years, and the directors have much pleasure in recommending him for re-election.

Mr. W. R. BENNETT, director, added some remarks, and said the steam launch had not been touched in writing down; in fact it could not be replaced at anything like the money. The company was now in a sound position. He proposed that the accounts and dividend be passed.

Mr. E. B. JONES seconded both propositions, and they were carried.

DIRECTORS.

The next business was the election of directors.

Mr. J. W. HALL proposed and Mr. BOOTH seconded the re-election of Mr. Litchfield, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. DARE proposed and Mr. JONES seconded that the new directors be Captain Weston and Mr. Blake.

This also was carried.

AUDITOR.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. Cecil Guinness was re-elected auditor. The Chairman added that that was all the business, and expressed his satisfaction at the nature of the meeting. Very few had turned up and none had turned up to growl—(laughter and applause).

DIRECTORS' FEES.

Mr. HALL said there was an item which had not appeared in the report—that of the directors' fees. It was an honour of course to be a director, but business men should not be called upon to give their time without some remuneration. He thought they ought to pay the directors' fees, since during the last year an enormous amount of work had fallen on the directors. He proposed that the fees for the past year should be——what were they in the previous year?

Mr. BENNETT—There was none paid (laughter). It was very kind of them, added Mr. Bennett, but he thought it would be best to postpone the matter to the next half-yearly meeting. There was no money left to pay the directors' fees at present.

The CHAIRMAN—The directors of this Company have been working gratuitously so long that they are quite used to it (laughter). I am very much obliged to Mr. Hall, but am inclined to agree with Mr. Bennett. The cash is not in a sufficiently liquid state to afford a fee at present.

Mr. HALL thought if they could afford a dividend they could afford fees. He proposed that the fees be 1,000 yen for the year.

Mr. BOOTH proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the directors.

Mr. BLAKE agreed with Mr. Hall. He thought that the motion should be passed as showing the appreciation of the shareholders for the hard and good work done by the directors, even if the latter should decide to reject the offer.

The motion was then put and passed, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the directors and the Chairman.

THE YOKOHAMA ENGINE AND IRON WORKS, LIMITED.

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works was held yesterday afternoon at Keil's Buildings, to consider the following Resolution put forward by a number of Shareholders, or any amendment thereto viz.:—

"That the capital of the Company be increased to "$130,000 by transferring the sum of $65,030, appear-"ing by the last balance sheet to 'Capital Reduction "Account,' to 'Capital Account,' and by issuing to "existing shareholders, to represent such increased "capital, 1,300 fully paid up shares of $50 each in the "proportion of one new share for every old share "held by them."

The original notice stated that the meeting will take place at No. 61, Yamashitacho, Yokohama, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, the 10th day of May, 1900.

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As the question to be submitted to the meeting is one of great importance, the Directors think it very desirable that every shareholder should give it his serious consideration, and be prepared to record his vote thereon. They therefore earnestly request your attendance, either in person or by proxy, both at the meeting, and at any subsequent meeting that it may be necessary to hold. A form of proxy is enclosed, which, if made use of, should be sent to the Acting Secretary, No. 161, not less than seventy-two hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting.

The Directors and Shareholders present were Mr. J. F. Lowder, Chairman, and Messrs. G. J. Melhuish, Alf. Woolley, M. Kirkwood, E. Berger, J. J. Johnstone, F. Gillett, B. Gillett, J. Dodds, G. Philip, R. A. Wylie, E. J. Coll, Collins, F. L. Elliott, G. Braccialini, B. C. Howard, J. W. Weaver, W. K. Tresize, A. J. Knapp, etc.

The CHAIRMAN read the minutes of the last meeting, held on the 10th of May, when Mr. J. J. Johnstone was voted to the chair, but, there being no quorum, the day being the wedding day of the Prince Imperial, the meeting was adjourned till the 21st instant.

Some discussion ensued with regard to the date of registration of certain shares held by Mr. Knapp and others, the principal question being whether the term "meeting" applied equally to the first meeting, held on the 10th May, and the present meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said it was a difficult question to settle and he would put it to the meeting.

The question was argued by Mr. KIRKWWOOD and Mr. F. GILLETT, who contended that the meeting of yesterday was the real meeting, as there was no quorum on the 10th.

Mr. MELHUISH proposed that any shareholder whose name was on the register one calendar month before the date of this meeting should be entitled to vote.

Mr. DODDS seconded and the motion was carried almost unanimously.

Mr. KIRKWOOD then introduced and explained his amendment, or amplification, of the original resolution, which was as follows:—

AMENDMENT.

1. That the sum of $65,000 now appearing to Capital Reduction Account being undisposed of accumulated profits of the company, but actually employed in the business, be distributed amongst the shareholders and the capital of the company be increased by a similar amount.

2. That such distribution be made at the rate of $50 per share to holders of shares on the registered list of shareholders on the 31st May.

3. That the capital of the company be increased to $130,000 by the creation of 1,300 new shares of $50 each.

4. That such shares be offered at the issue price of $50 per share to holders on the registered list of shareholders on the 31st May, 1900, in the proportion of one new share for each old share held by them respectively and be allowed to such as shall have within such time as the Directors may name applied for the same and requested the Directors to retain the sum of *yen* 50 per share to which they are entitled under the distribution in payment therefor.

5. That all new shares not so applied for shall be issued by the Directors at such premium and to such persons and in such time and manner as the Directors may think fit.

6. That the holders of the new shares shall be entitled to dividend for the year beginning 1st June, 1900.

7. That for the purposes of these Resolutions the Japanese *yen* shall be treated as equivalent to the Mexican Dollar.

Mr. WYLIE seconded the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN said he could not put the amendment to the meeting until the original resolution had been put in.

Mr. F. GILLET said that to save time he would propose the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. DODDS seconded.

The CHAIRMAN, after reading the amendment of Mr. Kirkwood, stated that in his opinion it went so much further than the resolution itself that he could not put it to the meeting.

Mr. KIRKWOOD challenged the Chairman to show where it differed from the original resolution in a single point, and asked him to give his reasons for outruling it.

The CHAIRMAN declined to give his reasons.

Mr. KNAPP asked if there was no appeal against the decisions of the Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, in the Courts of Law.

The original resolution was then put to the meeting and carried by 11 to 4.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that a poll be taken. For this it was necessary that five members should vote for the poll.

Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Tresize, and Mr. Weaver voted for the poll and Mr. Lowder supplemented the number by giving his own vote and that of Lowder and Litchfield in company that were entered conjointly as shareholders, for the other two.

Mr. KIRKWOOD objected to Mr. Lowder appearing as two persons present at the meeting in voting, and quoted the rules that only the first name appearing in a joint shareholdership could vote. Five shareholders present at the meeting were required by the articles.

The Chairman overruled Mr. Kirkwood's objection and ruled that the application for a poll had been sustained.

On the proposal of Mr. KIRKWOOD, seconded by Mr. MELHUISH, it was decided to take the poll by open vote from the shares represented by those present and proxies.

Some time was occupied in examining proxies and powers of attorney, with the result that the Chairman ruled out some eight or ten as invalid. After this had been concluded and the votes were taken the result showed 256 votes for the resolution and 142 against.

The CHAIRMAN, in announcing the result, stated that as the articles required a two-thirds majority the resolution had failed to pass.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE "ADELAIDE."

The German ship *Adelaide*, 1,281 tons (Captain Muller), from Barry for Yokohama, went ashore at Jogashima, Sagami on Monday. The *Adelaide* left Barry on December 23rd and passed the Sunda Straits on March 27th. She carried a cargo of coals, consigned to Langfeldt and Co. The vessel is said to be fast breaking up. It appears that there was thick weather at the time she struck, about 8.30 a.m., preventing a clear sight of the rocks on which she met her fate. She lies only 150 to 200 yards from the shore, and her position is broadside on, with a list seaward. On Tuesday morning her decks were being swept by seas, and appeared to be opening. She was full of water, and will probably be a total wreck. The crew are safe. The mate and three men remain on the spot, and Mr. Weinberger, the German Consul, and others have visited the scene of the disaster.

THE FORMOSA TEA TAX.

The following letters to Sir Ernest Satow, H.B.M.'s Minister at Tokyo, are published by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce:—

Amoy General Chamber of Commerce,
Amoy, 5th April, 1900.

Your Excellency.

This Chamber begs to acknowledge receipt of your despatch dated 18th December last, the contents of which have received careful consideration, and it has been resolved to again address you on the subject of export Duties on Teas shipped from Formosa.

The complaint which this Chamber makes is that the Japanese Government since the 3rd August last, despite the protest of shippers in Formosa, has levied and continues to levy a discriminating duty on Teas shipped from Formosa in the following way.

1.—If shipped *via* Japan for the United States and Europe a levy called a "Harbour Tax" of *yen* 1.00 per picul is made. This tea can then be exported from Japan without further payment of Duty.

2.—If shipped to the United States and Europe *via* any port in China or via Hongkong or elsewhere, other than Japan, an Export Duty of *yen* 1.60 is levied.

2.—If shipped *via* Hongkong and Japan for the United States and Europe the duty of *yen* 1.00 per picul is still charged, thus making the Duty clearly one on a particular route.

It is true, as you point out, that the difference is but 60 *sen* per picul, but the Chamber submits the actual amount is not so much the point as the principle involved, which if allowed to pass uncombated leaves no safeguard that the difference may not be accentuated until British shipping and the choice of the Suez route are handicapped out of evidence.

British Merchants in Amoy are vitally interested in the Formosa Tea Trade, it having been developed by them from absolutely nothing under the Chinese sovereignty of the island. Hitherto Amoy has been the emporium of Formosa Teas, whence they are shipped to the United States and Europe, and to Java and the Straits, none being consumed in Japan and practically none in China either.

Amoy is the nearest port to Formosa available for ocean steamers and the natives engaged in the trade are all from Amoy. With these advantages Amoy merchants might naturally look to maintaining their position, provided equal export duties are levied on shipments from Formosa, no matter what the destination may be.

In the statement above presented to you there is a clear case of injustice to British merchants whose trade, after some 30 years of building up, is threatened by means of discriminating duties in favour of a particular route.

With the near approach of the Tea Season your kind assistance is urgently asked to the end that the Japanese Government may be induced to remove the discriminating element in these Duties.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,
FRANCIS CASS, Chairman.

His Ex. Sir ERNEST SATOW, K.C.M.G., etc.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce
Hongkong, April 28th, 1900

SIR,—Referring to previous correspondence on the question of the imposition by the Formosan Government of a discriminating duty on teas shipped from Formosa to the United States or Europe *via* Chinese ports or Hongkong, this Chamber is in receipt of a further communication from the Amoy Chamber of Commerce stating that this duty is still being levied, in spite of protests on the subject.

I am therefore instructed to submit to your Excellency that the principle of imposing variable duty on different routes is a distinct infringement of par. 2 of Art. VIII. of the Treaty of 1894, which provides for the perfect equality of treatment of articles of export whatever the route or place of destination, and to express the hope that you will be able to induce the Japanese Government to relinquish the attempt to divert the export of Formosan teas from the channel it has for so many years taken, and which has proved most convenient to those engaged in trade.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, R. M. GRAY, Chairman.

His Ex. Sir E. Satow, K.C.M.G., Tokyo.

NAVIES OF THE FUTURE.

Lecturing at Portsmouth, Mr. A. Yates, Chief Constructor at that dockyard, gave an interesting forecast of what the British Navy might become 20 years hence. He said that probably most of the battleships of which we were now so proud would be obsolete, and in their place we would have a magnificent fleet of ships of quite another type. In his opinion, instead of trying to put every variety of weapon of offence and means of defence in one vessel, we shall have fleets composed of groups of vessels of different types. Each of these groups would have one particular mode of offence, and the skilful admiral would arrange for each to deal its blow at the proper time. For example, one group might have nothing else to think of but firing guns, and it would be well provided with those weapons. A second group might have nothing else to do but fire torpedoes, and would have to be protected so as to run the gauntlet of the enemy's guns, thinking only of its own deadly weapons. A third group might be arranged for ramming only, and would come into play against partially disabled vessels of the enemy. This plan of battle would be something analogous to our present army, composed of infantry, artillery, and cavalry. The principal reason for this sub-division of offence was the impossibility of one man (the captain) being able to control such a complex weapon as a modern battleship, and if the captain was placed *hors de combat*, the difficulty would be accentuated. If, however, a ship had only one thing to do, every man on board would know what that one thing was, and would be ready to dare and do all that was required.

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DR. INOUYE TETSUJIRO'S SENDAI SPEECH.

About two years ago an Education Society called "The Oshû and Hokkaidô United Education Society" was formed. This Society held its second anniversary meetings in Sendai on the 13th and 14th instants. They were attended by about one thousand delegates.* These gatherings were evidently deemed to be of considerable importance by the Education Department, as, in addition to the Minister himself, Dr. Inouye Tetsujirô, Professor Tejima, Dr. Ishikawa, and Professor Watari went up to Sendai for the purpose of taking part in the proceedings. The meetings commenced on Sunday morning (the 13th) at 8 a.m., and with a short recess for lunch continued till 4 p.m. on that day. On the second day the same number of hours were passed in listening to lectures or in discussing various subjects connected with education, the proceedings being closed by a huge social gathering held on the evening of the 14th. Count Kabayama delivered his address on Sunday, the 13th inst., having to return to the capital the following morning. Among the speakers at Monday's meetings was Dr. de Forest, one of Sendai's oldest foreign residents. Dr. Inouye's speech was delivered on the afternoon of the 14th and occupied nearly two hours. It is very seldom that Sendai residents are privileged to listen to such oratory as that to which Dr. Inouye treated them on this occasion. The late Dr. Toyama undoubtedly made a great name for himself as a popular speaker, but his speeches were often marred by a certain roughness of expression that offended the tastes of refined hearers. Not only has Dr. Inouye great command of language, but his language is always choice and forcible. His voice is clear, we might almost say silvery, his manner earnest without approaching the boisterous, his enunciation perfect. On the occasion of which we write he made use of a great many Chinese philosophical terms, but, in our opinion, the technicality of the subject under discussion rendered this necessary. Of his speech as a whole we should say that its tone was conservative and slightly anti-foreign. One of his objections to Mr. Fukuzawa, whose teaching on morality was vigorously attacked, was the persistency with which the Mita Sage had taken foreign notions as he found them and transmitted them to his fellow-countrymen. One impression which the speaker left on the mind of his hearers was that in choosing morality as the subject of his discourse he was playing no perfunctory part—that the subject which he discussed was in the speaker's estimation the most vital of all subjects, and that it was one which had engaged his most serious attention. There is all the difference in the world between the ring of the word of a man who speaks from deep conviction and the mere utterer of platform commonplaces and plausibilities. Dr. Inouye undoubtedly wields great influence in educational circles. This is not on account of his polished scholarship alone, nor owing to his prominent position at the Imperial University, but is rather to be attributed to an existing impression that in all he advocates and all he denounces Dr. Inouye is perfectly sincere. Even those who differ most from him cannot but feel that he is not only every inch a philosopher, but that he breathes the air of the loftiest regions of moral thought. He is no time-server, as some have insinuated, no worshipper of the powers that be, as others have hinted, but a man who has the courage of his opinions and who is determined to act on them, be the consequences what they may. We dwell on this because we have often been asked to account for the popularity that Dr. Inouye enjoys among school teachers throughout Japan. We now proceed to give a very brief epitome of Dr. Inouye's Sendai speech.

The title of the lecture was *Kyôikuka no torubeki kongo no dôtoku shugi* (The Moral Principles to be henceforth adopted by Educationists). The whole tenor of the speech showed that Dr. Inouye only intended to dwell on the great importance of morality and to let alone the vexed and extremely complicated question of the moral standard to be followed. In his opening remarks Dr. Inouye observed that there is little to be gained by following the fashion of so many writers and speakers in dwelling on existing moral corruption. There was a great deal of fussiness on the subject of morality that did more harm than good. To be talking about morality from morning to night to the exclusion of all other topics was not the way to bring about moral reform. But on an occasion like the present, when a large number of teachers were assembled for the purpose of consultation, it was important for him to draw attention to the claims which this subject had on their thoughts. Of all the branches of knowledge studied by mankind none had such an important bearing on human life and progress as morality. That topic might well occupy our deepest thoughts. That each one should have a moral standard of high character and regulate his life according to it was of primary importance. Some school teachers seemed to be of opinion that this standard was supplied by the Imperial Rescript on Education issued some years ago. But that was not the case. All that the Rescript did was to enunciate certain leading moral principles in a general way. The harmonising of these principles with each other and their application to the affairs of everyday life were left to each individual. In adopting principles which shall act as guides to us in the rugged path of life we must exercise the greatest care. We must accept nothing without careful examination. Of late a man of great influence in the country had given to the world what purported to be a system of morality. In Mr. Fukuzawa's *Shûshin Yôryô* we were told that the leading principles to be adopted in morality were independence and self-esteem. Now a standard of morality ought to be universally applicable, and nothing could be plainer than the fact that Mr. Fukuzawa's standard was not universally applicable. This stalwart assertion of the principle of independence and individualism was a reaction from the doctrine of subjection which was taught in this country for so many centuries. Mr. Fukuzawa, seeing the evils of bowing to the authority of others in a slavish manner, endeavoured to get rid of this tendency altogether by asserting that independence and self-esteem were the only safe guides in the moral world. But could morality exist at all if the doctrine of subjection to lawful authority and dependence on others were abolished? Where in actual life was absolute independence possible? Could any teacher or student in a school act independently of the rules of the establishment? Had not all existing organizations their rules, and was not the observation of those rules essential to their efficiency and even to their very existence? Did not the principle of subjection to others assert its importance in every institution that is characterised by stability in the wide world? In body and mind we must labour to be independent, says Mr. Fukuzawa. But were not both kinds of independence unattainable? And was it not extremely dangerous to hold up the principle of ndependence as worthy of occupying the highest rank among virtues? This was no other than Rousseau's doctrine of the equality of all men—the very doctrine that led to all the horrors of the French Revolution. It was a curious fact that in this 33rd Year of Meiji the Japanese should be asked to trust themselves to the guidance of a principle that in France upset the whole structure of society and introduced a reign of terror and disorder. If his audience wished for a repetition of the French Revolution then the surest way to bring it about was to adopt Mr. Fukuzawa's anti-subordination principle. This doctrine of the equality of all men, on which Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Rousseau dwelt so much, what was it but an absolute contradiction of all the most familiar facts of life? If there was one thing more than another that impressed itself upon us in our intercourse with our fellowmen, it was the inequality that existed everywhere, not in one particular only, but in every respect. Mr. Fukuzawa's teaching on morality was nothing but sophistry and could only be mistaken for true wisdom by the ignorant or the unwary. That this Mita standard was no real standard was demonstrated by the fact that its adoption is to be traced to a wholly accidental cause. Subjection and subordination having been carried to excess in this country in the past, in Mr. Fukuzawa's opinion, it was purposed to banish it altogether by the assertion of the opposite principle of individual independence. The elevation of this principle to the rank of a moral standard then depended entirely on a fortuitous circumstance, and the question which it was pertinent to ask was, may not a fortuitous circumstance compass its downfall as it has secured its rise? How long, they may well ask Mr. Fukuzawa, was this principle to be used? When it has served its purpose and rooted out of the mind the spirit of subordination it was designed to crush, was it to be placed on the shelf? If so, what was to succeed it? A standard of this kind was evidently no standard at all. Its use was confined to a single country and to a special age. Though it was true that the forms of morality change and that moral feelings adopt various ways of asserting themselves in the world, yet the fundamental notions and principles of morality never change. This doctrine of self-assertion to which Mr. Fukuzawa has given such prominence was by no means new. Shaka Muni taught self-assertion also. When he asserted that he stood by himself in the Universe, it was to an etherialised, superior "self," a "self" that had been divested of all the imperfections of ordinary humanity—a purely ideas "self"—that he referred. There was a greater and a lesser "self" (小我 大我). It was the latter that Mr. Fukuzawa exalted to the throne in the new kingdom that he was endeavouring to create.

The lecturer went on to say that it was not his intention to utter one word that might reflect on the aged author of the *Shûshin Yôryô*. For Mr. Fukuzawa he had the highest respect. He was in every way a remarkable personality. But they must not confound the man with his teaching. Mr. Fukuzawa's teaching was too deeply tinged with Occidentalism to please the speaker. Not only this, but Mr. Fukuzawa's doctrines seemed to him open to abuse in a very special manner. This exaltation of the type of human self met with in everyday life meant nothing else but the reign of selfishness, covetousness, and self-aggrandizement of every kind. Mr. Fukuzawa was largely responsible for prevailing money-worship, and there could be nothing more degrading in the moral world than the wide prevalence of this spirit. Had not all the great moral reformers of the world turned their backs on worldly gain? Were not Christ and Shaka both poor? Were not China's and Japan's greatest moralists comparatively poor? But Dr. Inouye did not mean to say that Mr. Fukuzawa's new work had better not have been written. As a practical guide to busy men it possessed much value. It was not philosophical nor was it in any way thorough, but it treated certain moral topics in a popular manner and was characterised by that common sense for the possession of which Mr. Fukuzawa was so highly esteemed.

In the lecturer's conception morality was a thing of the heart. There in the recesses of man's inmost thoughts was its chief seat. All ethical discussion and all moral acts were to be traced to moral feelings and ideas. What it was in the mind that constituted the primary source, or first principles (淵源 *Yengen*) of morality he did not purpose to discuss on that occasion. It would take him too far into the regions of philosophy. He might say, however, that he hoped to publish a book on the subject before very long and he begged his hearers to wait for that. Most of the morality taught had to do with outward acts, but the rectitude of that source all of the springs of moral actions, the mind, was of the highest importance. Of men's outward acts it was true to say that to a very large extent they were make-believes. What men realised they ought to feel, that they endeavoured to simulate in words and acts. There was a discrepancy between exterior and interior morality—between the real conscience and that expression of it intended for the public eye or the public ear. The garnishing of the outside man

*Hokkaidô sent 28 delegates, and the 6 prefectures were represented by the following numbers:—Fukushima, 18; Yamagata, 39; Aomori, 35; Akita, 20; Iwate, 135, Miyagi 723.

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often corresponded in degree to the rottenness within. What he wished to impress on his hearers was the immense importance of having a clear conscience. The man who had the approval of his own conscience need fear nothing and should stand in awe of nobody. Harmony should exist between all our outward acts and our innermost feelings. There was no happiness like this. It was an undoubted fact that morality was a difficult study; that progress in knowledge of the subject was by no means commensurate with the advance made in other studies. In science the modern world had so outdistanced the ancient as to make us smile at the fictions that our forefathers took for truths. But on moral subjects we in this 19th century still sit at the feet of the great sages of antiquity. In studying morality we were studying the infinite, we passed out of the world of sense, where phenomena are the chief instructors, and entered the region of the supersensible, where we have to rely on different guides. It was quite true to say that many of those who were very deficient in knowledge of the exterior world were deeply versed in the secrets of the heart. That the men who had moulded the ethical opinion of the world by their teaching, men like Christ, Shaka, and Confucius had each been in possession of that original source of morality called religion there could no question, and it was this that had preserved their memory fresh in our minds to-day. Though man was a part of nature and in many ways incapable of being separated from her, yet he possessed a kind of immortality that was denied to inferior animals. His thoughts lived on; and among those thoughts moral ideas lived the longest. Christ, Shaka, Confucius, being dead, yet spoke and would go on speaking to the end of time. These men were remembered when the names of their contemporaries, who had boasted of rank and revelled in wealth, had rotted in the dust. He wondered whether any of his hearers remembered the names of India's noted men, Shaka Muni excepted. Why did they remember him? Because he was a moral hero. So that it came to this, that morality outlived all things and erected a throne for itself on the ruins of most other human fabrics. He hoped that they would see to it that they were guided by a well balanced moral system. Too much independence and too much subjection were both bad. Excessive egoism and excessive altruism were to be avoided. Let nothing induce them to neglect moral culture. The man who possessed no moral ideal had better be dead than alive. Over the death of Christ we mourned because he was a moral hero, but who cared a straw that the thief who suffered death by his side was thus separated for ever from the company of honest people? The sooner the people hopelessly reprobate left the world the better for the world. There was no such gauge by which to measure men as the moral gauge, and the life of no educated man was complete if he lacked those high-class moral traits which constitute the brightest ornament of human nature.

The lecture was characterised by remarkable clearness of thought throughout, and it would be no exaggeration to say that there was not a single obscure sentence in the discourse, which, considering the nature of the subject, was noteworthy. It was cause for regret with not a few of his hearers that Dr. Inouye did not give his audience some idea of the moral standard that he considers worthy of confidence. It can hardly be said that, excellent as the lecture was as philosophic oratory, it throws much light on the deeper questions of morality. Dr. Inouye spoke as though he believed in the existence of some universally applicable standard, but all that he said about this standard left the impression that it was subjective rather than objective, and if so how can it possibly possess the attributes mentioned above? The guidance which he gave his audience was of a general rather than a particular kind. He said a good deal about the importance of morality and warned his hearers against adopting mistaken theories, but the question, what is to take the place of the authority possessed by rejected theological teaching, he did not answer. But he promises to answer it fully in the book he is about to write.

NIPPON RACE CLUB.

OFF DAY.

An off day's racing was held by the Race Club on Saturday last and afforded some fairly good sport, though most of the six events were considered foregone conclusions by those "in the know," and consequently there were no big coups made in the Pari Mutuel. The attendance at the Grand Stand was scarcely as large as might have been expected on a Saturday afternoon, with fine weather to help out the sport, but still a good business was done by the Pari Mutuel and sweeps, showing that the interest in the races had not diminished. The events were as follows:—

1.—A race for Australian and Country-bred Horses. Non-winners at the meeting. Weight as per scale. Three-quarter Mile. Entrance ¥5. Winner ¥100.

Messrs. King & Satsuma's Molly, 137lb...(Sugiura) 1
Mr. Worthington's Nun Nicer, 137lb. ...(Hayashi) 2
Mr. May's Non Such, 140lb. .....(Kobayashi) 3
Mr. Starlight's Aldebaran, 130lb. .....(Katsu) 0
Mr. P. P. C.'s Pirouette, 143lb. .....(Mr. Mottu) 0
Mr. Hugo's Moonshine, 135lb. .....(Goto) 0
Mr. Russia's Dobriak, 140lb.....(Horikoshi) 0
Time, 1.24.

Non Such and Molly were the favourites and fully deserved the confidence of the public. The former ran to the front at the start, but was displaced by Molly at the half mile. Nun Nicer made a game try at the Trees, but failed to get to the front, and Molly won a good race by a length.

Pari Mutuel, yen 5—Aldebaran 9, Dobriak 6, Pirouette 3, Moonshine 12, Nun Nicer 8, Dolly 78, Non Such 82; total, yen 990—Molly, yen 11.50.

2.—A race for China Subscription Ponies. Non-winners at the meeting. Weight as per Scale. Three-quarter Mile. Entrance ¥5. Winner ¥100.

Mr. Tatsuta's Suzume, 146lb.....(Rikizo) 1
Mr. Tytherleigh's Strathcona, 150lb....(Mr. Easton) 2
Mr. Russia's Prostyak, 150lb. .....(Horikoshi) 3
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 153lb. .....(Mr. Kingdon) 0
Mr. Worshington's Rebuff.....(Tomioka) 0
Time, 1.35⅝

Suzume started a hot favourite, but after a good deal of trouble is getting the small field off Torcross got away with a good start. He only held the lead, however, for the first quarter mile, and was then displaced by the favourite and Prostyak. In the Straight Strathcona ran into second place, Suzume winning easily by three lengths.

Pari Mutuel, yen 5—Suzume 166, Torcross 74, Rebuff 2, Strathcona 39, Prostyak 18; total, yen 1,495—Suzume, yen 8.00.

3.—Handicap for Australian and Country-bred Horses. Non-winners at the meeting. Once round. Entrance ¥5. Winner ¥100. Winner of race 1 excluded.

Mr. Scherz's Tante Lotte, 135lb. .....(Hayashi) 1
Mr. Rodenstein's Tasmania, 139lb., carried over 8lb....(Horikoshi) 2
Mr. Tor's Torquay, 140lb.....(Sugiura) 3
Time, 1.57½.

Tante Lotte was left behind at first, but came up at the distance, displacing first Torquay, and winning by three lengths.

Pari Mutuel, 5 Yen—Tante Lotte 70, Torquay 46, Tasmania 48; total 820 yen—Tante Lotte, 10.50 yen.

4.—A Handicap for all China Ponies. Non-winners at the meeting. Once round. Entrance ¥5. Winner ¥100.

Mr. Campredon's Coquelicot, 142lb.....(Mr. Mottu) 1
Mr. Tatsuta's Morokoshi, 135lb.....(Miyagawa) 2
Mr. Starlight's Pollux, 137lb .....(Katsu) 3
Mr. Tor's Torcross, 145lb.....(Sugiura) 0

Torcross went to the front after the start, with Morokoshi in second place. At the Shakespeare Coquelicot came up and displaced Morokoshi and in the straight passed Torcross, and a neck and neck race ensued between the two, Coquelicot, hard ridden by Mr. Mottu, winning cleverly by a head.

Pari Mutuel, 5 yen—Morokoshi 80, Coquelicot 126, Pollux 48, Torcross 38; total, 1,435 yen—Coquelicot, 10 yen.

5.—A race for Australian Horses. Non-winners at the meeting. Weight as per Scale, 1 mile and a Furlong. Entrance ¥5. Winner ¥100. Winner of races 1 and 3 excluded.

Mr. Russia's Zorka, 137lb. .....(Horikoshi) 1
Mr. Rodenstein's Tasmania, 142lb. ...(Mr. Mottu) 2
Mr. May's Non Such, 140lb. .....(Kobayashi) 3
Mr. Tor's Torquay, 142lb. .....(Sugiura) 0
Time, 2.14.

Torquay made the running first, but was afterwards displaced by Non Such and Zorka. Zorka assumed the lead in the straight, and Tasmania beat Non Such just before the post. Two lengths between first and second; good third.

Pari Mutuel, 5 yen—Tasmania 41, Zorka 187, Non Such 104, Torquay 18; total, 1,750 yen—Zorka 8.50 yen.

6.—A race for all China Ponies. Non-winners at the meeting. Weight as per scale. 1 Mile and a furlong. Entrance ¥5. Winner ¥100. Winner of races 2 and 4 excluded.

Mr. Hugo's Sunshine, 147lb.....(Goto) 1
Mr. Worthington's Miyajima, 153lb.(Mr. Kingdon) 2
Mr. Russia's Prostyak, 150lb. .....(Horikoshi) 3
Time, 2.35.

Sunshine passed the post first, Miyajima lying just behind, and this order was maintained throughout, Miyajima made a capital bid, but was unable to catch Sunshine, who won by a head.

Pari Mutuel, 5 yen—Sunshine 127, Miyajima 250' Prostyak 32; total, 2,045 yen—Sunshine, 14.50 yen.

CRICKET.

Owing to the base-ball match falling through on Saturday, a game of cricket was hastily arranged under the captaincy of Messrs. Bugbird and Crawford. The former, going in first, made **116 for 9 wickets, a total that was soon passed by** Crawford's team. The game was not fought to a conclusion owing to lack of time. Scores:—

Mr. Bugbird's Eleven.

Mr. J. H. Cocksedge, c. and b. P. B. Clarke.....	17
Mr. F. O. Stuart run out	17
Mr. S. Wheeler, b. P. B. Clarke.....	5
Mr. E. Clarke, b. Joy	5
Mr. A. Read, st. Crawford, b. P. B. Clarke	9
Mr. F. Pollard, b. Joy	13
Mr. F. H. Bugbird, b. Joy	21
Mr. G. Braess, c. Kilby, b. H. W. Clarke	3
Mr. H. S. Goddard, not out.....	17
Mr. C. H. Thorn, st Momban, b. P. B. Clarke ...	4
l.b. 5	5
	116

Bowling Analysis.

	B.	R.	M.	W.
Mr. P. B. Clarke	66	48	1	4
Mr. E. W. Kilby	20	13	1	—
Mr. C. R. Joy.....	85	18	7	3
Mr. H. A. Stewart.....	15	22	—	—
Mr. H. W. Clarke.....	25	10	1	1

Mr. Crawford's Eleven.

Momban, b. Goddard	4
Mr. E. W. Kilby, c. Bugbird, b. Stuart	13
Mr. P. B. Clarke, c. Braess, b. Bugbird.....	54
Mr. H. A. Stewart, c. F. O. Stuart, b. Bugbird...	30
Mr. K. F. Crawford, not out	29
Mr. C. R. Joy, b. Bugbird	10
Mr. H. Goddard, b. Bugbird	0
Mr. G. H. Crabtree, not out.....	18
(The rest to bat)	
b. 17, l.b. 1.....	18
	176

YACHT RACES.

Three yacht races were sailed on Saturday afternoon, for 39-raters, cruising class, and 12-raters. That for 39-raters resulted in a win for *Maid Marion*, with *Kingfisher* second. The course was No. 2, 9 miles. Times:—

	Start.	Finish.
Haidee	2.16.05	5.08.05
Maid Marion	2.15.45	4.37.15
Kingfisher	2.15.25	4.48.10
	Allowance Arbitrary	Corrected Arbitrary.
Haidee	5.00	5.03.05
Maid Marion	—	4.37.15
Kingfisher	8.00	4.40.10

In the cruising class *Daimyo* secured first prize, and *Surprise* second. The course was No. 1, 6 miles. Times:—

	Start.	Finish.
Daimyo	2.30.30	4.35.00
Swanhild	2.31.40	4.50.21
Surprise	2.32.40	4.42.50

The 12-raters race resulted as follows:—*Titania* 1st; *Thistle* 2nd.

Mr. E. M. Barnby acted as officer of the day.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense, responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.)

WILL IT PAY?

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—The central government of this country enoys the advice of men of the most astute intellect, so jthat it would be a work of supererogation to attempt to inform them upon any subject, but there are those of the younger generation who seem to thirst for foreign capital in order that they may borrow themselves rich.

To this audience, with your permission, I would most humbly address myself and ask. Will it pay to tax the incomes of the foreign missionaries? Do any of these people receive their support from their Japanese converts? Is it not rather the case that not only a certain number of their converts, but also the enemies of their religion, are on their monthly pay roll? Are they not bringing money into the country rather than taking it out? Is it not true that their salaries are paid by the capitalists from whom we hope to borrow?

If we tax their incomes, is it not probable that they will beg the people who pay them to refund the amounts, so that in the end the cash will come out of the pockets of the very men from whom we expect favours in the future? Is it not true that the Japanese reputation for business capacity is rather below par? Does not this act of taxing the incomes of people who are constantly begging money from their own people to help us, rather reflect upon our sense of gratitude? However, in the long run the action will do good, for in preventing the influx of foreign capital our people may finally learn to plough.

Wouldn't it be a good plan to tax the funds now going out of the country for the famine in India?

Yours truly,
智智和

May 19th, 1900.

THE CHINESE REFORMERS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me space in your paper to speak something of the Chinese reformers and their enemies? At present these reformers are receiving very kind treatment from the hands of the British Government and I daresay that without their great help, the reformers would have long ago been finished with. Therefore the Chinese reformers will never forget the British nation for their kindness. You are also aware, I suppose, Mr. Editor, the reformers have enemies in Shanghai, Hongkong, as well as in the Straits Settlements. In Hongkong these rumours were current:—

1st. The family of Chiu Shuyuan, Editor of *Thiennan Shinpao*, was arrested by the Chinese authorities.

2nd. The reformers have ordered 7,000 pieces of soldier's uniforms with the intention to rise against China.

3rd. Mr. Kang Yu-wei has used ill-words against the British.

4th. Lo Feng Loh, the Chinese Ambassador in London, has seized the *Thiennan Shimpao* press in Singapore, also they have gone so far as to say two men-of-war were ordered to Singapore to arrest Kang Yu-wei and Chiu Shuyuan.

I have to inform you all the above are false rumours; they are quite absurd and untrue. In the Straits a good deal was told against Mr. Kang Yu-wei, and all these you will find in the Straits Newspapers. I understand the Editor of one of the leading papers in the Straits Settlements is a very good friend of Mr. Loh Chong Yauw, the Chinese Consul-General in Singapore. The Editor always called on the Consul-General, and I do not know what conversations had taken place between them; all I know is what has been published in the Newspapers which to my knowledge is injurious to the Chinese reformers.

I am Sir, yours faithfully,

A Chinaman who loves his Country to Prosper.

Singapore, May 1st, 1900.

TREATMENT OF CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS.

To the Editor of The "Far East."

Sir,—In view of the revival of interest in this important subject, it will not I trust be deemed out of place for me to offer certain suggestions arising from my reading and study.

Sometime ago I listened to the discourse of a gentleman of note who had served for some years as a judge in one of the higher courts of Japan. He seemed to labour under the impression that those who advocate reform are seeking to anglicize the criminal procedure. This impression is widely prevalent, it would appear, among those who hope to maintain the code in substantially its present form. There could, however, be no greater mistake than to assume a necessary connection between the desire to secure greater privileges for the defendant and the disposition to substitute a system based on English law and usage. The fundamental question with the reformers is this, Shall the enormous discretion which the present Code confers upon the examining magistrate (*juge d'instruction*) be exercised in secret?

How great these powers are very few understand. It is stated by the Comte de Calonne that "*A juge d'instruction* belonging to the Tribunal of the Seine, a good, learned, and circumspect man, was once questioned by the Emperor Napoleon the Third about his duties. With a good humonr not wholly free from irony the judge replied: 'Sire, I am more powerful than your Majesty.' 'How so?' 'You cannot directly and of your own will throw a man into prison; I can do that!' The magistrate then explained how, on the slightest pretext, or acting upon the most trivial denunciation, an inquiring judge, once put in charge of a case by the Public Prosecutor, could have an innocent man—an entire stranger to the affair—arrested and kept in solitary confinement, if he thought the person had been concerned in it. A personal enemy could be locked up, which would of course be a disgraceful proceeding, or simply a suspected man, which would be the result of excessive zeal. The Emperor's face assumed an anxious expression, and certainly if war had not broken out soon afterwards, he would have asked his Minister of Justice, M. Emile Ollivier, to place a limit to these extravagant powers."

Professeur Jules Leveillé writing in 1882 said:—"*Ce juge a des pouvoirs à peu près illimités. Il n'existe pas en ce monde de fonctionnaire qui ait des droits aussi exorbitants que les siens.*"

These are not the words of Englishmen or Americans critical of foreign institutions, but of exceptionally well informed Frenchmen, firm believers in the general merits of the French system, yet keenly alive to the dangers associated with it prior to 1897. No one will venture to assert that the Japanese Code embodies any substantial curtailment of these inordinate powers. I am aware that the *mise au secret* was abolished by a law passed in 1899, but in place of it there was substituted what I suppose to be the *défense de communiquer* of the French Code. Ortolan, the distinguished jurist, refers to this as a kindlier name, but adds, "*le nom ne fait rien à l'affaire.*" That such confinement has been, and still is, used in Japan as a means of inducing confession is at least very generally believed. However, my object is not here to ask the abolishment of this extraordinary power, though I believe with all my heart that it ought to be abolished, for it has wrought untold suffering to innocent persons in all countries where it is conferred, I simply wish to indicate how great, and how liable to abuse this power has proved to be.

The effort is sometimes made to break the force of such criticisms by statistics which it is thought show that the difficulties which theoretically appear serious are in practice reduced to a minimum too small to warrant radical changes in the law. For example, in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of February 4, 1899, in a paragraph reproduced from the Japanese press, it was stated that during the year 1898, 4,675 criminal charges were submitted to the public prosecutors of the Tokyo Local Court. Of these, 994, or 26 per cent., were dismissed as groundless; of the 3,681 persons actually summoned, 182 were dismissed as the result of the preliminary examination, and 92 were acquitted at the public trial; that is, a little less than 7¼ per cent were found innocent, which is certainly creditable to the procurators and the examining magistrates.

In the *Weekly Mail* of May 5th, there is a series of tables copied from the *Tokyo Asahi*, embodying a comparison between the Japanese and French procedure, as regards the time involved in the different stages. The result here, too, is gratifying; but it must not be forgotten that if the comparison had been with English procedure, the Japanese would not have appeared to advantage. For all England, aside from London and certain adjacent districts under the jurisdiction of the so-called Central Criminal Court, where cases of hardship are rare owing to the Court's being almost continuously in session, the number of persons detained more than sixteen weeks to await trial (1897) was only 120, as against 1221 in Japan (1898) who were detained more than three months after the conclusion of the examination. In the case of Japan, there must be added a considerable period of detention during the preliminary stage of the procedure, which occupies far more time than in England, averaging, it would appear from the *Asahi's* figures, something over a month. This estimate is based upon the first table which refers to both crimes and misdemeanours.*

However, it is not worth while to lay stress on comparisons. The hardship at best is very great. By a collation of two of the tables, it appears that there were not less than 126,545 alleged criminals and misdemeanants before the Japanese Courts in 1898, excluding those dismissed at the preliminary examinations. The number dismissed is not given. If the ratio were the same as in the case of those reported by the Tokyo Local Court (7.44 per cent.) there must have been over 9,500 person detained for a longer or shorter time while awaiting the decisions of the examining magistrates and judges, who were subsequently pronounced innocent. This may be a necessary sacrifice upon the altar of justice. It may be no larger sacrifice than is paid in some other countries, but it is certainly large enough to warrant the very careful inquiry whether something cannot be done to make it less—to shorten the time of confinement and to alleviate the distress while that confinement lasts.

It is proper to add that there is ground for the belief that the prevailing system leads to a considerable number of mistaken convictions. They are found everywhere and Ortolan gives an impressive list of conspicuous cases selected from the records of various countries. Some of the most striking have been the direct result of the system of preliminary examinations pursued in France. Careful inquiries in Japan indicate that there are more than there ought to be. A prison director not long since on being questioned on this subject replied with emphasis that there were many ("*Zuibun aru desuyo*"). Last winter I asked a similar question of an ex-judge in one of the north-western provinces and received the same answer. The latter said at once that the reason was to be found in the undue reliance upon the report of the preliminary examination at the public trial. Other information points the same way.

All this combines to force the impression upon the intelligent observer that whether these evils are less than in some other countries or not, they are serious enough to demand the careful consideration of every patriotic Japanese. One hesitates to place the responsibility upon the already overworked judges; still if each one of them could ever keep in mind what Ortolan calls "*the dreadful but salutary thought that what for him are hours of leisure, are for the defendant hours of captivity*," it is possible that the wheels of justice would move more rapidly. However this may be, I believe that the system itself must be changed, and that the first step to be taken is to strengthen the defence.

Those who hesitate to change the present system rely in the main upon two considerations: (1) that the examination is not conducted by the Public Prosecutor, who, as his name implies, stands as the adversary of the defendant, but by the judge, who occupies a neutral position and is maintained in that position by a judicial training; and (2) that the preliminary examination is simply provisional and open to unlimited criticism at the public trial.

As regards the first point, Professor Laveillé says:—"*Cette observation n'est qu'une chinoiserie. * * * * Dans la pratique des affaires criminelles, les deux magistrats* (the judge and the procurator), *le passionné et le nonpassionné constituent pour l'inculpé deux adversaires, deux adversaires, loyaux sans doute, mais enfin deux adversaires.*"

As regard the second point, the same jurist says: "*Mais est-il vrai, comme on le prétend, que le jugement soit presque tout et l'instruction presque rien? Non. L'expérience quotidienne démontre au contraire que l'instruction dont on s'efforce vainement de diminuer l'importance, influe profondement sur le jugement définitif.*" In a note, he compares the work of the examining magistrate to the investiture of a city, and remarks that Sedan was lost before a single cannon shot had been fired—from the time, indeed, when Count Von Moltke had covered with his batteries the heights dominating the city. He also quotes Mittermaier as saying in a critique of the French system that the trial with its publicity, following the examination with its secrecy, suggest a person wearing a beautiful

* One of the *Asahi's* tables places the number of "misdemeanors" at 123,920, while another gives the number of "serious crimes" as 2,625. Whether these figures include all crimes and misdemeanours is not stated. They are rather larger than I should have expected and do not readily harmonize with the report of the Tokyo Local Court for the same year, as stated above. If they are correct, the variation may be due in part to the fact that the provincial procurators do not sift their cases with the same care as their Tokyo colleagues. However this may be, the force of the argument is not materially lessened, even if the number of innocent sufferers be considerably reduced. They have a right to demand that everything possible be done for their relief, whether they number 5,000 or 10,000.

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outer garment while his under-clothing is torn to shreds.

Prof. Laveillé is no enemy of the French system. He pleads for no radical reform and desires no curtailment of the judicial powers; for, as he says, "Whatever obstacles may arise they [the magistrates] must be able to overcome them. Crime must be vanquished." "But in return for this liberty of action," he continues, "which I concede to the judicial authorities fully and entirely, there is a guarantee which the defendants have the right to demand: a guarantee which does not exist in the procedure of the preliminary examination as now [1882] conducted, a guarantee which is, however, the logical compensation *sine qua non* of the unlimited power of the judges; that necessary guarantee, which ought to be incorporated in the new law, is the effective and immediate control of the acts, of all the acts, of the officers of justice." "Thus the system which I support is solidly based, it rests upon these two principles which are fundamental and indivisible and which materially complement and justify each other, namely:

"(1) The examining magistrate must be clothed with full powers, because it is essential that he reach and unmask the guilty;

"(2) The examining magistrate must be controlled in all he does, because it is essential that he should never compromise the innocent."

Professor Laveillé then points out the agent by whom this control should be exercised. "The one to whom everything points to fill the office of controller is the counsel. The counsel combines in himself the manifold qualities which a task so delicate demands; he has experience in the business of the court, for he lives there; he has an independent position, for he is included in the hierarchy of public functionaries; he has firmness of character, for he is accustomed to strife; he has finally what is in no respect a hindrance, but is on the contrary the greatest advantage, a respectful deference for the magistracy."

"As I wish the control to be effective," he goes on to say, "I demand very formally that it be immediate. * * * * Consequently the counsel should be present at the hearing of witnesses and at the examination of the accused." He does not urge, however, that the counsel be allowed to take part in the examination, or even be allowed to speak, except by express permission of the judge. He simply insists that he be allowed to hear the words of the accused and of the witnesses as they fall from their lips, whether forceful or hesitating; that he be permitted to see and to hear all that goes on at the examination of either, and is quite content that he be a mute witness of the scenes enacted before him, though taking notes of course at his own discretion.

It is difficult to see any reasonable objection to the admission of counsel to the examination of both the accused and the witnesses for and against him. Without such admission, the accused is and must be greatly embarrassed in preparing his defence. It is not enough that he and his counsel examine the record, it is important that the counsel should know the atmosphere of the examination chamber and the many matters of detail which elude the reporter. The influence of his presence would be in every way beneficial to the judge himself. There is no man who would not be benefited by the knowledge that at least in this limited sense he is acting under the eye of the public.

The Hon. Simeon E. Bailwin, Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors of the State of Connecticut, and Professor of Constitutional Law at Yale University, has long been an advocate of introducing into the criminal proceedings of the United States something equivalent to the preliminary examination of the French system. In a recent letter which now lies before me he says:—"It would be hazardous to allow committing magistrates to cross-question the accused in private at any length. Either the examination should be conducted by the prosecuting attorney, the judge simply presiding over the proceeding, or the accused should be supported by the presence of his counsel, or of some other friend whom he may name, to watch what is done, and be ready to bear witness to any undue pressure that may be exerted. In modern society public opinion is the great restraint upon governmental abuses, and a judge would seldom put a prisoner in a state of mental torture, or harass him by unnecessary adjournments and remands, when he saw before him one who would have it in his power to make any such preversion of authority generally known to the community.

"That bail, *in all ordinary cases*, should be a matter of right is also, in my opinion, a *sina qua non* in any system which admits of preliminary examinations."

The arguments in favour of the admission of counsel have convinced both the German and French authorities. In France the amendment to the Code was adopted December 8, 1897. A clause of the Act of Amendment reads as follows:—"Sont et demeurent abrogées toutes les dispositions antérieures contraires à la présente loi." When a way so simple is open for bringing the code into harmony with an amendment, it seems a pity to have this great boon withheld for the sake of a recodification of the law. The public sentiment of these modern times, which has conquered so largely the conservatism of Continental Europe, will not reconcile itself to the hardship which the present Japanese Code entails.

The assurance that the examining magistrate will hereafter exercise his vast powers under the trained eye of the defendant's counsel, whether the procedure be hastened to the hoped-for extent or not, would unquestionably add to the respect of the people for the administration of law and would bring great relief to thousands who are now weighed down with a sense of utter helplessness.

May we not confidently expect that the Commission now engaged in the revision of the Code will prepare for presentation to the Diet at its next session a draft which shall embody the humane provisions of the French amendments of 1897?

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

DANIEL CROSBY GREENE.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE.

The excess of imports during the past few months is now beginning to decrease. The foreign trade for the first half of this month shows a diminution in imports of over 4 million *yen*, as may be perceived from the following table:—

	Exports for 1st half of May. Yen.	Imports for same period. Yen.	Excess in imports. Yen.
Yokohama	4,222,609	5,501,041	1,368,432
Kobe	4,982,566	7,372,625	2,390,059
Osaka	323,603	225,093	—
Nagasaki	256,108	626,303	370,195
Hakodate	48,682	7,933	—
Niigata	12,712	—	—
Moji	206,413	470,530	264,117
Shimonoseki	254,228	328,213	73,985
Kuchinotsu	254,770	6,921	—
Total	10,561,691	14,626,659	4,064,968

The total from January for the various ports above mentioned is as follows, the gross excess of imports having reached 56 millions of *yen*:—

Yokohama	32,652,276	43,842,669	11,190,393
Kobe	25,915,029	70,029,735	44,114,706
Osaka	1,975,871	2,830,169	854,298
Nagasaki	2,307,248	5,303,595	2,996,347
Hakodate	460,009	197,608	—
Niigata	40,904	93	—
Moji	1,710,999	1,636,054	—
Shimonoseki	2,851,001	1,790,854	—
Kuchinotsu	1,712,513	232,953	—
Total	69,625,840	125,863,800	56,237,860

With regard to specie the export of gold during the period under review amounted to 4,340,000 *yen*, against 6,050,000 *yen* for the latter of April, and 6,530,000 for March. As the Government recently brought home gold ingots to the amount of 2,200,000 *yen*, the balance is not more than 1,800,000 *yen* in favour of exports. Below are details:—

	Export in Yen.	Import in Yen.	Excess in import or export Yen.
Yokohama	2,850,000	—	*2,850,000
Kobe	1,490,000	2,300,557	810,557
Osaka	—	243,131	143,131
Nagasaki	5,686	—	*5,686
Total	4,345,686	2,543,688	*1,801,998

* Represents excess in exports.

The gross total of exports of gold from January, according to the *Jiji*, reached 25,511,489 *yen*, against 3,545,968 *yen* in imports, leaving a balance of 21,965,511 *yen* in favour of the former.

Below are comparative figures showing the deposits in the various Postal Savings Banks for the past two years:—

	1899.	Decrease in comparison with 1898.
New depositors	289,337	25,772
Persons who have withdrawn their whole deposits	302,011	22,734
Actual number of depositors at end of year	1,240,892	12,746
Amount of deposits	¥9,990,973	¥3,683,565
Deposit of interest on public bonds	60,856	307
Interest on deposits	1,063,847	17,092
Repayments	14,879,623	2,461,082
Balance at end of the year	22,005,105	3,749,152

As there are no accurate statistics with regard to the occupations of depositors, it is extremely difficult to ascertain what class of the people show the most thrift in this manner. The following figures, however, are given in the *Osaka Asahi*:—

Classification.	Number.	Amount.	Average per head.
Farmers	484,734	¥6,846,214	¥14.10
Merchants	192,543	4,846,836	25.20
Manufacturers	80,929	1,939,809	24
Miscellaneous	74,164	1,552,061	20.90
Artisans	58,386	982,165	16.80
Fishermen and sailors	14,206	257,092	18.10
Government officials and soldiers	71,325	1,372,919	19.20
Students	78,962	372,056	4.70
Persons without fixed occupation	17,376	354,352	20.40
Persons whose occupation is uncertain	147,303	2,811,623	19.10
Total	1,219,928	21,335,127	17.50
Temples, shrines, and other corporate bodies	20,964	669,978	32
Grand Total	1,240,892	22,005,105	17.70

According to the *Osaka Asahi* the amount of coal exported from the various ports in the empire during April was 259,320 tons, valued at 1,543,697 *yen*. Compared with the corresponding period of last year the figure shows an increase of 73,268 tons, valued at 319,141 *yen*. Last year quotations stood at 6.57 *yen*, but this year they have fallen to 5.95 *yen*. The total export from January to April is reported to have reached 1,107,406 tons, worth 6,471,295 *yen*, showing an increase of 334,271 tons, worth 1,325,656 *yen*, over the figure for the corresponding period of last year.

The interest on Imperial Bonds is to be paid from the 1st of June next, and this, remarks the *Nichi Nichi*, will have the effect of improving the money market. According to official investigations the amount to be disbursed on this account is no less than 9,083,901 *yen*, of which 3,302,600 *yen* will be paid in London on the 30th proximo, and the remaining 5,681,001 distributed in Japan. The latter amount is to be divided between Tokyo and the provinces, the former securing 2,840,500 *yen*.

The *Keizai Zasshi* publishes the following statistics as to the number of foreigners living in China:—

Nationality.	1899.	1898.	Increase.
English	5,562	5,148	414
Japanese	2,440	1,688	742
American	2,335	2,056	279
Russian	1,621	165	1,456
Portuguese	1,423	1,082	341
French	1,183	920	263
German	1,134	1,043	91
Total	17,193	13,421	3,772

From the above it may be perceived that although the English are still predominant in China, the number of Russians shows a far larger relative increase. This is a phenomenon too serious to pass unnoticed. As to the number of commercial companies and firms the figures stand as follows:—

Companies.	1899.	1898.	Increase.
English	401	398	3
Japanese	195	114	81
German	115	107	8
French	76	37	39
American	70	43	27
Russian	19	16	3
Portuguese	20	10	10
Total	933	773	160

According to the latest investigations of the Finance Department the average value of various public loan bonds during April, as compared with the previous month stood, as follows:—

Bonds.	April. yen.	March. yen.	Rise or fall. yen.
Imperial	88.25	90.50	2.25
Naval	92.90	91.80	1.10
Redemption	93.60	94.40	0.80
War	93.65	94.40	0.75
5 per cent	88.00	90.90	2.90
Tokyo Municipal	96.30	—	—
Industrial (50 yen face value)	48.00	48.30	0.30
Same (20 yen)	19.85	19.80	0.05
Same (20 yen)	20.85	21.00	0.15

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ORDINANCE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

The following Ordinance of the Communications Department is published in the *Official Gazette* :—

Art. I.—Any person desiring to tender for the supply of stores for Government railways under the direct supervision of the Communications Department, the said goods being manufactured in Europe or in the United States, and inspection as to quality or classification being made prior to shipment, must have the following qualifications specified in the 1st clause of Article XIX of the Law of Accounts :—

1. He must be in possession of a head office, branch, or agency in Japan.

2. He must be in possessson of a head office, branch, or agency in a city of Europe or the United States.

3. He must be possessed of a certificate showing that he has properly fulfilled contracts with Government offices or railway companies for the supply of foreign railway stores to the amount of at least 100,000 *yen* in one year within three years from the date at which the tender is presented.

Art. II.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of June (1900). Ordinance No. 28 of the Communications Department issued in the 29th year of *Meiji* shall be rescinded from the date of the operation of the Regulations.

Another ordinance of the same Department refers to competitive tenders for the construction or repair of railways, ships, or official buildings. The provisions are as follows :—

Art. I.—Tenderers for works indicated above must be persons who have paid direct national taxes for the past two years, in accordance with the following scale :—

Estimated cost for work in *yen*.		Annual amount of tax in *yen*.
Not exceeding	5,000	Not less than 5
,,	10,000	,, 10
,,	50,000	,, 20
,,	100,000	,, 30
,,	200,000	,, 50
Above	200,000	,, 80

Art. II.—In the case of an ordinary partnership one of its members, and in the case of a limited partnership one of the members of unlimited liability, must fulfil the above requirements.

Art. III.—In the case of a joint stock company the amount of shares paid up must be more than double the cost of the work rendered.

Art. IV.—As to joint stock partnerships one of the conditions required of a limited partnership in Article II. or of those specified in Article III. must be complied with.

Art. V.—With respect to a foreign company the same must have been registered according to the regulations, and must possess qualifications the same as, or analogous to, those of companies specified in Article II. or Article IV.

Art. VI.—Tenderers for the construction of ships having a gross tonnage of more than 1,000 tons must possess the following qualifications besides those specified in each of the foregoing articles :—

1. They must be possessed of a suitable workshop for the construction of ships of the dimensions indicated, and must have practical experience in connection with the building of the same.

2. They must be possessed of an annealing plant.

Art. VII.—With regard to competitive tenders in Hokkaido, and in Okinawa and Ogasawara islands, as well as in foreign countries, these regulations shall not apply for the time being.

THE TOKYO TRAMWAY QUESTION.

As the sum of 1½ millions of *yen* set apart by the Tokyo Tramway Company in connection with the alteration in motive power has been expended in other directions, it will be necessary for the company, remarks the *Yorozu*, to make a fresh appropriation to the amount of at least 3 million *yen* when permission is obtained from the Government. But the period of the charter expires in ten years, and there is little prospect of profit in such an investment. The company has therefore applied to the Government for an extension of the period to the limit fixed for the Tokyo Municipal railway, and for permission to alter the Shinagawa lines into a double elevated track. Simultaneously with this application it is suggested that since Article III. of the charter, prohibiting foreigners from becoming shareholders of the company, has become invalid in consequence of the laws subsequently issued and the treaties concluded with foreign Powers, the sale or transfer of the company's stock may be undertaken without discrimination between foreigners and Japanese.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL WORK IN JAPAN.

The *Yorozu* has an article pointing out the energy displayed by Christians in the cause of Japanese education, and condemning the authorities for the unnecessary interference which has almost crippled that work. According to statistics compiled at the end of last year, the number of Christian schools and students totalled 204 and 15,846 respectively. Below are details :—

		Schools.	Students.
Above middle course of education	Men	20	2,916
	Women	48	3,538
Primary course of education for men and women		136	9,394
Total		204	15,846

In the face of these figures the general progress of education undertaken by Japanese is extremely slow. The latest statistics compiled by the Education Department show that out of 7,125,966 children of school age only 4,910,380 are receiving instruction in elementary schools, the remaining 2,215,586 remaining at home. Japan cannot escape the charge of procrastination in this matter, as may be perceived from the following comparative figures for the past four years :—

Percentage of school age children under instruction.....	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	61.24	64.22	66.65	68.91

The Government ought to adopt more efficient means for the diffusion of knowledge, but instead it has, directly and indirectly, attempted to hamper the educational work of Christians. Now that the Bureau of Religions has been established it is advisable that Christianity should be investigated in its true light.

FIRE IN TOKYO.

The residence of Captain Brinkley, at No. 3 Aoicho, Tokyo, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 23rd instant. The flames made their appearance at half-past nine, and in less than three hours the whole building was reduced to ashes. Fortunately there was little wind at the time, or the United States Legation on the other side of the street could scarcely have escaped. For a moment, indeed, it seemed to be in considerable danger. Captain Brinkley was absent, and it resulted that the whole of his manuscripts were consumed with the library. A large collection of works of art stored in the upper floor of the building was also destroyed. The conflagration seems to have had its origin in a defective flue, one of those too common sources of danger in wooden buildings.

H.B.M.'S COURT FOR JAPAN.

Before His Honour Judge WILKINSON.
WEDNESDAY, May 23rd.

A NAGASAKI WILL CASE.

Re the Will of the late Charles Sutton. C. D. Moss petitioner.

This was the petition of Mr. C. D. Moss for the appointment of a Judicial Trustee under the will of the late Charles Sutton, of Nagasaki. Mr. Sutton died a bachelor on the 28th April, 1892. By his will he bequeathed to Kate and Mary Smith, daughters of the late O. Smith, 1,000 dollars each. In consequence of the withdrawal or death of the executors appointed, the petitioner became official administrator on the 12th January, 1894, of that part of the personal estate of the deceased left unadministered by the former executors, and paid into Court on March 1st, 1894, two sums of 1,000 dollars each to meet these special legacies. These sums were placed at fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; bearing interest which had been added to the principal. The sums now amounted to *yen* 1,314.68 each. As the jurisdiction of the Court was about to cease the petitioner considered it necessary to provide for the vesting of the said funds, and proposed to appoint H.B.M. Consul and Vice-Consul at Yokohama or such one of them as the Court might select and their successors as Judicial Trustees or Trustee. Oliver Smith, the father of the legatees, was a Norwegian subject, and in the event of the death of his children under the age of 21 their share would devolve upon their next-of-kin according to Norwegian law. The next-of-kin of Charles Sutton was his sister Mary Ann Brent, wife of Frederick John Brent, of East Finchley, London. The mother or a Judicial Trustee of the said children, Mrs. Carl M. Nickel, wife of Capt. Nickel, a German subject, lived at Kobe, and the children were now residing at Hamburg. The petitioner therefore prayed the Court to order that Judicial Trustees, or a Judicial Trustee, be appointed and such directions given for the vesting of the trust as might be deemed just and proper. It should be explained that Mrs. Nickel and the children have since become German subjects, and Mr. John Westphalen, of Kobe, has been appointed by the German Consulate at Kobe as guardian of the infants. The service of the petition on Mr. Westphalen instead of on the infants had been applied for by Mr. Moss and granted, but Mr. Westphalen failed to appear.

A certificate of service was produced at the hearing, but His Honour ruled that an affidavit as to service must be produced. The hearing was therefore adjourned to Monday, May 28th.

Mr. Litchfield appeared for Mary Ann Brent, next-of-kin of Charles Sutton, and Mr. H. A. C. Bonar and Mr. R. G. E. Forster were also present.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, May 19th :—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,567,858
Amount of convertible notes issued	194,979,684
Government deposits	61,639,929
General deposits	5,745,794
Exchange liability	51,888
Total	309,075,965
CR.	
Discount notes	62,869,901
Foreign discount notes	11,193,079
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	69,115,826
Exchange liability	1,378,526
Government bonds	54,056,211
Property	2,062,445
Bullion and Specie	86,399,972
Total	309,075,965

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week :—

Amount of convertible notes	195,767,483
Bullion and Specie :—	
Gold	81,109,644
Silver	4,000,000
Total	85,109,644
Securities :—	
Government bonds	17,268,254
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,343,248
Commercial notes	60,046,337
Total	110,657,839

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	571,910
Silver	—	—
General loans	428,847	—
Government deposits	—	451,775
General deposits	—	134,909

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LEAVES FROM AN OFFICER'S DIARY DURING THE SIEGE OF LADYSMITH.

A cavalry officer who passed through the siege of Ladysmith, jotted down the following notes, which have been kindly placed at our disposal.

Although the railway and telegraph were not cut until 2nd November, the siege practically commenced on October 30th. For some unknown reason we were ordered to retire after the battle of that date and were promptly invested by the Boers. No one knows the strength of the Boers round Ladysmith at the commencement of the siege—but it must have been at least 20,000. Their strong point was their artillery, their big guns being more numerous and better than ours, and they mounted them in excellent positions and shelled us daily. At first they did little damage, but as their gunners improved with practice the damage done by their shells grew, and many poor fellows were killed in the streets, in houses, and in the various camps. To cope with these guns we only had the big guns of the Naval Brigade from Durban, some 5 in number, which by the greatest of luck arrived about the day before the railway was destroyed by the Boers. Our other artillery, being only field guns, of course could not reach the Boers. The garrison of Ladysmith consisted of the Naval Brigade, 4 regiments of British Cavalry (ourselves, 5th D.G., 19 Hrs. and the remainder of 18 Hrs.—nearly a squadron of the latter regiment having been captured with Colonel Moller at Dundee and sent to Pretoria). (By the way. We hear Mrs. Moller applied to Kruger to be allowed to go to Pretoria to her husband, but was refused and that she then went on her own hook through Delagoa Bay—very plucky of her, if true, but I doubt it). To continue—6 batteries of Field Artillery and 2 howitzers—8 Brigades of Infantry regiments and 3 corps of Natal Mounted Volunteers and the Imperial Light Horse, some 11,000 men all told.

The great mistake in my opinion was the keeping of the Cavalry Regiments here—we have been doing infantry work nearly all the time and at the present moment (9th Feb.) there are four fine cavalry regiments hopelessly, I fear, destroyed. We have no horses—they having been turned away to graze, as there is no food for them, and hundreds have died of exhaustion and been eaten. When Sir George White decided to hold Ladysmith, he ought to have sent the 4 cavalry regiments down to Buller, to whom we should have been useful, for the Colonial Volunteers could have done the little cavalry work there was to do here during the siege.

It is pitiful to think how a fine mounted force has been wrecked. However, we have done very well as infantry (or horse marines!!) and the C.-in-C. said a short time ago the Cavalry had more life left in them than any one else. The 5th Lancers especially have earned great praise from everyone in every undertaking. We are now armed with *rifles and bayonets* —our lances, swords, saddles, and carbines having been returned to store. This, I fancy, is a unique experience of a British Cavalry Regiment being actually suddenly transformed into an infantry regiment!!!! We now hold our portion of the defences. Myself with 30 men hold the advanced Ration Post—a small wall fort right away in front of the defences to the West. It is so far to the front that the Boer lines are on 3 sides of us. Our orders are to hold it to the bitter end and not to retire on any account whatever, and it is *mined* and the means of firing the mines are inside the wall at my hand—that I fancy will explain to you the important place it is. King, our present commandant, said when he detailed me for the post: "There is V. C. to be got there." Very probably, but it seems to me that something else is much more likely to be got there!

Feb. 10th.—I ran out of English tobacco early in November, Boer tobacco in Dec., and yesterday finished my last pipe of Kaffir tobacco—so now I suck my pipe all day and imagine it full! The siege is getting most monotonous and I am fearfully thin —horse flesh diet does not seem to agree with me.

Now to give you a short résumé of my diary—from Nov. 3rd to Nov. 28th. The regiment was on outpost duty every other day from about 3 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. On the 9th Nov. the Boers made a determined attack against our "A" Squadron outpost line and I had to take my troop from "C" Squadron to support "A." After climbing the hill the "A" people were on, (our horses we left at the foot of the hill), I led my troop over two open spaces, each 70 yards wide and swept by the enemy's fire—a perfect hail of bullets greeted us as we rushed across, but no one was hit and we joined the "A" Squadron firing line and held the Boers in check till dark. We sat on that hill each man behind his stone from 5 a.m. till 7 p.m. in a broiling sun with no water to drink and nothing to eat. And the Boers kept up an incessant fire the whole time on us and 3 guns were playing shrapnel on us also all day. We soon drove the Boers back to their hill and then simply lay low and watched. They did not come forward again, as they were out of range of our carbines, while we were within easy range of the Mausers. After dark the Boers retired and we handed our hill over to the Rifle Brigade. I had a corporal shot in my troop which, considering the awful fire we were under, was wonderful, but we lay as low as possible. A company of the Rifle Brigade sent up in the middle of the day to support us lost 1 officer and 10 men.

The regiments new to South Africa have had to learn at a great cost the value of *"keeping cover"* in this fighting on kopjes. Our men are very good at it and consequently we have lost very few, whereas the regiments from India and home do not seem to know *how* to take cover behind stones and consequently get shot like rabbits by the wily Boer, who himself *always* fights from behind a stone. Well, the 9th Nov. was a very warm day and I was glad when it was over.

Nov. 10 to 28.—We and the 5th D. G. took it day about on outpost duty and miserably monotonous work it was in hot sun and bitter cold rain, &c., &c. Nothing particular happened. The Boers used to "snipe" us all day and every day, but we could rarely return the compliment, as they took care to keep out of range of our carbines. One day as a joke we stuck up a dummy man made out of old clothes on a wall and the Boers shot at it all day and ended evidently in a rage by planting a shell on the poor dummy. Ladysmith of course was shelled daily and sometimes at night by the Boers.

From Nov. 29th to about Dec. 17th.—The 5th Lancers formed part of a flying column ready to co-operate with Redvers Buller, who was coming up from Maritzburg with an army corps to our relief. Everyone naturally is looking forward to being relieved and we expect it about 15th Dec.

Buller occasionally signals by flashlight in the clouds at night to us and during the day we heliograph to him to a hill N.W. of Weenen, some 35 miles from here. Our daily routine is very monotonous now. The regiment parades an hour before dawn and by sunrise is in the bivouac down by the river, as we have to get the horses into hiding before the Boer guns discover our whereabouts, and there we remain until after dark, when we return to our camp. The heat at this time was awful and the flies a pest and the Long Tom Shells from the big Boer guns used to fly about us pretty consistently. Two or three night alarms disturbed us.

8th Dec.—(The night of the 7th was a busy night). Sir A. Hunter led a party of Natal Volunteers and Imperial Light Horse up Gun Hill at Lombard's Kop during the night and blew up the two big Boer guns (one being a "Long Tom") and took away a machine gun. A very gallant performance. They caught the Boers napping and our casualties were very slight.

Also the Leicestershire Regiment made a raid on Hyde's Farm but found it unoccupied—during the night.

Also a squadron of 19th Hussars went out and burnt some kraals, lit grass fires, and generally made a row to keep the Boers' attention off Hunter's expedition. We got the "benefit" of this latter manœuvre later on.

At 3.30 a.m. on 8th the Cavalry Brigade were ordered out under following dispositions:—

5th Lancers to reconnoitre country to N., between Limit Hill and Long Hill, ascertain Boer position and enemy's strength in that direction.

18th Hussars to keep the enemy in the Pepworth (west) direction from cutting off the retreat of 5th Lancers.

5th Dragoon Guards to be in reserve *at Orange F. S. Ry.* junction. We, 5th Lancers, galloped across the plain to Limit Hill, which my squadron ("C") made good, and were shelled the whole way across by the Boer artillery on Surprise Hill. From Limit Hill we galloped up the Newcastle Road right up to the Boer positions on Long Hill, who opened a perfectly awful rifle fire on us—"whiz! whiz! whiz!" all round you and "phwt"! "phwt" when a bullet hit anything. It was at this point that I was hit by a Mauser bullet in the left arm and a man was killed. My troops was 50 yards in rear of remainder of "C" squadron (Boers being on my left), and, seeing the head of the Regiment wheel off the road to the thorn jungle on the right, I followed suit. "C" squadron went on some distance towards Lombard's Kop, again meeting the enemy, and "A" and "D" went round to behind Limit Hill and "C" eventually joined them. My horse Challenger was excited, and his capers hurting my wounded arm, I gave him to a man to lead and proceeded to walk back alone across the plain to the O. F. S. junction, where an ambulance was waiting. Just before I left the Regt., M. Bulwana gun opened fire on us and soon after a message arrived from Sir George White to return. In returning the Regt. went back in magnificent order at a trot absolutely steadily in spite of shells falling right amongst the squadrons. As they passed ¼m. away I stood still to watch, thinking it the finest sight I had ever seen, when "Whizz, Bang" and I was covered with mud and and dirt, a N, Bulwana Long Tom shell falling 6 feet behind me. Just before reaching the ambulance the 11th Hussars came galloping back from the Pepworth direction and, getting a tremendous slating from the Boers on the ridge, they suffered severely.

As they passed me a man pulled up and offered me his horse, which I refused, but, catching hold of his stirrup leather, got dragged along and shortly after, Thackwell of the 18th coming slowly along wounded, I sent the private off and made use of Thackwell's stirrup leather until, an 18th man coming along with a led horse, I mounted it and rode the rest of the way in. A very warm ride. Genl. Brocklehurst estimated we had located 3,000 Boers. Rather a waste of horses and men sending out 2 regiments when a troop could have done what we did. 5th Lancer casualties were 1 man killed and 1 officer (self) and 3 men wounded, 3 horses killed and 9 wounded.

At the hospital it was found the bullet had gone through the muscle of my left arm, missing the bone and an artery by $_{10}$ $^{1}_{0}$ part of an inch—a lucky escape!

The following appeared in Natal Field Force orders with reference to this reconnaissance:—

"On the Report of the reconnaissance of the 8th inst. rendered by the G. O. C. Cavalry Brigade, the C.-in-C. made the following note—" "I regret the number of casualties, but I was an eyewitness and it was inspiriting to see the keenness and dash with which a dangerous duty was carried out by officers and men."

10th Dec.—The Rifle Brigade made a gallant attack during the night on Surprise Hill and blew up the big gun but suffered severely in their return. Our fellows were playing polo yesterday and were shelled by the Boers!

11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th Dec.—Still standing to help Buller. Were turned out twice at night.

17th Dec.—Alas! George White has published an order that "Redvers Buller will not be able to relieve Ladysmith as soon as expected, but expects that in spite of the disappointment all ranks will cheerfully carry on the defence as before." It appears that Buller got a severe knock at the battle at Colenso on 15th.

Dec. 18th to 21st.—"Standing to" is off, as Buller is n't coming and the ordinary defence goes on wearily. A M. Bulwana shell got a good bag on 18th, killing 5 men and wounding 9 and killing and wounding 11 horses of the Natal Carbineers—biggest bag one shell has got yet.

Whiskey is now £5 a bottle and eggs 13 shillings a dozen. *Our big gun ammunition is getting short.*

Boers nightly turn search lights on us evidently fearing attack.

Dec. 22nd.—A shell from Telegraph Hill fell and burst in *my* troop whilst the Regiment was at "Stables," killing 4 of my best horses and wounding Fawcett, King, Mather, Oakes, Hulse, and Sergt. Major Harris (latter had his eye knocked out). Luckily I was on the sick list in camp or I should have got it again, as they were looking at a sick horse in my troop at the time. To-day also a M. Bulwana shell killed 6 men and wounded 10 of the Gloucester Regt. Another knocked down part of Sir George White's house.

Dec. 23rd.—*All the officers* of my squadron being now sick and wounded and my arm getting on well, I return to duty and command the squadron. For this reason Clayton takes over adjutant's duties from Hulse, as in his squadron are plenty of officers, whereas I am quite alone in mine. Rather unfortunate for me!! Matches cost now 5 shillings a dozen.

Dec. 24th to 31st.—A Christmas message received from the Queen by helio from Buller, "I wish you and all my brave soldiers and sailors a Happy (!) Christmas. God protect and bless you all. V.R.I." Blowbank gun has got the range of 5th Lancers' officers' tents and plugs us unmercifully daily.

On 27th a M. Bulwana shell fell in Devons' officers' tents, killing 1 (decapitated) and wounding 7. On 28th the Boers tried an attack, but were easily repulsed with no loss to us.

Fearful rain storms. Klip River suddenly rose, drowning 7 horses of Leicester Mounted Infantry.

The neutral sick camp at Intombie contains 1,200 men and 10 are being buried on an average daily, the result of enteric. Fawcett is at Intombie, his wounded leg being bad, also Hulse, Hooper, and Gwyn—the last 3 with enteric.

Jan. 1st to 5th, 1900.—Eggs are now 23 shillings a dozen and all grub getting very scarce.

Jan. 6th.—A very hot attack by the Boers. They got up to Cæsar's camp and Waggon Hill in the dark and by a ruse rushed the sentries, who were Imperial Light Horse and Volunteers. (N.B.—Regular soldiers should only be allowed to do outpost duty—it is too harassing and important work for Volunteers).

At 1 p.m. the Boers were actually in possession of our sangars on Cæsar's camp and Waggon Hill. The Cavalry Brigade were sent up at a gallop. The fighting was the hottest I have seen, the Boers fighting with the utmost courage. About 4 p.m., 5th Lancers'

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having climbed Cæsar's camp (leaving our horses at the foot of the hill) rushed across the top in a storm and, getting into the sangars on the far side, got in a tremendous fire on the Boers. My squadron was on the right—Mather and Hill were with us. Poor Hill was shot dead through the head and Mather wounded in the leg. The command of the squadron then devolved on me.

The Devons made a magnificent charge on my right and drive the Boers down. I saw many of them fall like shot rabbits as they came rushing past us cheering—a magnificent sight.

We held the Boers until dark, when they were driven back all along the line and retired, losing many men in the retreat. The hottest fire I have been in yet and we had to lie flat down the whole time—the noise was simply fearful and a terrific thunder storm broke over us in the afternoon, drenching everyone. I had orders to remain all night where I was with my squadron and throw out cossack posts. A very gruesome night with dead men lying amidst us and many wounded too, poor fellows. In the morning, I was ordered to take my squadron to Waggon Hill and collect the dead of the Gordon Highlanders (the remainder of that regiment being away on the other side) and a horrible business we found—some of the poor fellows being awful sights. On Sunday afternoon, we officers of the 5th Lancers rode out to attend the funeral of Hill and the other killed. A gruesome business, the men being laid side by side in long trenches—some 80 officers and men were buried there—the others elsewhere. It was a narrow shave of losing Ladysmith, for if the Boers had got possession of Cæsar's Camp and Waggon Hill (and they tried their utmost) it would have been an end to Ladysmith.

The official estimate of Boers losses was 1000 and the British 150 killed and 200 wounded. The Queen wired congratulations, as did people all over the world.

The Civilians, Soldiers, and Sailors of Hongkong wired congratulations to Ladysmith garrison.

7 to 14 Jan.—Nothing much of interest, everything monotonous. Grub bad. Beastly hot. Boers shelling. Two corporals of the 5th Lancers distinguished themselves on patrol one night and were personally thanked by Sir A. Hunter. On 12th, 5th Lancers went out at midnight to capture a Boer picquet, but found they were gone. I am still in command of C Sqdn. Potatoes cost a shilling each. McTaggart at Intombie with enteric.

Jan. 15 to 22.—Same old game going on. Cavalry brigade is again standing to co-operate with Buller at Potgieter's drift on the Tugela. On 16th a shell from Surprise Hill fell, and burst in our mess tent. Luckily Scriven was the only occupant and although the tent was wrecked he got off with a few slight wounds.

We can hear Buller's big gun Spion Kop way.

Matches (wooden) 1s. a box. *Twelve bottles of whiskey offered for sale with an upsset price of £100.* (I suppose the only 12 left in Ladysmith. Eggs are now 2s. each and we have nothing to drink but water.

Jan. 23 to 31.—George White says Cavalry Brigade have more go left in them than any one else. On 27th, a terrific tornado blew away all our tents during the night and wet us and our kit through and through! Pleasures of war!

On 29th, we hear we are again doomed to disappointment in our relief. After Buller's force had taken Spion Kop a Brigadier, for no reason at all, ordered a retirement and the Boers again took possession.

The relief seems as far off as, or further than, ever

No more food left for horses of Cavalry Brigade, so with the exception of 75 per regiment all the horses were on 30th turned out to graze, and cavalry brigade turned into infantry regiments and *armed with rifles and bayonets*!!!

Also our rations are cut down and we daily eat the horses that are grazing. *An unparalleled case in history of a cavalry regiment being dismounted and turned into infantry and having to eat their mounts.* After this war there ought to be in the new cavalry drill-book a drill, "To eat your horses; prepare to dismount!"

The Regiment is now on Picquet duty holding Leicester Post and Cove Redoubt—*a la* infantry.

Feb. 1st to 7th.—I was on Flag of Truce duty. Got half-loaf of bread to-day—great luxury! Carrying on same old game and every one thin and cross! Eggs are now 3s. each. Mealies meal given out. The horse bovril is called "cheveril." Horseflesh is an acquired taste. For lunch one day we had cheveril and the *haunch* of a *mule*.

On 3rd, intimation was received that the Boers intended delivering a last and final attack on Ladysmith, so every night the entire garrison stands to arms. My post is an advanced ration post with 30 men. It is the most advanced post to the N.W. and is surrounded on three sides by the Boers, so we shall have a hot time—especially as we are to hold the post *to the last* and not retire. Following is strength of Fifth Lancers officers now:—

At duty.		Sick.	
King	...	Hulse	(Enteric)
Parker	...	Gwyn	,,
Mather	...	Hooper	,,
Oakes	...	Arkwright	,,
Scriven	...	McTaggart	,,
Jardine	...	Fawcett	(Wound)
Clayton	...		
Willcox	...		
Fraser	...		
Wood	...		
Adams	...		
Waterman (Qr. M.)	...		

Feb. 8th, 9th, 10th.—Last night at Adv. Rat. Post we fired some rounds at a Boer patrol who made off. Rations again reduced. I have run out of last bit of Kaffir tobacco.

February 11th, 12th and 13th.—On night of 13th exchanged shots with Boers at Adv. Rat. Post.

Two Basutos were caught loitering near my post and we sent them under escort to Intelligence Department. Eggs 3/6 each.

February 14th.—Following message has been received by White from Lord Roberts, "With a large "force of mounted troops, very strong in mounted "infantry, artillery and cavalry, I have invaded the "Orange Free State. Tell your troops that I hope the "events of the next few days will enable me to help "Ladysmith."

Eggs are are now £2.8.0 a dozen, four shillings each. We have one a day, the only luxury we get—remainder of our food consisting of horseflesh and occasional trek ox and 3 biscuits, and every other day instead of latter ½ small loaf bread.

February 15th.—Heavy guns heard near Colenso at 2 a.m. and nearly all day.

Boers round us appear much excited—galloping about all over the country and we saw some 100 waggons on the trek.

February 16th, and 17th.—We hear of relief of Kimberley. A great trek of Free State Boers going N.

February 18th, 19th, 20th to 26th.—Buller trying hard to get in and evidently fighting hard. On 19th he heliod: "Have taken Cingola and Monte Christa hills."

Eggs are £2.10. a dozen. I tried to make a pudding out of violet powder and water but the scent spoilt it. Everybody's hopes again dashed to the ground as our rations have been cut down another ¼, which is absolute starvation (1¼ biscuit and a bit of horse a day), tea and coffee given out. The cutting down of rations has circulated all sorts of rumours that Buller has failed again.

February 27th.—Majuba Day, Boers bombarded pretty hotly. Buller seems to be fighting a big battle. Great excitement here as no one knows what is happening.

February 28th.—Buller heliod to-day. "Severely defeated enemy yesterday, they appear to be in retreat, am sending on my cavalry." Also a helio. arrived from Roberts. "Cronje and all his force has surrendered to me, I trust the Government will be pleased to hear of this success on Majuba day." So after 19 years, on the anniversary of that day, the disgrace of Majuba is avenged! And two huge victories credited to the British arms. We saw thousands of Boers and waggons trekking north all day, but from want of horses we were unable to pursue. Such a glorious chance for cavalry has never occurred and we could not take advantage of it because our horses were "inside of us"! Absolutely sickening luck. At 6.15 p.m. Major King and I on Cove Hill saw 3 squadrons of Natal Mounted Volunteers ride into Ladysmith amidst great cheering.

March 1st.—*Relief of Ladysmith.* Relieved at last, after 119 days. Redvers Buller arrived at noon with his staff. A squadron of 13th Hussars rode in early and brought tobacco for our men—a great luxury, for they have had no smoking for some three months. A flying column consisting of Ladysmith Infantry and guns and Buller's cavalry followed the Boers and worried their rear, but for some reason best known to himself Buller ordered no regular pursuit which might have turned the retreat into a rout.

March 2.—*Rest.* No Boer shells buzzing about our ears. Numbers of people from Buller's Camp at Nelthorpe rode in with food for us. Graham, Hamilton, &c., &c., &c., came.

They were surprised to hear we had been living on horses and were rather afraid of their fat horses falling victims, noticing our hungry looks!

In my troop I have only 6 horses, or skeletons, left.

I have my 1st charger alive, the other two are dead. *Men* of my troops have been exceptionally lucky.

March 3rd.—The Ladysmith garrison turned out to welcome Buller's relieving divisions and the enthusiasm was indeed great—Buller's divisions took all day coming in. His men looked the picture of health—hard, fit, sunburnt, and bearded men—such a fine sight I don't suppose has ever been seen—the Jubilee day show not to be compared with it. I did not see a single "boy stripling" in the ranks of his army—all bearded sturdy men.

To me it is incomprehensible that Buller with such a magnificent force could not get in before—something wrong somewhere—the men were all right.

Our poor white skeletons of men were a great contrast to Buller's army, but our fellows have tons of fight left in them yet. The 5th Lancers were cheered by every regiment of the relieving force and many were the jokes about where the horses had gone to, that were showered on us—for we were standing with our rifles and bayonets—an amusing sight I suppose seen for the first time.

March 4.—I borrowed a horse at 4 a.m. and with half a dozen men and 3 waggons went off on a looting expedition to the Surprise Hill Laager, some 5 miles off. The Boers had evidently left in a hurry as everything was in a state of chaos—food even still cooking on fires, &c. I looted some 15 good tents—3 marquees for our mess, a kitchener stove, arm chairs, a spring mattress, &c., &c., &c., and picked up some 100 private Dutch letters which were sent to our Intelligence Department. Some Boer officer had made a fine collection of burst shells fired from Ladysmith and in his hurry to get away left them in his tent, this collection I took possession of! I also seized two rather fine pointers; these dogs I sold for £1.1s. apiece, or rather the men did, for I gave them to the corporal.

Women and even children had lived in the Boer camps, for I saw female "affairs" lying about. Also hundreds of bibles and hymn books.

March 5 and 6.—Rest, and getting provisions and tobacco, mostly presents from people all over the world. The mail, consisting of 4 months letters and papers, has arrived and keeps us busy. How pleasant it is to get news of the world at last. According to the papers, Trooper Shurlock seems to be a great hero and has had some 50 presents sent him; it is most amusing, for since he used his revolver so recklessly at the Elandslaagte charge he has not been allowed to carry one for fear of shooting one of us in front of him by mistake—and the British public call him "a little hero," &c., &c., &c., and presents have been showered in, even one from Lady White's youngest daughter. He is in my troop, and all this will probably turn his head and mean a dose of cells, for he is a cheeky youngster!

March 7th.

Now to close this. The English mail (how funny it sounds talking of the English or any other mail) leaves in half an hour. I cannot attempt to answer yours or mother's letters, for all those written by you since August arrived in a bundle yesterday and it is all I can do to read them—4 months mails. I thank my stars the siege is over. We are going to get an easy for a month to recoup, I believe, and get more horses (having about 10 that are any good left) before being employed again.

Evidently the Ladysmith garrison has earned its laurels, and I think we have deserved them. The 4 cavalry regiments here certainly deserve them for we have had the worst of bad luck in losing our horses. Fawcett, Hooper, Hulse, Gwyn, McTaggart, and Parker, I believe, are being sent home, all except the first having bad enteric, and poor Arkwright is still very bad. Excepting for my wound I have not been on the sick list during the seige, but am woefully thin—a mere skeleton—but plenty of fight left still! Buller is shoving on at once, I believe, to Newcastle to keep the Boers out of Natal, and Bobs has the whole of the other Boer army in front of him, and so I suppose the war will soon be over, in which case I fear the 5th Lancers will have no more fighting. If I see an opportunity I shall go on with some other corps if we do not.

I hear seven new Cavalry Regiments are to be raised. I shall think seriously of asking for a troop and the adjutancy of one.

I'm afraid we shall get no promotion here for some time. Expenses during the seige have not been light, for while there were things to buy to eat I bought them, as I judged it foolish to risk sickness for a little money—my mess bills have run to an average of £19 monthly, which, considering there was nothing but water to drink and latterly only horse and no vegetables or bread, is an enormous sum—an occasional piece of trek ox cost a mint of mony.

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TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

MAFEKING STILL HOLDING OUT.

Shanghai, May 18.

The Boers confirm their reverse at Mafeking on the 12th, and admit that a number of Boers were taken prisoners. Fifty British were killed and wounded.

RUNDLE'S BRIGADE.

Rundle has occupied Mequatling's Nek. Welch and the Yeomanry occupied Ladybrand on the 18th.

ANXIETY FOR MAFEKING.

The anxiety regarding Mafeking is intensifying in consequence of alarming rumours, emanating probably from Boer sources, that the garrison are desperately defending themselves against vehement assault.

METHUEN.

Lord Methuen has reached 12 miles along the Hoopstad Road without seeing the enemy.

HUNTER.

Hunter has occupied Christiana unopposed. The enemy have retired to Klerksdorp.

BOERS ANXIOUS TO SURRENDER.

A number of Boers in Vicksburg and Bethlehem districts are desirous of surrendering.

PRISONERS AT MAFEKING.

The *Cape Argus* says the Commandant Eloff and 90 Boers were taken prisoners at Mafeking.

MAFEKING RELIEVED.

Shanghai, May 19.

Mafeking is relieved.

BRIDGE BLOWN UP.

The Boers have blown up the railway bridge over the Rhenoster River.

(The Rhenoster River is between Kroonstad and Heilbron.—ED. *J.M.*)

PEACE PARTY FORMING.

A peace party is forming among the townspeople in Pretoria.

THE FREE STATE.

The burghers in the Kroonstad District believe that the Boers will offer little or no resistance, and that the commandos are kept together only by Steyn's insistent threats.

MAFEKING.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Mafeking that the siege has been abandoned and that the British relief force has entered the town.

METHUEN.

A later telegram says that Methuen has entered Hoopstad, and that Generals Duprez and Daniels with forty men have surrendered.

THE NORTH-EAST OF THE FREE STATE.

Broadwood has occupied Lindley. Hutton's mounted infantry surprised and captured commandant Botha and 23 others at a place 30 miles to the north-east of Kroonstad.

REJOICINGS IN ENGLAND.

Shanghai, May 20.

The widest enthusiasm was caused in London and the provinces by the receipt of the relief of Mafeking. The houses were decorated with flags, and cheering crowds assembled everywhere. Traffic was disorganized. Telegrams from all parts of the empire report magnificent demonstrations of joy and loyalty.

GENERAL RUNDLE'S OPERATIONS.

Reuter's agent from Maseru telegraphs, under date of the 18th instant, that General Rundle is encamped at Klokolan. Large bodies of Boers are reported to have returned from Bethlehem to oppose Rundle's advance. They occupy a strong position at Vicsburg with very rough country in the rear.

THE PRISONER BOTHA.

The prisoner Botha is apparently not the Commandant General.

MORE ABOUT MAFEKING.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Lourenzo Marques, confirms the news of the relief of Mafeking, which was effected on the 16th instant. Details are eagerly awaited. Everything connected with the relief column has hitherto been kept absolutely secret. Even the name of the Commander is unknown. The War Office has no news of the relief yet. The *Te Deum* was sung at St. Paul's yesterday afternoon. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs were unable to attend, as it was impossible to leave the Mansion House owing to the crowds.

BLOWING UP A TUNNEL.

Shanghai, May 21.

Reuter's Agent telegraphs from Cape Town that the Boers have exploded the tunnel at Laing's Nek.

THE MAFEKING RELIEF.

News from Pretoria, dated the 19th, says that it is officially announced that General Delarey engaged the British relief column at Mafeking successfully during the whole of Wednesday but during the night one of his officers withdrew without the General's knowledge, leaving the way clear for the relief column.

JOHANNESBURG TO BE DEFENDED.

President Kruger has notified the foreign consuls that Johannesburg will be defended and that he disclaims responsibility for persons and property.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS PROPOSED.

President Kruger has proposed to Field Marshal Roberts an exchange of prisoners.

PRESIDENT KRUGER'S ALLEGED PROPOSALS.

The *New York Herald's* correspondent in Lourenzo Marquez says that Kruger has decided to send a message to Roberts requesting the cessation of hostilities and demanding a guarantee for the lives of the colonials serving with the Boers. He will state that, unless his terms are granted, the mines will be exploded and Johannesburg destroyed.

THE MAFEKING COUP.

Shanghai, May 22.

The *Daily News* correspondent, telegraphing from Lorenzo Marquez, under date of the 20th inst., says that the British on the 17th captured the entire Boer force around Mafeking, including the guns.

KLERKSDORP.

The British have occupied Klerksdorp unopposed.

THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING.

Sir Alfred Milner telegraphs to Mr. Chamberlain that Mafeking was relieved on the 17th. The relief column was a composite force of about 2300 under Colonel Mahon.

A WELL-DESERVED PROMOTION.

The Queen has promoted Baden-Powell to be a Major-General.

SUPPLIES FOR THE MAFEKING GARRISON.

Hunter is pushing up the railway with supplies for the Mafeking garrison. The sick and wounded are to be removed to Kimberley.

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

Mr. St. John Brodrick says that the rights of British subjects at Masampo are not limited by the Russo-Korean agreement.

GREAT BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Chamberlain announces that a general agreement has been reached with the Australian delegates according to which the Imperial appeal is fully maintained in every case other than those in which Australian interests are concerned.

THE COMMONWEALTH BILL.

Shanghai, May 23.

The House of Commons has passed the second reading of the Commonwealth Bill.

THE U.S. AND NEUTRALITY.

Mr. Secretary Hay has informed the Boer delegates that President McKinley adheres to the policy of neutrality.

AN AMBUSH.

Buller telegraphs from Newcastle under date of the 22nd that Bethune reports that a Squadron of his Mounted Infantry was ambushed yesterday marching to Newcastle. Very few escaped. The casualties were about 66. Lieuts. Lansom and Capel are missing. Earl Delawarr is wounded. Buller had detached Bethune with 500 men to advance to Ngulu, which had been reported to be evacuated.

THE CHINESE TARIFF.

Mr. St. John Brodrick says that negotiations concerning the revision of the Chinese Tariff will be conducted in Peking.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The Birthday Honours are: Sir Claude Macdonald, Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George. Mr. Cameron, of the Hongkong Bank; Commander Frilford; the British Consul at Newchwang; and Mr. Kinder, of the China Railway, to be Companions of the same Order.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

MAFEKING.

Saigon, May 18.

The capitulation of Mafeking is not confirmed.

THE ITALIAN CHAMBER.

The Italian Chamber will be dissolved in consequence of the obstruction of the minority.

MAFEKING.

Saigon, May 20.

Mafeking was relieved on Thursday. The English, coming from the south, occupied the town after bombarding the Boers' positions. There is great enthusiasm in England.

KRUGER'S PROPOSALS.

Saigon, May 21.

The Pretoria correspondent of the *New York Herald* announces that the Transvaal has asked Lord Roberts for a suspension of hostilities.

THE ITALIAN CHAMBER.

The Italian Chamber has been dissolved. The elections will take place on the 6th of June.

RIOTS IN BERLIN.

Saigon, May 22.

It is announced from Berlin that the populace gave itself up to grave disorders on the occasion of a strike of tramway employés. Two persons were killed, fifty wounded, and a hundred arrested.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

Saigon, May 23.

Parliament has been reopened. The Presidents of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, MM. Fallières and Deschanel, have borne witness to the success of the Exhibition and of the Fête de la Paix et du Travail, and welcomed foreign nations.

FIRE AT HAKODATE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Hakodate, May 18.

At 12.40 o'clock this morning fire broke out in the Hakodate Public Hospital and totally destroyed all the buildings. The patients were rescued uninjured.

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CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 473.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Kt 6	1—K takes Kt
2—P to B 4	2—Any move.
3—Q mates	
	2—P takes P
2—P to B 4	2—Any move
3—Q mates	

PROBLEM No. 475.

Black—Eight Pieces.

White—Ten Pieces.

White mates in three moves.

GAME 592.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

Harry Pillsbury, the American Champion, has been very busy with exhibition playing out in the Western States ever since the middle of December, and reports say that he continues to meet with unvarying success as well as a warm reception wherever he goes. Recently at Lexington, which is close to the home of Jackson W. Showalter, he engaged in a hard series of three exhibition games with the ex-United States Champion. All three games were drawn, a record which speaks well for the present form of the Kentuckian. At Lexington also Pillsbury gave a blindfold seance against twelve boards, of which the following remarkable game is a splendid specimen :—

White—Pillsbury.	Black—Amateur.
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Q4	1—P to Q4
2—P to Q B4	2—P to K3
3—Kt to Q B3	3—P to Q B4
4—P takes Q P	4—K P takes P
5—P takes P	5—B takes P
6—Q takes P	6—Q to Kt3
7—P to K3	7—Kt to KB3
8—B to Kt5 (ch)	8—B to Q2 (a)
9—Q to K5 (ch)	9—B to K2
10—Kt to B3	10—Kt to B 3
11—B takes Kt	11—B takes B
12—Kt to Q 4	12—Kt to Q 2
13—Q takes Kt P	13—B to KB3
14—Q to Kt 3	14—B takes Kt
15—P takes B	15—Castles, Q R
16—P to Q 5	16—Q R to K (ch)
17—B to K 3	17—B to Kt 4 (b)
18—Kt takes B	18—Q takes Kt
19—R to B (ch)	19—Kt to B4
20—P to Q R 3	20—K to Q2 (c)
21—Q to Kt 4 (ch)	21—K to Q
22—Q to Kt 5 (ch)	22—K to Q2
23—Q to B 5 (ch)	23—K to Q
24—Q to B 6 (ch)	24—K to Q 2
25—Q takes P (ch)	25—R to K2
26—R take Kt !	26—Q takes R
27—Q to K 6 (ch)	27—K takes Q
28—P takes R (ch)	28—K to Q3
29—B takes Q (ch)	29—K takes B
30—Castles	30—K to Q3
31—R to K	31—K to K2

32—P to K B 4, and Black resigns.

(a) If 8, Q takes B; 9, Q to K 5 ch and wins.

(b) If 17, Q takes Kt P; 18. Castles, Q takes Kt; 19 K R to Q B, and White should win.

(c) Better was P to R R4

GAME 593.

FRENCH DEFENCE.

Though Tschigorin will probably continue to hold his own in the small tournament between ten Russian players now proceeding at St. Petersburg, he has been defeated by one of Russia's young players—M. Lebedew. The game is appended. It forms another addition to the very large number of failures that have resulted from Tschigorin's move of 2 Q to K 2 in the French Defence. It is strange that the Russian master should persevere with a move which has proved unreliable, especially considering the fact that he has had very large experience of the misfortune which overtakes an obstinate and perverse player. Over and over again he has beaten Steinitz, both in tournament and matches, in the Steinitz Gambit, Evans Gambit, and in the Ruy Lopez, because the ex-champion persisted in lines of play which had proved failures; and yet Tschigorin himself allows his splendid talent for the game to be handicapped by adherence to the same wrong policy.

Game played in the St. Petersburg tournament between Lebedew and Tschigorin :—

White—Tschigorin.	Black—Lebedew.
WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 3
2—Q to K 2	2—Q Kt to B 3
3—Q Kt to B 3	3—P to K 4
4—P to K Kt 3	4—B to B 4
5—B to Kt 2	5—P to Q 3
6—Kt to Q 5	6—Kt to B 3
7—P to Q B 3	7—Kt takes Kt
8—P takes Kt	8—Kt to K 2
6—P to Q 3	9—Castles
10—B to K 3	10—B to Kt 3
11—Castles	11—P to Q B 3
12—P takes P	12—P takes P
13—P to Q4	13—P takes P
14—B takes Q P	14—B takes B
15—R takes B	15—P to Q4
16—Kt to B3	16—Kt to B4
17—Q R to Q	17—Q to R4
18—K to Kt	18—R to Kt
19—Q to B2	19—R to Kt3
20—Kt to Q4	20—Kt takes Kt
21—R takes Kt	21—B to B4!
22—Q takes B	22—Q takes B P
23—Q to B2	23—Q takes R
24—R to Q	24—R takes P (ch)
25—Q takes R	25—Q takes R (ch)
26—Q to B	26—R to Kt (ch)

It will be remembred that Lebedew is one of the players brought into prominence by the Russian National Tournament. He has played this game right well, though of course his task was made easy for him by Tschigorin's persistence in the move of Q to K2, which renders this opening so pointless and inactive for the first player. After ten moves had been played, Black's superior development was manifest. The expedient of castling on the Queen's wing adopted by Tschigorin is always hazardous in close games. By 11, P to Q B 3 Black promptly obtained the open Q Kt file, on which he accumulated an attack with good judgment, culminating in Black's pretty move of 21, B to B4, which gave Lebedew a winning game.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	China 1	Th. May 24
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 2	Th. May 24
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen 3	Th. May 24
Hongkong.....	M. M. Co.	Indus 4	Tu. May 29
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 5	W. May 30
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. May 31
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	M. June 4
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 6	Th. June 7
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. June 9
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 11
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Su. June 17

1 Left Kobe on the 23rd inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 16th inst.
3 Left Kobe on the 23rd inst.
4 Left Shanghai on the 23rd inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 11th inst.
6 Left San Francisco on the 19th instt.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	Th. May 24
Europe, via S'hai .	M. M. Co.	Salazie	F. May 25
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	F. May 25
America	P. M. Co.	China	Sa. May 26
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. May 30
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. May 30
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. May 31
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa June 2
Hongkong.....	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. June 2
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	America Maru	F. June 8
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru.	Tu. June 12
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 11

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, Goodwin, 18th May, —Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 17th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Albion, British steamer, 2,373, John Race, 18th May, —Bona via Singapore, Phosphate.—C. Illies & Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, M. Nishimura, 18th May,—Shanghai via ports, 12th May, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abbey Holme, British steamer, 1,996, Wm. Brown, 19th May,—Galveston via ports, and Kobe, 17th May, Cotton.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Winchester, British steamer, 2,087, G. E. Drew, 20th May,—Pensacola via Singapore, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Aurora, British cruiser, 6,500 (12 guns), Capt. E. H. Bayley, 20th May,—Hongkong via Kobe.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 20th May,—Kobe, 19th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934. T. Murai, 20th May,—Kobe, 19th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 20th May,—Yokkaichi, 19th May, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 20th May,—Niigata, 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 21st May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 19th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agamemnon, British steamer, 4,461, Hugh Nish, 21st May,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 17th May, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yosemite (10), U.S. cruiser, 6,179, Lieut. A. N. Mayer, 21st May,—Uraga Dock, 21st May.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 21st May,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W.W. Greene, 21st May,—Otaru via ports, 16th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibold, 22nd May,—Vancouver, B.C., 8th May, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 22nd May,—Yokkaichi, 21st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 22nd May,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 21st May, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Albatross, U.S. Fish Commission steamer, 638. Com. J. F. Moser, 23rd May,—Cruise.

Queen Adelaide, British steamer, 1,835, F. McNair, 23rd May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st May, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,911, N. Trennt, 23rd May,—Moji, 20th May, Coal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ardandearg, British steamer, 2,090, Kinley, 23rd May,—New York via ports, and Hongkong, 16th May, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 23rd May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 3rd May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 18th May,—Otaru via ports, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 18th May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hamburg, German steamer, 6,590, P. Lüneschloss, 19th May,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,047, W. E. Filmer, 19th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu. Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Hakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,692, F. L. Sommer, 19th May,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 19th May,—Kobe, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 19th May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tarbo, British Tank steamer, 2,659, Fairfield, 19th May,—Kobe, Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Gisela, Austrian steamer, 2,640, F. Mosca, 19th May,—Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Bennington, (6) U.S. gunboat, 1,710, Com. Arnold, 19th May,—Manila.

Concord (6), U.S. gunboat, 1,710, Com. S. M. Ackley, 19th May,—Manila.

Newark (12), U.S. Flagship, 4,098, Capt. McCalla, 19th May,—Nagasaki.

Thordis, Norwegian steamer, 2,415, Wilhelmsen, 20th May,—Muroran, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Chingwo, British steamer, 2,517, H. C. Harris, 20th May,—London via ports, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Benlarig, British steamer, 1,452, R. Kroble, 21st May,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 21st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934. T. Murai, 21st May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 21st May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, Goodwin, 22nd May, —Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Wheeling (6), U.S. gunboat, 1,000, Com. A. R. Conden, 22nd May,—Unalaska.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 22nd May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 22nd May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 22nd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Tsuji, 23rd May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 23rd May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 23rd May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Idzumi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,999, M. J. Curnow, 23rd May,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Abbey Holme, British steamer, 1,996, Wm. Brown, 23rd May,—Vladivostock, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Winchester, British steamer, 2,087, G. E. Drew, 23rd May,—Vladivostock via Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 23rd May,—Moji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Miss Anna Sunatsuka, Mrs. Chen, Mr. Chi, Mr. Liv, Mr. Pai, Mr. Chen Hsun, Miss Chen, Mr. Chang Pio and 2 children, Mr. Woaf, Mr. I. Ishiguro, Mr. and Mrs. S. Fukuzawa, Mr. K. Oku, Mr. U. Nakagawa, Mr. Sonosawa, and Mr. Y. Hiraoka, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Idzumi Maru*, from Hongkong via ports :—Rev. J. Woodberg, Mr. and Mrs. Junkin and 2 children, and Rev. B. Y. Wong, in cabin ; Mr. and Mrs. Ito, and Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki, in second class ; 20 Chinese, and 355 Japanese, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, B.C. :—Mr. W. Hilliers, Mr. Hirota, Mr. Arita, Mrs. A. S. Palmer, Mr. G. D. Morgan and servant, Mr. E. C. Baugher, Mr. S. Weiss, Mr. R. Arai, wife and child, Mr. G. Isobe, Mr. D. W. Cory and Mrs. Cory, Mr. J. Coakley, Dr. F. Ferguson, Mrs. F. E. Marshall, Mr. Thos. E. Kirby, Mr. J. B. Millet, Mr. C. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. G. Syme Thomson, and Judge Wilkinson, in cabin. For Kobe :—Mr. A. S. Anton, and Mr. T. Yamanobe, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Mr. A. Knight Gregson, Lieut. and Mrs. V. Kell, Mr. P. Stephens, wife and child, Miss E. B. Thompson, Mr. P. Ascent and wife, and Mr. W. H. Drummond, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Mr. H. A. Bieden, Mrs. G. F. Bailey, Mr. J. W. Ganong, Mr. J. Burns, Mr. W. W. Whyte, and Mr. W. H. Culver, in cabin ; 8 intermediate ; 98 in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports :—Mr. E. H. Hartley, Mr. Bhicaji, Miss M. M. Gale, Mrs. J. Kohama, Mr. E. J. Barcley, Mrs. A. Hondo, Mr. G. H. Wheller, Mr. H. E. Moon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Y. Howe, Mr. Wong Chuck Nam, Mr. Chun Shee Moy, Mr. Chan Ping Sing, Mr. Chan Hang Chun, Mr. Kwong Yong Song, Master May Koon Yung, Mr. An Cheong, and Mr. Lum Chu and infant, in cabin ; 20 Chinese, and 2 Japanese, in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mr. and Mrs. C. H. McCready, Miss Nellie McCready, Master Paul McCready, and Mrs. C. G. Grant, in cabin. For Nagasaki :—Mrs. A. Slavin, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Com. F. M. Wise, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Mrs. G. S. Mackinnon, Mr. Harry A. Burke, Dr. A. S. Lee, Miss Florence Woodall and Mr. W. C. Dart, in cabin ; Mr. C. Kaufmann, Mr. A. B. Israel, Mrs. E. Hawkins, Mrs. J. W. Calloway, and Mr. L. Apay, in second class.

DEPARTED.

Per German steamer *Hamburg*, for Europe via ports :—Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth and son, Consul-General Ritter, Baron Hartogensis, Mr. F. Harold, Mr. W. Schmadecke, Mr. John Hall, Mr. A. Groenes, Mr. O. Bergmann, Mr. L. T. Wilkinson, Mr. W. Vehling, Capt. and Mrs. Thomsen, Mr. H. Bethell, Mr. M. Blumer, Mr. J. L. Jensen, Dr. Haberer, Mr. Nobara, Mr. W. Cox, Mr. E. C. Thibaudier, Mr. F. R. Bleifus, Mr. Fritz Bleifus, Mr. R. Becker, Mr. E. Wismer, Miss Larssen, Mr. W. H. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. Clement, Mr. and Mrs. Raspe, Mr. G. E. Cardozos, and 7 American sailors, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hongkong Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mrs. E. M. Barber, Miss H. M. Benedict, Mr. Kure Bunso, Capt. W. T. Burwell, U.S.N., Rev. W. L. Curtis, Mrs. W. L. Curtis and servant, Miss Forster, Mr. A. Hockwald, Mr. A. M. Henry, Miss Henry, Miss Edith Henry, Mr. N. Kunogi, Mr. J. D. Ludwig, Mr. Robert M. Mathias, Mr. Alderman J. J. Meakin, Mr. W. F. Mitchell, Miss Mitchell, Mr. R. H. Morley, Mr. D. McIntyre, Mrs. D. McIntyre, Mr. H. Motoda, Mrs. D. Olden, Mr. H. T. Oxnard, Mr. K. Okazaki, Miss Ricke, Miss Carrie Ricks, Mr. O. H. Savage, Mrs. O. H. Savage, Miss Hazel Savage, Mr. S. Takahashi, Mr. H. S. Tittle, Mr. K. Tange, Mr. H. Wada, and Mr. Chow Chock Wan and servant, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakata Maru*, for London via ports :—Prof. M. Toyonaga, Mr. W. Toyonaga, Major T. Takenouchi, I.J.A., Mr. Philip Heath, Mr. M. Yuasa, and Mr. Matsumoto, in cabin ; Mr. K. Yoshida, in second class.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, for Hongkong via ports :—Mr. Jas. Whittall, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hunt, Mr. Pohr, Mr. Yoshida, Prof. E. H. Sharpe, Mr. O. J. S. Lefroy and native servant, Mr. Gamburg, Mr. J. Selles, Mr. R. L. Hubbard, Mrs. J. T. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Kingdon, 2 children and amah, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Bertie, Mr. H. Gillard, and Mr. Page, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, for Shanghai via ports :—Col. and Mrs. A. Adachi and child, Mr. A. B. Glover, Mrs. D. Russell, Mrs. Greene, Mr. M. Uyeki, Mr. S. Ugawa, and Mrs. Masu Yoshioka, in cabin ; Mrs. Yone Yamaguchi, Mr. S. Kobayashi, Mr. M. Otobe, 3 gentlemen and 3 ladies of Chinese Consulate at Yokohama, in second class.

SILK SHIPPERS.

The following are the silk shippers per T.K.K. S.S. *Hongkong Maru*, which sails for San Francisco to-day :

	Bales.
Bavier & Co.	20
Vivanti Bros.	10
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	152
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	85
Doshin Kaisha	28
Total	295

Raw silk shipped per steamer *Hamburg* :—

	Option.	Italy.	F'nce.	N'saki.
Nabholz & Co.	10	—	—	—
The Robison Silk Trading Co., Ltd.	—	20	—	—
Longin & Co.	—	—	30	—
Brown & Co.	—	—	—	10
Total	10	20	30	10

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is still almost complete inactivity in all lines, but there are no great reshipments, and the tone is a shade better. A large quantity of cotton turned up unexpectedly by the steamer *Winchester*, which had been almost given up.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb.	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	2.450 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 tc 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market practically unchanged.

American	$2.90
Russian	2.80
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady at last quotations.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.40 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	7.90 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Considerable business in old silk for Europe. Fine sizes are scarce and comparatively dear, but full sizes are cheap and move freely. The New York market seems dead, but Lyons is taking full sizes filatures, while the demand for fine sizes is too great for supplies. Re-reels are scarce and there is scarcely any Kakeda.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	—
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	950 to 960
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	900 to 910
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	880 to 890
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	—
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	860 to 870
Common—Coarse	None
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	
Re-reels—No. 1½	
Re-reels—No. 2	
Re-reels—No. 3	
Kakedas—Extra	
Kakedas—No. 1	
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

Prices are down, and some business has consequently been done in Kikai Kibiso. Nothing done so far in Noshi, but there is some medium quality Joshu on the market. Prices, however, are not as yet low enough to tempt buyers. Good quality generally is scarce.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	150 to 155
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	145 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	95 to 100
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	90 to 92½
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	125 to 135
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	115 to 120
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	None
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	

TEA.

The market is active, and large purchases have been made, the demand being chiefly for high grades. There is now a stock of about 1,000,000 catties.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	38 to 40
Choice	36 to 37
Finest	34 to 35
Fine	32 to 33
Good Medium	30 to 31
Medium	28 to 29
Good Common	No stock
Common	

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 23.

Japan Breweries changed hands at *yen* 160. Langfeldts are obtainable at *yen* 105. Engine and Iron Works have sellers at *yen* 220. Oriental Hotels new ordinary and preference shares can be had at *yen* 40. Helms can be had at par.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	220 Sellers.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	150 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	105 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	160 Sales.

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TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, May 22.

BANKS.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	$310 % prem.	B.
National Bank of China, Limited	28	Sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited	54	Buyers.
North China Insurance Company, Limited	Tls. 165	Buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	$295	Sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	80	Sellers.

SHIPPING.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited	30½	Buyers.
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	50	Sellers.

MINING.

Punjom Mining Company, Limited	6¼	Sellers.
Raub A'lian Gold Mining Company, Limited	54	Buyers.

DOCKS, WHARFS AND GODOWNS.

Hongkong & W'poa Dock Company, Limited	490 % prem.	Sa.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ld.	87	Buyers.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited	125½	Buyers.
H'phrey's Estate & Finance Company, Limited	11	Sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	126	Sales.
Green Island Cement Co., Limited	30½	Sellers.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS,
Stock and Share Broker,
75, Main Street.

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, May 23.

Breweries are steady at *yen* 160. Engine and Iron Works are obtainable at *yen* 217.50. Oriental Hotels, new shares can be had at *yen* 45. Helms have sellers at par. Laundries are offering at par. Langfeldts can be had at *yen* 105.

Debentures—Y. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Marusan Breweries were sold to-day at *yen* 41.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	217.50	S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	160	Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240	B.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85	Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	150	Sa.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	500	Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal	
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215	B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9	B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105	S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50	S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50	S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110	St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108	Sa.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	[illegible]	Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	[illegible]	Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92	Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	40	S.
Oriental Hotel, preference shares, ¥25	40	S.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 23.

No alteration in silver or discount from London and rates remain steady.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0⅝
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0¾ @ [illegible]
— — 6 months' sight	2/0¹ @⅞
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	260½ @ 59½
— — 6 months' sight	262 @ 61
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾ @ ½
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74¼
— Private 10 days' sight	75
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London)	27⅝

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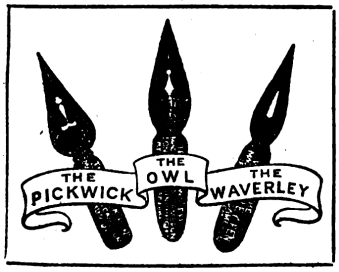

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1900.

BIRTH.

On the 31st May, at No. 90-B, Yamashita-cho, the wife of R. PFISTER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On May 24th, 1900, at H.B.M's. Consulate, Yokohama, by the Reverend E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., in the presence of H. A. C. Bonar, Esquire, Consul, MAY, second daughter of Charles D. Moss, Chief Clerk and Acting Registrar of H.B.M's. Court for Japan, to HERBERT, second son of Baldwin H. Bent, of Goodworth House, Andover, Hants.

Le 28 Mai, 1900, au Consulat de France, Hankow (Chine), de Mademoiselle GILBERTE JUBIN, de Yokohama à Monsieur JEAN PONTUS, Secretaire de la Municipalité française à Hankow.

DEATHS.

On the 20th May, at Stratford Lodge, St. Margaret's, Middlesex, FRANCES ANNE WALTER, in her 73rd year. Deeply regretted.

On May 31st, at 6.30 a.m., at 276 Settlement, Yokohama, J. M. SCOTT, aged 65.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The latest news is that Pretoria has surrendered; Kruger is a fugitive; Lord Roberts is dictating the terms of peace, —and the war is over.

By order of the Imperial Governor of Kiaochow the ports of Hongkong, Canton, Manila, Hoihow, and all Formosan ports have been declared infected with plague.

THE Cabinet is said to have resigned.

THE recent tragedies in Söul have caused a good deal of excitement in Japan.

THE condition of affairs around Peking has caused the Foreign Powers to land marines.

SHANGHAI has sent a third remittance, amounting to Rs. 45,000, to Calcutta for the Indian Famine Fund.

TELEPHONE exchanges will be working at Sendai, Kanagawa, Hiroshima, and Kumamoto from the 1st June.

A CHINAMAN recently in Hongkong, whilst attempting to catch a rat, was bitten on the hand. Eight days later the man succumbed to plague.

THE Department of Agriculture and Commerce is now preparing to despatch about a dozen inspectors to China on a tour of investigation into the actual condition of Chinese trade.

MR. MIWO MOTOHARU, Editor of the *Keihin Shimbun*, published in Yokohama, has been sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment and $10 fine on a charge of libel.

H.R.H. PRINCE ABHKARA of Siam, who was for some time in Her Britannic Majesty's Navy, has invented a new submerged torpedo-tube, which the Admiralty is said to have accepted from him.

A REGULATION for the inspection of summer beverages, a matter formerly in the hands of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, will shortly be issued by the Central Sanitary Association of the Home Department.

IT is reported that considerable ill-feeling has been engendered between the French and Russians at Hankow, owing to the interference of the latter with the road of access to the French Consular compound.

WE learn that on Sunday last, as Dr. Koch was driving along the Race Course road, the horse was startled by something and collided with a telephone pole. The animal was killed on the spot but the Doctor escaped injury.

IT appears that Lord Roberts' hobby is collecting horseshoes. He picked up one on the day that he entered the Orange Free State, a second the day before Cronje surrendered, and now a Portrush gentlemen has sent him a third.

SERITA (22), Hirano (28), and Sugiyama (23), three coolies, have been arrested by the Water Police and charged with having stolen from the *Hongkong Maru* on the 18th ult. certain Chinese fabrics, valued at *yen* 500. The men pawned the goods in Matsukagecho Itchome.

THE *Jiji* publishes a telegram from Nagasaki to the effect that the Russian steamer *Baikal* (4,670 tons) went ashore at Hirato at one o'clock a.m. on the 25th ult. Some damage has been done to her bottom, but the cargo and passengers are safe.

THE total quantity of champagne forwarded from the champagne district for the 12 months ending 31st March last amounted to 28,454,436 bottles. Stocks in casks and bottles equal 1,175,488 hectolitres, or about 146,936,000 bottles, considerably over five years' supply at present rate of consumption.

A VEIN of excellent coal has been discovered about 70 *li* from the Chang Yi gate of Peking, at a place called Tai-ping-ti. It lies very close to the surface and is easily obtained, and the villagers there have used it considerably and sold it in small quantities. It is said to be a smoke-less coal.

THE Russian steamer *Ussuri*, which has become a total wreck off Ikutsukishima, near Nagasaki, was formerly the N.D.L. steamer *Hohenzollern*, and was purchased by the railway company for service between Port Arthur and Vladivostock.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire occurred at Wuhu on 8th May when the office of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company was burned to the ground. The fire broke out in a godown and a strong wind blowing carried the flames to the offices. In one of the godowns was stored a lot of the valuable furniture of the late Viceroy Li Han-chang.

THE stranded German barque *Adelaide*, which went ashore at Jogashima on Monday last, and her cargo of 1900 tons Cardiff coal, were sold at auction by Messrs. Eyton & Pratt on Thursday morning. The coal was sold first and was knocked down to the Uchiyama Shokai for *yen* 5,400; the ship, an iron one, being sold with all her rigging and apparel, to Mr. Sasao for 10,000 *yen*.

IN the Chiho Saibansho, Yokohama, on Tuesday, the case brought by Otake Mohei against Messrs. Wonch & Co., for delivery of some 7,000 cases of alcohol alleged to have been purchased by plaintiff on March 23rd, 1898, was resumed. Evidence was given that a *banto* of the firm made the contract without the firm's knowledge. Judgment was given for the defendant.

AN United States War Office return issued on the 13th April states that the American military forces in the Philippines number 63,585 officers and men, of whom 30,847 are volunteers. General Miles, Commander-in-Chief, in the course of an interview at Philadelphia, expressed considerable doubt as to whether it would be possible to reduce that large army in the course of the next few months.

ENERGETIC measures are being taken against pirates at Woosung. The *Sin Wan Pao* says that about noon on the 19th ult. the native water-police and marines at Woosung succeeded in capturing three junks in which were some eighty robbers, both male and female, and several children. A large quantity of booty was also found. The prisoners were all sent to the Pooshan Magistracy for trial.

MR. H. PINCKNEY, who will be remembered in Yokohama, has won the Lawn Tennis Championship of Hongkong, defeating Major Griffin. The first set was closely contested, and, though Mr. Pinckney took the first two games, his opponent reached 4-3. Mr. Pinckney then won the set by taking the remaining games. In the second set he did even better, running to 5-1 and winning ultimately by 6-3. Rain then came on but the match was played out, and Mr. Pinckney took the third set and with it the Championship.

THE clamour against the establishment of minor banks is increasing, remarks the *Jimmin*. During January this year 23 new institutions were inaugurated with a capital of 1,452,000 *yen*; in February 29 more were added with a capital of 2,965,000; in March 144 were started with a capital of 635,000, and by April 30 were called into existence with a capital of 4,189,000 *yen*. Thus during four months new banks were established numbering 226 in all, their gross capital amounting to 10,271,000 *yen*—an average of only 45,000 *yen* per bank. Twenty are in Tokyo, 16 in Nagano, several in Chiba and one only in Osaka.

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THE WAR.

Thursday, May 31.

The fighting of the Boers at present indicates demoralization. They do not make a stand anywhere. Again and again the same farce have been enacted; an announment of desperate resistance at some particular place and a complete collapse when the crucial moment came. Since Driefontein, the last combat on the way to Bloemfontein, the advance of a British force can not be said to have been resolutely resisted on even one occasion. At first there was to be a stand at Brandfort where the Doorn Spruit offers a strong line of defence. The Boers had plenty of time—a full month—to make their dispositions there. But on the approach of Lord Roberts they retired at once. Then Kroonstad was declared to be the seat of Government, and rumour spoke of strong entrenchments being prepared there. But again the enemy dispersed on the appearance of Lord Roberts' van. Then Heilbron became the citadel, and there a slight show of resistance was made, the capture of the place costing 75 casualties. Next the world was told of a great concentration on the Vaal River, and of a desperate resolve on the part of the Transvaalers to make a Spartan stand on the frontier of their country. But Roberts crossed the Vaal without difficulty. Then a new line of concentration—the Klip River, 24 miles north of the Vaal—was announced. But once more the advance of Roberts' army has not been sensibly checked. At first these retreats might be interpreted to imply some ulterior strategical purpose; but the only explanation they now suggest is that the Boers recognise the fruitlessness of resistance. There is just a possibility that they may put their backs to the wall at Johannesburg, for the capture of that town will mean the loss of their supplies of gold. But Roberts is forcing the pace so rapidly that unless their dispositions are already fully taken, they will probably do as they have done at every point along the road from Bloemfontein to the Klip. Such invertebrate tactics can not have President Kruger's endorsement. They suggest that the control has entirely slipped from his hands, and that the Burghers are thinking of surrender rather than of resistance. It is very doubtful, we think, whether they will even hold Pretoria resolutely, though it offers splendid opportunities for defense. They must know that if they allow themselves to be invested there, they will merely defer the end and bring fresh suffering on themselves. Still we know what these men can do when they plant their feet firmly, and the record they established at the beginning of the war forbids us to assume that no final struggle will be made.

The battleship *Goliath*, Capt. L. E. Wintz, arrived at Sheerness on 17th April from Chatham, on her way to China to relieve the *Victorious*. The *Goliath* was to embark her War Department stores, adjust compasses and carry out her commissioned trial before taking her departure from Sheerness.

UNREST IN CHINA.

Monday, May 28.

It appears that the Foreign Representatives addressed a joint note to the Peking Government with reference to the disturbance caused by the "Boxers," and that the Government, alarmed by the prospect of foreign troops being summoned to the capital, gave solemn assurances that strong and effective measures should be adopted forthwith. In pursuance of that promise they sent a small force to arrest the leader of the rioters at whose hands the Roman Catholics had suffered, but the result of this perfunctory measure was that some seventy of the soldiers, including their captain, were killed, and the Boxers received a fresh access of confidence. The people have now begun to be seriously alarmed, and numbers of them are flocking to Peking for refuge. These incidents seem to have roused the Authorities to decisive action. General Nich has received orders to lead a thousand troops against the Boxers, but as the latter are said to muster 3,000 strong, it is by on means certain that this step will prove effectual.

Tuesday, May 29.

It is not easy to credit the latest alarm circulated in China, namely, that a great movement is on foot having for its object the crushing of all foreigners except the Russians and their expulsion from the territories leased by them. Peking is said to be the headquarters of the movement; at its head are the Empress Dowager, Prince Ching, Prince Tuan, father of the heir-apparent, as well as other notables; it is believed to have an army of seventy-two thousand men, and the Boxers are to move in the van of its columns. The Peking correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* is responsible for the story. He justly apprehends that it will be received by the public with some incredulity, but he expresses a hope that his warning may not be dismissed as altogether idle. Indeed he goes so far as to allege that all Chinese of the upper classes have cognisance of the plot, and he quotes a conversation between the Empress Dowager and a censor named Wang, in which her Majesty is represented as questioning Wang about the genuineness of the Boxers' anti-foreign sentiment, and Wang as re-assuring her Majesty on the subject, and promising that, when the time comes, he will have no objection to leading the Boxers himself against the "foreign devils." To us this story seems to be made out of whole cloth. It is impossible to imagine that the Empress Dowager and her chief advisers entertain any such wild scheme, and when we hear, as we have just heard, that the Boxers are slaughtering imperial troops sent against them, we are driven to conclude that the Peking correspondent of the Shanghai journal has been unwittingly responsible for a sensational romance. If China be really seething with anti-foreign designs as some writers suggest, her condition is distinctly perilous, but history does not show that her rulers have ever been so short-sighted as is now suggested. Undoubtedly they must feel very bitterly the encroachments of which their country has been the victim during recent years, and they must indignantly resent the perpetual attempts made to exploit her natural resources in foreign interests. But experience must have dearly taught them the strength of Foreign States as well as their own military and naval impotence. For many years they have found safety in taking advantage of the mutual jealousies of Foreign States, and it is inconceivable that they should now unite the latter against them by adopting a policy of general hostility. But in truth we are treating the story too seriously.

Thursday, May 31.

There is no denying the gravity of the situation in China. Owing to the incompetence of the Authorities, or their supineness, the riotous Boxers have gradually made their way to the capital, and, by cutting the railway and thus isolating Peking, have created a situation of which ugly advantage may be taken before help can arrive. The distance from Tientsin to Peking is 90 miles, and as the troops that may be landed at the former place are marines, who, if they proceed to Peking, must travel on foot, carrying their own supplies, several days will be required for them to reach their destination. The disquieting question is, what use the Boxers will make of that interval. Rumour says that they are only three thousand strong, but as they have raised an anti-foreign flag, and as they enjoy the prestige of initial successes, we may take it for granted that their numbers would speedily swell to tens of thousands for the purpose of a raid upon the Foreign Legations and the foreign residences in Peking. On the other hand, the Government undoubtedly has ample forces at its disposal to crush these insurgents. It has hitherto treated them with almost contemptuous *insouciance*, but it can not afford to do so any longer, as several foreigners were among those assailed by the Boxers in their latest enterprise against a railway station, and a French citizen is said to have been wounded. We do not think that any credence should be placed in the rumour of official complicity with the Boxers, but, unless the Government in Peking shows efficient resolution at this juncture, it will lay itself open to all kinds of exactions. Already, indeed, a record has been established out of which many complications may grow. Japan is always at hand to furnish troops should the *émeute* assume dimensions seriously threatening foreign life and property. About 30 men have already been landed in Tientsin from the gunboat *Atago*; a man-of-war has been dispatched from Yokosuka, and doubtless the British, French, and German squadrons will furnish men as rapidly as possible. But, owing to the cutting of the railway, there must be an interval of suspense.

In view of the present situation in China the following notes from China papers are of interest:—

The *P. and T. Times* gives news of another fierce attack on Catholic converts in the vicinity of Pao-ting-fu, at a village called Kao-lo, 30 *li* from Tsing Hsien, and also at another place some 10 *li* from Tang-shu. No authentic details are as yet to hand, but there seems no room for doubt that at least sixty Christians have been killed. Some versions state that the Christians were holding service, when the chapel was attacked by Boxers, the doors fastened, and the building fired. This would easily account for the great loss of life. Others say that though a chapel was burnt, there was no one inside it. That a lamentable loss of life has in some way occurred at the hands of the Boxers is, however, quite certain, and the *Times* is glad to hear that the French Admiral is expected immediately. It hopes that the French Government will be roused to take very definite action in this matter now, and not pass it over. News is also to hand that the rioters are keeping things moving in Shantung. A native Christian was first killed at Kao-mi; then the German railway engineers were driven back; and lastly the Magistrate at Kao-mi has been murdered. They are evidently doing their best to test how far they can go unpunished.

A large number of women are, says the same

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paper, joining the Boxers, and they profess to have second sight and prophesy. They have traced lost property and such like things, and great faith is consequently felt in them.

The Russian minister at Peking, according to the *N.-C. Daily News*, gave a grand banquet on the evening of the 11th instant at the Russian Legation, to which were invited nearly all the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên, only those—one or two—who were known to be friendly to Great Britain being absent from the function. It is reported that the banquet was held to "rejoice over the completion of a secret understanding between the two empires in anticipation of certain movements of other Foreign Powers over the Boxer agitations." This explanation comes from reliable Chinese sources at Peking, who also state that the alleged secret understanding between Russia and China has made the former Power paramount at Peking, for the present at any rate.

Friday, June 1.

Japanese newspapers are practically unanimous in the view they take of the situation in China. They urge that Japan should combine with all the other Treaty Powers to insist upon the adoption of some effective measures by the Peking Government for the preservation of law and order. None of the leading Tokyo journals endorse the suspicion ventilated by foreign local papers that the Chinese Government not only is in sympathy with the Boxers but actually aids and abets them. That suspicion is nothing more than another illustration of the invariable tendency existing in some quarters to manufacture sensations out of the flimsiest materials. The Empress Dowager, in one of her proclamations, adopted language which, though its purpose was merely conciliatory, might possibly be construed in the sense of an indirect approval of the Boxers' motives. But any misgivings suggested by that document have now been dispelled by the latest edict, in which the Boxers and their doings are unequivocally denounced. We observe also, with satisfaction, that not one Japanese journal thinks it worth while even to notice the wild rumour circulated by a Shanghai journal that Russia is intriguing with China to promote the present disturbances. Publicists making such reckless statements must be classed with agitators of the worst type. Russia is sending a man-of-war from Tientsin to cooperate with the French, German, and English vessels which are on their way thither, and with the American and Japanese ships which, being there already, have landed marines for defensive purposes. The *Kasagi* (4,978 tons displacement), a second-class cruiser, has also been despatched from Yokosuka, with orders to steam direct to Tientsin, and as her speed is 23 knots, she will probably reach her destination on the 2nd or 3rd instant. Meanwhile the railway has been restored, and the Chinese Government, which appears to be now quite willing to avail itself of foreign assistance in quelling the rioters, is expected to run special trains for the purpose of carrying troops to Peking from Tientsin. We may be quite sure that Russian marines will contribute to the restoration of order as frankly and efficiently as any other troops. Of course it would be unwarrantable to conclude that these troubles will be settled without leaving any permanent mark on the situation. The Treaty Powers can not consent to have their nationals constantly exposed to such alarms and perils, and it may be considered necessary to go beyond the mere guarantee of the Chinese Government and to provide some effective and independent means of preserving good order. It is obviously in such incidents and their sequels that the danger to the integrity of the Chinese empire lies. There is still, we believe, a long interval to be traversed before the Treaty Powers agree to divide China into districts within which each of the Powers shall make itself responsible for the effective discharge of police functions. But that is the finale towards which events are evidently tending.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Monday, May 28.

Some very painful incidents have occurred in Sōul, and it appears possible that they may lead to troublesome complications. Our readers are aware that An, formerly a refugee in Japan, lately returned to Sōul and gave himself up, the result being that merely nominal sentence of exile was passed on him. It is considered certain that the Japanese Representative interested himself actively in An's behalf, and that the latter owed his immunity from severe punishment chiefly to that intervention. Encouraged, doubtless, by the result of An's surrender, Kwŏng, who also had been concerned in the affair of 1895, left his place of refuge in Japan and repaired to Sōul. Unfortunately for him no diplomatic influence had been exercised in his behalf, and, further, a new chief of police had just come into office who believed in the antiquated methods of administering the law. Kwŏng was seized and put to the lorture, with the result that he made various confessions about the incidents connected with the murder of the Queen, implicating An, among others. An was forthwith apprehended and also put to the torture—torture so severe that he was at one moment reported to have died under it, the unconsciousness produced by his suffering having borne a close resemblance to death. Many other arrests were made, and vigorous search has been commenced for persons implicated by the confessions of An and Kwŏng. Meanwhile, the Minister of War has memorialized the Throne that the extreme penalty of the law should be exacted in An's case, and the other Ministers of State, impelled by zeal which is, perhaps, easily explicable, are understood to be urging similar inclemency. But rumour alleges that some pledge about the safety of An had been given to the Japanese Representative, and that, on learning of the above incidents, Mr. Hayashi immediately sought an interview with the Emperor. The Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, undertook to make representations to the Throne, and Mr. Hayashi left the matter in his hands, entrusting to him a representation containing six counts. It is not considered probable, however, that the intervention of Japan will effect much in this instance.

The murder of the Queen of Korea was such a hideous crime, so brutal in its nature and so merciless in the manner of its execution, that no one can sympathise with those concerned in it, whatever the sufferings it brings upon them. It is nevertheless shocking to think that in a country which has opened relations with foreign nations, which admits Christian missionaries to its capital, and which enjoys the privilege of associating with civilized peoples, these barbarous methods of administering the law should still prevail. Interference in the domestic affairs of a state is to be avoided as far as possible by foreign Governments, but it can scarcely be denied even by the most rigid stickler for international purism that when the judicial officials of a State are empowered to mangle the bodies of its subjects in order to force from them confessions which, being wholly untrustworthy under the circumstances, may destroy the innocent as well as the guilty, the interests of humanity warrant intervention by civilized Powers. Different customs suit different people, but judicial torture can not be right under any conditions and we can not see why a country which made such great sacrifices as England did for the purpose of abolishing slavery, should suffer incidents like those described above to occur in the Korean capital. If Japan put her foot down firmly to check such inhuman abuses, she would win the applause of the civilized world.

Some little excitement has been caused by a charge of thefts of lumber in Ulneung Island, which has been preferred against Japanese subjects. A commission of inquiry has been appointed, consisting of Japanese and Korean officials, and is now engaged conducting investigations.

A French citizen—whose transliterated name we can not decipher—has been appointed adviser to the War Office in Sōul. It is stated that the Russo-Chinese Bank has opened a branch in Sōul.

Tuesday, May 29.

A building has been rented in the vicinity of the Russian Legation in Sōul for the use of the branch which the Russo-Chinese Bank is about to establish there.

Mr. Pablov is reported to be about to make a visit to Port Arthur. His journey is spoken of as "secret," but why that adjective should be applied to it we fail to understand.

It is reported from Sōul that the Korean Government has not made any response to the remonstrance addressed to it by the Japanese Representative on the subject of An's being put to the torture. A telegram published by the *Jiji Shimpo* says that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who charged himself with the duty of delivering Mr. Hayashi's protest, is suspected of having suppressed it. Meanwhile the unfortunate prisoner is said to be in a very bad way. He was already suffering from *kakke* at the time of being put to the torture, and, since his relatives are not allowed to convey wholesome food to him, his condition is decidedly precarious.

Wednesday, May 30.

The horrible tragedy just enacted at Sōul must shock the civilized world. There is, of course, a bare possibility that the death of An was due to the rigour of prison confinement and the pain of anxiety aggravated by a disease from which he was already suffering. But it is scarcely credible that these causes could have operated so quickly to produce a fatal result. We are driven to the conclusion that a man has been most barbarously tortured to death in the capital of a country holding relations with civilized nations. What aggravates the tragedy, if anything could aggravate it, is that the Emperor of Korea is understood to have pledged his word to the Japanese Representative in Sōul that An should be neither tortured nor executed. There is a homely old Chinese proverb which compares the word of a Sovereign to perspiration (*ringen ase*): once uttered, it can never be recalled. The Emperor of Korea now stands before the world a perjured monarch, unworthy to be again believed. His Majesty, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs who promised that the remonstrance of the Japanese Representative should be presented to the Throne, are said to be disposed

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to make a scape-goat of the Chief Judge upon whom the duty of examining Kwŏng and An devolved. A miserable subterfuge of that kind is, perhaps, their only possible excuse. But it is an obvious falsehood. There can not have been any ignorance of what was in progress at the Department of Justice. The Emperor and all his Ministers knew perfectly well that a man's flesh was being torn and his bones crushed for the purpose of compelling him to confess a crime which he might or might not have committed. They refused to permit the examination of the corpse by a foreign physician, and they winked at the fact that the Chief Judge, without waiting for a warrant from the Throne, ordered the immediate decapitation of Kwŏng and An, though torture had failed to wring a confession from the latter, and though the executioner had to perform his office on a corpse in the case of one of the men at least. The whole incident is an abominable outrage. There is no law of morality or principle of expediency that requires the civilized world to stand a silent spectator of such horrors. We earnestly hope that Japan will not relax her efforts to contrive some effectual guarantee against any repetition of crimes so shocking. Her own hands were not clean in this matter thirty years ago. But she appreciated and obeyed the necessity of respecting the moral code of the nations with which she had established relations of friendship, and she has therefore a kind of prescriptive right to force Korea into the same civilized route. If she succeeds, these unhappy men, Kwŏng and An, will not have suffered a shocking death in vain. Their connexion with the murder of the Queen—if, indeed, they were connected with it—will have been amply condoned should their fate prove the means of rescuing their country from judicial barbarism.

It is stated that Mr. Sands, adviser to the Korean Foreign Office, has memorialized the Government, urging the imperative necessity of completely remodelling the laws and judicial procedure of the country, not only in the interests of civilization, but also because the independence of the empire is exposed to constant danger by the provisions and methods now in force.

Thursday, May 31.

It is evident that the Korean Government seeks to evade all responsibility for the murder of An. Various telegrams have reached Tokyo, and the gist of them is that the Minister of Justice will be dismissed from office, that the Chief Judge who tried the case will be sentenced to three years' transportation, and that the other officials connected with it, including the Superintendent of Police, will receive various punishments ranging from 10 years' transportation to fines. Such is said to be the decision arrived at by the Government; but none of these penalties has yet been inflicted, and it is very doubtful whether they will be considered satisfactory by Japan. The sentences may be merely farcical, and they probably would be, for no one questions that the Korean Government was perfectly cognisant throughout of the measures adopted by its judicial officials, and if it makes scapegoats of them now, the world will not be deceived. The Japanese Representative in Sŏul seems to be exerting himself vigorously in the matter. This empire is directly concerned, for it is certain that a pledge of some kind had been given with regard to the treatment of An. Rumour alleges that it was a pledge in the sense that no punishment heavier than transportation should be inflicted on him. We can not answer for the truth of that version, but it is at any rate certain that after his return to Korea An was sentenced to three years' transportation. Up to that point the Korean Government kept its alleged promise, and there is no reason to suppose that it would have been guilty of bad faith had not the return of Kwŏng placed it in possession of fresh evidence. Kwŏng went back to his country, relying solely on the account he had received of An's treatment. No diplomatic intervention had been exercised in his behalf. He seems to have supposed that, having been implicated in the same trouble as An, the same penalty would be inflicted on him. But the event showed that he did not understand his own nationals. He was seized and put to the torture, and the statements wrung from him in his agony led to the recall of An, who also was put to the torture, with the result known to our readers. There is some doubt about the crime charged against An. One story has it that he had been connected with the murder of the Queen in 1895; another, that he took part in the plot of 1897 to dethrone the Sovereign. The truth will probably remain obscure, for no reliance whatever can be placed on the so-called confessions made by either An or Kwŏng under torture. As a matter of course it is denied in some quarters that torture was employed at all. The judicial officials are understood to be adopting that line of defence. But they refuse the Japanese Representative's application to have the body examined by an independent expert. It appears, further, that Mr. Hayashi has not yet succeeded in obtaining audience of the Emperor, before whom he desires to lodge a formal protest. He has a difficult task, for even a day's delay may have been sufficient to enable the Korean Authorities to destroy all conclusive evidence of the crime. The Pedlars' Guild, for example, are reported to have made a raid upon the jail where the bodies were lying, with the avowed object of subjecting them to the process of mutilation known as the "eight-piece division." They did not succeed, but they may still succeed, and, of course, after the corpses had passed through such an ordeal, a medical examination could not furnish any explicit proof of the treatment to which the men had been subjected during life. We have confidence, however, that Mr. Hayashi will not allow himself to be put off with subterfuges. He has a strong case and he represents the interests of civilization. It really matters very little, except as a point of international etiquette, whether the Emperor of Korea adopts the course attributed to him by rumour, namely, the sending of an autograph apology to the Sovereign of Japan, or even whether the officials responsible for the fate of An and Kwŏng are punished in fact or only in name. The main consideration is that Korea must be raised out of the judicial abyss where such horrors are possible. It is to that end that Japan will doubtless direct her efforts.

It seems scarcely worth while, except as a matter of amusement, to notice the criticisms published by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. That journal loses no opportunity of attacking the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and in this instance its indictment is comical. It maintains that Viscount Aoki should have exacted from An a pledge that, in consideration of the asylum granted to him by Japan, he would strictly observe all the behests of the Foreign Office in Tokyo, and never leave the country without permission. That is a very novel view of the duties of a refuge-giving country. Apart from the fact that Viscount Aoki was not in office when An fled to Japan, the *Yomiuri* seems to forget that such pledges are not sought from political refugees in any part of the world, and that their exaction would invest the question of asylum with an entirely new character. Truly it is humiliating to the intelligence of Japanese journalists that such allegations should find their way into editorial columns. We do not recognise in them the sound judgment that often marks the *Yomiuri's* comments on foreign policy.

Friday, June 1.

It seems to be now established beyond the possibility of doubt that the political refugee An was tortured to death by Korean judicial officials. Two Japanese physicians viewed the body, and found evidences of terrible treatment. Details are published by a Tokyo newspaper, but they are of such a nature as to forbid reproduction. We can only say that they indicate the perpetration of shocking barbarities. Mr. Hayashi, Japan's Representative in Sŏul, is pressing the Government with a view to securing the adoption of some measures which shall effectually prevent the recurrence of similar atrocities. The Minister of Justice and the Chief of Police in Sŏul, who were sentenced to terms of transportation for their share in the tragedy, are said to have memoralized the Throne protesting against a discrimination in their disfavour, seeing that the whole Cabinet was cognisant of the steps adopted towards An and Kwŏn. Doubtless this protest will ultimately have weight, but the Emperor appears to have rejected it at present.

One of our Tokyo contemporaries publishes an interview with certain Korean refugees now in Japan. They assert that the Japanese Government was flagrantly deceived by the Korean Authorities, and they endeavour to fix the indirect responsibility for this incident on the shoulders of Russia, whose influence, they declare, is paramount in Korea, and who might have prevented the murder of An and Kwŏn, had she been so minded. Such wild assertions call for no special comment. No Government can guard against deception if its *vis-à-vis* has no respect for a solemn engagement, and whatever the Koreans themselves may imagine, the idea that Russia would have contenanced a judicial murder, however indirectly, is extravagant.

THE WEPENER RAID.

The singular raid made by the Boers into the eastern section of the Free State evoked much curious comment from American journals. At first they wrote as though some stupendous change had occurred in the military conditions. They spoke of Roberts's march having to be suspended; of his communications being severed, and of his reputation being impaired—the reputation made on the plains of Afghanistan only to be destroyed on the veldt of South Africa. Then when the Boers failed to accomplish anything beyond ambushing part of a column and snapping up a nomad detachment, these journals were by no means content to confess that their first deductions had been erroneous so far as concerned the impuissance of the British General. They now concluded that Roberts had set a trap to lure the Boers to destruction, and that their ultimate escape from the trap reflected as much discredit on his strategy as did the initiatory success of their enterprise. "Four thousand Boers," said the Baltimore *American*, "march directly into the enemy's country, and remain there for weeks, doing an immense amount of damage,

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and when a most carefully prepared trap has been arranged for their capture, in which one half of Roberts' Army is engaged, they leisurely march off with all their prisoners in their hands." The New York *Tribune* writes in the same strain:—"It is not always easy to catch your prey, however; not even after you have got him into your trap. Between the springing of the trap and its complete closure there is sometimes a chance for the intended victim, if he be sufficiently alert and agile, to make his escape; or there may be cracks and crevices in the walls of the trap through which he can force his way. In the present case something of the sort appears to have happened. The Boers are as expert in getting out of traps as they are in setting traps for self-confident foes. After snapping at the bait and doing incalculable damage, they have slipped out of the trap between the springing and the fall, and are now in full flight towards the northern hills, and the trappers have had to abandon the trap and give chase—a stern chase, which is proverbially a long one." These gentlemen write as though a campaign were something like a game played on a library table, the whole field of operations within range of a man's span. They do not recognise that the Boers had for their operations a road running 80 miles eastward of Bloemfontein, and that had Roberts really employed one half of his army against these raiders, he would have been doing precisely what they wished and wanted. When competent critics come to compile the story of the war, we believe that they will agree in regarding as one of his most sagacious acts Roberts' method of treating the Wepener and Smithfield raid. There is no doubt that President Kruger attached capital importance to this operation, and that he had it in mind when he announced that in a week's time Bloemfontein would be recaptured. Bloemfontein was always declared to be incapable of defence, and in that hypothesis the Boers found justification for abandoning it without a struggle. But the same reasoning applied to its tenure by the British:—they too should have been easily compelled to evacuate it. Instead of resorting to the method of direct attack, however, the Boers, thought that they could effect their aim by manœuvreing against Roberts' line of communications from among the mountains on the east, where they would themselves be virtually safe against being cut off. They made the essay and built high hopes on it. But it proved the greatest fiasco of the war in everything except their method of retreat. Wepener was held by about four hundred English irregulars. Four thousand Boers undertook the task of reducing it. They had a full fortnight for the operation, and they failed signally. As for the other force of unknown strength—probably ten or twelve thousand—that moved *viâ* De Wets Dorp to Smithfield and Rouxville, it never got within striking distance of the British communications. The enterprise, brilliant in conception and bold in execution, was foredoomed to ill success so long as the British General, recognising the discrepancy between the Boers' purpose and the force they employed to effect it, declined to be decoyed into changing the whole programme of his campaign. It was precisely there that Lord Roberts showed his perspicacity, and we entertain no doubt that the object lesson furnished by his imperturbability and their total failure to effect anything sensible against his communications, terribly disheartened the Boers, and may be regarded as the proximate cause of the faint-heartedness subsequently shown by them.

THE CABINET.

Wednesday, May 30.

Various rumours are circulated with regard to the conferences that are taking place between the leaders of the Liberals and the Cabinet, but it is plain that the information possessed by the journals of Tokyo is of the vaguest description. Nothing can be definitely asserted except that there is a movement in favour of giving a certain amount of Ministerial representation to the Liberals, and that the matter is receiving the earnest attention of the elder statesmen. Under the circumstances all the goings and comings of men in office and of influential politicians become invested with unusual interest and are recorded minutely in newspaper columns, the impression produced being that a state of great unrest and commotion exists. So far as we can perceive, however, the perturbation and excitement seem to be chiefly on the part of the newsmongers. Two conferences are said to have taken place between the Liberal leaders and the Cabinet, and the third is believed to be fixed for the afternoon of the 31st instant, by which time a decision of some kind will probably be arrived at. Anything like a break-up of the present Cabinet would be, in our opinion, an unfortunate event for Japan, and it is extremely difficult to understand the reasons advanced in favour of such an event. That a political party should seek to expel from office a Ministry whose programme and procedure it could not endorse, would be natural; but the action of the present Cabinet does not show any points of conflict with the views of the Liberals, whose support it has hitherto enjoyed, and the demand for a change appears to be based solely on the ambition of the leading Liberals to wear the honours of office. It is not a commendable result of party enterprise, but we presume that the personal equation has to be admitted into political calculations here as elsewhere.

One of the stories most persistently circulated is that a serious difference of opinion has arisen between Count Matsukata and Admiral Yamamoto, the latter advocating a substantial increase of the Navy, and the former declaring himself unable to provide the required funds. But even if that rumour be correct, it belongs, obviously, to a category of events different from those now tending to a change of Ministry.

Friday, June 1.

It is alleged on seemingly good authority that Marquis Yamagata has resigned, and that the Emperor asked first Marquis Ito and afterwards Count Matsukata to form a Cabinet, but both statesmen declined. There remains, therefore, no course except a consultation of the elder statesmen in the presence of the Sovereign.

AN UNLUCKY VOYAGE.

The torpedo-destroyer *Niji* arrived safely at Yokosuka on the 26th instant. She seems to have had a most eventful voyage. She left Southampton at the same time as the *Usugumo*, namely, the 11th of February, but was many weeks longer *en route*. Her first mishap was of a trifling nature, but it necessitated putting into Portsmouth for repairs. Then she burst an air pump before reaching Gibraltar. Fortunately the agents of her builders, the Yarrow Company, were able to supply a new pump at Malta, and she resumed her voyage. Then something went wrong with a condenser, and she had to stop for a time at Port Said. Further repairs were effected at Perim, but things continued to go wrong, and in the Indian Ocean she was twice unable to work her engines for periods of 7 hours each. Next, another trouble arose in connexion with a condenser. It appears that the explosion of the air-pump was responsible for all the mischief, some pieces of metal having been driven among the machinery. Finally at Singapore the engines were completely overhauled, and thereafter the little craft was able to prosecute her voyage without further mishap. Captain Takurabe and the crew that navigated the *Niji* are certainly to be congratulated on their success in bringing the vessel safely to her destination in the face of such difficulties.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and the Honourable Mrs. Whitehead gave a reception yesterday in honour of the Queen's Birthday, the festivities having been postponed from the 24th on account of rain. An entirely novel feature was introduced in the shape of a May-pole dance, which looked very picturesque and was much admired. Refreshments were served in the Legation, and the band of H.M.S. *Aurora* contributed to the pleasure of a very delightful party.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* has a most appreciative article with reference to the Queen's Birthday. It says that Her Majesty is admired and loved not by British subjects only but by the whole civilized world, and that the virtues of her life and the wisdom of her administration have been such as to entitle her to be called an incarnation of a deess.

The *Jiumin*, though not writing directly with reference to the Birthday, evidently makes it the occasion of an article congratulating England on the successes she is now winning in South Africa, and expressing the highest admiration of the qualities her people have displayed in prosecuting the war. Our contemporary believes that so far as the East is concerned, Japan's attitude of friendship has been of some assistance to Great Britain, and expresses the hope that these incidents may be the means of drawing the two countries still closer together.

Owing to the miserable weather, there was but a small attendance at Her Majesty's Consulate, Yokohama, on Thursday, in response to Mr. H. A. C. Bonar's invitation. About midday, just as the warships in harbour were firing a royal salute, the band of H M S. *Aurora* played the National Anthem, a squad of blue-jackets from the same vessel presented arms to the unfurled colours; then three rousing cheers, led off by Capt. Bayly, R.N., were given for the Queen, after which a verse of "God save the Queen" was sung and refreshments followed. Short speeches were made by the Consul and Capt. Bayly, and healths were drank. Mr. Bonar took occasion to bid his fellow nationals farewell, in the course of his speech. Mr. Bonar, who goes on leave of absence, proceeds via Siberia. Mr. R. G. E. Forster will act as Consul temporarily, we understand.

Two sailing races came off in the afternoon, the weather having cleared up. The first was for the 39-raters, for a prize presented by the British Minister, and was won by the *Haidee* with 2m. and 40s. to spare on her handicap. The 12-raters' race for the Albion Cup was won by *Titania*; *Dora* being second.

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LIBERALS AND THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

The Liberal leaders, having given careful consideration to the financial conditions of the time, have arrived at conclusions which appear to us to do credit to their sagacity. They allege, in the first place, that the growth of the country's trade is a healthy sign; that the preponderance of imports does not constitute a cause of uneasiness, and that no connexion exists between the volume of the currency now in circulation and the appreciation of commodities. All these conclusions have been frequently advanced in our own columns, and we are unable to see that any sound reasons exist for different views. The Liberal leaders then proceed to recommend remedies for the stringency that exists in the money market. Their advice is that extension should be given to the operations of the industrial bank system; that the redemptions of national debts indicated in the Budgets should be effected by means of cheap money obtained abroad; that foreign capital should be introduced; that the Bank of Japan should refrain from seeking to control the situation by raising or lowering its rate of interest, and that the Government should proceed resolutely with its programme of *post-bellum* measures.

It will be observed that these recommendations do not contain any reference to foreign ownership of real estate: apparently the Liberal leaders are unable to arrive at a definite conclusion on that point; or—and this seems to us the more tenable supposition—they are disposed to reserve the concession, as advised by the *Jiji Shimpo*—in order that it may be used to obtain from foreign governments some change in the tariff conditions which now prevent Japan from raising a large revenue from sugar or *sake*. It falls squarely within the range of inviting and legitimate enterprises that she should endeavour to obtain a sufficient supply of sugar from her new dominion of Formosa, and she is evidently anxious to foster that industry by means of a tariff which would exercise a protective as well as a revenue-producing effect. The fallacy of protection disappears, of course, when the interests of the consumers cease to be considered. Hence the Formosan sugar programme assumes a more or less reasonable aspect even from the point of view of pure economics. But it can not be carried out while the Conventional Tariff remains operative in its entirety. Very likely the Liberals approve of the scheme that an exchange should be effected between the privilege of real-estate ownership, on the one hand, and tariff modifications as regards both sugar and fermented beverages on the other.

The main feature of the recommendations is that relating to the redemption of the national debt by means of foreign money; in other words, the conversion of the present domestic loan into a foreign one. That is a very important and far-reaching suggestion. It is put forward unobtrusively and without elaboration, but it involves a great and sweeping change. The Government stands indebted to the people in the sum of 400 million *yen*, in round numbers, a large part of which has been spent upon railways and other useful public enterprises. Foreign observers have watched with outspoken uneasiness this gradual fixing of the people's floating capital. Attention was called to it persistently in these columns between 1884 and 1893, though we fully recognised at the time that serious obstacles stood in the way of any recourse to the European money market. These obstacles have now disappeared, whereas Japan stands in the position of having used all the money in her purse, and being sadly in want of more for the purpose of prosecuting many profitable enterprises. The Liberals recommend a foreign loan to redeem the domestic debt, the service of which would thus become less onerous, while, at the same time, large sums of capital would be freed for industrial and commercial ends. There is no doubt that Japan can obtain money abroad on easy terms if she pockets her pride and agrees to give security. The State railways suggest themselves as an immediately hypothecatable asset. At one time the Liberals were all in favour of the Government's purchasing the private railways, but their method of carrying out that proposal would not have added anything to the assets really available for the country's material development. It is significant that the railways do not figure at all in their latest list of suggestions.

CONVICTIONS.

There has already been a *Te Deum* in St. Paul's Cathedral for the relief of Mafeking, and there will doubtless be thanksgiving services throughout the British dominions when peace is restored. On the other hand, we see President Kruger and his people humbling themselves before the Deity, confessing their sins and praying to be delivered from the oppressor. At first one is disposed to ridicule this last recourse of the Boers. They invaded British territory and formally annexed all parts in which they gained a footing. Now their own territory is invaded and annexed by these same British, and they cry to the Almighty against the oppressor. If Heaven concerned itself more intimately in the affairs of men, it would vouchsafe to them a larger measure of enlightenment, so that they might discern and choose the right in good season, instead of importuning God for aid which cannot be vouchsafed to both sides without injustice to one. But these obvious reflections can not hide from us the sadness of the situation in Pretoria. There is no room to doubt that the Boers have firmly believed throughout in the tutelage of Heaven. President Kruger's faith has been magnificent. He received, as he honestly supposed, a revelation that the Almighty was with his people, and he never wavered in his conviction that success would crown his cause. But now the enemy are at the gates, and he has to abandon his faith and confess himself a false prophet. It is a cruel necessity for the old statesman. He may be rugged and uncouth; he may even be deficient in some of the moral principles that grow out of a more complex civilization; but every one of us must admit that were he an Englishman we should be proud of him, and, though his sturdy obstinacy has cost the lives of many of our countrymen, we can not hide from ourselves that he is a grand figure, or refuse to sympathise with the sorrow and humiliation that have overwhelmed him in his last years. It is indeed probable that the issue of this war will find Her Majesty's subjects singularly free from anger against the men with whom they have waged such a strong struggle. If any of us searches his heart, he will surely discover there a well-defined wish that some way could be found of making things easy for the Boers. There is, we fear, no such way. That they will be ultimately happy under British rule, and will enjoy the fullest personal independence, is certain. But we should all be infinitely gratified if something more could be effected for the sake of these sturdy burghers, who have shown themselves at once brave and kind-hearted.

THE IRON FOUNDRY.

A ceremony by way of inaugurating the new Iron Foundry took place in the Imperial Hotel on the afternoon of the 28th instant. Professor Wada, under whose direction the buildings have been erected and the plant set up, made an interesting speech, in the course of which he said that the Foundry would be able to manufacture forty-five thousand tons of Bessemer steel and the same quantity of Martin's annually, and that active measures were now being taken to construct a good harbour at Wakamatsu. The ore available for smelting was believed to contain 50 per cent. of iron; but assuming that the percentage would average only 40; that 1½ tons of coke would be burned for every ton of ore, instead of the usual allowance of 1 ton of the former; that the output of the furnaces would be 170 tons, whereas their estimated capacity was 250 tons, and that the cost of labour would be at least as great as that incurred in any foreign country, the calculation was that each ton of Bessemer steel would be produced at a total outlay of 56.90 *yen*, each ton of rails at the same price, and each ton of steel plates at 71 *yen*. Rails gave the smallest profit, yet, even assuming that only rails were manufactured, the net earnings of the factory should be 800,000 *yen* annually.

The German expert who has been engaged to superintend the works also made a speech, in which he expressed himself satisfied with the quality of some of the Japanese iron, and approved of the site chosen for the foundry, since the most important point was that the works should be in the immediate vicinity of coal mines.

THE LAND QUESTION.

It was easy to anticipate the attitude that the *Jiji Shimpo* would take with reference to the question of foreign ownership of land. It urges that the concession should be made with all possible speed, and it reminds its nationals that there is a great difference between the ordinary right of ownership and the right of eminent domain. The latter always remains with the Sovereign. As to the advantages likely to result from making this concession, the *Jiji's* view is that, in the first place, it would bring into the country a considerable sum of money in the form of the price paid for land by foreigners. In the second, it would enable foreigners to start enterprises which would not only help to develop the national resources, but would also bring much capital and give employment to many persons. In the third, it would finally dispose of the land question which is now agitating the foreign community in the former Settlements, and is tending to create needless friction. In the fourth, the concession might be employed as a lever for obtaining tariff changes which, while not inflicting any real hardship on foreigners, would greatly assist Japan's fiscal arrangements.

Were this privilege of land ownership conceded, a very interesting question would arise as to the tenure of the former settlement lands. Would the foreign residents desire to acquire titles of ownership, or would they prefer to continue the system of perpetual leases?

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"SYSTÈME REPRÉSENTATIF AU JAPON."

Mr. Furuya Hiramatsu, *Docteur en Sciences Politiques*, presented as a thesis to the jury of the Brussels University, in order to obtain his grade of *Docteur*, a work on parliamentary government in Japan, and subsequently published it. It is a book of some size—260 pages— and not only does it cover a wide range of subjects, but also it is written in admirably clear French, which does great credit to the literary ability of the author. Mr. Furuya sets out with the question, is the representative system a result, pure and simple, of the introduction of Occidental civilization, or did it exist in a rudimentary form in old Japan? To answer that question it is necessary for him to review the political history of the empire, which task he performs in a brief but comprehensive manner, arriving at the conclusion that no rudiments of representative government are to be found there. So far as form is concerned, there cannot be any doubt as to the correctness of that view. But we think that absolutism can not be shown to have existed practically either in the imperial administration or in the feudal, and that the invariable tendency of the educated classes was to exercise the power whose ultimate depository was the Sovereign or the *Shogun*. However, our business here is with Mr. Furuya's opinions, not with our own. After his view of pre-Restoration history, he goes on to trace with great accuracy the course of events that led up to the promulgation of the constitution and the establishment of the Diet, and he then analyses the functions and procedure of the Diet, the law of election, and in short, everything relating to the parliamentary system, with the exception of the crucial problem of the Cabinet's responsibility, which, perhaps wisely, he leaves undiscussed. He then gives the story of the Diet's doings session by session, and finally formulates an interesting conclusion, namely that "representative government in Japan promises to have a sufficiently brilliant future." "Thanks to it," he proceeds, "a nation which lived twenty-five centuries under a regimen of absolutism, now participates in its own legislation and oversees its administration. Thanks to it, liberty of the press has been considerably extended, the arbitrary law of peace-preservation abrogated, the financial administration improved, and more than 400 laws have been voted or modified according to the will of the nation." But Mr. Furuya says nothing of the abuses that have come in the train of this system. We admire his optimism. It is at the close of his summary of parliamentary virtues that he alludes to the question of party cabinets in a somewhat diplomatic fashion:—"From the parliamentary point of view the Ministers are to-day absolutely convinced that, despite the constitutional arrangement of exclusive responsibility towards the Emperor, they can not fully discharge their duties without basing themselves on a parliamentary majority."

We should like to speak fully of this excellent work, but our space forbids us to do more than give to our readers a brief idea of its contents. It is unique as being the first full and scientific account of the development and results of constitutional Government in Japan and for that reason we recommend it to all interested in this subject.

THE PEST.

Thursday, May 24.

A doubtful case of pest is reported to have been discovered in the train which arrived at Shimbashi at 2.25 p.m. on the 23rd instant, having left Kobe at 6 p.m. on the preceding day. When the passengers had quitted the station, it was found that one man remained in a third-class carriage, being too ill to leave it. His symptoms suggested pest, and he was removed to hospital. It appears that he is a native of Tamba, and that he was travelling in connexion with a visit to the temple Zenko-ji.

From Kyoto also comes news of a suspicious case. The sufferer is a student of the common school, a lad fifteen years of age. Our readers will, of course, have observed that there is somewhat of a scare at present about the pest, and that suspicions are excited where no real grounds for alarm exist. It is permissible to hope that the above two instances may be of that character.

Friday, May 25.

The case of supposed pest in Kyoto proves to be a false alarm, and as nothing more has been heard of the Shimbashi case, we may presume that it also belongs to the category of mistakes.

Monday, May 28.

Two fresh cases of pest are reported from Osaka; one a girl of 15 and the other a lad of 19. The latter's younger brother had already died of the plague.

From Hamamatsu also a report has been received of a case which appears to be pest.

The record for the 26th instant shows another case in Osaka. A child of seven was taken ill on the 24th instant and expired on the 26th.

Tuesday, May 29.

Another case of pest is reported from Osaka. The victim, a child of seven, was attacked on the 24th instant and died on the 26th. The rapidity with which death follows seizure is terrible. There has not been a single instance of recovery since the recrudescence of the malady.

It is alleged that some trouble has been caused by the injudicious use of serum. Instead of proceeding by slow stages, a physician injected a double quantity in the case of the manager of an Osaka factory, and a somewhat severe attack of fever resulted. There had been a death from pest among the employés of the factory, and special precautions were for that reason adopted.

Wednesday, May 30.

Two new cases of pest are reported from Osaka, one a man, the other a woman. The former ended fatally almost at once; the latter is under treatment.

Niigata Prefecture also reports that the plague bacillus has been found in the carcases of rats at Shibata-mura, and that stringent sanitary precautions have been adopted. Shibata is a little place among the hills. Its invasion by the malady is very singular.

A case of pest is reported from Hamanogori in Shizuoka Prefecture.

Friday, June 1.

A child of 8 has died of pest at Osaka. Since April 12th, when the disease made its re-appearance, there have been 31 cases in all, and only one is expected to recover.

A suspicious case is reported from Nara also. A traveller who arrived there from Osaka was attacked by high fever, and has developed symptoms of a disquieting nature.

THE ORCHESTRA OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD.

Among the orchestras in Tokyo composed entirely of Japanese musicians, that of the Imperial Household, although the oldest organization of its kind, is probably the least known to the general public. It appears to have been formed by the voluntary action of several members of the military band instituted a score of years ago for the service of the Court; but though it has always included many of the best performers on their respective instruments that Japan has produced, circumstances have hitherto been unfavourable to its thorough development. It has stood in the somewhat anomalous position of possessing a number of the most skilful players in Japan, while lacking the disciplined practice required to demonstrate its latent capacity. It is a significant fact that, for all orchestral experiments attempted in the capital, recourse to the musicians of the Household has been necessary. Thus the concerts given this year by the Academy of Music—which has no orchestra exclusively its own,—could not have been undertaken without important aid from the body of performers attached to the Court. The Meiji Ongaku-kwai, whose entertainments have attracted attention during the past twelve months, likewise contains a good proportion of delegates from the same quarter. It has been the lot of the Household band to contribute bountifully,—not to say indispensably—to the success of more than one public enterprise, without ever receiving due and sufficient recognition on its own behalf.

The superior proficiency of most of its members has at least one natural explanation. The force of singers, dancers, and instrumental players in the Imperial service is a very ancient institution, and for centuries, we believe, the incumbents have held their positions by hereditary privilege. Frequent marriages and adoptions between members of the same calling have brought the whole combination almost to the condition of one large family, a curious illustration of which is found in the circumstance that the orchestra we are considering, comprising not less than twenty-five altogether, has only four or five surnames for the entire company. The uninterrupted continuance of an occupation through many generations may be open to certain objections, but it has the immeasurable advantage of steadily increasing the efficiency of those engaged in the craft. It is true that musical culture according to old Japanese customs has a different meaning from the artistic culture of modern Europe; but the faculties growing out of constant familiarity with musical sounds, and of steady practice with instruments of whatever description, are unquestionably quickened and enlarged by the system of hereditary training; and when the time came for the introduction of foreign methods, the students of the Kunaisho were incomparably better prepared than any others to adopt them. Their first essays were in what is commonly called military music, performed by wind instruments of wood and brass, in the use of which they were diligently and faithfully instructed by Mr. Eckert, to whom for many years the tuition of various military bands was entrusted. If it had been possible for him to give undivided attention to a single organization, that of the Household, for example, the results produced would have been even more satisfactory than they actually were; but he was under obligation to divide his labours to an extent which lessened their effectiveness in particular cases.

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After attaining considerable dexterity in brass and wood, the musicians were eager to enter the higher orchestral field; and several of them commenced to study the instruments of the violin family before any provision was made for the establishment of a regular orchestra. If we are rightly informed, this new departure was largely an independent proceeding. There was no teacher at hand, so in the beginning the pioneers taught themselves and one another. No foreign violin instructor, in fact, has ever been employed in the Kunaisho school, which in this respect has been less fortunate than the Academy of Music. But the students struggled forward undeterred, until a certain number succeeded in placing themselves, by their unaided exertions, quite above the rivalry of other institutions. An orchestra of rather imperfect material was formed some eighteen years ago; from time to time additions have followed, and several attempts have been made to place it upon a tolerably firm foundation. These efforts have not been as successful as might have been hoped from the ability of the individual performers. The absolute necessity of careful and rigorous training has not been taken into account, nor has it, apparently, been perceived that a dangerous error is made in ever putting the leadership into Japanese hands. No native of this country has yet sufficient knowledge or experience to qualify him for the direction of orchestral music,—or, indeed, of foreign instrumental music of any description. All such experiments are injurious, and, for the present, must inevitably check true progress. The time will come when Japanese experts can safely and profitably undertake this work; but it has not yet arrived, by any means.

Early this year it was decided that serious attention should be given to the needs of the Household orchestra, and that an instructor should be expressly engaged for its benefit. This step is understood to have been taken chiefly, if not solely, by the advice of Baron Sannomiya, Grand Master of Ceremonies, whose liberal spirit and broad appreciation of the expediency of assimilating such foreign methods as are essential to progress, has always been conspicuous in matters subject to his control. The task of bringing the instrumental body into the best practical working shape was entrusted to Mr. E. H. House. In the past two months a great deal has been done toward making the members acquainted with their own powers of expression, and, although many things remain to be accomplished, a substantial beginning can be recorded. It is probable that a longer period of preparation would have been desirable, before offering any demonstration of what the new system of tuition has produced, but the fact that the players were studying and practising with unusual diligence did not escape notice in official circles, and a few days ago, Her Imperial Majesty the Empress (who had been informed by Viscount Kagawa of the new course of study now being pursued by the musicians), graciously signified that it would be her pleasure to listen to a performance of foreign music by her orchestra, at the palace in Shiba. In obedience to her command the following programme was arranged, and the event took place on the afternoon of Friday, the 25th instant.

Overture. "Waltz-Songs"	Seimano.
Minuet, from the "Jupiter" Symphony	Mozart.
Turkish March, from The "Ruins of Athens"	Beethoven.
Princess Polka	Moisan.
Andante from the Italian Symphony	Mendelssohn.
Imperial March	Söveh.

At the close of the concert, Her Majesty sent for Mr. House, and graciously expressed her pleasure at the entertainment which the musicians (aided by his skill and instruction) had provided.

Before discussing the merits of the musicians, we may remark that the orchestra, as now constituted, numbers twenty-five players, with others in reserve that can be drawn upon if needed. The usual distribution is as follows. Three first and three second violins, two violas, two violoncellos, two double-basses, one flute, one oboe, two clarinets, one bass clarinet, two cornets, three trombones, and instruments of percussion (drums, cymbals, etc.). An additional flute is available, whenever required, and also heavy brass to any extent, but this latter can rarely be utilized without risk of destroying the balance of construction. It will be seen that the proportion of strings is small, a deficiency which time will doubtless remedy. It is also obvious that certain instruments, notably horns and bassoons, ordinarily considered essential to a full orchestra, are wholly wanting. This is owing to the circumstance that in the original formation it was thought the wind and brass pieces already provided for the military band would be sufficient for all needs, and the plan then adopted has been adhered to ever since. Nothing, of course, can compensate for the absence of horns, and bassoons are almost equally indispensable; but it is worth noting that the two high trombones here fulfil their functions with an effect that few connoisseurs of the orchestra would suppose possible. They are alto trombone with pistons, of a class which educated musicians are not accustomed to rate highly. They are, indeed, commonly condemned by the best authorities,-who are, however, not very familiar with the brass instruments of military bands, but by the Kunaisho players they are made to produce tones so delicate and mellow as to contradict the accepted theory, and cause the loss of horns to be less severely felt than would be imagined. Either the critical estimate of these piston trombones is too harsh, or the Japanese who play them have a peculiar gift. They are now often compelled to do double duty,-in their proper capacity and as substitutes for horns; and this is a very heavy tax upon the players. But horns will be forthcoming in time, and the pressure will be relieved. Yet even when the last-named adjuncts are supplied, Mr. House informs us that some of the novel effects of the trombones are too valuable to be entirely relinquished. *

As a matter of course, the musicians do not all display equal merit, especially as their terms of study have greatly varied. Those that claim approving attention at the first hearing are *imprimis* the leading violin, who shows not only technical skill, but exceptional force, and much more feeling than his countrymen are apt to exhibit in rendering foreign music. The two clarinets are excellent, and the first double-bass has a remarkable command of his difficult instrument. The same may be said of the first cornet. Of the trombones we have spoken. It is not our intention to distinguish the performers referred to above their fellows; they are mentioned because in this particular concert their prowess was conspicuously apparent. The others seemed as trustworthy and faithful to their duties as could be desired; and in all cases it may fairly be hoped that they will do their share towards gradually winning the appreciative sympathy and respect of the Japanese people for one of the highest forms of a pure and noble art.

* The name "Alto trombone" is somewhat misleading. The instrument has a wide range, extending from E below the bass clef, to the middle B of the treble. The lowest notes are not easily produced, nor are they required when a bass or tenor trombone is provided.

"JAPAN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DIRECTORY."

This book has now reached its second issue. It is of considerable size, for numerous advertisements swell its bulk, and it contains alphabetical directories for Japanese merchants, Japanese banks, and foreign firms, and a professional directory for Japanase joint stock companies. But there is no directory for officialdom, the Diet, the nobility, diplomacy—omissions which seem to us to greatly mar the value of the work. Why should not the publishers—whose address alone is given, namely, No. 6 Yamashita-cho, Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo—why should they not have added these important details so as to make the work complete? We think, also, that they should have included a nominal list of all the members of the foreign communities, women as well as men, instead of giving firms only, and we are not sure that their method of arrangement will not prove troublesome, since search for any merchant's house must be preceded by reference to the table of contents in order to find to what section he belongs. Any one seeking for special information might not complain of the necessity of such reference, but the general purpose of a directory should be attainable without any preliminaries of the kind. Neverthless we regard the book as a great boon. It is of the utmost assistance to be able to find out all about Japanese firms and men of business, especially in these times when foreign relations with them are rapidly extending.

NOTES ON CURRENT NOTES.

The *Yomiuri* says that the Foreign Office will soon commence the publication of Blue Books.

The Prince and Princess Imperial reached Yamada in Ise on the 25th ultimo, and his Imperial Highness proceeded to perform the prescribed rites at the great shrine.

The trouble among the silk-weavers of Kiriu is increasing. Several other firms are spoken of as being in difficulties.

The Emperor visited the Naval Department on the 24th ultimo and was present at the ceremony of conferring certificates of graduation.

An order issued by the Department of Home Affairs declares that in future the minimum age of prostitutes shall be 18 instead of 16.

There appears to be no doubt that the Mitsui Company has decided to build an electric railway in Tientsin. Permission is said to have been obtained from the Chinese Government.

The Tokyo Gas Company has decided to double its capital, making it 4,2000,000 *yen*. The works are to be greatly extended in view of a rapidly developing demand. It is stated that a British capitalist will furnish 1,400,000 *yen* at 4½ per cent. interest.

The first torpedo vessel ever completely constructed in Japan is now being built at Yokosuka. Her displacement is to be 53 tons, her horse power 1800, and speed 24

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knots. Not only the hull but also the engines are of Japanese manufacture.

The *Jimmin*, in a double-leaded article, announces that the time for a reconstruction of the Cabinet has almost arrived. Our contemporary is somewhat mysterious, but its opinion seems to be that changes will take place among the holders of portfolios.

It is stated that the Naval authorities have definitely decided to build six torpedo-catchers instead of the torpedo depot-ship which originally figured on the *post-bellum* programme. The orders are to be given this year, and the boats will be built in England, France, and Germany.

The 28th May, having been the birthday of Her Majesty the Empress, all the Ministers of State, high officials, and persons of note in the capital proceeded to the Palace to pay their respects. A banquet was subsequently given in the *Homei-den*.

The Authorities propose, it is said, to apply the law with new vigour for the restraint of papers like the *Shin-Nippon* and the *Yorozu Choho*, which constantly publish matter injurious to public morality. We do not know exactly what new rendering is to be given to the law.

A fresh discovery of gold is announced from Hokkaido. The place is Nagayama-mura in Ishikari Prefecture. It is in the neighbourhood of the position chosen for the barracks of the Seventh Division, and being only 5 miles from a railway station, it enjoys far greater facilities than Esashi does. There is great rejoicing over the discovery.

Representatives of the United Chambers of Commerce have waited upon Marquis Yamagata, Count Matsukata, Viscount Yoshikawa, and Baron Sone, in order to recommend the measures recently embodied in the resolutions passed by the Chambers. It is stated that the Ministers showed, on the whole, a favourable disposition.

It appears to be thought worthy of special record that an Englishman and a Frenchman are taking part in the gold-mining enterprise in Hokkaido. We should be much surprised if foreigners refrained from doing so. Besides, work is already being carried on by an English company registered as a Japanese juridical person.

The delegation to welcome and escort the Buddhist relics from Siam left Kobe on the 23rd ultimo by the *Hakata Maru*. It consisted of 15 members, but a thousand priests assembled to bid the deputation farewell. There were fire-works and music, and altogether the function seems to have been quite imposing. It is expected that the delegates will return with their precious charge in August.

The Tokyo municipality have decided, it is stated, to raise a loan of seven million for purposes of city improvement. The bonds will be sold at the rate of two millions annually during the first three years and one million during the fourth year. They will carry 6 per cent. interest, will remain undeemed for 4 years, and thereafter will be redeemed in 39 years. The money is to be spent upon road-making, bridge-building, and canal digging.

Of late it has become a habit with Japanese companies to give prizes in connexion with the sale of commodities. The custom was introduced, we believe, by the agents of the Virgin cigarette. A certain per-centage of the boxes contained a valuable of some kind, which became the property of the fortunate purchaser. All such transactions have now been forbidden by an ordinance of the Home Department. The maximum penalty attached is 25 days' imprisonment and a fine of 25 *yen*.

The Government is believed to have resolved upon increasing the salaries of officials. When the Ito Cabinet was last in power, Count Inouye made a proposal in that sense, but it did not obtain the approval of the Diet. At present the salaries of all officials from the rank of secretary downwards average 33 *yen* monthly, and the idea is to increase that figure to 43 *yen*. The average of officials above the rank of secretary is 1,600 *yen* annually, which will be raised to 1,800 *yen*. These changes will involve a total addition of 5 million *yen* to the Budget.

Marquis Ito delivered a speech in Shizuoka on the 24th ultimo, but the reports of it published by vernacular newspapers are so sketchy that we cannot gather any adequate idea. It is at all events plain that the Marquis condemned political parties and the Diet alike as not having yet attained a satisfactory standard; that he dwelt on the importance of developing commerce and industry rather than agriculture, and that he insisted on the advisability of Japan's assisting China to enter the path of progress, and thus secure herself against the dangers to which she is exposed owing to the revelation of her weakness, resulting from the war of 1894-5.

The *Jiji Shimpo* contains a paragraph which ought to receive attention. It refers to impure milk. The fact that various matters are mixed with fresh milk by dishonest dairymen is notorious, but our contemporary's reference is chiefly to condensed milk. No less than 20 kinds are sold in Tokyo, and the *Jiji* asserts that expert examination indicates that the great majority of them are impure. The best has been found, on analysis, to be the American Eagle Brand, and the second best, the Nestle. But even of the Eagle Brand there are four varieties on sale, and all are not equally commendable.

The Japanese Representative in Sôul continues his efforts to remove the objections raised by the Korean Government to granting a lease of the Chiksan mine to Mr. Asano. The main difficulty seems to be that if the privilege be granted to Mr. Asano, various refusals already made to subjects or citizens of other Powers will have to be reconsidered. The fact is that the Korean Government's attitude towards these questions is of the most fitful nature. At one time they accede, at another withhold, and in the face of their record it seems a little groundless that they should entertain any apprehension of having precedents quoted against them. They have furnished such a variety of precedents that any one can adduce anything he pleases.

A singular accident occurred on the Hokuyetsu Railway on the 19th ultimo. When the first train from Naoyetsu in the morning reached Hashizaki station, the locomotive was found to be in flames, and the train ran through the station at a high speed. Intelligence was immediately telegraphed to Kashiwa-zaki, and preparations were made there to arrest the progress of the train by heaping sand-bags on the rails. Fortunately, however, the oil which had been the cause of the conflagration burned out before the locomotive reached Kashiwa-zaki, so that the train came to a stand-still at the entrance of a tunnel.

Last year, the strong room of the 110th Bank in Mitajiri was broken open, and a sum of twenty-five thousand *yen* stolen. For a long time no trace of the thieves could be discovered, but they have at last been apprehended. The principal was Takamura, who had charge of the strong room. His accomplice, the suggestor of the crime, was Futamiya, an expert in applied chemistry, formerly a pupil of one of the high schools. If seems that this man Futamiya had made a speciality of opening safes. Detecting in Takamura a person of the right disposition, he urged the attempt which succeeded so well. Futamiya, however, was recently arrested in connexion with another robbery of 3,000 *yen*, and in the course of his examination his connexion with the Mitajiri theft and Takamura was discovered.

The resolutions adopted by the United Chambers of Commerce are criticised by several of the leading Tokyo journals. No objection is raised by any—except the *Nippon*, of which we have already spoken—to granting to foreigners the privileges of land-ownership and shareholding, but there is a general disposition to condemn the desire shown by the chambers for official assistance in tradal matters. Special criticism is provoked by the suggestion that the Government should purchase for State use articles of home production instead of imported goods. That is a kind of protection not approved by Japanese journalists. The *Kokumin* makes a very pertinent suggestion. The leading members of the Chambers, it says, show much anxiety to procure the introduction of foreign capital, but they neglect the means to that end that are within their own compass. It is an open secret that the purchase of Kobe water-works bonds by Mr. J. R. Morse was in the nature of an experiment, made at the suggestion of the American capitalist, Mr. Morgan, to test the credibility of Japanese borrowers. The result will therefore be fatal to the object contemplated by the Chambers. Why, then, do they not endeavour to effect some settlement of that important matter, instead of formulating a number of schemes that are not within range of speedy consummation?

The defence set up by counsel on behalf of Yamakawa, whose writing in the *Seinen-no-Fukuin* has involved his imprisonment and trial, is that his reason has given way under a love disappointment. The young lady to whom he was engaged died suddenly, and ever since that event he has been a changed man. One of his earliest productions in the *Seinen-no-Fukuin* was called *Kohan-no-Fumbo* (the grave by the water), and had evident reference to the loss of his love. He is said to have been subject to constant hallucinations about her, and as her name happened to be the same as that of the Princess Imperial, Sada, the marriage of the latter threw him completely off his centre.

It is the recommendation of the *Jiji Shimpo* that the Government should endeavour to obtain a modification of the treaties in exchange for granting to foreigners the privilege of holding real estate. What troubles our contemporary is the fact that the Conventional Tariff works very disadvantageously for Japan. Her consumption of foreign sugar has increased enormously of late years. It is now something like 20 million *yen* per annum. The staple would easily bear a tax of 40 or 50 per cent., giving an addition of 8 or 10 million *yen* to the

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Treasury, but no step of that kind can be taken in consequence of the tariff. *Sake*, again, if the tax on it were raised to 20 *yen* per *koku*—which impost it could easily bear—would yield a revenue of 80 millions. But here, again, the Conventional Tariff interferes, for it allows rum or beer or claret to be imported at nominal rates of duty, and the nation will obviously tend to drink the latter in preference to *sake* if the tax on *sake* be much increased.

It has been decided to impose a tax upon the rum manufactured by the Sugar-refining Company of Hokkaido. Owing to the heavy tax levied upon *sake*, rum has begun to be largely used as a substitute, and the Authorities find that the proceeds of the *sake* monopoly are likely to be impaired in consequence. The idea is to include rum in the category of mixed *sake*. The Sugar Company is understood to have protested strongly, but its protests do not command attention.

It is alleged that the Cabinet, at its last meeting, decided upon the conditions under which a charter is to be granted for building street railways in Tokyo. The two main points to be considered were the tax levied upon the earnings of the enterprise and the arrangements as to its reversion to the city. Concerning the former point, the decision is said to have been that one-third of the net profits, after deducting 7 per cent., shall go to the municipal funds, and that the lines and plant shall revert to the city at the end of 35 years.

The Ota Railway has finally passed into the possession of the Fifteenth Bank in satisfaction of a debt of two hundred and fifty thousand *yen*. This railway runs from Mito to Ota, a distance of a little over twelve miles. The paid-up capital is four hundred thousand *yen*. A sum of two hundred thousand was originally borrowed from the Fifteenth Bank, and a further loan of fifty thousand was subsequently made to build a bridge over the Kuji river. But the line has never paid, and the directors found themselves unable to discharge their obligations even in respect of interest, so that nothing remained for the Bank except to foreclose. It is expected, however, that the property will realize far more than the amount of the debt, so that the shareholders will recover some of their money.

Seldom does it occur to masters and mistresses to think about the deadly monotony of the domestic servant's work. Day after day the same weary routine with never a respite nor ever a break except the "Sunday out" at intervals of a year. The system is nowhere harder than in Japan. We can not conceive any drudgery more unceasing than that of the tea-house girl, who goes to bed at 1 a.m. and gets up at 6, from year's end to year's end, and enjoys scarcely a moment of undisturbed rest from toil. There is a movement now on foot in the United States to limit the hours of the domestic servant to 8 daily. Mrs. Blaine of Chicago has set the example. She keeps two sets of servants who go on duty turn about. The experiment has attracted much attention, and the general idea seems to be that something of the kind is becoming inevitable.

According to the opinions of a prominent official whose views the *Jimmin* has consulted, the Government, while not offering any objection to the proposal of the United Chambers of Commerce that the privileges of owning real estate, holding shares in all enterprises, and engaging in mining operations should be extended to foreigners, is not disposed to take the lead in introducing such a measure before the Diet. Members of the Chambers will be left to adopt that course themselves. The chief difficulty is anticipated in the House of Peers, where the conservative element is strong. We (*Japan Mail*) are disposed to think that the most prudent plan would be to except agriculture from the uses to which land held by foreigners may be put. It is among the agricultural classes that timidity seems to be chiefly felt about the consequences of granting the privilege of ownership to aliens, whereas, on the other hand, the latter do not want to engage in farming in Japan. They would be quite content were they permitted to own land for manufacturing, commercial, or residential purposes. Nothing would be less tactful than to imperil the chances of the whole measure for the sake of a condition which has no intrinsic value.

There seems to be a really earnest effort in some quarters to drop all letters that are not sounded in English words, and to reduce spelling to a purely phonetic basis. The first practical step in that direction was taken by the National Educational Association of America, which suggested that simplified spelling should be adopted in the case of twelve words by way of a beginning, namely, *program*, *tho*, *altho*, *thorofare*, *thru*, *thruout*, *catalog*, *prolog*, *decalog*, *demagog* and *pedagog*. Quite a number of newspapers and educational institutions either adopted these changes, or recommended their adoption. A larger suggestion is now made, namely, the dropping of the final *e* in all words where it does not serve to lengthen the preceding vowel; and the substitution of *f* for *ph* and *gh* where the sound represented is really that of *f*. Examples of the first reform would be *spel*, *hav*, *giv*, *ar*, *definit*, *derivativ*, *amiabl*, &c.; and examples of the second, *geografy*, *fantasm*, *enuf*, &c. Another proposal is to drop *gh* in such words as *thot*, *bou* (for bough), *ni* (for nigh) and so on. Of course the obvious objection is that we should thus destroy a method of differentiation which the tongue can not produce or the ear recognise, but which is nevertheless quite discernible by the eye. It is surely of importance to be able, without reference to the context, to distinguish between "bad" and "bade," between "hole" and "whole," between "meat" and "meet," between "sight" and "site," between "sell" and "cell," and so forth.

ORDINANCE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

The following Ordinance of the Communications Department is published in the *Official Gazette*:—

Art. I.—Any person desiring to tender for the supply of stores for Government railways under the direct supervision of the Communications Department, the said goods being manufactured in Europe or in the United States, and inspection as to quality or classification being made prior to shipment, must have the following qualifications specified in the 1st clause of Article XIX of the Law of Accounts:—

1. He must be in possession of a head office, branch, or agency in Japan.

2. He must be in possessson of a head office, branch, or agency in a city of Europe or the United States.

3. He must be possessed of a certificate showing that he has properly fulfilled contracts with Government offices or railway companies for the supply of foreign railway stores to the amount of at least 100,000 *yen* in one year within three years from the date at which the tender is presented.

Art. II.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of June (1900). Ordinance No. 28 of the Communications Department issued in the 29th year of *Meiji* shall be rescinded from the date of the operation of the Regulations.

Another ordinance of the same Department refers to competitive tenders for the construction or repair of railways, ships, or official buildings. The provisions are as follows:—

Art. I.—Tenderers for works indicated above must be persons who have paid direct national taxes for the past two years, in accordance with the following scale:—

Estimated cost for work in *yen*.			Annual amount of tax in *yen*.
Not exceeding	5,000	Not less than	5
"	10,000	"	10
"	50,000	"	20
"	100,000	"	30
"	200,000	"	50
Above	200,000	"	80

Art. II.—In the case of an ordinary partnership one of its members, and in the case of a limited partnership one of the members of unlimited liability, must fulfil the above requirements.

Art. III.—In the case of a joint stock company the amount of shares paid up must be more than double the cost of the work rendered.

Art. IV.—As to joint stock partnerships one of the conditions required of a limited partnership in Article II. or of those specified in Article III. must be complied with.

Art. V.—With respect to a foreign company the same must have been registered according to the regulations, and must possess qualifications the same as, or analogous to, those of companies specified in Article II. or Article IV.

Art. VI.—Tenderers for the construction of ships having a gross tonnage of more than 1,000 tons must possess the following qualifications besides those specified in each of the foregoing articles:—

1. They must be possessed of a suitable workshop for the construction of ships of the dimensions indicated, and must have practical experience in connection with the building of the same.

2. They must be possessed of an annealing plant.

Art. VII.—With regard to competitive tenders in Hokkaido, and in Okinawa and Ogasawara islands, as well as in foreign countries, these regulations shall not apply for the time being.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL WORK IN JAPAN.

The *Yorozu* has an article pointing out the energy displayed by Christians in the cause of Japanese education, and condemning the authorities for the unnecessary interference which has almost crippled that work. According to statistics compiled at the end of last year, the number of Christian schools and students totalled 204 and 15,846 respectively. Below are details:—

	Schools.	Students.
Above middle course of education ..... Men	20	2,916
Above middle course of education ..... Women	48	3,538
Primary course of education for men and women	136	9,394
Total	204	15,846

In the face of these figures the general progress of education undertaken by Japanese is extremely slow. The latest statistics compiled by the Education Department show that out of 7,125,966 children of school age only 4,910,380 are receiving instruction in elementary schools, the remaining 2,215,586 remaining at home. Japan cannot escape the charge of procrastination in this matter, as may be perceived from the following comparative figures for the past four years:—

Percentage of school age children under instruction.....	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	61.24	64.22	66.65	68.91

The Government ought to adopt more efficient means for the diffusion of knowledge, but instead it has, directly and indirectly, attempted to hamper the educational work of Christians. Now that the Bureau of Religions has been established it is advisable that Christianity should be investigated in its true light.

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JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

IT is quite curious to observe the persistency with which some publicists are propagating the idea that the relations between Japan and Russia have been strained to breaking point. Some months ago a rumour was circulated in London that the two countries were on the eve of war, and certain of the leading English journals gave credence to it. Now again there seems to be a new access of excitement. Leading articles couched in very grave tones are published, and telegrams of anxious inquiry are received in the East. It is true that on this occasion things have not been carried quite to the point of despatching war correspondents to the expected theatre of hostilities, but we are inclined to think that even that step might have been taken had not recent experiences, costly and comical, been fresh in the minds of those that had to pay for them. Meanwhile we who live within sight of the occurrences from which these startling deductions are drawn, are not sensible that even a ripple of danger has disturbed the level surface of events, or that there exists the remotest prospect of a breach of the peace in the immediate future. Throughout the course of recent complications, Russia has persistently shown herself unwilling to push matters to an extremity, or to endorse the somewhat fussy and arbitrary procedure of her Representative in Korea. She has quietly waived her claims so soon as she saw that they could not be peacefully pushed, and, if she has insisted upon maintaining one condition in order to save her face, it is a condition that certainly does not present alarming dimensions. It is true that, by recourse to the elasticity of interpretation which strength always creates, she may one day claim to have established some kind of sphere of influence within a portion of Korean territory. But there is a wide difference between that shadowy claim and her original attempt to secure a definite foothold on an important part of the Korean coast. Besides, the grounds for a potential claim hereafter are still very indeterminate. Both England and Japan have been explicitly excluded from the scope of the guarantee sought by Russia with regard to Koje Island, and, as England and Japan are the only foreign Powers really interested, it is difficult to see that this last enterprise on Russia's part has any appreciable value. At any rate nothing could be more extravagant than to interpret it as a menace of war. The plain facts are that Japanese diplomacy has been emphatically successful in this instance, and that Russia has shown herself neither intemperate nor over-bearing. The newspapers have become a little delirious; they will soon discover the groundlessness of their alarm. We imagine, too, that the St. Petersburg Government will not give unalloyed applause to the ambitious restlessness of its agent in Söul. The actual gain standing on the credit side of Russia's account is very small. Indeed it would be premature to assert that there has been any definite gain, for, in the first place, the discussion has not yet terminated, and, in the second, the impression produced in the Far East by M. PABLOV'S enterprises and by his methods of prosecuting them must greatly discount their results. On the other hand, one plain issue of these incidents is that Japan and England have been drawn closer together. They find themselves rowing in the same boat, and that, we think, is not an outcome that Russian statesmen are desirous of promoting. A leading journal of St. Petersburg remarks that Russia will never interfere with the peaceful development of Japan's industrial and commercial interests in the Korean peninsula, but that if this country follows England's example in seeking for military glory, the Northern Power's friendship can not be counted on. Truly it is well to obtain sometimes an idea of the aspect we present to the eyes of onlookers. Military glory is not the bourne towards which English aspirations tend according to the idea of Englishmen themselves, and our friends on the European Continent have hitherto been pleased to call us a nation of shopkeepers without any stomach for fighting. However, any stick does to beat a dog. The same Russian journal goes on to say that Japan should be warned by Great Britain's experiences in South Africa, where it has been demonstrated that a Naval Power is weak on shore. If it is intended to suggest that Japan is puissant at sea and impuissant on shore, her critics must change their estimate, and the politicians who accuse her of excessive military expansion must confess themselves wholly mistaken. But the fact is that these remarks of the St. Petersburg journal illustrate the difficulty confronting any writer who attempts to prove that the interests of England and Japan are not identical in the Far East. They are identical. Both Powers aim alike at preserving the integrity of the Chinese and Korean empires, developing their resources, keeping their markets open to the commerce of the world, and preserving the tranquillity of the Orient. There is no reason to suppose that Russia, on her side, desires a breach of the peace, or that the St. Petersburg statesmen would readily support any policy tending to such an unhappy end. But Russia is driven by the force of circumstances to pursue a policy of expansion; not a general policy, but a policy having a limited though definite aim. She has found the line of least resistance for her purpose in the direction of Liaotung, and it becomes a collateral necessity from a strategical point of view that she should have a foot-hold in Korea. We do not blame her, nor do we pretend to deny that she is fulfilling what must seem to her to be her plain destiny. But it is obvious that she invites great risks of collisions by choosing such routes, and that her course inevitably conflicts with the programme which Anglo-Japanese interests indicate. The hope we may still cherish is that modern statesmanship will find some pacific exit from this clashing of aims, for in one thing the three Powers are certainly agreed, namely, a desire to keep the peace.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The report presented by the Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at the general meeting just held was very favourable. It would have been possible to declare a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. But the Directors recommended that the dividend should not exceed 10 per cent., and that a sum of six hundred thousand *yen* should be carried to the reserve for equalizing dividends. The reasons for this recommendation are that exceptional circumstances—the South-African war; the war in the Philippines; the French Exhibition, and so on—operated to bring prosperity to the enterprise of marine transport during the past six months, and that a continuance of such conditions could not be counted on. Further, the reports arriving from the company's offices and agencies do not indicate as satisfactory a state of affairs as is usual at this season in the domestic carrying trade; and, finally, the company's agreement with the Government will terminate in a few months, after which the subsidy will be reduced and the conditions will become more onerous. The shareholders accepted these explanations and passed the report and accounts. The following are the main figures:—

	Yen.	
Net profit for the half year		1,795,686
Brought over from Previous Account		319,160
Total		2,114,846
	Yen.	Yen.
To Reserve	89,784	
To Reserve for equalizing Dividends	600,000	
Rewards to officials	57,182	
Dividend (10 per cent.)	1,100,000	
Carried over	267,800	2,114,846

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha submitted a report of its transactions and settled accounts, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Commercial Code, to the shareholders on the 22nd instant. Details are given in the *Jiji* as follows:—

The last half-yearly term, from October to March, witnessed symptoms of apparently restored prosperity, but in view of the war between England and the Transvaal the rates of interest abroad have considerably risen, and the foreign trade of Japan has suffered from grave inequality, the exodus of specie being abnormal. Under these circumstances interest was raised, but this brought about a commercial depression early in the beginning of the period under notice. Amid these disadvantages the first half of the business year was passed. On the other hand, the Boer war has necessitated the use of a large number of ships on the part of the English Government, and a brisk demand for steamers arose, which had the effect of considerably decreasing the number of foreign ships plying in the Orient. Consequently Japanese vessels have obtained a larger share of freight than usual. Other causes have combined to create a brisk demand for means of transport in home waters, in strong contrast to the dullness which usually characterizes the period under review. The necessity arose therefore of chartering three ships of a gross tonnage of 5,417 tons for coastwise service. Other details relating to the Company's service may be given under the following heads:—

Service to various parts of the Orient.—With regard to the North China line, a direct service was opened between Kobe, Taku, and Newchwang at the end of the previous half-year, and at the beginning of the present term one more steamer was added to make a fortnightly passage, and at the same time a new weekly service was opened with two steamers between Shanghai, Chefoo, and Tientsin. With the advent of frost, voyages were suspended until March this year, when the service was resumed. These two lines are still more or less of a tentative character, and, unless difficulties are vigorously encountered, it will be impossible to establish these enterprises on a firm footing. The service be-

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tween Hongkong and Vladivostock has been maintained for many years past, but as foreign ships entering these ports have considerably increased in number, the company's vessels, which have to call at various ports in Japan, China, and Korea, and thus spend much time before reaching the terminal ports, are not in a position to compete with foreign vessels having but a few ports of call. In view of these difficulties it was decided to abolish the service altogether in March last, but the directors, recognising the necessity of maintaining a connection between Vladivostock and the various important ports in South China, North China, and Korea, established the Nagasaki-Hongkong line with one steamer sailing once in four weeks. On its outward voyage it was made to call at Shanghai and Amoy, and on its return at Shanghai and Inchhon, connecting with the Kobe-Vladivostock line at Nagasaki, and affording a substitute for the former Vladivostock line. As for the Korean line, the Kobe-Vladivostock, and the Yokohama-Shanghai lines, they remain exactly as before.

European line.—With respect to outward voyages the amount of cargo remains nearly the same as before, not exceeding one-fifth of the carrying capacity. The price of rice in the interior having risen during the term under review, the quantities exported were extremely insignificant, the total carried not exceeding 1,700 tons. Formerly the greater part of the ships were filled with cargo in the Straits Settlements, but the amount suddenly fell towards the close of last year, and no signs of improvement were observable at the end of the present half-year. The vessels, under these circumstances, have secured as much cargo as possible in Colombo by quoting the lowest possible rates of freight. This drawback seems to be the result of the wide-spreading influences of the African war. The homeward voyages were fairly successful. The general decrease of available foreign ships consequent upon the war and the unusual augmentation of imports have had the effect of bringing the Company's ships so much cargo as to warrant an increase of freight charges and to counterbalance the losses on the outward voyages. Moreover, both on the outward and homeward voyages first and second class passengers have considerably increased, and the company was able to have the special ordinance of the Government enforced from January this year.

American line.—There is always abundant cargo from America to the Orient, and no severe competition is therefore necessary *vis-à-vis* other steamship companies. On the outward voyages, however, there is a scarcity of cargo, and low freights are inevitable. During the term under review, however, affairs in the Phillippines have to a certain extent affected maritime enterprises in general, and the scarcity of steamers has brought for the outward voyage of the Company's vessels a fair amount of cargo from Japan and China. Vessels on the line under notice were formerly required to make direct voyages from Hongkong to Japan, but in December last arrangements were so altered as to cause them to call at Shanghai, in order that the alteration might have the effect of increasing the cargo from that port to America.

Australian line.—Cargo on this line still remains insignificant, but there is a tendency to increase in all the intermediate ports. Compared with the previous term cargo has increased by about 20 per cent. for the outward, and by 45 per cent for the return voyage. As to passengers a 50 per cent. increase is noticeable. These improvements are attributable to the maintenance of a regular service by excellent ships under special Government subsidy, and to the confidence of the public and the frequency of advertisements. While things, however, have so improved, the vessels are still not full, and the maintenance of new ships built at an enormous cost is a heavy burden. The Manila line, which was re-established during the previous term, did not yield much cargo, but it is expected that, the blockade of the islands being now removed, business will increase in future.

Bombay line.—The insufficient fall of rain during last year in Bombay reduced the cotton crop to nearly half the amount of previous years. Still the monthly voyages were insufficient to meet the demand for transport, and it became necessary for the Company to charter foreign ships on five occasions. The cost incurred in the case of two of the ships chartered had to be borne conjointly by the transporters and the Union Spinning Companies, as well as the consignors, whereas in the case of the three other ships the burden fell upon the transporters alone. In spite of the embarrassment of these losses the Company decided on its course of action in order to supply Japanese spinners with sufficient materials for their enterprises, which depend largely upon facilities for the supply of raw cotton. Such losses, however, cannot be borne year after year.

To sum up, although freight and passengers have increased during the term under review to an extent almost unprecedented, it must be recognised that the result is simply due to the African war, the Phillippine affair, the approach of the Paris Exposition, the departure of Japanese Commissioners to receive men-of-war built to the order of the Government, and other temporary circumstances. The increase cannot be regarded as the natural course of development of Japanese maritime enterprises. When the war in the Transvaal comes to an end, the scarcity of vessels will immediately give place to an over-supply, and a general decline of prosperity will follow. It is also worthy of note that as the foreign trade of Japan has displayed much inequality since the spring, seriously affecting the money markets, there will be a glut in the home markets and a decrease of exports, in consequence of which steamship services, both coastwise and foreign, will suffer.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

In the *Gwaikô Jihô*, Dr. Ariga, under the title of *Tokubetsu Yûkoku* (A Specially Friendly Power), urges the advisability of Japan's establishing very cordial relations with one of the European Powers; which Power should be asked to represent her when international affairs are being discussed. Dr. Ariga says that the Japanese have hitherto regarded America as their greatest friend, but that America's influence in Europe is confined to England. Hence Japan has reaped little benefit from her reliance on the United States to plead her cause at international council boards. There are many, says Dr. Ariga, who advocate our making a special friend of England. But apart from the fact that the present English Cabinet has not made overtures of special friendship, England's relations with France and Russia are such that mediatorship on our behalf in the case of these two Powers could not be successful. Germany, even if willing to come to a special understanding with us, is too much absorbed in the expansion of her empire to give much attention to our affairs. France and Russia are out of the question. To Italy there are many objections, one of the chief being the frequent changes of Cabinet that occur in that country and the lack of harmony between the King and the executive. The Power to whom this country should look for help, according to Dr. Ariga, is Austria-Hungary. Although a member of the Triple Alliance, her relations with Russia and France are very slightly affected thereby. No country is better informed as to the tendency of events in Europe. It is wel known that most of the diplomatic secrets of the West reach the public ear through Vienna, which city may be regarded as the diplomatic centre of Europe. Austria-Hungary has no special interests in the Far East, and hence may be relied on to act impartially when questions of Far Eastern, policy come up for discussion. As to Austria's willingness to draw closer the ties of friendship that bind her to Japan, Dr. Ariga is not able to tell us anything. Hence the question is far removed from the sphere of practical politics.

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Dr. Inoue Enryô has published a book, covering 70 pages, in defence of the continued use of the ideographs, which is an amplification of the views expressed in a lecture delivered some months ago, summarised by us at the time. Mr. Yamada Bimyô, the famous novelist, has contributed to the *Kokumin Shimbun* an article on the Chinese characters in which he takes Dr. Inoue's side in the controversy now going on in the most decided manner. In his book Dr. Inoue gives 10 particulars in which the ideographs possess distinct advantages over other modes of writing. Mr. Yamada bestows unstinted praise on Dr. Inoue's performance and ridicules the fruitless attempts of the Romaji Kai and the Kana-no-Kai to effect a radical change in orthography. The mistake the advocates of the substitution of vocal signs for the present characters make, according to Mr. Yamada, is that they attach more importance to sound than to meaning. They seem to think that sound can take the place of meaning. Mr. Yamada contends that written symbols should always convey meaning in a direct manner without any reference to sound, just as is done by the signs £, lb, and %. He regards the ideographs in the light of the concisest outward representations of ideas that have ever been invented. He thinks that the desire for brevity which leads us to write Ltd. for Limited, and Mnftd. for manufactured, has led the Chinese to represent a complex idea by a few strokes of the pen, and the multiplication of ideographs he regards as necessary to avoid confusion of ideas. He considers the Chinese system of symbols to be the best that exists. If any reform is needed in Japanese orthography it should, Mr. Yamada thinks, take the form of a modification of these symbols and not of the adoption of any substitutes from whatever source derived.

The recent discussion of the above subject in the editorial columns of the *Nichi Nichi* has already been briefly noticed by the *Japan Mail*. The article in question was evidently written by Mr. Asaina, the editor, who is known to be an ardent advocate of reform. The fact that the editor of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* does not practise what he preaches does not prevent us from appreciating the arguments which he elaborates in favour of reform. Briefly stated, they are as follows:—(1) The question of orthographic reform is a practical question, and one of considerable urgency, and sentimental considerations should not be allowed to interfere with its settlement. (2) One great objection to the ideographs is their very antiquity. They were invented at a time when knowledge was very imperfect and hence it is only by adaptation and amplification that they can be made to serve the purpose of modern thinkers. (3) The transformation to which the ideographs are subjected in this country is such that in many cases their original meaning is entirely lost. Many characters have no real relation to the ideas which they express in Japan to-day, and to a Chinaman ignorant of Japanese would be quite meaningless. Such are 挨拶, *aisatsu*, 厳しい, *hiiki*, 野次馬, *yajimma*, and crowds of others. There are numbers of ideographs that appear in the columns of newspapers whose use is quite arbitrary, whose original meaning gives no idea of their sense in the context. When we come to examine recently coined technical terms we find that many of them would he quite unintelligible to the Chinese, and that in many cases they convey no clear meaning to the students for whose benefit they have been invented. Their connection with the original is so distant that it is an effort of memory with the student to recall the idea for which they stand. (4) The argument that one special reason for retaining the use of the characters is to enable the Japanese to instruct the Chinese in Western learning is not worth consideration, as, according to those who have spent years in instructing the Chinese, it is the ideographs and the modes of thinking which their use has produced that form the chief obstacle to the rapid acquirement of Occidental learning by the Celestials. The *Nichi Nichi* concludes its article by expressing the strongest objections to the adoption of any make-shift policy in the matter of reform. What changes are made must be fundamental and adequate to meet the exigencies of the time. As for the notion that characters derive their power and sacredness from being used in Imperial Rescripts and that the nation is bound to retain them in order to show its loyalty to the throne, to defend it, says the *Nichi Nichi*, would be an insult to intelligent people.

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The *Teikoku Bungaku* also has an article on the urgent need of orthographic reform. The writer proposes that Kana be used first and Romaji afterwards, and that the ideographs be discontinued. There is nothing whatever new in his observations on the subject, which are of the general kind that characterises so many discourses on a topic which has become quite hackneyed.

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The series of works known as the *Teikoku Hyakkwa Zensho* published by the Hakubunkan is growing apace, Vol. XLVIII. having already appeared. The most recently published volumes are the *Seiji-shi* (A History of Government) by Mr. Moriyama Shinji, Barrister-at-Law; the *Seiji Han* 汎 *Ron* (A general view of Politics), by Mr. Nagai Korenawo, Barrister-at-Law; and the *Nihon Fûzoku-shi*, by Mr. Sakamoto Kenitsu, B.A. The last work, which sells at 35 *sen* a copy, is highly spoken of by reviewers. The following books are announced to appear in fortnightly succession, commencing with the middle of May. *Unsôhô* (Transport), by Mr. Sugawara Daitarô, Barrister-at-law; *Shakai-gaku* (Sociology), a translation by Mr. Totoki, B.A.; *Nihon-hôsei-shi* (A History of Legislation in Japan), by Miura Kikutarô, B.A.; *Shina Bummei-shi* (A History of Chinese Civilisation), by Mr. Shirakawa Jirô, B.A.; *Chiku-san Hanron* (A General Account of the Rearing of Domestic Animals), by Mr. Takami Nagatsune, Graduate of the College of Agriculture; and *Chikusan-kaku* 各 *ron* (The rearing of various animals, considered separately), by Mr. Taguchi, Graduate of the College of Agriculture.

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A new magazine has made its appearance called the 中庸, *Chûyô*. It is a monthly and sells at 15 *sen* per copy. It is designed to be chiefly literary. The first number, which lies before us as we write, is very conservative in tone. It contains numerous congratulatory letters, various statistics bearing on the population of Japan, a few short articles on general subjects connected with literature, covering in all some 40 odd pages. The note struck by several writers is somewhat pessimistic, but the magazine evidently aims at attaining a high standard as a literary organ. The well-known Mr. Sugiura is one of the contributors. The editor is a Mr. Matsuzawa, and the office of the magazine is at 17 Rokubanchô, Kôjimachi, Tôkyô. Dr. Katô Hiroyuki has given to the world a new treatise on the Evolution of Morality and Law entitled *Dôtoku, Hôritsu Shinkwa no Ri*. It is an extremely elaborate and well-balanced work, containing the ripest thoughts of a man who in many respects occupies a unique position as a philosopher. The book deserves and will receive later a fuller notice than we can find space for in this Summary.

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Writing on Chinese verses composed in Japan, the *Teikoku Bungaku* says that this class of literature promises to become extinct. The only composer of high reputation left is Kwainan, the lamp of whose life has burnt very low and may go out at any moment. Five or six years ago a desperate effort was made to revive the languishing interest felt in these poems. But it was evidently only the last sparks of a dying flame. Both Segai and Kinzan have gone the way of all the earth. Kwaiwan some little time ago held classes in order to encourage the study of this class of poetry, and a magazine was started called *Shinshisô* (A collection of New Verses). But the classes have been interrupted by the ill-health of their conductor and the magazine has become defunct. The *Teikoku Bungaku* thinks that in Japan the day has gone by for Chinese verse, and in the absence of worthy specimens of this species of literature deprecates the publication of the productions of multitudinous scribbling poetasters.

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The *Tenchijin* complains of the wearisomeness of Japanese newspaper reading, a complaint that, if we mistake not, will find an echo in not a few foreign breasts. With the exception of one or two of the great Dailies, Japanese newspapers, says the *Tenchijin*, do nothing but reiterate *ad nauseam* political commonplaces or give minute particulars about some petty party differences and irrelevant personalities. The majority of newspaper writers seem unconscious of the existence of any but political interests, and even in politics their view is confined to the very narrow area of Japanese party politics; in foreign affairs they take little interest. To education, religion, commerce and the numerous social topics that need ventilating they are quite indifferent.

The same magazine has an article by Mr. Katayama Hisomu entitled "What we expect from Social Reformers." The following is the gist of what this writer has to say on the social problems likely to arise in Japan. There is less competition and hence less distress in Japan than in the thickly populated countries of Europe. Many of the troubles encountered by Western nations in their onward progress will be avoided by us because we have the advantage of being able to profit by the experience of others. What we are suffering from now is an unsettled state of opinion on a variety of subjects. There is in all quarters a certain amount of swinging between two extremes; action is followed by reaction. But on the whole nothing can be plainer than the fact that in all things the nation is bent on progress and improvement. The agitation of a small section of the public, such as the authors and promoters of what is known as the Nippon Shugi or Kokusui Shugi party, is not to be interpreted as an indication of the feelings of the mass of the people. . . .There is much less class distinction in Japan than in Europe. In many western countries the higher classes speak a different language from the lower and their customs are quite different. Hence it happens that a slight cause of disagreement between the classes grows into a serious rupture. Many of the malcontents of Europe owe their existence to despotic forms of government. Such are the socialists of Germany, the nihilists of Russia, and the anarchists of Italy. We have reason to hope that a considerate government may succeed in removing all causes of discontent among the lower classes. With us the capitalist and the labourer are not likely to quarrel as they do in Europe, as the one has no strong antipathy to the other. We cannot help thinking that those who agitate most for social reform have exaggerated existing evils. Where reform is undoubtedly needed is in the management of money and general property. We on the whole cannot be called a thrifty people. Would-be reformers would do well to make a thorough investigation of the actual state of affairs. Economy is a subject that is quite unknown to the mass of our people. Instead of making a little money go a long way too many of them make a large sum of money go a little way. The writer has a good deal to say on the benefit to be derived from Trusts, for which we have no space here.

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In an article on "The Foreign Ownership of Land," we find the *Taiyô* siding with the opponents of the unconditional surrender of the rights Japan reserved to herself when she signed the Revised Treaties. From a financial point of view the granting of the right of ownership to foreigners would undoubtedly be most beneficial to the country, says the *Taiyô*. It would make mixed residence a reality, whereas now it is only a name, as the foreign possessors of immovable property in the interior would certainly settle down among us contentedly and not a few of them would probably become naturalised. But from a political point of view this measure cannot be recommended. Foreigners have always greatly desired the privilege of owning land, but seeing that we did not grant it to them at the time of Treaty Revision there is no reason why we should grant it now without a *quid pro quo*. If it is to be conceded, let us get in return some of the many privileges we have in vain asked foreigners to grant. Let us ask America to abolish her tax on our tea, and allow us to trade freely with places situated on the Pacific Coast; let us ask France to reduce the tax on our silk; let us ask England and Germany to grant us the privilege of translating their books at will, and let us ask Russia to allow us to fish off the coast of Saghalien.

A somewhat interesting series of articles have been published in the *Jimmin Shimbun* entitled *Kwagaku-teki Nippon* (Scientific Japan), which we epitomise below. The writer uses the word "Scientific" in a very limited sense, in the sense of advanced or modern. So that the title, as is not infrequently the case, gives little idea of the subject treated; which is the importance of combination and organization in all the undertakings of man and the lack of it in Japan. In America, commences the writer, boys seem born with faculties for organizing. Even at elementary schools they will organize Athletic Associations, with a president, secretary, treasurer, and what not. This comes quite naturally to them. They have the feeling that nothing will succeed if set about in any other way. This spirit is wanting in Japan. Not only so, there seems to be a great deal in Japanese human nature that is subversive of organization. There is hardly a Company or Society in existence but has felt the influence of the disruptive tendency in the minds of members. In Japanese society, there are individuals and there are families, but there are no corporations that grow naturally as they do in the West. One of the principal reasons of this is the suspicion with which Japanese regard each other. In the West those who join a society or company do so with the feeling that their fellow-members are honest folk, but in Japan each member acts as though he knew he had rogues to deal with. The saying *hito wo mitara dorobô to omoye* (When you see a man take him for a thief) has passed into a proverb in this country. The feeling that we are surrounded by dishonest people goes with us wherever we go, so that it is no surprise to us to be confronted with the notice, "Beware of pickpockets;" we live in a state of wariness and the notice is hardly necessary. But this constant state of suspicion lessens the pleasure of existence considerably. People say that Western Civilisation is confined to material things and that in the region of mind we Japanese are ahead of foreigners. To me the reverse seems to be the case. In material things we have adopted foreign methods, but as regards mental qualities they are far and of us. Though there is a great deal of friendly feeling existing between relatives, in this country fellow-townsmen and people from the same district or the same village as a rule do not fraternise. In this respect we have not imbibed the spirit of western civilisation.

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As has already been mentioned in these columns, the sixtieth anniversary of Baron Shibusawa's birthday has been celebrated by the publication of what practically amounts to a history of commerce in Japan in recent years. The *Seiyen Sensei Rokujunenshi* (the History of 60 years of Baron Shibusawa's Life), the title of the work we are noticing, consists of 2 vols. and covers no less than 2,200 pages. The principal compiler was Dr. Sakatani, of the Finance Department. The work is most exhaustive, containing some notice of every important branch of business carried on in Japan. From the *Taiyô's* review we extract the following details. The use of the word "history" in reference to the record of the life of an individual is hardly allowable, but Baron Shibusawa's personality is so identified with the development of business in this country that in this case compiling a biography is the same as writing a history. There is certainly no man in the business world who has a greater name than Baron Shibusawa. As money accumulators the Mitsui brothers and the Iwasakis' have no equals in this country, but no member of either of these families will bear comparison with Baron Shibusawa in the matter of influence and actual achievement. What Mr. Fukuzawa has been in the region of thought that Baron Shibusawa has been in the world of practice. The former taught the Japanese public that a thorough reform in their business methods was necessary; the latter led the way in putting into practice approved theories. At the beginning of the *Meiji* era Mr. Shibusawa was associated with Count Inoue in dealing with national finances and even at that time had already made a name for himself as an economist. Had he listed to follow politics instead of devoting himself to business he might have become a Minister of State any num-

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ber of times during his career. His reasons for choosing a business profession were two. (1) He hoped by so doing to bridge over the gulf that divided, and still to a certain divides, officials from plebeians and to overcome that silly prejudice against business which was one of the heirlooms received from the Tokugawa age. In this he resembled Mr. Fukuzawa who has always stood forth as the champion of plebeianism. (2) But there was another reason for his choosing an occupation that would necessitate the constant dealing with figures. He was born with a mathematical head and elaborate calculations were his delight from boyhood. Though the son of a peasant, he received a good education. He began his business career at the age of 14 before his education was finished and even at that time showed proficiency beyond his years.

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The *Rikugô Zasshi* publishes a letter from New York written by Mr. Kaneko Kiichi, entitled "Two Questions that lie athwart the Frontiers of the Twentieth Century." The writer is impressed with the fact that the whole western world is absorbed in money making. According to him it is the one engrossing topic of conversation everywhere. All things in life seem to be subordinated to the pursuit of wealth. The hatred of capitalists is growing apace, being fed by ever increasing distress. The rich are literally devouring the poor. (*Jakuniku Kyôshoku*). Communism is abroad and finds more favour everyday. One of the great questions of the day then is what can be done to alleviate the sufferings of the thousands who are feeling the effects of events over which they have no control? Of more importance than the subjugation of the Boers is this question of labour and capital. It will occupy the foremost place in literature as a problem for which some satisfactory solution must be found. (2) Next to this, religion, says Mr. Kaneko, will receive more attention in the near future than it has received for many years past. Respect for the old creeds has dwindled away. Religious ceremonies are regarded as harmless old customs that no longer mean anything to those who attend them. There is a strong desire in the hearts of earnest men for a rational form of faith. Dissatisfaction with existing creeds is universal.

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A writer in the *Bungei Shimbun* maintains that the whole range of Japanese poetry tends to show that Japanese æsthetic taste is confined to a very narrow sphere. A certain kind of delicate beauty such as is displayed in the wings of the butterfly or on the petals of the violet is ardently admired, but in the more magnificent forms of beauty, such as is seen in the grandeur of the mountain storm or the rolling of huge ocean billows there is little that is captivating to the Japanese mind. Going through the *Manyôshû*, the *Kokinshû* and other collections of verses one is struck, says the writer we quote, by the absence of grand poetic ideas. There are pretty fancies, but hardly anything that reaches to the level of the sublime. In the *Bummei* era (A. D. 1786-1788) an eminent composer of those comic verses known an *haikai*, Buson, endeavoured to remedy this defect, but with very meagre results. The *Noritô*, the *Kojiki*, and a few other ancient works do certainly contain some sublime thoughts, but with these exceptions in our prose as in our poetry the form of beauty that finds most acceptance is what we may term gracefulness.

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The Tôkyô Semmon Gakkô has published Mr. Sakai Yôzaburô's *Kinsei Oshû-gwaikôshi* (A History of Modern Diplomacy) which is a translation of the French work by M. Debidour, entitled *Histoire diplomatique de l'Europe depuis l'ouverture du congrès de Vienne jusqu' à la clôture du congrès de Berlin* (1814-78). The translation was made for the Foreign Office, where the book is much used for reference. It occupied Mr. Sakai for three years and is said to have been very carefully done. Vol. I. sells at 1 *yen* 50 *sen* and vol. II. at 2 *yen*.

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The *Nippon Shimbun* gives a list of newly issued magazines with short notices of each as follows:—

(1) The *Kokuryoku*, published at Higashi Katamachi, Hongô, Tôkyô, mentioned in our last summary, is a fortnightly organ of the Shimpôha. The writing is incisive, but rather scanty in quantity.

(2) The 士氣, *Shiki*, is also a political organ, which attacks its foes with great spirit, as its title implies. It evidently owes its birth to some party split, but so far it has not shown its colours in a sufficiently open manner to allow of its *locus standi* being determined. The office of the magazine is the Kwairansha, Nakanomachi, Tôkyô.

(3) The 少文豪, *Shôbungô* (The Young Literary Hero) published at Imagawa Kôji, Kanda, prints the effusions of provincial youthful aspirants for literary fame. The *Nihon Shimbun* is uncertain whether to praise or to condemn it.

(4) The 文界, *Bunkai*, is a general, monthly, literary magaine. It discusses education, home life, customs, and other subjects connected with social reform.

(5) The *Hôritsu Shishin* (指針) is a monthly that devotes itself principally to collecting legal judgments. Its office is in Kakigarachô, Nihonbashi, Tôkyô.

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A highly useful work on Japanese Keramics has lately been published by the Suzandô, Nihonbashi-ku, Tôkyô, which sells at 50 *sen* per copy. Its title is the *Kantei-hiketsu* (鑒定秘訣) *Tôki-ruishû*. The *Shigaku Zasshi* speaks highly of the book. The author is a Mr. Takagi Josui. It is stated that he describes minutely no less than 230 different kinds of ware, and in every case indicates what are the points in which the various classes excel, gives the names of the principal manufacturers, together with a history of the business they carry on. It is said that the author is an antiquarian and had no other object in collecting the information he has published but the gratification of his own taste, but the work cannot but be regarded as a most valuable addition to the history of one of Japan's most important industries, says the *Shigaku Zasshi*.

LAUNCH AT YOKOSUKA DOCKYARD.

Visit of the Emperor.

Yokosuka was in holiday dress on Saturday, in honour of the visit of His Majesty the Emperor to witness the launching of the despatch vessel *Chihaya* built at the Dockyard. The rather squalid streets of the Japanese Portsmouth were made brighter than usual with lanterns and bunting, and the numerous war vessels in the fine harbour dressed ship. The streets, as always, swarmed with soldiers and bluejackets, and a large number of officers and official notabilities' from Tokyo added a touch of brilliancy to the concourse. His Majesty left his Palace at 9.30 a.m., and proceeded by special train from Shinbashi at 10 o'clock, arriving at Yokosuka at 11.37. He was met by the principal officials, and drove to the *Chiuju-fu*, where he partook of luncheon before performing the ceremony.

In the meantime a large and distinguished gathering of naval and military men and civilians, as well as a great crowd of spectators, had assembled around the stays on which the hull of the *Chihaya* was poised. The great number of handsome uniforms, agreeably relieved by the vividly-tinted dresses of a number of Japanese ladies, made the scene very brilliant. In line with the bows of the new ship, and commanding a perfect view of all that should take place, was a pavilion erected for the accommodation of His Majesty, consisting of two or three tiers of seats and one of higher level where his Majesty's chair and table were placed. The decorations consisted of broad bands of red and white bunting, with the Imperial Chrysanthemum and two crossed flags in front. The *Chihaya* was festooned with greenery, and her deck structures were picked out with garlands of the same material. At the bows was suspended a large ball of parti-coloured paper, in which the customary doves were imprisoned. The *Chihaya* is by no means one of the largest vessels so far constructed at Yokosuka; in fact it belongs to a quite secondary rank as regards size. It is intended for a despatch-vessel, and is of 1,230 tons displacement. Built of steel throughout, it is 83.8 metres long, 9.6 metres in extreme breadth, and has a draught forward of 2.64 metres and aft of 3.34 metres. It has twin screws, triple expansion engines of 6,000 indicated horse-power, and four boilers of the Normand type, the speed afforded being 21 knots. The armament consists of two 4.7 in quick-firing guns, four quick-firing 12 pounders, and five torpedo tubes, one right forward and the other four on the upper deck. The armament is all from Armstrong's but will be fitted in Japan. The ship has been designed and built wholly in Japan under the supervision of Constructor Yamaguchi, who directs the 3,000 or 4,000 men employed in the construction department at Yokosuka. The *Chihaya* was laid down about three years ago, and will probably be ready for commission in six months or a little more.

At about a quarter-past the hour, the Naval Band struck up the *Kimigayo*, and immediately after the Imperial party made its appearance. His Majesty, who wore a state uniform, was accompanied by Admiral Inouye and Admiral Matsunaga, of the Dockyard, Admiral Ito, Admiral Yamamoto, Minister for the Navy; Chief Constructor Admiral Saso, Admiral Yamaguchi, Admiral Miyabara, and the staff of the Dockyard and Admiralty Office. After the Emperor had taken up his stand, a speech was read by Admiral Yamamoto, and the operation of launching was then commenced. At the word of command wedges were hammered in to throw the weight of the ship on the "cradle"; then the side shores were removed; next the sand bag holding the stern supports was removed from the chocks, and finally the safety key was taken from the "dog shore," and allowed to fall. At this point the ship should have moved of its own weight, but, probably owing to the fact that it was rather light, it was necessary to start it on its way. Two hydraulic pumps of 100 tons each were accordingly set at work, and at the end of half a minute's pumping the hull had moved an inch. This was sufficient impetus, and it commenced slowly and gracefully to glide along the tallow-anointed slips, gathering momentum with every second, and taking the water amid a splash and a pandemonium of shrieks from the steam whistles of all the craft outside and of *banzai* from the spectators. The motion of the vessel drew taut the cord securing the ball of paper over the bows, and liberated the imprisoned doves, besides letting free a great quantity of varicoloured ribbons. The ceremony was in every way a complete success.

After seeing the *Chihaya* fairly in the water, His Majesty lost no time in withdrawing and was driven to the Admiralty Department, where he remained until nearly four o'clock, when his equipage, preceded by the standard bearer and outriders, passed through an immense crowd to the Railway Station, which the Imperial train left a few minutes past four.

Meanwhile the invited guests repaired to a larger room on the upper floor of one of the workshops, where a cold luncheon was provided of which many hundred officers and visitors partook. Admiral Matsunaga proposed the health of the Emperor amid loud applause, in the absence of His Majesty; and Mr. Kataoka, President of the House of Representatives, submitted the toast of "The Navy." The foreign guests included the German Military Attaché, Captain Bayly, R.N., Professor Hillhouse, Capt. Bishop, M. Francois, and Mr. J. M. James.

In and near the luncheon room were many clever specimens of the ingenuity of the Japanese bluejacket and mechanic. One was a tiger in a bamboo thicket. The tiger was composed of oakum, with a diver's helmet for his head, and iron staples for his claws, while his native jungle was composed of bamboos made out of cans, with slips of white wood for the leaves. Perhaps even more ingenious was a monster dragon-fly, constructed out of the most unpromising materials. Its eyes consisted of two large round bottles, like hand grenades, its antenæ were of insulated wire, its legs were pincers,

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the thorax was represented by a round piece of metal, its wings were two pairs of saws, its abdomen a length of hose pipe. A fearsome centipede had a couple of door knobs for eyes, and its *annulæ* were a series of brass fittings of various kinds. A chrysanthemum made entirely of glue, a dwarf tree of isinglass, and a wistaria plant of insulated wire and steel pens were among other clever imitations. The written description of these works of art conveys no idea of the dexterity with which nature was imitated by these most unlikely materials.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

The special correspondent of the *China Mail*, wiring from Yokohama under date of May 19, thus sums up the political situation in the Far East :—

I have returned from an extensive tour of investigation in North China and Korea.

At Tientsin I learned that the Imperial Government are in sympathy with the Boxer Society, and that General Yuan Skik-hai, Governor of Shantung, had not received orders to use vigorous measures to suppress the Society.

Port Arthur is swarming with soldiers, and the naval and military authorities are very active. Two American firms are selling the Russian Government large quantities of stores for the provisioning of the stronghold.

At the Korean towns, Chemulpo, Söul, Mokpho and Fusan, the Japanese control the foreign trade. The Japanese have large and exclusive settlements at each of these ports. Japanese officers are frequently seen in Korea. Undoubtedly Japan would fight to defend her trade in Korea, but the best-informed people are of opinion that, although Japan and Russia may squabble over points of strategical advantage, these differences will not for a long time lead to war, and Korea will continue to be the buffer State between the two Powers for years.

It may be, however, that Japan will be forced into the war by a possible approaching financial crisis. It is reported that there will be an enormous deficit in the budget this year. The amount of the deficit is rumoured at forty million *yen*. Where the money is to come from to meet the current expenses of Japan's large army and navy is the question of the day seriously agitating the minds of statesmen. The people are already highly taxed, and the taxes collected from foreign merchants have fallen far below the sum in the estimates.

The Minister of Finance says the present hard time in Japan is due to a reaction from over-speculation after the war with China. It is asserted by the foreign banks that Japan is being drained of gold, but Japanese officials state that only eight millions have gone out since the China War.

On the whole, I believe that the able men at the head of the Japanese Government can restrain the country from entering into a damaging war without more serious provocation than Russia is likely to give within the next two years.

A DIVORCE SUIT.

The application of Madame Francois to the Chiho Saibansho praying that her husband should be prohibited from entering the premises of the Central Hotel pending the decision in the divorce suit which the lady has instituted, came on for hearing before Judge Fujise on Saturday morning.

Mr. Inouye, who appeared for the plaintiff, said his client had been married to the defendant for ten years, and had been faithful to him, but defendant had brought damaging accusations against her, while his visits to the hotel injured her in her business.

Dr. Mecre gave evidence of treating the plaintiff for slight injuries to her eye, neck, and elbow, and a guest at the Hotel, named Gastard, deposed to having seen plaintiff struck by defendant. A Japanese employe also gave evidence.

The Court dismissed the application with costs.

CHINA NOTES.

The Shanghai Taotai has just done a graceful act, which will be generally appreciated by foreigners, in making a personal contribution of Tls. 1,000 to the Indian Famine Fund.

The Empress-Dowager, Emperor, and Heir-Apparent Pu Chun, who have been spending the winter at Eho Park Palace, will return to Peking for the summer during the first week of June.

It is reported from Peking that wild reports and rumours are being circulated in the city, and placards have been posted not far from the Legations, while well-poisoning stories are also current.

Ill-feeling against the Hankow railway is reported to be growing, partly owing to several accidents which have occurred in connection with the construction and partly through the alleged bad conduct of the railway men.

A French missionary who has lately visited Kwangchuwan declares in *L'Echo du Tonkin* that, though certain parts of the new French acquisition may be tranquil, this is not the case on the Chinese frontier, where pirates are very busy both on land and by sea.

It is said that the Siamese Government is considering a measure for the taxing of Chinese in that Kingdom at the rate of $8.00 per head per annum. This, it is estimated, will bring an additional revenue to the Siamese Government of something like $240,000 a year.

The *North China Daily News* says :—"The police generally, and Inspector Armstrong in paticular, are to be heartily congratulated on their clever capture of Chang Chang-wo, the leader of the Pootung dacoits." He was captured on the 4th inst. in company with another of the band, The Mixed Court ordered that the prisoners should be sent to the City, where the principal, it is said, will undoubtedly be decapitated.

The death is announced at Peking of pleurisy of Père Louis Gaillard, S.J., the distinguished author of "Cross and Swastika in China" and the "Plan of Nanking," in the "Variétés Sinologiques." He was born at Paris in 1850. He was a man of great talents, charming manners, and refined and cultivated taste, and was entirely devoted to his work. In his premature death, remarks the *N.-C. Daily News*, the Kiangnan Mission to which he belonged suffers a very marked loss.

The Nanking correspondent of *The North China Daily News* reports the return to the duties there of old Viceroy Liu Kun-yi, who had surrendered his official seals but has now taken them back. He also notes that some Japanese have established themselves near the Drum Tower, Nanking, and have opened a school for the study of languages. When the school is in full running order some two hundred Japanese are expected to be in attendance. They are to receive instruction in other branches.

A notice to mariners just issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs states that a beacon named the Rocky Point Beacon, Min River, Foochow district, has been erected on the ledge of rocks existing about half-way between Tunui and Tintao, and bearing from Half-tide Beacon W. by S. ½ S., distant 8 cables. The beacon is about 80 feet from the outer extremity of the ledge of rocks and consists of a spar surmounted by a cage, about 13 ft. above high water. The beacon is painted red and the cage bears the words "Rocky Point." Vessels are advised not to approach within one cable of the beacon.

The following Chinese dispatch, under date the 18th May, has been received from Wuchang, and translated by the leading Shanghai morning journal :—The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung received yesterday a dispatch from the perfect of Shih-nan-fu reporting a rising of malcontents in Lichuan district, who attacked a number of Christian villagers there and who succeeded in killing a number of the latter, besides destroying two villages. A strong body of Yamen runners sent by the magistrate of Lichuan served further to increase the wrath of the malcontents, who killed five of the runners and chased the remainder into Lichuan, the gates of which were shut when it appeared that the malcontents were going to assault the place. Upon receiving news of the rising General Fu, commanding at Shihnanfu, at once set out with a force of troops to suppress the Lichuan rising, but was met half-way by the malcontents, who stopped his further progress and killed some 20 of his men in the fighting that ensued. Viceroy Chang has now telegraphed to Ichang to send troops to help General Fu.

The Lu Huan line having been completed as far as Chung-ting, the Russians have asked the Government to send the proper officials with them to define the railway grant already held by them for the line from that point to Tai Yuen, the provincial capital of Shansi, and to assist them in purchasing the land for the line.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

A correspondent, writing to the *Rangoon Times* from the Burmah Boundary Commissioners' Camp at Pang Hsang on the 21st April, says :—We have heard from Mong Tum that the Was have been fighting again with the Chinese left there and that the latter have had to leave, their ammunition being exhausted and the local Shan Militia employed having insisted on returning to their homes : as the pay of a militiaman is something less than two rupees a month with nothing found, it is not surprising that he should hanker after home sweet home. The Was destroyed such parts of both Mong Hkaw, where we were camped so long, and Mong Tum as were outside the stockades surrounding those towns. On the departure of the Chinese the Shan residents bought peace with the Was, at probably a pretty high figure. Very likely also the Chinese troops had to pay their way out. So the Was, in spite of the drubbing we gave them, have come out top after all. The idea of the Chinese troops remaining at Mong Tum was that they should protect the Shans while sowing their crops. The manner in which this purpose has been carried out is very celestial.

A dispatch received recently in Shanghai from members of the Reform Party at Taiyuen-fu, capital of Shansi, and printed in the *North China Daily News*, reports that since the assumption, a short time ago, by Yü Hsien, ex-Governor, of the office of Governor of the former province, that notorious hater of all things foreign has already begun to put a stop to all the reform measures of the former enlightened Governor, Hu Ping-chih, such as the College of Western Sciences, the Foreign Military Academy, cotton yarn and woollen mills, etc. Besides this he has also begun his system of opposition to foreigners in the province, a proceeding which, it will be remembered, was stopped, although too late in the day, by his being recalled by the Empress Dowager, owing to complaints made by some of the Foreign Ministers at Peking. It will also be borne in mind that when the news of Yü Hsien's appointment to Shansi was published, about two months ago, a note of warning was sounded of what might be expected from such an official in a province where the Peking Syndicate was just commencing its exploitations of railways and mines. As matters at present stand it also appears from the dispatch now quoted that where foreigners always found the people friendly and glad to give help to strangers, they are now gradually becoming more hostile, the hint having evidently gone forth from the provincial capital that the high authorities are hostile to foreigners and it would therefore be well that the people should also follow suit. Another note of warning may therefore now be sounded, and that is that the Boxers may now be expected to soon appear in Shansi also, for it is well-known that this notorious Manchu Governor is the actual author of this anti-foreign association.

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YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

SPRING REGATTA.

The opening day of the Spring Regatta was favoured with splendid weather, the conditions both on land and sea being everything that could be desired. The attendance was good, especially during the latter part of the afternoon, and a good number of ladies graced the proceedings with their presence. The fact that the interport events were to be decided at Yokohama this year lent additional interest to the gathering, and the sport was on the whole excellent. The Interport Fours proved a fairly easy win for Kobe, as had been generally anticipated by the knowing ones. The Alphabetical Fours resulted in an unexpectedly easy capture for Squire's crew, who simply walked away from the more veteran crew stroked by Hayward. The Interport Sculls proved a very hollow thing, Sorhagen, who was hopelessly outclassed, giving up the race. The Senior Pairs proved a capital race, and the applause which greeted Levedag's fine win was well deserved. In the Weight Fours Levedag's crew won with ease, and the last race of the day, the Senior Double Sculls, was a win for Hayward and Squire, Carst and Irwine making a good fight of it.

The prizes were of an exceptionally handsome description, the most conspicuous being those for the Senior Pairs, consisting of a silver cup, given by the Japanese Bankers' Association, and a bronze statuette,—representating a warrior in armour—presented by Mr. Masujima. The prizes for all the Interport events were gold medals made from sovereigns.

The Town Band was present and performed a number of selections, also playing for dancing during the latter part of the afternoon. Refreshments were provided at the Boat House.

The officials were Mr. F. J. Hall, starter; Mr. H. C. Litchfield, judge; and Mr. H. S. Goddard, timekeeper. The Roman numerals denote starting position. Details :—

INTERPORT FOURS.—1 Mile.

II.—K. R. & A. C.

"HART."

Bow.	W. Pietzcker, 155lb.	1
2.	E. Oldenberg, 151lb.	
3.	C. Mancini, 156lb.	
Str.	P. Sorhagen 155lb.	
Cox.	H. E. Green, 133lb.	

I.—Y. A. R. C.

"PEEWIT."

Bow.	W. M. Squire, 150lb.	2
2.	H. A. Poole, 156lb.	
3.	A. T. White, 168lb.	
Str.	G. C. Allcock, 157lb.	
Cox.	W. Goddard, 130lb.	

Time, 7.34.

The Kobe crew, with the outside berth, got the best of the start, Sorhagen setting a stroke of 32 to the minute, while Allcock pulled 30. At the half-mile, Kobe, still leading by about a length, had slowed down to 28, while Allcock still maintained his stroke. By the time they passed the breakwater the Yokohama boat had drawn up somewhat, and was almost level at one time, but Kobe put on a spurt, to which the Yokohama men were unable to respond, and won a good race by half a length. The time was excellent.

ALPHABETICAL FOURS.—One Mile.

II.—N. TO Z.

"SEAMEW" (GREEN.)

Bow.	M. F. Stephens, 149lb.	1
2.	A. T. White, 168lb.	
3.	O. Strome, 190lb.	
Str.	W. M. Squire, 150lb.	
Cox.	J. Abbey, 114lbs.	

I.—A. TO M.

"SWAN" (WHITE.)

Bow.	W. Goddard, 130lbs.	2
2.	H. Y. Irwine, 151lbs.	
3.	F. Kluss, 156lbs.	
Str.	H. E. Hayward, 143lbs.	
Cox.	W. M. Carst, 130lbs.	

Time, 8.25½.

Hayward's crew got rather the best of the start and went away with a stroke of 31 to the minute, Squire setting a rather slower stroke of 30. This crew, however, pulling capitally together, soon drew ahead, and had a lead of a length and a half by the time the Pacific Mail jetty was reached. The distance was too great to be recovered and Hayward seemed not to care to make an effort to get on terms; the journey to the finish was therefore a hollow affair, and Squire's crew won with great ease by a couple of lengths.

INTERPORT SINGLE SCULLS.—One Mile.

I.—Y. A. R. C.

H. Y. Irwine, 151lb. 1

II.—K. R. & A. C.

P. Sorhagen, 155lb. 0

Time 8.43½.

Sorhagen sculling 28 to the minute got the best of the start, but by the time half the distance was completed Irwine, who had reached smoother water; had a slight lead, which was increased owing to Sorhagen's steering a bad course, so that at the P. M. wharf Irwine was lengths to the good. Sorhagen, had been showing signs of distress before this point, and now, seeing the struggle was hopeless, gave up, allowing Irwine to scull in alone. Irwine maintained a stroke of 30 to the minute throughout.

SENIOR PAIRS.—One Mile.

I.—"SCOTER."

Bow.	B. J. Jackson, 173lb.	1
Str.	E. Levedag, 185lb.	
Cox.	J. R. Gibson, 134lb.	

III.—"SCAUP."

Bow.	F. H. Abbey, 143lb.	2
Str.	A. T. White, 168lb.	
Coq.	J. Abbey, 114lb.	

II.—"SHELLDRAKE."

Bow.	F. Kluss, 156lb.	0
Str.	H. A. Poole, 156lb.	
Cox.	W. M. Carst, 130lb.	

Time, 10.5.

Levedag had the inside berth, and White the outside. White's boat took a slight lead, Poole sticking close to him, while Levedag was left over a length behind. By the time half the distance was completed, however, Levedag was holding Poole well, and almost on level terms, White being a length and a half ahead of the other two. Levedag now began to put on steam in earnest, and quickly passed Poole. At the Pacific Mail wharf he was a length and a half ahead of Poole, and was making a fine effort to reach White, who was beginning to show signs of distress. White, however, entered the breakwater with a lead of a length, and it appeared that after all he would win, especially as Levedag did not for some little time afterwards appreciably reduce the distance. When opposite the Grand Hotel, however, he began to spurt, and gradually drew nearer White, who was quite unable to respond. There was no question as to which crew would win if the distance was long enough for Levedag's quickened stroke to tell, but both were now very close to the finish, and the issue was doubtful. By a splendid effort, however, Levedag, managed to force his boat ahead just at the proper moment, and won by a quarter of a length. He had rowed a capital race, with the disadvantage of a bad start. Poole's crew was quite out of it.

WEIGHT FOURS.—One Mile.

I.—12 ST. AND OVER.

"SEAMEW" (Green.)

Bow.	A. T. White, 168lb.	1
2.	B. J. Jackson, 173lb.	
3.	H. K. Onderdonk, 184lb.	
Str.	E. Levedag, 185lb.	
Cox.	J. R. Gibson, 134lb.	

II.—UNDER 11 ST.

"SWAN" (White.)

Bow.	M. F. Stephens, 149lb,	2
2.	H. Y. Irwine, 151lb.	
3.	W. M. Squire, 150lb.	
Str.	H. E. Hayward, 143lb.	
Cox.	W. Goddard, 130lb.	

III.—11 ST. AND OVER.

"FLAMINGO" (Red.)

Bow.	F. Kluss, 156lb.	0
2.	H. A. Poole, 156lb.	
3.	J. J. M. Carst, 164lb.	
Str.	G. C. Allcock, 157lb.	
Cox.	W. M. Carst, 130lb.	

Time 8.41.

Levedag got the inside berth, and Allcock the outside. Allcock had the best of the start and went away with a slight lead, the other two being about level. By the quarter mile, however, Levedag had reduced much of the distance between his boat and Allcock's, and had a lead of Hayward. At the half mile Levedag had forged ahead of Allcock, who had began to show signs of fagging, and Hayward, putting on steam, got on terms and soon after passed Allcock. At the P.M. Wharf Levedag had a clear length of a lead, while Allcock was lengths behind Hayward. A good race ensued from this point between Levedag and Hayward, the latter rowing gamely, but he was unable to reach Levedag's boat, which won by about three lengths.

SENIOR DOUBLE SCULLS.—Three-quarter Mile. (Ladies' Purse).

"TERN."

Bow.	H. E. Hayward, 143lb.	1
Str.	W. M. Squire, 150lb.	

"PEARL."

Bow.	H. Y. Irwine, 151lb.	2
Str.	J. J. M. Carst, 161lb.	

Time, 6.47½.

Hayward went away with a slight lead, which he maintained throughout. There was a fine race for the finish, Carst making a hard fight of it. He was unable, however, to reach Hayward, who won by three-quarters of a length.

Miss A. I. Moss presented the most-coveted prize to the winners in a neatly worded speech of congratulation.

SECOND DAY'S REGATTA.

On Saturday, the second day of the Spring Regatta of the Y.A.R.C., the weather was again delightful. The water for the greater part of the afternoon was rather lumpy, owing to a fresh southerly wind which, though with the rowers, made the work of paddling out to the starting point rather irksome. The Japanese crews, it was noted, got over this by being towed to the half mile line. The attendance at the Boathouse was larger than on Friday and great interest was taken in the various events. The Interport races created quite an excitement and the competing crews were liberally backed by their respective supporters. During the intervals between the races, the ladies, who were present in force, found sufficient amusement in dancing to the strains of the Town Band, which also performed the following programme :—

I.—Overture, "Crown of Victory."	III.—Selection, "Bohemian Girl."
II.—March, "Liberty Bell."	IV.—Fantasie, "Ireland."

Refreshments were liberally dispensed in the Gymnasium, and the visitors generally had an enjoyable time. Most of the races were very even and well contested. In the two interport events honours were divided, the Double Sculls falling to the Yokohama crew, Squire and Hayward, and the Pairs to the Kobe representatives, Mancini and Pietzcker, who rowed in splendid form and had an easy victory. In the races of the local oarsmen the Club beat the Committee after a well contested race, and the Club Fours fell to W. Goddard's crew. The Scratch Fours brought out five boats and resulted after a very close race in another victory for Goddard. The times made generally were very good. The duties of Judge and Starter were efficiently performed by Messrs. H. C. Litchfield and F. J. Hall respectively, while Mr. H. S. Goddard officiated as timekeeper. The details were as follows, the Roman figures before the names of the boats indicating their position from the shore at the start :—

INTERPORT DOUBLE SCULLS.—One Mile.

Y. A. R. C.

"TERN."

Bow.	H. E. Hayward, 143lb.	1
Str.	W. M. Squire, 150lb.	

K. R. & A. C.

"PEARL."

Bow.	W. Pietzcker, 155lb.	2
Str.	P. Sorhagen, 155lb.	

Time, 8.32½

The start, as in the other events in which two boats only competed over the mile course, was from small buoys, and was therefore perfectly level. Both crews began with a stroke of about 28. Sorhagen steered a bad course at first which allowed Squire, on the inside, to obtain a slight lead, but a little later this was lost by the latter steering too far inshore, and at the P. M. Wharf the two boats were abreast. Both crews continued to steer a zig-zag course till passing the Breakwater, where Sorhagen had a slight lead. Squire then spurted, and, after a very fine race to the finish, won by about a foot.

CLUB V. COMMITTEE.—One Mile.

I.—CLUB.

"SEAMEW" (Green..)

Bow.	M. F. Stephens, 149 lbs.	1
2.	H. Y. Irwine, 151 lbs.	
3.	A. T. White, 168 lbs.	
Str.	W. M. Squire, 151 lbs.	
Cox.	J. Abbey, 130 lbs.	

II.—COMMITTEE.

"SEAMEW" (White.)

Bow.	W. Goddard, 130 lbs.	2
2.	H. A. Poole, 156 lbs.	
3.	G. C. Allcock, 156 lbs.	
Str.	H. E. Hayward, 143 lbs.	
Cox.	A. L. Mottu, 140 lbs.	

Time 8.19.

After a level start Hayward obtained a slight lead, but Squire, a little later, drew up to him and before reaching the Wharf quickened his stroke and drew away a length. Hayward then spurted and Squire responded, and holding his lead, won a good race by a bare length.

INTERPORT PAIRS.—One Mile.

K. R. & A. C.

"PRIMROSE."

Bow.	W. Pietzcker, 155 lbs.	1
Str.	C. Mancini, 156 lbs.	
Cox.	H. E. Green, 133 lbs.	

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Y. A. R. C.

"SCAUP."

Bow.	B. J. Jackson, 185 lbs.	2
Str.	E. Levedag, 185 lbs.	
Cox.	J. R. Gibson, 134 lbs.	

Time 9.35½.

Starting level from the buoys, Mancini soon drew ahead, rowing a long swinging stroke of about 27 to the minute, while the Yokohama stroke was a little quicker. Mancini gradually increased his lead and was four or five lengths ahead at the wharf, and a dozen at the finish.

JAPANESE SIX-OARS—½ Mile.

Three boats competed in this race, all the crews being assistants in Japanese banks. They were distinguished by the colour of the jackets of the crews, white, green, and red. Green, in inside position, got rather the best of the start, but the three were soon very level. All pulled a fast stroke. At the Wharf White led by half a length from Red, Green having dropped behind. Red spurted inside the Breakwater and won by about half a length, White second. Time 4.27.

CLUB FOURS.—1 Mile.

"DARTER" (BLACK.)

Bow.	H. Y. Irwine, 151 lbs.	1
2.	B. J. Jackson, 185 lbs.	
3.	O. Strome, 190 lbs.	
Str.	W. Goddard, 130 lbs.	
Cox.	H. Gorman, 125 lbs.	

"SEAMEW" (Green.)

Bow.	J. E. Moss, 132 lbs.	2
2.	F. H. Abbey, 143 lbs.	
3.	A. T. White, 168 lbs.	
Str.	W. M. Squire, 150 lbs.	
Cox.	A. L. Mottu, 140 lbs.	

"SWAN" (White.)

Bow.	M. F. Stephens, 149 lbs.	0
2.	H. A. Poole, 156 lbs.	
3.	E. Levedag, 185 lbs.	
Str.	H. E. Hayward, 143 lbs.	
Cox.	J. R. Gibson, 134 lbs.	

"FLAMINGO" (Red.)

Bow.	J. Abbey, 144 lbs.	0
2.	E. Tank, 146 lbs.	
3.	F. Kluss, 156 lbs.	
Str.	G. C. Allcock, 157 lbs.	
Cox.	W. M. Carst, 130 lbs.	

Time, 9.2².

After a little delay the four boats were started very level, Green first showing to the front. At the Wharf Goddard came up with the Green boat and the two rowed nose and nose through the harbour entrance. A little later Goddard spurted and after a close race finished half a length before Squire, the other two boats being two lengths or so behind.

SCRATCH FOURS.—From P. M. Wharf.

GREEN BOAT.

Bow.	Tank	1
2.	Mason	
3.	Strome	
Str.	W. Goddard	

BLUE BOAT.

Bow.	H. A. Poole	2
2.	Barnby	
3.	Hood	
Str.	J. E. Moss	

WHITE BOAT.

Bow.	H. S. Goddard	0
2.	J. Abbey	
3.	Stephens	
Str.	H. Irwine	

BLACK BOAT.

Bow.	Hayes	0
2.	F. H. Abbey	
3.	E. J. Moss	
Str.	C. Mancini	

RED BOAT.

Bow.	Cole	0
2.	H. Goddard	
3.	Levedag	
Str.	Pietzcker	

The five boats were got away on fairly level terms, the Blue and Black boats at first showing a little in advance of the other three. On entering the harbour the Green boat came to the front and after a good race with the Blue, won by about a quarter of a length.

INTERPORT DINNER.

The Interport dinner was held at No. 61, Main Street, on Saturday evening, Mr. F. J. Hall, Captain of the Y.A.R.C., presiding over some 45 members and visitors. At the Chairman's right sat Mr. Sorhagen, winning stroke of the Kobe crew; and among the other visitors was Mr. Mori, Vice-President of the Yushi Rengo Kyosokai. The Vice-chairs were filled by Messrs. Hayward, Poole, Mottu, and W. Goddard. A capital dinner was placed on the boards by Host Clausen, to which full justice was done by a right jovial company.

After the toast of "Our respective Rulers" had been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed the "K.R. and A.C." Having expressed regret at the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. H. C. Litchfield, the Chairman made brief reference to the Interport races. Kobe had won the Fours and the Pairs; Yokohama the Single and Double Sculls, so that honours were divided. The Fours had been won by good honest work; the Double Sculls were only lost by the smallest margin; while as for the Single Sculls, Kobe's representative was undoubtedly handicapped by the inferiority of his boat. Passing on to the regatta generally, the Chairman said that, so far as the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club were concerned, the late regatta had been characterised by the slackest training he had ever seen; he said it with grief. He could only call the manner in which some men who had entered for the races loafed down to the Boat-house, careless as to how it affected others, extremely selfish. Another point which the chairman wished to bring home to members was this. In the regatta just held there had been 10 races participated in by 18 men; of these four had rowed in one race, four in two; piling all the rest of the work on the shoulders of the remaining 10. He would leave it to his hearers to work out how much some men had had to do. One, in fact, rowed in seven races. Now, unless members backed up their committee—the men they deliberately elected at annual general meeting—they could not expect the Club to prosper. He regretted this lack of *esprit de corps* and hoped that his remarks that evening would bear fruit, as they should if taken in the spirit in which they were uttered. While making these remarks, he had no wish to detract from the victories of Kobe. The visitors had shown them what pluck, combined with conscientious work—(a voice, "And Kobe Beef")—could do, and the example set by them should be followed by Yokohama. The Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club would have to proceed on those lines if it wished to retrieve its laurels. In rowing, as in everything else in this life, success waited only on conscientious effort and steady application to the matter in hand; and he would impress on his younger hearers that the experience of the world showed that no man was indispensable. No man was so good but that his place could be filled; no man, it did not matter what were his excellencies or achievements, but would find his services dispensed with did he slacken in the race of life. He hoped that in future regattas the members would be found backing up their Committee better; would go in for training earnestly; would consider the convenience of others more; and in every respect pull together. The Chairman concluded by presenting the Y.A.R.C. club flag to the winning stroke.

Mr. SORHAGEN, in reply, expressed thanks for the kindly reception accorded the Kobe crew, and hoped to meet Yokohama oarsmen at the next interport regatta at Kobe, when he trusted Kobe would give them a good race and hold her own. He concluded by proposing the "Y.A.R.C."

Mr. HAYWARD responded and said that he hoped that when the Yokohama oarsmen went down to Kobe they would do unto Kobe as Kobe had done unto them—and more also; a remark which drew forth loud applause. Mr. Hayward then toasted the winning crews, for which Mr. SQUIRE responded.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the health of Mr. Mr. Mori, Vice-President of the Yushi Rengo Kyosokai, which had donated a prize, and also sent a crew to row in the regatta. He hoped that the time was not far distant when the Japanese oarsmen would be using sliding seats and similar boats to the Y.A.R.C., so as to put up a good race between them; the sooner that time came the better.—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. MORI, speaking in Japanese, said that he echoed the remarks of the Chairman; he hoped that within a few years his association would be using similar boats to the foreigners and that some good races would result.—("Banzai.")

Other toasts were "The Press;" the "Chairman," to whose worth and impartiality Mr. ROSE bore eloquent tribute; and the "Committee." During the evening Mr. Berrick gave a pianoforte selection; Mr. H. A. Poole, a violin solo; and songs were sung by Messrs. E. H. Irwine, H. S. Somerton, G. G. Brady, B. J. Jackson, H. E. Hayward, W. Squire, F. Onderdonk, and others, the company separating about midnight.

The *Argonaut*, cruiser, was commissioned at Chatham on the 19th April by Captain G. H. Cherry, to relieve the *Undaunted*, Captain A. C. Clarke, on the China Station. The t.b.d.'s *Coquette* and *Cygnet* were also commissioned by Com. M. T. Parks and Lieut. Com. F. Wray respectively as tenders to the *Argonaut*. Each of the t.b.d.'s carry a crew of sixty-two.

CRICKET.

MR. CRAWFORD'S TEAM V. MR. DUFF'S.

A match was played between these terms on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Crawford's men batted first and compiled 167, Mr. Duff's side responding with 122 for the loss of seven wickets. Scores:—

MR. CRAWFORD'S TEAM.

Mr. P. B. Clarke, h. Bugbird	9
Mr. H. W. Kilby, run out	35
Mr. H. C. Pollitt, b. Bugbird	2
Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, b. Fradgeley	14
Mr. K. F. Crawford, st. Duff b. Clarke	52
Mr. H. A. Stuart, c. Duff, b. Crabtree	13
Mr. S. Wheeler, b. E. B. Clarke	4
Mr. A. Scott, not out	18
Mr. F. Pollard, b. Fradgeley	4
Mr. A. T. Hellyer, b. Fradgeley	0
Extras	16
Total	167

MR. DUFF'S TEAM.

Mr. F. H. Bugbird, b. P. B. Clarke	17
Mr. E. W. Kilby, c. H. W. Kilby, b. P. B. Clarke	40
Mr. L. S. Hudson, c. Edwards, b. Stuart	6
Mr. Fradgeley, b. Edwards	39
Mr. E. B. Clarke, c. H. W. Kilby b. Pollitt	9
Mr. C. M. Duff, b. Wheeler	0
Mr. Crabtree, c. Crawford, b. Edwards	5
Mr. Pumfret not out	2
Mr. H. W. Clarke. Mr. Austin. Mr. Read. did not bat	0
Extras	4
Total	122

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEFORESTATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Though fearing that all appeals made by private individuals are foredoomed to failure, I cannot refrain from asking the attention of your Japanese readers—especially those whose official position may give them influence—to a circumstance which is not only swiftly impairing the beauty of Japanese landscape, but destroying equally swiftly and beyond all possibility of restoration a valuable source of national income. I allude to the reckless destruction of forests throughout the country. Some thirty years ago—at the beginning of the *Meiji* period—Japan was a land of splendid timber. The destruction since then has been so great and constantly increasing, that it is probably no exaggeration to say that another thirty such disastrous years will denude the country entirely:—the unchecked riot and wilful waste of but two generations will have undone nature's work of thousands of years, and Japan will find herself in the same position as the worn-out countries of the South of Europe are in to-day,—without timber, and with her arable valleys ravaged by those violent floods which, in deforested lands, carry away the soil and leave masses of stones and rubble in its stead. Anyone knowing from literature what Sicily and Greece once were, and having seen their bare, stony, unfruitful surfaces to-day, will recognise that this is no fancy picture, but the simple and necessary punishment that follows on neglect of nature's laws. The inevitable result has indeed already ensued in some places in Japan, for instance along the valley of the Totsugawa in Kishu, where, the trees having all been cut down some years ago, the floods descended so furiously as to wash away the villages for many miles and reduce the people to beggary, so that the authorities found it necessary to assist them to emigrate, of course at considerable public expense. Thus the peasantry of that district, far from contributing to Japan's national resources, became a drain thereon. Similarly near some of the lakes north of Fuji, where, excessively steep hillsides having been cleared to plant barley, the soil has slipped away, barley and all, leaving nothing but naked rocks behind. But such cases being still comparatively rare, and occurring mostly in little frequented regions, no one,—at least no one of influence in public affairs—gives them a second thought. It is probable that the evil will not be recognised till the time for remedy has passed by.

In old Tokugawa days the Japanese forestry laws were of extreme severity; but obedience to them secured the splendid legacy of timber which was the admiration of travellers during the seventies and eighties, and of which patches still remain as a source of national wealth, or—more frequently—as a source of wealth to individual speculators. At the time of the Revolution the old laws fell into desuetude, and in-

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credible ravages were committed by the peasantry. I am told that the forestry regulations drawn up by the Imperial Government are excellent; but unfortunately it would appear that they are not enforced, or that at any rate they are perpetually evaded. Even Government forests, even forests belonging to the Imperial Household itself, as I am informed in travelling about the country, suffer perpetually from the unchecked depredations of private individuals. The whole district on the northern slop of Fuji is being rapidly denuded in this way, sometimes out of pure mischief, sometimes from laziness—as when a man will cut down a chestnut-tree for the sake of the chestnuts, rather than take the trouble of climbing it,—sometimes in the supposed interests of agriculture, as in the case of the ill-planned and ill-fated barley-fields above mentioned, only in the rarest case for the sake of genuine agriculture that will pay. Or take the Imperial forest on the way up from Nikko to Chuzenji. It is said that under various pretences, private individuals apply for a few trees, for building purposes perhaps, to lay down a small bridge, etc. The applicant is then granted, say, ten trees; he cuts down twenty or thirty (the best of course), mangling many others or felling them in spots so difficult of access that, after cutting, it is found impossible to remove them. Charcoal-burners, too, it is averred, enter even such forests without permission, and cut down the maples and other trees indiscriminately. In fact, in many places (and the Chuzenji gorge is one instance) there is little left for deforestation to effect; the once splendid forest is a complete wreck. The grand cryptomerias of the Reiheishi Kaido avenue are being destroyed, one after another, by the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages lighting fires under them, while the practice in many districts of firing the hills every spring destroys great quantities of younger trees. The Kagozaka between Subashiri and Yoshida has been absolutely cleared, whole country-sides in Kyushu have been denuded, for example, the Kurizaka, so called from the chestnut-trees formerly clothing it, but now all destroyed; similarly in Central Japan,—in Joshu and Shinshu. Passing the other day over the Myojin-toge between Oyama station and Lake Yamanaka, I found the beautiful forest there (a Government forest) in process of being cut down. On the Nakasendo, where most of the forests are private property, the same thing is happening so rapidly that within a few years the large population hitherto supported by the timber trade will be deprived of that means of subsistence.

It is no doubt natural and expedient that timber should be exploited as are other resources,—coal and iron for instance. The difference, however, between mineral wealth and wealth accruing from timber is that the latter, if properly managed, is reproductive, and may therefore remain as a permanent source of national wealth, instead of passing away as a merely accidental and temporary one. This fact is so well-known, and indeed self-evident, that to refer to it were useless, had we not proof that it is constantly forgotten. The question now before this country is:—shall the surviving remnants of its forests be wisely managed to such purpose that permanent supplies for house-building, railway sleepers, match factories, etc., may be handed down to the next generation; or shall two classes be allowed to work their will for a short time,—a thoughtless peasantry and a few speculators? It can be but for a short time only. Of the loss to natural beauty I will not speak, easy as it would be to mention spots once famed for the beauty of their maples, giant pines, camphor, or other trees, but scarcely any longer worth visiting. For it might be too much to expect that such considerations should weigh with practical politicians.

Your obedient servant,

BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN.

Hotel Metropole, Tokyo, 25 May, 1900.

WHAT WOULD PLEASE SHAKKA?

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—From what we know of the true heart of Shakka what is the effect upon him of this present movement to transport one of his bones to this land of the gods?

Is he pleased? Is he amused? Is he pained? Or is he so bathed in infinite bliss that he is indifferent? He lived in India. He renounced his rank, his wealth, his wife and child to be a beggar, all for his boundless compassion for the pains and miseries of the people. The people of India are now dying like sheep for want of food. If the Japanese, who have received the comfort of his teaching, can give *yen* 200,000 to receive with proper honours a fragment of one of the bones of Shakka, in their deep gratitude, how much more can they give to feed the people to whom he gave his very life?

Yours truly,

May 27th, 1900. 智神和

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF.

CONCERT, MONDAY, 31ST MAY, 1900.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures.

RECEIPTS.		*Yen.*
Sale of Tickets		351.
Donation from Mrs. Ballagh		50.
Total Receipts		401.
DISBURSEMENT.		
Hire of Hall	*Yen* 30.	
Coolie hire, Plants, etc...	14.20	44.20
Surplus		356.80

A remittance for the equivalent of ¥356.80 has been forwarded through Mr. V. W. Helm, Y. M. C. A., Tokyo, to Mr. G. S. Eddy, Secretary, Y. M. C. A. Madras.

My thanks are due to the Committee of the Public Hall for giving the use of the Hall at a reduced rate; to the *Japan Mail*, *Japan Gazette*, *Japan Herald* and *Japan Advertiser* for advertising free of charge, and to the first for also printing the tickets and programmes at its own expense, and to Messrs. Moutrie & Co. for the use of the piano and their services in selling the tickets.

Kate Page.

THANKS.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—Will you kindly acknowledge through the columns of your paper the following amounts which have been received for the Indian Famine Relief Fund, in response to the appeal of G. S. Eddy, Esq. of the Madras Y.M.C.A., as published in the *Japan Mail*. I will gladly forward any further amounts.

With thanks for your kindness,

V. W. HELM,

Y.M.C.A., 3, Mitoshirocho, Kanda, Tokyo.

	Yen.
"A Friend"	25.
Miss Deyo	10.
"W"	5.
Miss M. G. Veazey	10.
Miss J. S. Blackmore	10.
E. C. Fry	20.
N. Maynard	20.
H. B. Price	10.
W. B. McIlwaine	25.
"Missionaries"	100.
Miss C. E. Hart	5.
"H."	10.
H. M. Landis	10.
Missionaries at Nagoya	117.32
Messrs. Moore and McIlwaine	15.
G. M. Meacham	20.
Hamamatsu, Prot. Meth. Ch.	6.
Yokohama Concert	356.80
Total	778.12

As will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, two entertainments are being organized in Yokohama for a similar object.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama send us the following continuation of the names of subscribers to the Indian Famine Relief Fund:—

Amount already acknowledged	¥2,222.30
F. J. Hall	25.00
F. Cummins	25.00
A. B.	20.00
Omega	100.00
Maurice Russell	10.00
S. Komor	10.00
F. H. Bugbird	10.00
Stahel	2.00
H. Vincent	15.00
H. A. Vincent	5.00
W. K. E. Vincent	5.00
C. B. S.	25.00
E. L. G. B.	25.00
A. C. Whittemore	10.00
Chas. D. West	100.00
J. P. Hanch	5.00
B. N.	10.00
H. J. Snow	25.00
W. K.	20.00
Rev. F. W. Rowland	10.00
W. T. Austen	10.00
Lung Kin Sam	20.00
Pow Wai	20.00
Fook Woh	15.00
Chong Kee	10.00
Soon Ho Chun	10.00
Wing Cheong Woh	10.00
Tung Tong Tye	10.00
Wing Oh & Co.	10.00
Kwong Sing Wo	10.00
Cheat Yue & Co.	10.00
Kwong How Chong	10.00
Sun Nam Shing & Co.	5.00
Hep Tai Yuen	5.00
C. Kwong Chie	5.00
K. Cheong	5.00
Cheong Win Chee	5.00
Yuen Chee Chong	5.00
Wa Ping & Co.	5.00
Kwong Shing Tai	5.00
King Sell & Co.	5.00
Hong Yuen Tai	5.00
Wing Yee Woh	5.90
Y. A. Hior	5.00
T. Sing Fang	5.00
W. Why Mok	5.00
Kwong Man Wing	5.00
Tuck Lung	5.00
Kwong Shing Lang & Co.	3.00
Lai Wun Chee	2.00
Oung Phun Wo & Co.	5.00
Takia	10.00
Cheng Hencho	30.00
	¥2,959.30

The Indian Government is undertaking to place a supply of food in every famine-stricken province, and to give work to every man who applies for it, and over 5,000,000 men are now being helped in this way. Beyond these means of relief, say the New York *Evening Post*, "it is difficult to see how the Government, as Government, can go." After a recent discussion in the British House of Commons on the famine situation, Sir M. Bhownaggree, an Indian member of parliament, said that the debate should "convince the people of India that the British nation was neither blind nor indifferent to the hardships from which the Indian people are suffering." From all this *The Evening Post* concludes that there is "little ground for the assertion that the South African war has prevented the English Government from appropriating money for the relief of the famine sufferers in India. Lord Curzon reports that he has in hand all the money he can properly spend." So, too, thinks the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, which says:—

"The administration of that great country [India] is carried on by the Viceroy with the assistance of his own cabinet and of an exclusively local system of governmental organization. India is governed, not from London, but from Calcutta. It has its own budget, its own system of taxation and finance, its own separate and independent institutions of every kind, and so far as the action of the British Government is concerned it has not been affected in the slightest by the South African contest. None of the cost of that contest is derived from its treasury, and the great work that is being done for the relief of the sufferers from the prevailing famine is precisely the work, both as to character and extent, that would have been done under any circumstances. . . . England has her faults, and with regard to the South African war there is room for two opinions, but the government of India under British auspices is a subject not for censure."

An appeal sent out by a committee of missionaries to India in attendance at the Ecumenical Conference in New York said:—

"It is right we should bear our witness that the British Government in India is doing all that any Government on earth could do to save the lives of its distressed subjects, in relieving 5,500,000 of persons by direct government aid. It is achieving a greater work of rescue than any government has ever in the world's history undertaken before. With a skill derived from the carefully garnered experience of previous famine campaigns, with an unstinted expenditure of money and a heroic outlay of British energies and lives, it is doing all that an administration can do."

Prof. Washburn Hopkins, of Yale University, who in 1897 made a study of the famine then prevailing in India, writes an article on the present situation (New York *Evening Post*, April 27). According to him, the need in India is not for additional provisions, but additional money. "There is no lack of grain," he writes, "there is no scarcity of supply." He continues:—

"Why, then, are the peasants starving? For the plainest reason, because they have no money to buy this grain. It is held by merchants, who have enough for the multitude, but will not give it away; nor may the Governmnnt compel them to do so or connive at looting it. If any charitable folk will help the natives of India, and great indeed is their need, let them cable money, not send corn."

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But the Professor denies that this lack of money is due to the establishment of a gold standard or to excessive taxation, or to the British misgovernment of any kind. He writes:—

"Drought is the cause. Whenever the monsoon rains fail and the winter showers also fail, there will always be a famine as long as the Hindu *ryot* remains what he is by nature and through inherited inability to escape the money-lender. The peasant works hard, but he is always in debt. Not only can he not save, but he will not. When times are prosperous, he lives as easily he can; when bad times come he is unprepared, now as always."

Professor Hopkins scouts the idea that there were no famines in India before the advent of British rule. Famines lasting for years prevailed under Hindu and Mahommedan rule. Now the measures, both of prevention and relief, are vastly greater than they were then, and the burdens of taxation very much lighter. The professor repeats that the improvidence of the peasant class is the chief cause of the trouble. For a wedding or a funeral, the *ryot* will cheerfully double the mortgage on his estate, paying to the native usurer 180 to 300 per cent. interest, and this, too, "not on the sum loaned, but on this sum with a cipher added, which the usurer knows how to tack on and the peasant is too ignorant to discover."

THE WORLD'S ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF MISSIONS.

Ithaca, N.Y., May 4th.

This seemed to one at a distance rather a pretentious title, but when once at the gathering the title seemed justified. One must not press the literal meaning of the word too hard, for neither "the inhabited earth" nor all branches of the Christian church were represented. The Greek and the Roman Catholic churches and those branches of it not deemed evangelical had no envoys or delegates, but in one form and another the Reformed or Evangelical bodies of Christians sent representatives or greetings. The great conference has been, by thought, prayer, and money, anticipated during several yars. The project of holding it from April 21st to May 1st has been handsomely carried out, and the success, in gross and detail, has been most gratifying.

One sees at a glance that the burden of Protestant missions rests upon the English-speaking nations. The overwhelming majority of the labourers in the field and of the money spent is contributed by Great Britain, her colonies, and the United States. Yet at this mighty congress there were not only British, Australian, Canadian, and American delegations, but also others from Germany, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and a few other countries.

The honorary president was the Honourable Benjamin Harrison, LL.D., formerly president of the United States, and, in the opinion of many, one of the ablest men who ever lived in the White House, his conspicuous ability being shown in that he was thoroughly able to make the "bosses" know their place and to keep parties and politics in the background. One newspaper, *The Nation*, which foreigners especially recognise as "the ablest American periodical," almost approached the point of "gush" in expatiating upon the splendid possibilities of an ex-president in being able to speak out what he believed, without regard to the brewers or the labourers or the mechanics or the soldiers, or the German, or the Irish "vote." Ex-President Harrison suggested that the nations of the world could and should unite upon some plan for restricting the sale of intoxicating liquors to aboriginal peoples, even as had been done in the case of slavery. The old jest and fact about the Boston ships, which went out with missionaries of the American Board in the cabin and Medford whiskey in the holds, still have their point, and the interior economy of the heathen bodies is still corroded by the Christian's vicious extract of corn.

On the first night the welcome to the delegates was given in Carnegie Hall, which seats easily four thousand people, but into which six thousand can be and have been stuffed. At the women's meetings, especially, the fire-laws, which require the passage ways to be kept clear, were defied in the most lovely and dangerous manner. Yet in several cases Adam followed the precedent set by Eve and also ate the apple of lawlessness, as manifested by crowding into forbidden space. Still, it was a most impressive sight to see the immense stage, the auditorium, ground floor, and the five galleries packed. The audiences twice or thrice daily showed no sign of lessing during the ten days. One direct fruit was a large sum of money raised for starving India and the formation of a permanent Committee of Relief.

President McKinley, in welcoming the delegates, spoke in a very happy way, and did not seem to be much worried because his political critics call him "the Emperor of Porto Rico." Our strenuous governor, Theodore Roosevelt, also spoke characteristically. Then began the real business of the convention.

Your correspondent was present only during two days, but managed during that time to attend several of the hall meetings and the overflow gatherings in the churches near by, and to enjoy one of the stereopticon lectures illustrating India. This lecture was one of the score or more devoted to description of the various countries of the world. He also "took in," on two different days, the really remarkable exhibition of relics and interesting objects showing native life and missionary work in the various lands of Asia, Africa, and other continents. That on

JAPAN WAS PARTICULARLY RICH AND FULL.

Among other objects were no fewer than three of the old notice-boards prohibiting Christianity, one of the oldest having the text of 1683.

No doubt the writer is prejudiced, but that division assigned to Korea seemed to be the most representative and thorough. It is doubtful whether in Europe or America (and we have the collections at Washington, Salem, New York, and Roanoke College in view) there has ever been so large and valuable a gathering of Korean objects in this country. The whole was in charge of Dr. Vinton and his wife. Several of the missionaries from Korea were also present as speakers or delegates. One of the ablest and most luminous papers, on Self-Support by Mission Churches, written by the lexicographer and grammarian, Dr. H. G. Underwood, of Söul, Korea, was read. He showed that out of 188 churches under American Presbyterian oversight, in the once Forbidden Land, over 180 are self-supporting. It was interesting to note how the name of Dr. Nevius, whose birthplace is a few miles from the place in which I write, was so often referred to as that of the father of the self-supporting movement. Let me also state that I was present at the lunch in the Hotel Marlboro, where were gathered many missionaries and missionary officers both of "the old guard," and of the new men and women on their first furlough from places at the ends of the earth.

It would take more space than you would be willing to afford, to tell of the famous men at the convention, such as Cyrus Hamlin, the founder of Roberts College in Constantinople, President Angell of Michigan University, J. Hudson Taylor of the China Inland Mission, John G. Paton, Apostle to the New Hebrides, Canon W. J. Edmond, the venerable Dr. Ashmore of China, Dr. James S. Dennis, the leading missionary statistician of the world, and, last but not least, the five hundred women missionaries from over twenty different countries.

The discussions covered almost every possible theme connected with the missionary work. The complexity and moral grandeur of these themes are vividly brought out at such a gathering. One sees here earnest men and women, many of them with the highest ability, discussing subjects which belong to the lives of nations.

SOME STATISTICS.

As contrasted with the seven societies employing 107 missionaries at the opening of this century, there are now 537 societies (including the women's) employing 15,460 foreign missionaries and 77,338 native helpers, expending 19,126,120 dollars, and having missionary communities under their care numbering 4,414,236 souls. Of universities and colleges in missionary lands, there are 93, of theological and training schools 358, of boarding and high schools 857, of industrial training institutions 134, of medical and nurses' schools 63, of kindergartens 127, of elementary or village day schools 18,742. The Bible is translated into 421 languages or dialects, there are 148 mission publishing houses and printing presses, 366 missionary periodicals, 355 hospitals, treating during the past year 6,647,840 patients. There are 213 orphanages or homes for infants, 90 leper hospitals and asylums, 30 schools for the blind and deaf. There are 67 mission steamers and ships. There are 87 missionary training institutions in Christian lands and 54 native organizations for the extension of knowledge and religious reform.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

Are we not to believe that out of this congress, as out of the congresses in the interest of peace and international reform of war, great good will steadily, though it may be slowly, grow? Among the earnest pleas made for a less divisive, schismatic, and unregulated missionary activity, and for more real unity, were the addresses of Prof. George William Knox, formerly of Japan, who declared that the present methods (not the work itself) were foredoomed to failure, and the Rev. Dr. A. J. F. Behrinds, who declared, with perhaps sensational haste, that the conference was a failure in not definitely deciding on methods of union. However, to the average onlooker and thinker, in spite of human defect and hardness of head or heart, the conference was a noble gathering, out of which must grow much good to the whole world.

W. E. G.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On May 4th, President McKinley sent the following nomination to the Senate:—E. C. Bellows of Washington to be Consul-General at Yokohama, Japan. The Senate confirmed it on May 8th.

A betto, named Takejima Matsuzo, in the employ of Mr. C. V. Sale, No. 2,063 Negishi, was arrested on Wednesday on a charge of absconding with a watch, a silver pin, and some clothes belonging to his employer.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Friday, Kosuga Hyozaburo, 32, late in the employ of Mr. T. S. Baker, No. 70, Bluff, was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and six months' police surveillance, being convicted of stealing a piece of white crêpe and some other things belonging to his employer on the evening on the 17th April.

On Tuesday night, a young man and woman committed *shinju* by placing themselves before a train at the crossing near Yokohama Station. The man was employed by a rice merchant in Kitagata, and the girl was an Eurasian. The girl was killed on the spot, being frightfully mutilated, and the man died after his removal to the hospital. The couple had been attached to each other, but the girl's adoptive father refused his consent to their marriage.

On Wednesday, in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, three Chinamen, aged 19 and 16 years, respectively, were sentenced by Judge Sato, the first to nine years' and the others each to six years' imprisonment, for having set fire to the residence at No. 127, occupied by Miss Jettie Lee, on the morning of April 3rd. Another Chinese, 12 years, who was arrested with the others, has been acquitted.

A court martial was held on H.M.S. *Terrible*, in Hongkong harbour on May 18th, when Lieutenant-Commander Edward Kelly, of H.M.S. *Whiting*, was charged with refusing duty. Captain Percy Scott, C.B., was the President, and the other officers forming the Court were:—Captain J. H. T. Burke, H.M.S. *Orlando*; Commander C. W. Winnington-Ingram, H.M.S. *Daphne*; Commander Blackburne, of the Naval Yard; and Commander Charton, H.M.S. *Orlando*. The Court found Commander Kelly guilty of refusing duty and ordered him to be dismissed from his

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ship and lose five years' seniority. It appears that Commander Kelly had applied for leave to go home and had obtained permission, which was afterwards withdrawn.

The *Jiji Shimpo* publishes a telegram from Marugame, dated 30th May, which says that the steamer *Seiko Maru* went ashore at Takami Island, near Tadotsu, that morning, and damaged her bottom. The crew and passengers are safe.

Shortly before eight o'clock on Tuesday morning an outbreak of fire was reported from No. 265, Yokohama (the Eastern Japan Trading Co., Ld.). A hose reel and firemen were despatched from the Station. The flames, however, which were confined to a partition adjoining the tea-firing furnaces, were extinguished by the employees of the firm without the aid of the firemen. The damage is slight. Supt. Morgin thinks the outbreak was caused by coolies placing live charcoal too near the partition.

The marriage of Miss Mary Maude Gale to Mr. Ernest Thomas Bethell was celebrated at All Saints' Church, Kobe, on Saturday, the Rev. G. H. Davies, Chaplain, officiating. The interior of the edifice was very prettily decorated for the occasion. The bride, who arrived from England by the last P. & O. mail, was given away by Mr. P. H. McKay, and Mr. Herbert Bethell performed the duties of groomsman. There was a full attendance of the choir and the musical portion of the service was well rendered throughout.—*Kobe Herald.*

A quiet wedding took place at the British Consulate, Yokohama, on Thursday, when Miss May Moss, second daughter of Mr. C. D. Moss, for so many years Chief Clerk of H.B.M.'s Court for Japan, was united with Mr. Herbert Bent, of Andover, Hants, in the bonds of holy matrimony. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a white serge travelling dress. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. C. Irwine, and in addition to the immediate relatives of the bride and groom there were present, Mr. H. A. C. Bonar and the whole staff of Her Majesty's Consulate. The honeymoon will be spent in Nikko, the happy couple leaving Japan for good on the N.D.L. *Oldenburg*. They will afterwards take up their residence in Canton.

The under-mentioned are the scores made on Sunday for the Champion Flag shot for at Omori between the Tokyo and Yokohama Clubs. Yokohama winning by 20 points.

TOKYO CLUB.	points.	YOKOHAMA CLUB.	points.
Mr. Ayai	20	Mr. Watanabe	18
Mr. Hori	11	Mr. Kawazu	10
Mr. Ijuin	15	Mr. L. W. Eyton	19
Mr. Ijuin Jur.	11	Mr. J. Higginbotham.	15
Mr. Negishi	15	Mr. W. H. McGowan.	11
Mr. Ichinoi	11	Mr. K. Uchiyama	11
Mr. Ishizuka	14	Mr. Geo. Hood	16
Mr. Miyazawa	15	Mr. K. Kimura	17
Mr. Inouye	14	Mr. Yano	16
Mr. Shinohara	18	Mr. J. F. Drummond.	14
Mr. Nakayama	12	Mr. A. Kingdon	18
Mr. Sakata	9	Mr. T. Niwa	11
Mr. Ijima	11	Mr. Nakajima	11
Mr. Sanada	12	Mr. Hiranuma	16
Mr. Matsudaira	13	Mr. J. Eyton, Jun.	18
Total	201	Total	221

As the sum of 1½ millions of *yen* set apart by the Tokyo Tramway Company in connection with the alteration in motive power has been expended in other directions, it will be necessary for the company, remarks the *Yorozu*, to make a fresh appropriation to the amount of at least 3 million *yen* when permission is obtained from the Government. But the period of the charter expires in ten years, and there is little prospect of profit in such an investment. The company has therefore applied to the Government for an extension of the period to the limit fixed for the Tokyo Municipal railway, and for permission to alter the Shinagawa lines into a double elevated track. Simultaneously with this application it is suggested that since Article III. of the charter, prohibiting foreigners from becoming shareholders of the company, has become invalid in consequence of the laws subsequently issued and the treaties concluded with foreign Powers, the sale or transfer of the company's stock may be undertaken without discrimination between foreigners and Japanese.

The judgment in the Railway Sleeper case, appealed to the Osaka Koso In, was delivered on Tuesday morning, says the *Kobe Herald*. The first judgment of the Kobe Chiho Saibansho was quashed on the ground that Mr. Yamada, the original plaintiff, had no right to institute an action against Mr. Berigny, ignoring the provision contained in the contract regarding arbitration in case of any dispute, before he submitted to the arbitration of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce. Costs were given against Mr. Yamada.

The *Shogyo* publishes on article on tea prospects for this year. At the beginning of the season, the leaf was much smaller in size than usual, especially as compared with last year, and, moreover, a reduction in output of not less than 10 per cent. is anticipated. With regard to the expenses of manufacture, an increase of 10 per cent., as compared with last year, is likely. Below are details:—

	Shizuoka. yen.	Otsu. yen.	Miye. yen.	Kanagawa. yen.
Price of raw leaf	1.30	0.55	0.76	1
Wages of experts	0.50	0.29	0.233	0.50
Board	0.30	0.26	0.153	0.25
Labour for steaming	0.50	0.20	0.35	0.10
Fuel	0.25	0.26	0.117	0.15
Miscellaneous	0.50	0.60	0.57	0.10
Total expense per *kwan.*	2.45	1.43	1.356	2.10

It is worthy of notice that greater attention has been paid to quality than to the size of the leaf. Yokohama has shown a disposition to purchase fine teas at comparatively high rates, and this attitude is likely to lead manufacturers to adopt superior processes.

We have been asked to publish the following statement of receipts and expenditure connected with the production of the extravaganza "The Princess of Wei-hai-woo" at the Public Hall, Yokohama, 27th April, 1900:—

DR.	¥
From 111 reserved seats	222.00
From 322 unreserved seats	322.00
Total	544.00
CR.	¥.
Paid for advertising, etc.	18.00
Refreshments for Company and Band on 2 nights	45.20
Hire of Public Hall	50.00
Paid to attendant at Hall for working lights, scenery, etc.	5.00
Purchase of scenery, properties, etc.	23.50
Balance, creditor	402.30
Total	544.00

¥402.30 sent to Seamen's and Marines' Widows and Orphans' Fund.

GEO. WARRENDER.

A "Strawberry Fete," organised by the ladies of the King's Daughters' Circle, was held on Wednesday afternoon and evening at the Public Hall in aid of the Indian Famine Fund. It had been the intention of the promoters to use the small hall only and to provide amusements, etc., in the adjoining gardens, but in view of the miserable weather it was considered advisable to engage the large hall, which was fortunately available at a trifling expense. It was decorated as well as time would permit, and in the evening presented a very pretty appearance with the various cake, strawberry, sweet, and other stalls; the Aunt Sallies, bran-pies, and other devices handed down from early times; and the tasteful fancy dresses which many of the ladies had assumed. The smaller hall was arranged for dancing, the Town Band supplying the music. It should be mentioned that all the cakes, strawberries, &c., were presented, and that the expenses of the affair were thus reduced to the barest limits. Had the weather been more propitious the result should have been more satisfactory, but even in the depressing conditions that prevailed a fair sum should be realised.

AMERICAN NOTES.

Thirty thousand horse-power of electricity is to be furnished to the city of Montreal by an electric power company whose generating plant is now being erected at Shawinigan Falls, eighty miles distant. The works will be finished this summer.

The following characteristic telegram appears in San Francisco papers:—John K. McLean, brother-in-law of Admiral Dewey, has abandoned the latter in his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for President and has jumped into the front seat in the Bryan hand-wagon.

Sandon, the second mining town of importance in the Slocan district, British Columbia, has been completely destroyed by fire and nearly all its 1200 people are homeless and ruined. It is reported that the total loss is between $500,000 and $1,000,000, while the insurance could only have been about $25,000.

A fire that started at the river end of the Mallory-line steamship pier at the foot of Maiden lane and the East river, New York, early on May 6th, completely destroyed the pier and its valuable contents. The police place the loss at $1,000,000. Several barges which were moored near the pier were also destroyed; one life was lost. The Mallory line pier was 200 feet long and fifty feet wide. The pier was filled with valuable freight, mostly cotton.

The final report of the executors of the estate of the late George M. Pullman is expected to show that the estate, which amounted to something over $8,000,000 when the will was filed, has grown to $15,000,000 under the administration of Messrs. Robert T. Lincoln and Norman B. Regan, the executors. The compensation of the executors for handling the estate will be more than $500,000.

When Hawaii was annexed to the United States it had a bonded debt of about $4,000,000, drawing a heavy rate of interest. This debt still exists, but under the act just signed by the President it is to be assumed by the United States. Secretary Gage does not intend that it shall be added to the bonded debt of the United States if it can be paid immediately. The terms of the debt will be looked into, and if they permit payment at any time the debt will be wiped out as soon as the law goes into effect—in forty-five days.

According to a statistical contemporary the importation of raw silk into the United States was about the same in 1899 as in 1897, say 73,000 bales, or 10,000,000 pounds, but the value was more than $10,000,000 greater in 1899. "In 1897 raw silk averaged $3.12½ a pound; in 1899 it averaged $4.32 a pound; and for 1900 it promises to average over $5.25 a pound. The imports of foreign silk textiles show a decided increase in both volume and value in 1899 over 1898—the increase in quantity being, say, eight per cent., and the increase in foreign invoice value eighteen per cent."

The Populist convention at Sioux Falls has nominated Mr. W. J. Bryan for President. Mr. Charles A. Towne, the Populist candidate for Vice-President, was born in Michigan November 21, 1858. His early education was obtained in the public schools, and in 1881 he graduated from the University of Michigan. In 1886 he was admitted to the bar and the following year he married. He has been an active politician for a number of years and has represented his State in Congress as a Republican. Later he became a Silver Republican, and in the last campaign was an ardent supporter of Bryan. He was chairman of the National Committee of the Silver Republican party. He is an eloquent orator and was on the Pacific Coast in the early part of 1898 in the interests of Bryan and free silver.

Strange stories have been current recently in the United States regarding the negotiations for the acquisition of the Danish West Indies, one of them having for its burden an alleged attempt on the part of a person connected with the Standard Oil Company to force the Danish Government to pay a commission on the sale of the islands to the

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United States Government. The publication of this story has led the State Department to depart from its habitual reserve, so far as to authorize the statement that it has never recognized any individual in connection with proposed acquisition of the islands; that it has no knowledge that any private person ever interposed in the negotiations on that subject, and, finally, that the negotiations have never been influenced, directly or indirectly, by unofficial persons.

After perhaps the most exciting debate of the present session, the House of Representatives passed the Nicaraguan Canal bill by an overwhelming majority. This bill, remarks *Bradstreets*, confers upon the President authority to acquire from the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua the control of such territory as may be desirable and necessary to construct a Canal from a point near Greytown on the Caribbean Sea, by way of Lake Nicaragua, to Breto on the Pacific ocean, and appropriates such money as may be necessary to secure such control. After securing control, the President is to direct the Secretary of War to construct the canal, together with harbours at the termini of the canal, with such provisions for defence as may be necessary for the protection of the canal and harbours. The President is also authorized to guarantee to the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua the use of the canal and harbours upon such terms as may be agreed upon, and the Secretary of War is authorized to make contracts for the completion of the canal to an amount not to exceed in the aggregate $140,000,000. It is doubtful whether the bill can be got before the Senate, owing to the pendency of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and the fear that the introduction of a measure admitting of such contention as it is thought the canal bill would arouse might unduly delay the adjournment of Congress.

On May 6, in Boston, died Mr. William Crowninshield Endicott, aged 73 years, Secretary of War during President Cleveland's first administration. Although Mr. Endicott's system had been somewhat enfeebled by an attack of the grippe from which he suffered last winter, he had been in apparently good bodily health up to the preceding Wednesday, when he took his customary drive. Shortly afterward he was taken ill, and pneumonia developed. Mr. Endicott was the son of William P. and Mary (Crowninshield) Endicott of Salem, Mass., and was born in that city November 13, 1826, and was a descendant of John Endicott, the first Governor of Massachusetts. He received his early education in the Latin school in Salem, and entered Harvard in 1843, graduating with the class of 1847. Soon after graduating he studied law in the office of Nathaniel J. Lord, then the leading member of the Essex bar, and in the Harvard law school. He was called to the bar in 1850, and after filling various offices in Salem became City Solicitor in 1857. In 1873 he was appointed by Governor Washburn to the bench of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and in 1882 he resigned. In 1884 he was Democratic candidate for Governor. In 1885 President Cleveland appointed him Secretary of War. One daughter married Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the English statesman.

In an article on the new currency law, in *Leslie's Weekly*, the author, Mr. Ellis H. Roberts, Treasurer of the United States, points out that by the adjustment of interest and the present worth of the old securities on a basis of earnings of 2¼ per cent. the Treasury has paid out sums reaching $23,378,609.15. These moneys go at once into the loan market wherever national banks exist. There is to be no increase in the volume of United States bonds, while the rate of interest is reduced. The actual net profits on the transactions of the first thirty days under the law are proved by actual calculation up to April 10 upon the bonds given and taken, to the date of their maturity, to be $5,770,425. No exaggeration is involved in assuming that before the close of the present fiscal year $400,000,000 new twos will take the places of the older securities. If the older securities are surrendered in the ratio thus far maintained in the refunding, the payments for interest and present worth in the process will amount to nearly $40,000,000. The net profit to the Government on this basis will reach $10,752,885, upon average settlements for remainder of the sum, as of June 1st. This will be realized at once, and so much of the burden of the national debt and its interest will be lifted from the shoulders of posterity. The achievement of refunding is an incident due to the vital feature of the new law, which is the intrenchment in the statutes of the gold standard. One result is clear: no motive is left for hoarding gold; no excuse can exist for drawing that metal from the Treasury; no pretext can be devised for driving gold from the country. The yellow metal is to be the cornerstone of the currency and its chief increment. On March 1, 1900, the bonds pledged as security for the circulation of national banks were $239,947,270, while on April 13 they had risen to $261,430,850. By the concession of 10 per cent. additional in notes against the bonds an increase follows of nearly $24,000,000. The new circulation which will be issued against the bonds pledged since the new law was passed will equal them in amount, and will add, compared with March 1, $21,483,130, making a total increase to date of $45,477,902. Further inflation is inevitable: the measure of it cannot be predicated, but it will not become dangerous.

MR. WALTON AND CHINA.

IMPORTANT SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In Committee of Supply in the House of Commons on April 6th, Mr. Joseph Walton, M. P. for Barnsley, made his promised speech on Chinese affairs.

Mr. Walton said:—Mr. Speaker, I desire to call the attention of the House to the failure of Her Majesty's Government to uphold British commercial and political interests in China. Though I have recently made extensive journeys in that country, I do not claim to pose as an authority on Chinese affairs, but I rather propose to make a statement as to the present situation, based on information obtained from the best informed men upon spot. I make no apology for recalling the attention of the House to the necessity for the initiation by Her Majesty's Government of a more definite and vigorous policy in the Far East, if our commercial and political interests are to be maintained. I am aware how entirely absorbed the public mind is by what has been transpiring in South Africa for some time past, but I venture to submit that we would be unworthy of the great Imperial responsibilities which rest upon our shoulders were we to allow the affairs, however important, of any one part of our Empire to monopolise our attention to the serious neglect of vital interests in other parts of the world. Nor is it unsuitable, Mr. Speaker, to review the situation in China, because of the agreeable way in which public attention has again been directed to the affairs of the Empire by the signal success of American diplomacy, which has resulted in the assent of England, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, and Italy to the principle of equality of customs' tariff and of harbour dues and equality of railway rates being maintained in China. The advantages conferred by this undertaking are to be common to all States and our kinsmen across the Atlantic are to be warmly congratulated on the success which has attended their efforts. The commercial community in this country are deeply indebted to the United States Government for having thus ensured equality of opportunity for British trade as well as their own. How far Her Majesty's Government ought to be congratulated on the part they have played in this matter has not yet been fully disclosed, but I hope that the right hon. gentleman, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, will be able to tell us to-night that not only was Her Majesty's Government the first to give assent to the proposals, but they, so far as it was judicious, gave their active co-operation in the endeavour to secure the carrying through of the arrangement. I am aware that, in view of the jealousy recently exhibited towards up by foreign Powers, the United States Government were probably able to succeed where we would have failed; and, indeed, any interference on our part might have defeated our object. It is with great satisfaction I notice that not only is there to be equality in the matter of Customs' tariff and harbour dues, but equality also of railway rates. The assurance in regard to the latter is of the utmost value and it was one which the British Government failed to secure in the Anglo-Russian Agreement.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND BRITISH INDIFFERENCE.

I will now turn, Mr. Speaker, to what I found to be the position of affairs in North China. The seizure of Port Arthur by Russia is somewhat ancient history, and I will not refer further to that subject than to say that the people in the East most likely to know unanimously state that no one was so much surprised as were the Russians themselves at their being allowed to take Port Arthur. Russia has already made Port Arthur impregnable by new forts practically encircling it, and in August last she had no fewer than 400,000 troops at Port Arthur and Talienwan. There were also Russian soldiers at the railway stations on her Manchurian lines. She is in military occupation of that huge country of Manchuria, rich agriculturally, in minerals, and fisheries, with emphatically a white man's climate. Even at Newchwang, the only treaty port through which we can now trade, Russian Cossacks had been policing the town, on the invitation, forsooth of the British Consul. On the north bank of the river at Newchwang, there is a Russian concession of several square miles, on which one terminus of her railway is being built, and over which she enjoys sovereign rights. Not content with this acquisition Russia is negotiating for a further concession on the south side of the river, opposite Newchwang and adjacent to the terminus of the Newchwang Extension Line from Shanhaikwan obviously with the intention of bridging the river and linking up her Manchurian Railways, including that from Port Arthur, where her troops are concentrated, with the line leading via Tien-tsin to Peking, which no doubt she will ultimately acquire by advancing to the Chinese Government the money to pay off the British bond-holders, unless much greater determination be shown by the British Government in resisting aggressions certain to strangle British trade in the future. On this Newchwang Extension Line is the treaty port of Chinwangtao, the opening of which was announced by Her Majesty's Government as a diplomatic triumph. This port I visited, and to my surprise I found there was no natural harbour, but only an open bay surrounded by sand hills; no sign of population, except a few fishermen's cottages, and no trade. All the best-informed commercial men agree that it is an act of folly to spend money in Chingwangtao, and that the improvement of the ports of Tien-tsin and Newchwang at each end of the line ought rather to have been sought. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the most unaccountable action on the part of the British Government, so far as Russia is concerned, was the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian agreement in the form in which it was finally signed. The negotiations for months proceeded with the expressed intention that what was to be conceded to Russia was the exclusive right of railway construction in Manchuria, we having been conceded a similar right in the Yang-tsze basin. But, as far as Russia was concerned, being at the back of the Peking and Hankow railway, as she undoubtedly is, through the medium of the Russo-Chinese Bank—which Lord Salisbury has told us is a Russian State bank—the agreement with Russia as to our exclusive rights in the Yangtsze basin was broken before the agreement itself was signed; whilst on our part, without a word of explanation, not only did we concede to Russia exclusive rights in Manchuria, but north of the Great Wall of China (which will in the long run be found also to embrace a large slice of the province of Chihli), the whole of the great horse-breeding country of Mongolia and the province of Sin Kiang. I have had a large map prepared showing exactly what it is that Russia obtains under this Anglo-Russian agreement and giving other information which may be interesting to members. If desired, I propose to place this map in the tea room for a short time. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, so far as the blue books disclose it, Russia has the whole of these enormous territories in North China and stretching westward across Asia to territories previously in the possession of Russia and giving to her just what she requires to enable her to take possession, not only of North China, but also of Central China. Without a map, it is perhaps difficult to make clear to the House the exact position of affairs, but hon. members may be able to follow me if I say that, stopping for the time being the construction of the Russian Siberian Railway to Vladivostock, she has already commenced the laying of a line branching off from her Siberian Railway right down through Mongolia direct to Peking. A further concession in connection with the Peking-Hankow Railway has been got for a branch from Kai-feng-fu to Honan-fu, with the option of extending to Singan-fu, a place within only 200 miles north of the Yang-tsze River, and from which the immemorial trade route into Central Asia runs. But this is only part of the Russian programme for

THE CONQUEST OF ASIA BY RAILWAYS.

There is another Russian main line, rapidly advancing through Central Asia, which seems to have escaped public notice. I mean the Russian Trans-Caspian Railway, which, proceeding south-east from Merv, is already constructed to Adijan on the borders of the Chinese province of Sin Kiang, which has recently been accorded by us to Russia and is, as a matter of fact, under Russian domination. From the point to which this Russian Trans-Caspian line has already been constructed there is a perfectly practicable route turning the flank of the mountainous country of Tibet for a railway down through Sin Kiang to Singan-fu. Hon. members will see that, with the completion

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of this line, Russia will not only have her Siberian railway tapping North China, but she will have her Trans-Caspian line penetrating into the very heart of Central China and dominating the Yangtsze Valley. The Government do not appear to have even sought from Russia the recognition of similar preferential rights in our favour in Thibet, the only territory now left between India and the Russian sphere. While a comparatively poor country like Russia is not hesitating to spend over £100,000,000 sterling on these projects, which will enable her finally to reap a rich harvest as regards both her commercial and political interests, what, I ask, is England doing? The British Government, so far, appear to have lost those qualities of enterprise, courage, and foresight which characterised our forefathers, and by virtue of which our world-wide British Empire has been built up. Not only have they refused, as a matter of high imperial policy, to give any encouragement or guarantee to a railway from British Burma to the Upper Yangtsze as a counterpoise to the Russian railways, but they have actually stopped the construction of the railway to Kunlon Ferry in British Burma; and this at a time when France is vigorously pushing on with the construction of her railway from Tonkin through Huran to Szechuan, by which she will draw the trade of South-West China through French territories with the aid of protective tariffs, instead of our being able to carry on a free and unrestricted trade through British Burma. British capitalists at Tientsin were perfectly prepared to construct a railway from Tientsin to Kalgan, which is the trade route into Mongolia, but were informed by the Foreign Office that they could not support such an application, as Kalgan was in the sphere conceded to Russia under the Anglo-Russian agreement, though it is far away from Manchuria. This line of railway, being an extension of the Peking-Tientsin line to Kalgan, would have been the most powerful barrier against Russian advance southwards. An important factor in considering the course of events in North China and an important and powerful influence in the direction of keeping it open to trade is the fact that

THE INTERESTS OF JAPAN ARE IDENTICAL

with our own; and that Japan is prepared to resolutely uphold her rights when assailed by Russia. Japan having a population increasing at the rate of half a million a year and her cultivable area being comparatively small, it is essential that she should have room for expansion. The natural expansion of Japan, whether as regards climate, fertility of soil, fisheries, or mineral wealth, is into Korea. From my interviews with Japanese statesmen, I gathered that, even at the risk of war, they would prevent any Russian interference with what they consider their priority of right in Korea. Moreover, the active co-operation of Japan could be counted on in any effort to uphold throughout China the Treaty rights of all nations. With regard to Kiauchou the Germans know their own minds, and I saw not fewer than 10,000 Chinamen at work constructing the harbour works and building the railway into the interior of Shantung, whilst palatial buildings were springing up on all sides. The contrast between the activity of the Russians at Port Arthur and of the Germans at Kiauchou, and our "do-nothing" policy at Wei-hai-wei, after our having somewhat obstentatiously announced to the world that we had taken the place as a counterpoise to Port Arthur, is most humiliating. At Wei-hai-wei not a single fort has been constructed, not one gun mounted; practically no buildings have been erected, and even the pier, with 30 ft. of water at the end, which had been damaged by the blowing-up of a Chinese man-of-war, has not been repaired, though the uprights were ready to receive the superstructure. Beyond a little dredging, the construction of water-condensing apparatus, and the drilling of a few Chinese soldiers, nothing seems to have been done. When I went to the top of the island at Wei-hai-wei, I wished the First Lord of the Treasury had been there with me, for when I condemned the right hon. gentleman's action in having, unasked by Germany, precluded us from connecting Wei-hai-wei with the interior of Shangtung by railway, he interposed with the remark that it was physically impossible. I could look across the country towards Chefoo without being able to see a hill a hundred feet high. And, when again from the top of the pinnacle at Chefoo I looked across towards Wei-hai-wei, Mr. Speaker, I saw that few railways in the world would be so easy of construction as one from Wei-hai-wei to Chefoo, and in at least two other directions leading from territory appertaining to Wei-hai-wei through rich valleys into the interior of Shangtung the same is true. Wei-hai-wei might have been made a great success as a commercial port, had we not thus tied our hands. The road-stead at Chefoo is most exposed, and for days together in the winter ships can neither land nor discharge. With proper facilities a large portion of the trade done through Chefoo would have been transferred to Wei-hai-wei. As, however, the situation is to-day, Russia, having succeeded in converting the question in North China from a sea to a land question, it is very doubtful whether money ought to be spent on Wei-hai-wei. In all probability the best course would be to hand Wei-hai-wei over to Germany, if she, in return, would support our taking another naval base at or near the mouth of the Yang-tsze River.

WE MUST BE FIRM.

The Government announced in this House that concessions had been got for British subjects for 2,800 miles of railways in China. But, Mr. Speaker, terms and conditions enabling the carrying out of the projects have not yet been arranged in connection with a single concession. The Shanghai and Nanking and several other concessions were given as reparation for the breach of faith on the part of the Chinese Government, in giving the Peking-Hankow concession to foreign Powers over our heads. Therefore, in regard to these our Government should stand no nonsense as to the terms and conditions upon which they should be built. Under the Treaty of Tientsin we are entitled to equally favourable terms and conditions to those granted by the Chinese Government to Russia, France, and Germany, but we find that the Chinese Government are insisting upon a mixed Chinese and European control which has proved, in the case of the Newchwang Extension Railway, to be surrounded by difficulties. Our Government should insist on the British concessionaires having complete control of the security, that is, to pay interest and repay principal with a guarantee of non-interference and the maintenance of our rights, giving only the Chinese Government an option of taking over the railways on certain terms and conditions. The Russians, Germans, and French will enjoy this control; why not the British? The confidence of the British investor was disturbed by the way in which the Government allowed Russia to dictate the terms and conditions upon which the Newchwang Extension loan should be concluded, and by the unsatisfactory way in which the mixed control had since operated; for though they offered £12,000,000 sterling against £2,300,000 required when that loan was floated, it is questionable whether the money would now be forthcoming for even the cream of the railway concessions, unless obtained on the terms and conditions I have mentioned. With regard to the terms and conditions upon which the concessions for these—what we may term—reparation railways were made I find that on the 4th of September, 1898, Sir Claud Macdonald stated in a despatch that the terms accorded for the construction of these lines will not be inferior to the terms granted for the construction of any railways in China proper and that they had agreed to send him a confidential note to that effect. This would have secured terms and conditions equal to those granted to Germany for the railways she is constructing in Shangtung; but, within a very few days, under instructions from the First Lord of the Treasury, Sir Claud Macdonald acccepted these concessions on not less favourable conditions than those granted to the concessionaires for the Peking and Hankow Railway. Those terms and conditions are workable when in the hands of concessionaires having at their back the Governments of Russia and France, but are useless to British concessionaires so long as they do not receive the proper support from the British Government.

THE POLICY OF SURRENDER.

An American syndicate entered into a preliminary contract with the Chinese Government for the building of a railway from Hankow to Canton and also made a provisional agreement with an English syndicate, with the object of having this railway constructed jointly by an Anglo-American Company. The Chinese Government, however, had thrown every obstacle in the way of the ratification of this concession on terms and conditions not less favourable to those granted to other Powers, whilst the French Government have actively intervened to prevent the carrying through of the concession and claimed that unless the American syndicate is prepared to construct the line on the terms and conditions of the Peking and Hankow Concession, the right to construct the railway falls into their hands. The question of by whom this important railway is to be-constructed is one vitally affecting the future of the Chinese Empire; for, if the concessionaires of the Peking and Hankow railway are allowed to secure this concession, it will give to Russia and France a railway system through the heart of the Chinese Empire from the extreme north to the extreme south and will place them practically in military occupation of it. I hope, therefore, to hear from the Under Secretary that Her Majesty's Government are vigorously supporting the United States Government in insisting that this railway, penetrating as it does from the South right into the heart of our supposed sphere of interest, the Yangtsze Basin, shall not be given to foreign Powers. Another great achievement of Her Majesty's Government was the Yang-tsze Valley Agreement, which, even now, many people in this country have imagined secures to us the Yangtsze Basin as a special sphere of influence, in which we have priority of rights. This, however, is an absolute myth. Russia, France, Germany, and Japan are all to-day more actively engaged in advancing their commercial and political interests in the rich Yangtsze Basin than we are ours. They have sovereign rights over various areas at Shanghai, Hankow, and elsewhere, whilst we have none. A further surrender on the part of Her Majesty's Government is in regard to the extension of the French Settlement at Shanghai. A firm stand was originally taken against this demand by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and backed up as it was at the time by the United States of America, it was understood that the demand would not be granted. How needed such a concession was will be made very clear when I state that in the French concession already in existence there are only seventeen Frenchmen resident; and yet, notwithstanding this, our diplomatists have again given way. France has got the extension of her concession and British prestige has once more been lowered in the eyes of the Chinese Government.

GUNBOATS WHICH DO NOT GUARD.

In one debate in this House we heard with great satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government had at length determined to do something to uphold British commercial interests by the placing of gunboats on the inland waterways of China for the protection of British trade. The gunboats were sent out to patrol the Upper Yang-tsze more than 12 months ago, but, though their crews have been paid by the British taxpayer and they have been on the spot all this time, they have yet to make the first ascent of that portion of the river which they were intended to patrol; and the Under Secretary informed us the other day that they were going to attempt it this next month. The fact is that these two boats, the *Woodcock* and the *Woodlark*, are unsuitable for the purpose, both as regards construction and steaming power. As they have to go up rapids sometimes running 13 or 14 knots an hour and steam only 12 knots, it is obvious they can only mount the rapids with assistance from the shore, and they would be useless, therefore, if a hostile attitude were assumed by the inhabitants of the district. The whirlpools and cross currents of the river are in places so strong that the gunboats ought to have paddle wheels instead of screws, and it is ridiculous to send out boats constructed of plates under one-eighth of an inch thick instead of being at least three-sixteenths for a river of the character of the Upper Yang-tsze. Apparently without any inquiry whatever, when gunboats were needed for the Upper Yang-tsze, the Admiralty decided to send out Nile gunboats. This is a serious matter, so far as the commercial interests of this country are concerned, because a British cargo steamer is expected to be plying on the upper Yang-tsze within the next month or two; and as in all probability the half million Chinamen now carrying on the trade on the river will regard this innovation as a menace to their livelihood, trouble will arise. It is imperative that gunboats, capable of going wherever they may be required, without shore assistance and without regard to the state of the river, should be placed on the Upper Yang-tsze immediately. The *Woodcock* and *Woodlark* now there should be transferred to the West River, as on that river the old *Tweed* can steam only two knots against the current and the *Sandpiper* four knots —which, all will agree, renders them quite unable to cope effectually with the pirates who infest that district. The pirates on the West River have more than once seized British-owned steamers, ransacked them, and then used them for capturing ricely-laden native junks. But, up to the present time, no punishment whatever has been inflicted on the perpetrators of those outrages. It is true we are told that the Admiral is now considering the question of how best to repress the piracy. But why now? Why not twelve months ago? Why were the gunboats in the district prevented for so long a time from taking any effective measures for the repression of the piracy which has been so rife?

TRADE UP THE RIVERS.

Then, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the opening up of all the inland waterways of China, the agreement with the Chinese Government was announced in this House as one which would make it possible to take British merchandise in British ships, not merely to the ports recognised by treaty, but to every riverside town and station in the whole interior of China. On the strength of this agreement leading British shipping firms in China expended £60,000 in building steamers to trade from Hongkong and Canton up the West River. So far, however, from these steamers being allowed to take British goods to every riverside town and station, they have not been permitted to load or discharge cargo at intervening places between the treaty ports. They have consequently been working at a considerable loss, and several have been taken off altogether. The right honourable gentleman, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in answer to a question I put to him the other day on this subject, said this was not within the knowledge of the Foreign Office. In view, however, of the lengthy correspondence between the shipping firms in China and the British Legation in Peking on this question, it seems extraordinary that the Foreign Office should not have received this important in-

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formation. In reply to a further question, the right honourable gentleman said the agreement with the Chinese Government permitted foreigners to trade in steamers where native boats had been permitted, but this did not include every riverside town and station. I must, however, refer the right honourable gentleman to the express declaration made in this House by his predecessor, Mr. Curzon, to which I have already alluded. I am informed by those engaged in trading on the Chinese inland waterways that native boats are permitted to trade with every riverside town and station and also escape with lower duties. This being so, it is obviously impossible for British steamers to compete, when they are required to have one steamer to trade between treaty ports and a second with the other riverside town and stations, both boats running probably half empty; whereas, if, according to the agreement, they were allowed to load and discharge cargo at every riverside town and station, whether treaty ports or otherwise, one steamer would do where two are now employed; and a profitable trade would be carried on. I have repeatedly pressed the Government to insist upon the carrying out, in its entirety, of this agreement with the Chinese Government, and I should be glad to learn from the right honourable gentleman to-night that the Government are determined to insist on this.

AS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

With regard to South China and Western China, in the course of my journey I penetrated through the Yang-tsze gorges 1,600 miles up the Yang-tsze River. I travelled some distance into the rich province of Szechuan with its 50,000,000 of industrious and prosperous inhabitants. I found this province covered by French Jesuit priests who, in addition to the work of a religious propaganda, gather and transmit to the French Government information as to the mineral wealth and the commercial possibilities of the country. They have practically completed a geological survey of the great province; and now the French are pressing for exclusive rights to work minerals in six districts which they believe to be rich in mineral wealth. They have also prepared a chart of the Yang-tsze river which was to be of invaluable service. As in South Africa it has been found that we actually had no knowledge of the country around Ladysmith, though it had been our military headquarters for years, so in China our charts are out of date and therefore useless. An Admiralty chart of the Yang-tsze was prepared in 1861, and some slight corrections have been made since, but it is at the present time no guide to the navigation of a river of the changing character of the Yangtze.

FRENCH OPPOSITION.

I have again and again drawn the attention of the Government to the agreement of Jan., 1898, between the British Government and the French Government, under which each nation bound itself to the other to use its best offices with the Chinese Government to secure each for the other similar and increased opportunities and facilities for trading with Yunnan and Szechuan. This agreement has been entirely disregarded by the French Government without calling forth any remonstrance from Her Majesty's Government. Nanning-fu, the treaty port on the West River, which was declared to be opened more than a year ago (as was admitted the other night by the right hon. gentleman) still remains unopened. And remembering the violent opposition on the part of the French to the opening of Nanning-fu, one cannot but feel that in all probability the delay in the opening is due to French influence. I hope to hear from the right hon. gentleman that Her Majesty's Government will not allow further delay, as we have a right to expect that the state of affairs under which British goods have to be transhipped from Hongkong, sent through Tonking up to S.-West China, and are subjected to a differential duty of ten per cent. when passing through French territory, shall be ended without delay. The French are busily engaged in constructing a railway from Tonking towards Yunnan, with the intention of ultimately carrying it forward into Szechuan and of drawing the trade of South-West China down to the sea through French-Indo China; and with the declared expectation that sooner or later France will be able to annex Szechuan, Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwang-tung, the four great Chinese Provinces to the North of her Indo-China possessions. When we have regard to the fact that seven-eighths of the imports into French Indo-China in 1885 went from England, Germany, and Switzerland, and that to-day, owing to differential duties in favour of French goods amounting in some cases to 50 per cent., that three-fourths of the imports go from France and only one-fourth from the rest of the world, we have an object lesson of the vital importance of resolutely upholding our just commercial rights in South and South West China, if in the future we are not to see British trade strangled by the differential tariffs in those regions also. Her Majesty's Government took great credit for the Kowloon extension opposite Hongkong. But I find that the value of the extension was very much reduced by the obstinacy with which the home authorities, contrary to the strongly expressed opinion of both civil and military authorities out there, accepted the present boundary, which is considerably south of the head of Mirs Bay included in the concession, and besides contains no healthy camping grounds. They ought to have insisted that the boundary should be a natural line of mountains running slightly north of the head of Mirs Bay, which would have given a healthy camping ground and a strong natural frontier. It will be in the recollection of the House that, owing to the opposition to the British when taking possession we occupied Sam Chun outside the boundary, where we had a most healthy camp. However, while I was at Hongkong, instructions came from home that, under arrangements made with the Chinese Government, Sam Chun was to be evacuated. This, it was believed, had been done because the French had pointed out to the Chinese Government that we had been allowed to occupy a territory beyond the concession agreed upon and that they were in consequence claiming further concessions around their newly-acquired treaty port in the South. If this is so, the result at any rate was not creditable to British diplomacy, for within a week of our evacuation of Sam Shun the French demands were conceded in full by the Chinese Government.

OUR PRESTIGE GONE.

Again and again in this House declarations of policy have been made by Her Majesty's Government which, if carried out, would have given the greatest satisfaction to everybody interested in the upholding and the extending of our commercial interests in the Far East. But, unfortunately, whether in regard to agreements such as the Anglo-Russian agreement in the matter of railway concessions, the opening of the inland waterways, the patrolling by gunboats of the Yang-tsze and the West River, or the terms and conditions upon which the acquisition of Wei-hai-wei and Kowloon have been secured, all alike have proved delusive and unsatisfactory. And I do not hesitate to say that in China our prestige and influence which were predominant five years ago are non-existent to-day.

The blue book issued yesterday is unfortunately largely a further record of failure, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to deal successfully with the Tsung-li-Yamen. This voluminous paper hardly contains one instance where a distinct diplomatic success has been achieved.

What then, Mr. Speaker, ought Her Majesty's Government to do, in view of accomplished facts in the Far East, in order to retrieve as far as possible the disastrous results of their neglect to pursue a firm and definite policy? The understanding, arrived at between the United States Government and the other nations interested in the trade of China, securing, if faithfully observed, the maintenance of the open door, appears to afford another golden opportunity for seeking the friendly co-operation of the great Powers, in the promotion of administrative reforms so greatly needed for the strengthening of the Imperial Government and the necessity for which the United States Government so fully recognize. All authorities in China agree that a serious mistake was made in allowing the deposition of the Emperor last year and the assumption of the control of China by the reactionary Dowager Empress, who is a usurper and has no title whatever to occupy her present position. In view of the somewhat alarming news as to the disturbed conditions and anti-foreign feeling in various parts of China, joint action ought, in my opinion, to be taken by the Powers to replace the Emperor on the throne; for it is undoubted that his sympathies are genuinely in favour of reform and the opening up of his country to trade.

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

But in addition to this, Mr. Speaker, I would draw the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the fact that the Chinese Government would be powerless to resist the aggression, territorially and otherwise, of other Powers, unless she is enabled to have her naval and military forces re-organised. This she cannot do, unless her revenues are considerably increased. I would, therefore, strongly urge that the time has come for a revision of the Customs tariff in China, and that at present the maritime Customs' import duty of 5 per cent., which is a maximum of 5 per cent., and in many cases really much less, should be substantially increased on the condition that not only every riverside town and station, but also the interior of China, is freely thrown open to foreign trade, and that some satisfactory rearrangement to secure the equitable levying of lekin would be included in the agreement. The proportion should be fixed that is to be paid into the provincial and imperial treasuries respectively. Some system of paying officials, so as to render it possible for them to live without corruptly applying any portion of the revenues which pass through their hands, is essential. It appears desirable that the increased revenue thus obtained by China should be allocated to specific purposes and should be given only on condition that an agreed amount be expended on the re-organisation of the military and naval forces of China, under officers to be jointly provided by those Powers that do not desire the partition of the country; that a further sum be applied to river conservancy with a view of improving the navigation of such great commercial arteries of the Chinese Empire as the Yang-tsze and West Rivers, under the control of international conservancy boards; and that there be a previous ratification, on satisfactory terms and conditions, of railway concessions promised to British concessionaires. If joint action were taken by the United States of America, England, Japan, and Germany in support of the policy I have indicated, it would be difficult for Russia and France to hold aloof. Mr. Speaker, I have always recognised the vast importance to British trade of the development of our Indian Empire. But the great Empire of China, with its 400 millions of industrious trading people, its greater fertility of soil, and its enormous mineral resources, is in my opinion of still greater importance to the British nation, considered from a commercial point of view. I therefore earnestly hope that the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs may be able to assure the House to-night that this policy of preserving China for the Chinese and developing her resources in the interests alike of the population of that country and of all nations will receive the vigorous and determined support of Her Majesty's Government; for in this way, and in this way alone, can the just influence and commercial rights of the British nation be preserved in the Far East.—(Cheers.)

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

CARRINGTON'S FORCES.

Shanghai, May 24.

The Canadian Artillery and the Queensland Bushmen belonging to Carrington's force joined Plumer on the 15th instant by forced marches and took part in the relief of Mafeking.

LAING'S NEK.

A fresh commando has occupied Laing's Nek.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

Mr. Hugh Clifford, of Labuan, and Mr. E. W. Birch, of the Negri Sembilan, have been created companions of St. Michael and St. George.

THE WAR.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Haningsspruit, under date of the 22nd, that after the relief of Mafeking the garrison and the relieving force attacked and routed Snyman. The Boers fled.

Hamilton has reached Heilbron after a series of engagements with the Boers under Dewet.

French has crossed the Rhenoster River.

President Kruger denies having sued for peace.

ROBERTS AT RHENOSTER.

Shanghai, May 25.

Roberts has arrived on the south bank of the Rhenoster and found the enemy fled.

Kelly-Kenny reports that the Yeomanry have cleared the country between Bloemfontein and Boshof.

BOERS STILL DETERMINED.

It is reported that the Boers are trekking straight to the Vaal, and that they declare that they will fight to the death.

ON THE WAY TO PRETORIA.

French is now at Prospect, on the railway, 5 miles north of the Rhenoster. Hamilton also is cöoperating. The general opinion is that the British will arrive at Pretoria as fast as they can march.

THE ADVANCE FROM THE WEST AGAINST PRETORIA.

Shanghai, May 26.

General Hunter's Division has occupied Vryburg, whither trains are now running. The place will be made a base of operations for the western column.

LAINGS' NEK.

Buller is posting guns round Laings' Nek. A severe struggle is expected there.

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MAFEKING.

Shanghai, May 27.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Mafeking under date of the 20th that the Boers are entrenching at Polfontein, 10 miles eastward of Mafeking.

MORE TROOPS.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, speaking in the House of Lords, said that 11,000 troops were going to South Africa during June.

THE CROSSING OF THE VAAL.

The *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, telegraphing from Vredefort, under date of the 24th, says that the British outposts are now within 26 miles of the Vaal. Roberts will doubtless cross on Sunday.

THE BRITISH ADVANCE IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Later.

Field-Marshal Roberts telegraphs from Wolveshoek, under date of the 26th inst., that the advanced portion of his force crossed the Vaal River on the Queen's Birthday near Parys.

Gen. Ian Hamilton's column is at Boschdank.

Our scouts are now at Viljoensdrift.

The local mines are uninjured and there is no enemy on this side of the Vaal river.

[Note.—Parys is 25 miles above Viljoensdrift on the Vaal River, and Wolveshoek is a few miles south of Parys. The crossing at Parys is a flanking movement, which, having been successfully accomplished, should render untenable the position of the Boers at Viljoensdrift on the direct route to Pretoria. From the Vaal to Johannesberg is 40 miles and from Johannesberg to Pretoria is 30 miles.]

THE BURGHERS AND THE WAR.

Shanghai, May 28.

A telegram from Lourenzo Marquez says that an influential deputation of burghers have urged President Kruger to surrender, but he replied that the matter is in the hands of the commanders in the field.

PRINCE KANIN.

His Imperial Highness Prince Kotohito has arrived at Constantinople.

THE CROSSING OF THE VAAL.

General French crossed the Vaal at Lindeques Drift on Friday.

NATAL.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Newcastle that the Boers are very active and have been largely re-inforced; they are fortifying positions extending from Vryheid to Laing's Nek, having retreated from both the Natal and the Free State borders.

THE QUESTION OF SURRENDER.

There are rumours that Kruger is seriously considering the question of surrender.

LORD ROBERTS.

Shanghai, May 29.

Field Marshal Roberts telegraphs from Vareeniging, under date of the 27th, that he crossed the Vaal in the morning and is now encamped on the north bank. The advance of the troops only just prevented the destruction of the coal mines on both banks. Our casualties were four.

The railway between Mafeking and Buluwayo has been restored.

Rundle's Division is moving steadily eastward.

Three columns occupied Senekal on the 27th, Rundle with Campbell advancing from Trommel; Boyes on the left from Bestersflat, and Brabant from Vicksburg.

NATAL.

Reuter telegraphs from Newcastle that detachments of the enemy are frequently appearing near Ingogo. The British have blocked Van Reenen's Pass. The enemy hold Muller's and Botha's Passes.

RUSSIA AND KOREA.

Mr. St. John Brodrick, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the House of Commons, said that the new agreement between Russia and Korea has no reference to sovereign rights. It grants to Russia at Masampho a concession similar to that already granted to Japan. Her Majesty's Government has no knowledge of any intention on Russia's part to erect fortifications on the conceded site.

ANNEXATION OF THE FREE STATE.

Shanghai, May 30.

A telegram from Capetown says that the Orange Free State was formally annexed to-day.

LORD ROBERTS.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Klip River station, under date of the 28th, that his troops marched twenty miles to-day, and are now eighteen miles from Johannesburg. The enemy had prepared positions with the intention of opposing our advance, but they abandoned them successively. We pressed them so hard that they had only time to get five guns into the train and leave as the West Australians dashed in.

ADVANCING FROM MAFEKING

The British have occupied Zeerust, and another force is now marching to Lichtenberg.

[Note—This shows that, as we anticipated, a column is marching from Mafeking to assist in the attack on Pretoria.—Ed. *J.M.*]

THE LAST RESOURCE.

Reuter's Agent, telegraphing from Pretoria, under date of the 28th inst, says that President Kruger has ordered three days' of prayer, humiliation, and confession of sins, for relief from oppression.

THE DERBY.

Shanghai, May 30.

The Derby has been won by Diamond Jubilee, Simondale running second, and Disguise third.

THE NATAL ARMY.

Gen. Hildyard has occupied Utrecht. Gen. Clery is bombarding Laing's Nek.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

The annexation proclamation has been read in Bloemfontein. The name of the Orange Free State is henceforth to be Orange River Colony.

GENERAL GALLIFET RESIGNS.

Shanghai, May 31.

General Gallifet has resigned the portfolio of War on the ground of ill-health. General André replaces him.

THE ADVANCE ON JOHANNESBURG.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Germiston on the evening of the 29th that he arrived there without being seriously opposed. He proposes to enter Johannesburg with all his troops to-morrow (the 30th) at noon. He expects no opposition.

THE NATAL SIDE.

The British now occupy a strong position commanding Majuba Hill and Laing's Nek.

THE CLOSE OF THE WAR.

BRITISH DICTATING THE TERMS OF PEACE.

KRUGER FLEES TO WATERVAL BOVEN.

PRETORIA OCCUPIED.

Shanghai, May 31.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Pretoria that the British officers in Johannesburg are dictating terms of surrender.

The advance guard is half-way to Pretoria.

Kruger has gone to Watervalboven.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent telegraphs from Pretoria, on the morning of the 30th, that Pretoria will be occupied in two hours without resistance. The burgomaster and the Boer Commando have arrived from Komati-Poort.

(Telegrams Received at the Legation of France.)

THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

Saigon, May 24.

The Chamber of Deputies has approved, by 226 votes to 26, the general policy of the Government. It has adopted by 467 votes to 78 a motion, accepted by the Cabinet, inviting the latter to energetically oppose all re-opening of the Dreyfus Affair.

THE VRYHEID AMBUSCADE.

General Buller telegraphs that a squadron of mounted infantry has been captured by the Boers near Vryheid.

THE WAR.

Saigon, May 25.

A telegram from Kroonstad says that General French has crossed the Rhenoster, and that General Hamilton has occupied Heilbron after an engagement in which he lost 75 men.

THE VAAL.

Saigon, May 28.

General French crossed the Vaal at Lindeques Drift on Friday. The Boers, abandoning the Vaal, are concentrating on the Klip River. The leaders of the Boers are discussing the advisability of surrendering.

THE BOXERS.

Saigon, May 29.

A telegram from Tientsin says that the Boxers have burned the station at Builino, 29 miles from Peking, and assassinated several of the Chinese employés.

THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

Saigon, May 30.

In consequence of an interpellation by the Nationalists, the Prime Minister, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, after a violent tumult and a suspension of the sitting, accepted an order of the day voting confidence by 296 against 246.

GENERAL DE GALLIFFET.

The retirement of General de Gallifet is imminent, because of ill-health.

THE WAR.

The English continue to advance towards Johannesburg. There are some combats.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SERIOUS OUTBREAK IN CHINA.

"BOXERS" ADVANCING ON PEKING.

FOREIGN MARINES LANDED.

Shanghai, May 29.

A serious outbreak of "Boxers" has taken place between Tientsin and Peking.

The rioters have gone to Peking, destroying the railway on their way to prevent pursuit.

The foreign warships are landing men.

Tientsin is quiet.

(From the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

THE SARAWAK TROUBLE.

Labuan, May 17.

On account of fresh developments in the Sarawak affair the British Consul has postponed his intended visit to Sandakan, and left suddenly this morning for Brooketown to meet Rajah Brooke. It is reported that the Trusan Expedition has met with a reverse and is returning to await further reinforcements.

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BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, May 26th:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	16,747,349
Amount of convertible notes issued	191,828,793
Government deposits	64,177,327
General deposits	6,159,348
Exchange liability	38,437
Total	308,955,255

CR.	
Discount notes	63,299,642
Foreign discount notes	11,158,786
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	69,094,512
Exchange liability	1,922,056
Government bonds	54,041,361
Property	2,013,556
Bullion and Specie	85,331,338
Total	308,951,255

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	192,609,607

Bullion and Specie:—

Gold	80,361,757
Silver	4,000,000
Total	84,361,757

Securities:—

Government bonds	15,473,421
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,403,248
Commercial notes	59,371,181
Total	108,247,850

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show.

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	747,887
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	21,314
Government deposits	2,537,588	—
General deposits	413,554	—

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

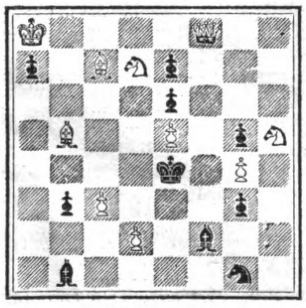
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 474.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R to Kt 7	1—K to R 3
2—K to Kt 3 dis ch	2—K to Kt (must)
3—Q to R 4, mate	
	1—B or R takes R
2—Q to B 4 ch	2—K takes Q (must)
3—B to Q 2, mate	
	1—Kt to B sq
2—B to Q 8 ch	2—K to R 3 (must)
3—K to Kt 3, mate	

Correct solution received from W.H.S.

PROBLEM No. 476.

Black—Ten Pieces.



White—Ten Pieces.

White mates in three moves.

GAME 599.

FALKBEER'S COUNTER GAMBIT.

A brilliant game, played in the match North London *v.* Hampstead, on Board No. 1, Mr. Griffith for Hampstead, Mr. Trenchard for North London.

White—R. C. Griffith. Black—H. W. Trenchard.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	19 K Kt2	B KB4
2 P KB4	P Q4	20 Q B2	Kt B4
3 KPxP	P K5	21 Kt B3	Q K6
4 P Q3	Kt KB3	22 R Qsq	B K2
5 Kt QB3	B QKt5	23 Q B2	B B3
6 B Q2	P K6	24 P Q4	BxKt
7 BxP	Castles	25 QxQ	RxQ
8 B Q2	R Ksqch	26 RxB	QR Ksq
9 QKt K2	B QB4	27 K B2	P KR3
10 P B4	Kt Kt5	28 P Kt4	RxR
11 Kt R3	Q R5ch	29 BxR	R K6
12 P Kt3	KtxP	30 B Kt2	R Kt6
13 Q R4	Kt B6ch	31 B Rsq	Kt Q2
14 K Qsq	Q K2	32 P Kt5	PxP
15 P QKt5	KtxB	33 PxP	B Qsq
16 KxKt	BxPch	34 P B5	RxP
17 K B2	Kt R3	35 R Ksq	K Bsq
18 P R3	B Q3		

Time was here called, when White claimed a draw, but resigned so as to avoid adjudication.

5—P takes P, Kt takes K P; 6—B to K 3, Q to R 5 ch; 7—P to Kt 3, Kt takes P; 8—Kt to K B 3, Q to R 3; 9—R to Kt sq is more favourable for White than the variation in the text. Morphy played here 8.....B takes Kt (9 P takes B, R to K sq ch; 10—B to K 2, B to Kt 5 with a powerful attack) to prevent White from interposing Q Kt to K 2 in answer to R to K sq ch. Black's attack with 11.....Q to R 5 ch is highly ingenious, followed up as it is with 12..... Kt takes P, but we suggest the preparatory 11.....P to Q B 3 for this reason. If 12—P takes P Black brings a powerful Knight into play; if White plays 12—P to Kt 4 Black gains time with 12.....B to Q 5 attacking the Rook; but the chief reason is that White's saving move in the text—viz., 13—Q to R 4, would not be so powerful, Black Rook not being attacked by it then, whilst as played he had to retire the Queen in the height of the attack. His position, however, was good enough even so, and he won the game quietly without any undue precipitation. The is a good specimen of this variation of the Falkbeer Gambit.

GAME 595.

PEEROFF'S DEFENCE.

From the Vienna Masters' Tournament:—

White—Popiel. Black—Prock.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	18 B Kt2	Q KB2
2 Kt KB3	Kt KB3	19 Q Kt3	K R2
3 P Q4	PxP	20 Kt Q5	KtxKt
4 QxP	Kt B3	21 KtxKt	B K2
5 Q K3	P Q3	22 R B4	P QKt4
6 B Q3	Kt K4	23 B Kt4	Q B
7 Kt B3	KtxBch	24 Q R4	K R
8 PxKt	B K2	25 R Kt6	B Q
9 Castles	Castles	26 R KB	R KB2
10 P KR3	Kt Q2	27 R B3	P KR3
11 Kt Q4	Kt Kt3	28 Kt B4	K R2
12 P KB4	P B4	29 R(B3) Kt3	B K2
13 Kt(Q4) K2	R K	30 Kt R5	B Q
14 Q B3	P KB3	31 KtxKtP	QxKt
15 P B5	B B	32 RxQch	KxR
16 Kt B4	P QR3	33 RxRch	KxR
17 P QKt3	Q K2	34 Q R5	Resigns.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta 1	M. June 4
America	T. K. K.	America Maru 2	Th. June 7
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. June 9
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg 3	Sa. June 9
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 11
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Laos	Th. June 14
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. June 14
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 4	Su. June 17
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	M. June 18
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. June 25
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. June 28

1 Left Nagasaki on the 30th ult.
2 Left San Francisco on the 19th ult.
3 Left Hongkong on the 31st ult.
4 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Sa June 2
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Sachsen	Sa. June 2
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. June 6
Europe, via S'hai	M. M. Co.	Indus	F. June 8
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	F. June 8
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. June 12
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 11
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. June 13
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. June 15
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	M. June 18
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	W. June 20
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. June 26

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Sachsen, German steamer, 3,119, G. Dannemann, 24th May,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 23rd May, Mails and General.—A. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. B. Seabury, 24th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 23rd May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 24th May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 23rd May, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 24th May,—Kobe, 22nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 24th May,—Otaru via ports, 19th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Armenia, German steamer, 3,469, Ostermann, 24th May,—Hamburg via ports, and Shanghai, 20th May, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, A. Scherbinin, 24th May,—Petropaulovski, 16th May, Furs and Skins. Walsh Hall & Co.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 24th May,—San Diego, Cal., General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Braemar, British steamer 2,316, Wm. Watt, 24th May,—Portlond, Orogan, 3rd May, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 24th May,—Yokkaichi, 23rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 25th May,—Kobe, 23rd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kaisow, British steamer, 2,925, G. Rodway, 25th May,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 23rd May, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Nymphe, German ship, 1,049, Hilmer, 25th May,—New York, 4th Jan., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 25th May,—Shanghai via ports, 19th May, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 25th May,—Yokkaichi, 24th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 25th May,—Hakodate, 22nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Duke of Fife, British steamer, 2,416, J. S. Cox, 27th May,—Hongkong via ports, Kobe 25th May, eneral.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 26th May,—Yokkaichi, 25th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indus, French steamer, 2,331, G. Duchateau, 28th May,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 27th May, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,709, Wm. Bainbridge, 28th May,—London via ports, and Kobe, 26th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 28th May,—Otaru via ports, 22nd May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeijo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,534, Yamanouchi, 28th May,—Hakodate, 25th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 29th May,—Yokkaichi, 28th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 29th May,—Otaru via ports, 24th May, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 29th May,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 11th May, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 29th May,—Kobe, 28th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,526, Burmeister, 30th May,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 24th May, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Nakajima, 30th May,—Hakodate via Sendai. General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 31st May,—Vancouver, B.C., 13th May, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 31st May,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 30th May, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 31st May,—Kobe, 30th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 25th May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 30th May,—Yokkaichi, 29th May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Salazie, French steamer, 2,089, Negre, 25th May,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Queen Adelaide, British steamer, 1,835, F. McNair, 25th May,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash, Mails and General,—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 25th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 24th May,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, Geneal.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, Geo. A. Lee, 25th May,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 26th May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese stermer, 1,894, De La Lande, 26th May,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakai, 26th May,—Otaru via ports, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Armenia, German steamer, 3,469, Ostermann, 26th May,—New York via Suez Canal, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Braemer, British steamer. 2,316, Wm. Watt, 26th May,—Hongkong via ports, General Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 26th May.—Kobe General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Aurora (12), British Cruiser, 6,500, Capt. E. H. Bayly, 26th May.—Nagasaki via Yokosuka.

China, American steamer, 2,422, W. B. Seabury, 26th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails & General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, A. Scherbinin, 26th May.—Ballast.—Walsh Hall & Co.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 26th May.—Hongkong via Kobe and Moji, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Agamemnom, British steamer, 4,461, Hugh Nish, 29th May,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 29th May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Duke of Fife, British steamer, 2,416, J. S. Cox, 29th May,—Victoria, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 30th May,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 30th May,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kaisow, British steamer, 2,925, G. Rodway, 30th May,—Manila, P.I., Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, J. R. Stewart, 30th May,—Otaru, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 30th May,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Coptic, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 31st May,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 31st May, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 31st May,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Sachsen*, from Europe via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and children, Mrs. Coso, Mr. Adolf. Imhoff, Mr. Boden, Mr. C. Refardt, Miss N. Fallot, and Dr. Yamakawa Yukio, in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. L. A. Achard, Lieut. Biddle, Mrs. H. C. Hall, Master Hykes, Mr. Geo. Tyson, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wrightson, Mr. J. H. Betts, Mr. L. Fong Fook and servant, Rev. J. R. Hykes, Dr. and Mrs. Masao, child and amah, Mrs. P. Wolf, and Mrs. P. Whitworth, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mrs. M. Beyeus, Mr. L. C. G. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Roberts, Dr. and Mrs. H. Sherman and 2 children, Mrs. M. J. Shea, Mr. E. de Bavier, Mr. E. Norland, Mrs. M. Stephenson, Mr. W. Whiley, and Mr. F. C. Wilford, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss Todd, Miss Aldred, Mrs. and Misses (3) Rustoinzel, Col. Faulkner Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. McNaughton, Mrs. E. W. Halliday, Dr. and Mrs. E. Wing, Mons. Hay and valet, Mr. G. N. Denney, Mr. F. H. Beebe and native servant, Mr. B. F. Sakai, Mr. I. Pedraza, Mr. V. Ylustre, Baron de Meyer and native servant, Baroness de Meyer and maid, Mr. L. L. Bailey, Mr. E. E. Parsons, Mr. Seth Bailey, Rev. Horwath, Mr. Sorhargen, Mr. W. Pietzeker, Mr. C. Mancini, Mr. Greene, Mr. Ryke, Mr. E. Oldenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Jerauld, 3 children and amah, Bishop Fyson, and Mrs. Lambre, child and amah, in cabin; 1 in second class. In Transit:—Mr. and Mrs. Dallas, Mr. B. Herman, Mr. B. Layton, Mr. E. Deacon, Mr. W. R. Young, Mr. H. A. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Anderson, Mr. J. M. Doherty, Miss L. Johnston, Rev. Dr. Chase, Mrs. Reed and 2 children, Mr. W. Rhodes James, Mr. A. W. Black, Mrs. P. Morgan and maid, Miss Morgan, Mr. Pettigan, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Wilkinson and son, Mrs. Little, Miss R. Sia, Miss May Hee, Miss M. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pemberton, Lady and Miss Hannen, Capt. R. Cain, Mr. C. Dowdall, Mr. G. F. Watts, Mrs. Neale and son, Miss E. Belle Smith, Mrs. A. Sykes and child, Mrs. R. E. Abbey, Mr. E. N. Morris, Dr. Eicheim, Rev. B. Weingate, Mr. Peech, Dr. and Mrs. Hoon, Mr. and Mrs. Atcheson, Mr. Whittenmore, Mr. Godsall, Miss Godsall, Mr. Wheelock, Mrs. Tyson and 2 children, and Rev. Harada, in cabin; Mr. Little, 3 Chinese, and 2 Japanese, in second class; 272 Chinese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. S. Soga, Mr. T. Wallace, Mr. H. G. Stevens, Mr. A. E. McGlew, and Mr. S. Suda, in cabin: Mrs. K. Fukushi, Mr. S. Kushibe, Mr. T. Oshio Mr. E. Kahn, Mr. Kwan Ying Ting, Mr. Cheng Jah Man, Mr. Cheang Man Chong Wii, Mr. J. Hiraga, and Mr. W. Fukushi, in second class.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. A. E. Dowler and two children, Miss B. Ferard, Com. Seaton Schroeder, Com. Ed. D. Taussig, Mrs. Chas. Thomas and child, Miss Thomas, and Miss H. Wilson, in cabin. For Kobe: Rev. W. Baird, Mrs. W. Baird and three children, Mr. Geo. E. Bissell, Mrs. Geo. E. Bissell, Miss C. L. Ogilvie, Mr. E. W. Tilden, and Mrs. E. W. Tilden, infant and amah, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. B. C. Donham, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mrs. M. M. Crosette, and Dr. John Fryer, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. Chas. Andrews and son, Miss Caroline Braun, Mrs. W. E. Dubes, Mrs. L. B. Grandy and son, Mr. J. G. Judson, Mrs. L. M. Lang, Mr. E. R. Kellam, Mrs. E. R. Kellam. Lieut. A. A. McKetchan, Mrs. W. E. Musgrave, Mrs. I. B. Parker and two children, Mrs. J. B. Schoeffel, Mr. W. W. Smith, Mrs. Mary L. Stephenson, Com. T. H. Stevens, and Miss Stella White, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss I. Watson, Mr. L. Deane, Captain L. Hintze, Mr. J. E. Lambie, Mr. Hey, Mr. C. E. R. Hands, Mr. F. Urbig, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. R. S. Dooman, Mr. R. S. Gunn, Mr. E. Achilles, Mr. Grant, Mr. G. Miller, Surg. W. E. G. High, U.S.N., Mr. W. Bates, Mrs. W. Bates, infant and amah, Mr. P. T. Evans, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Tullis, Rev. I. Dooman, Mr. J. P. Crowther. Mrs. R. S. Gunn, Mr. E. A. Sargent, and Mr. K. Hoffner, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Col. Fraser, R.A., Mrs. A. Forrest, Mrs. Yee Oi, Master Young Wah Hoon, Mrs. Fulton and infant, Master E. W. Fulton, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. E. H. Braddock, Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. A. P. Lowrie, Mrs. E. A. Sargent, Master Sargent and servant, Mrs. N. Vaughn, Mr. Young Gun Yuen, Miss Young Tai, Rev. N. A. Fulton, Master H. W. Fulton, Miss Grace Fulton, Mr. J. G. W. Schroder, Master W. Braddock, Mr. W. F. Harris, Mr. M. L. Smead, Miss Sargent, and Mr. J. F. Oiesen, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Henry A. Burke, Mrs. A. F. Dixon, Mr. W. C. Dart, Mr. C. Gibbens, Dr. A. S. Lee, Mrs. G. S. Mackinnon, Mrs. A. Slavin, Com. F. M. Wise, and Miss Florence Woodall, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Salazie*, for Marseilles via ports:—Mrs. Wassilieff, Misses Hall, Mr. Favre, Mr. Chaumont, Rev. Father Lohodey, Mr. E. Boule, Mrs. Takahashi, Mr. Young, Misses Daly, Mrs. Smith and servant, Miss Inaba Tsuru, Mr. and Mrs. Bell and child, Mr. and Mrs. Moulis and child, Mr. and Mrs. Dimitri Levowsky and child, Mr. and Mrs. John E. F. Bass and child, Misses Favre, Mr. Favre, Mr. H. Satoh, Mr. Tsumeto, Mr. H. Awoyama, Mr. Komoshita, Miss Jeanne Eymard, Misses C. and J. Eymard, Mr. Ch. Eymard, Mr. Okasaki Sessei, Mr. Tioravanti, Mr. Guyon, Mr. George Mudge, Mr. Saki Kuroda, and Mr. Harutaro Iitsuka, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Nothing doing in cotton yarns; a few retails transactions in shirtings. In fancy cottons and woollens the market is quite inactive save, for a few retail deals.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	24.50 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

No enquiry.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 tc 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$2.28
Russian	2.75
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The market is quiet for refined. A steady trade in browns.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	8.00 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Native holders show anxiety to sell their old stock, and prices show a marked decline. Quality of silk on offer is far from satisfactory. Reports of the new crop are favourable.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	875 to 885
Common—Coarse	Nominal
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	890
Re-reels—No. 1½	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

Market dull at prices weak. The prosent stock is estimated at 3,050 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	135 to 140
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	145 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	85 to 90
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	115 to 120
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	25 to 30

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TEA.

A large business has been done, prices ruling very firm, fully 15 per cent. above last season's values. The demand is chiefly for the better grades. The quality shows an improvement on last year, especially as regards the make of the leaf. Arrivals show a falling off in quantity as compared with last season, and the Japanese dealers state that the crop will not be so large as last year's.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	35 to 56
Choice	33 to 34
Finest	31 to 32
Fine	29 to 30
Good Medium	27 to 28
Medium	25 to 26
Good Common / Common	23 to 24

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 31.

No alteration in silver from London, but discount for 6 months' paper has increased to 3 per cent., and it is expected the Bank of England rate may be lowered to the same this week. Exchange quotations locally remain as they were.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 1/4
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 9/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4 @ 11
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 1/16 @ 7/8
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	260 1/2 @ 59 1/2
— — 6 months' sight	261 1/2 @ 61
America—Bank sight	49 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	50 3/4 @ 1/2
Germany—Bank sight	206 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74 1/8
— Private 10 days' sight	74 3/8
India—Bank sight	151 1/4
— Private 30 days' sight	153 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 11/16

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, May 31.

Breweries are steady at *yen* 160. Grand Hotels are steady at *yen* 240. Oriental Hotels—old shares are obtainable at *yen* 150. New shares can be had at *yen* 40. Langfeldts have sellers at *yen* 105. Helms can be had at par. Laundries are offering at par. A few Bretts can be placed at *yen* 9.

Debentures—Y. U. Clubs are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Yebisu Breweries—old shares have buyers at *yen* 105. New shares can be had at *yen* 41. Marusans are steady at *yen* 42. Offers for Hodogaya Breweries are wanted.

Shanghai Engineering Docks were forced at Taels 80 on 26th inst. and improved later to Taels 82.50. Langkats—Owing to news of a new find of oil the market improved to Taels 300,305,307.50 and 310.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	220 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	160 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 B.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	150 Sa.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	500 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	40 S.
Oriental Hotel. preference shares, ¥25	40 S.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, May 31.

Engine and Iron Works are steady at *yen* 220. Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Langfeldts can be had at *yen* 105.

Kechan Gold Mines have heen purchased from Singapore at $26.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	220 Steady.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	150 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	105 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	160 Sales.

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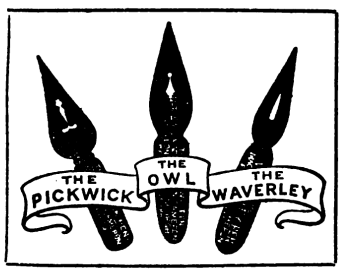

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

On Sunday morning, June 3rd, at 251, Bluff, the wife of S. KOMOR, of a daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

No. 4 of vol. 8 of the *Betsu Sekai* (magazine), was suspended on the 31st ult.

HAIL fell in the neighbourhood of Zenibakomura, Otaru district, Hokkaido, on the 26th ult.

A CONFERENCE of chiefs of the General Staff of the Army will be held in Tokyo from the 11th instant.

Two hundred *koban* coins have been found in a garden at Shimizu Mume, Takejimacho, Koishikawa, Tokyo.

AN overcoat and a sum of money were recently stolen from the American Legation at Aoicho, Akasaka, Tokyo.

THE Japanese cruiser *Yakumo*, constructed in Germany, has successfully completed her trials. She will leave for Japan in July.

PRETORIA has been occupied during the week by the British. There have been several sharp engagements in the neighbourhood.

THE Boxer riots continue in North China. Two English missionaries have been murdered, and several Belgian railway-men are missing.

FIRE broke out at half-past one o'clock on Friday morning at Ushijima-zaka, Ishikawa, and seven houses were destroyed and two damaged.

A BIG fire occurred at midnight on the 2nd inst. at Nishi Saikumachi, Shimonoseki. About one hundred houses and a theatre were burnt down.

ON the 3rd inst. the aniversary ceremonies for repose of the souls of those who fell in the Satsuma Rebellion were held at Nogeyama by the Yokohama Shoheijikai.

THE inhabitants of New Zealand are sending Sir George White a brick of gold. On one side is written, "This is a brick," on the reverse, "You are another."

A HEAVY thunder-storm, accompanied with hail the size of beans, raged at Sendai on the morning of the 2nd inst. Great damage was done to rice, mulberries, etc.

FIRE broke out on the 4th inst. at Kitaoshimura, Tsuga district, Tochigi prefecture, and twelve houses were destroyed. Two corpses was found among the debris in a well.

A FIRE broke out at Odawara at two o'clock on the morning of the 2nd inst. The Branch office of the Fujisawa Bank and two houses were destroyed, while three were damaged.

LORD METHUEN at his own expense has erected a tomb to the French strategist Villebois Mareuil, who was killed in an engagement near Boshof. The French warmly appreciate Lord Methuen's action.

A COLLISION occurred between a passenger car and a goods train on the Hokuyetsu Railway on the evening of the 31st ult. Four cars were broken to pieces, and two passengers badly injured.

A TELEGRAM has been received by the Government from the Consul at Chemulpo, to the effect that, owing to the recurrence of plague in Osaka and Kobe, ships from those ports will be strictly quarantined.

FIRE broke out on the 4th inst. in a workshop just opposite to Morioka Jail, in Iwate Prefecture. The building was totally destroyed, but the jail was saved. The loss is estimated at about 20,000 *yen*.

THE Tientsin paper says that the Empress Dowager is reported to have been much distressed at the terrible massacre of Christians at Pao-ting-fu, and ordered coffins to be provided out of the Imperial purse.

The Times says Sir Nathaniel Linley has resigned the Mastership of the Rolls, and that Sir Richard Webster succeeds him, whilst Sir Robert Finlay becomes Attorney-General and Mr. Carson Solicitor-General.

LADY SARAH WILSON wired to her sister, Lady Georgiana Curzon, from Mafeking, under date of May 3, saying:—Our breakfast consisted of horse sausages and lunch of minced mule and curried locusts. All well.

SIR HENRY BLAKE, Governor of Hongkong, with Lady and Miss Blake, and the Rt. Hon. Viscount Suirdale, Aide-de-Camp to Governor Blake, arrived in Yokohama on Thursday. They have since gone to Tokyo.

THE British Minister has entered a vigorous protest with the Chinese Government against the conduct of the Chinese Commissioners at Weihai-wei, who to all appearance are responsible for what has occurred there.

ON the 1st inst. Fukuse Tokichi, an employé of Ito Kimbei, silk merchant, Bentendori, Yokohama, was robbed of 700 *yen* which he had drawn on a bill of exchange at the Third Bank. He had placed the money on the bench beside him, and while he was endorsing another document the notes were taken.

A POLITICAL meeting directed against the Governor of Kanagawa Ken was held at the Minatoza theatre, Sumiyoshicho, Yokohama, on the evening of the 1st instant. While a person named Yoshinaga was speaking some *soshi* belonging to the opposition party attacked him. In the scuffle that ensued several men were wounded. A number of arrests were made by the police.

COMMANDER ARTHUR H. LIMPUS, R.N., of H.M.S. *Terrible*, has been promoted to the rank of Captain, for services in South Africa. Commander Limpus was only made a Commander on 1st January, 1898, and as there are still commanders on the list whose seniority dates from 1882, it will be seen that this gallant officer has been given a very big jump up the tree of seniority.

THE steamer *Seko Maru*, owned by Mr. Harada of Osaka, ran ashore near Takamijima, about five miles from Tadotsu, early on Wednesday morning, while en route from Tomonotsu to Tadotsu. The steamer, a vessel of 184 tons, shortly afterwards sank. She was engaged on a run between Osaka and Wakamatsu, Kyushu. Her hull was not insured, but the cargo, consisting of rice, was insured for *yen* 3,000. Fortunately no lives were lost.

THE London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post* learns from a high diplomatic authority, who has just returned to London from Moscow, that it is not at all improbable that the Czar and Czarina may visit the Queen at Osborne during the autumn. It seems to be arranged that their Imperial Majesties will go to the Paris Exhibition, and it is certain that correspondence has taken place between them and the Queen relative to a meeting on either their going or their return.

IT is very well-known that Mr. Herbet Spencer's one recreation is billiards, at which he plays, for an amateur, a very good game. There is a story, that he once addressed another and younger player who had beaten him very decisively in the following terms:—"Sir, a certain dexterity in games of skill is a proof of a well-balanced mind, but such dexterity as you have shown argues a mis-spent youth." One cannot help hoping that the story is true, if only to show that even great philosophers are sometimes quite human.

ACCORDING to investigations completed by the Finance Department and published in the *Nichi Nichi*, the number of foreign tourists who visited Japan last year totalled 32,426. Their nationalities were as follows:—English, 3,915; French, 1,179; German, 1,409; Americans, 3,743; Chinese, 19,046; Russians, 1,051; Austrians, 79; Spanish, 32; Koreans, 146; Indians, 24; Portuguese, 25; Dutch, 19; Italians, 15. Visitors from other countries did not exceed 7 in number. The chief ports for tourists were Yokohama and Kobe.

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THE WAR.

Saturday, June 2.

There is quite an interesting complication of dates connected with the occupation of Johannesburg. The *Japan Gazette*, which was the first to publish news of the event in Yokohama, says that its telegram left London at 9.47 p.m. on the 29th of May. Now we know by Reuter's service that Lord Roberts himself was at Germiston on the evening of the 29th, and that he telegraphed thence an announcement of his intention to enter Johannesburg on the 30th at noon, adding that he did not expect resistance. A later telegram dated the 30th shows that he deferred the occupation of the town at the request of the Commandant for 24 hours, and a still later despatch indicates that the British flag was flying there before 2 o'clock on the 31st. We now know further that Pretoria will not make any serious resistance, so that the war is practically over.

It will be observed that Roberts' official telegram announcing his intention of moving against Johannesburg on the 30th, was dated from Germiston, which is a town lying 7 or 8 miles north of Johannesburg, between that place and Pretoria. That fact is very significant. The British General, instead of advancing against Johannesburg from the south, which was the natural route, seems to have carried a force round to the north, and thus practically invested the place before attempting its reduction. His tactics at Bloemfontein were similar. His general line of advance was from the west, but by a forced march of 36 miles in 20 hours, he brought a column of troops into the town from the south, thus completely surprising and discomfiting the Boers. Celerity of movement and rapid strokes following each other in quick succession have been the secrets of his success. Such tactics are particularly demoralizing to a badly disciplined enemy. The Boer method is, not to retreat after an unsuccessful fight, but to disperse. That is an excellent plan for the purpose of achieving the safety of the units of a force. But its disadvantage is that cohesion is temporarily sacrificed, and unless time is available for re-assembling and re-organizing, the situation becomes compromised. Lord Roberts never gave the Boers time to take breath. Once broken, they found it generally impossible to integrate again, and they probably fell at last into a condition of complete demoralization. Strategy of that kind would not have been within the Field Marshal's power had he not possessed great strength in mounted men. It will probably be found that the Australian, Canadian, Imperial-Yeomanry and Cape-Colonial contingents contributed materially to the final success.

The fall of Pretoria means, of course, that the resistance opposite Buller at Laing's Nek will melt away. Buller has been most unfortunate. He made a good fight at Ladysmith. His plans, according to the testimony of Lord Roberts, were excellent, and should have succeeded. But they failed owing to the faults of his subordinates, and when finally he effected the relief of the place, his achievement took the form of an anti-climax. No one had any praise for him. It was concluded that he owed his success to Roberts' movements in the Free State which had relieved the pressure at Ladysmith. Now, again, precisely the same result seems to have been his fate. Just as as he had gained positions commanding Majuba Hill and Laing's Nek, and just as, in all human probability, he was on the eve of forcing that strong position and accomplishing a brilliant feat, Lord Roberts marches into Johannesburg, cuts the railway communication with Laing's Nek, and dissipates the resistance forcing Buller. There are few laurels remaining to be gathered in South Africa. All that were growing there have been woven into garlands for Roberts, French, Baden-Powell, and White. Much honour will also come to Brabant, Rundle, Ian Hamilton, and Hutton, but Roberts, French, Baden-Powell, and White will be the nation's heroes. Roberts will be a Duke, of course. He has been a most fortunate man; deservedly fortunate. The reputation that he made after 35 years' service was already so great that an opportunity to enhance it enormously did not seem within the range of reasonable probabilities. Yet the opportunity presented itself and he has utilized it in such a manner that whereas the world had previously been content to regard him as a good General, it will now count him a great Captain. Of course Englishmen will have too much sense to over-rate these successes gained in South Africa. When Roberts took the field, the disparity of strength on the two sides had become so great that victory for the British could only be a question of time. Granting all that, however, it is not to be denied that Lord Roberts utilized his forces in a masterly manner, and that, in less skilled hands, the success he has gained would have been not only deferred, but also much more costly. His great merit has been appreciation of the necessities of modern warfare, and perfect adaptation of his strategy to the novel conditions confronting him. He won all his fights and made all his captures by constructing situations which paralysed the enemy's resistance, and dispensed with recourse to serious fighting. The Boers gradually realized that it was hopeless to oppose him. Their organization and generalship failed in the face of his tactics. That is the only glory England can claim. It has not been a great war in any sense, though probably no Generals ever had a more difficult task. But its latter operations were well managed, and if now Her Majesty's Government contrives to inflict a minimum of pain on our brave adversaries, we shall all be glad to dismiss from our memories the events of the past six months.

Monday, June 3.

It is plain that the public has been greatly misled by erroneous telegraphic statements. The first and most serious was that published by a local English contemporary that Johannesburg had been occupied on the 29th of May. We have already commented on the mistake of that telegram—a mistake obvious to us from the first—, but we may add here that our comments were entirely unconnected with the medium through which the news was circulated. Our contemporary accuses us of meddling with matters that do not concern us, but, in common with all British subjects, we are very much concerned about the progress of the war, and especially about an event of such capital importance as the occupation of Johannesburg. It is now certain that the telegram was absolutely a fiction. Johannesburg did not pass into British possession until the 31st of May, nor is it possible even to entertain the hypothesis that an advanced guard occupied the place at an earlier date, for Lord Roberts telegraphed on the 29th that he did not expect any resistance on the 30th, a statement quite irreconcilable with the theory that a part of his troops were already in possession of it. If that were the only misleading statement published there would not be so much to complain of. But other telegrams announced, with equal emphasis, that Pretoria also had surrendered. On the 1st inst. a Tokyo contemporary published this news:—"London, May 31st. Pretoria has surrendered;" and followed it on June 3rd with this: "Lord Roberts is now proceeding to Pretoria with the object of receiving the capitulation of that city." Are these statements trustworthy? We do not think so. We do not believe that Pretoria has surrendered. The telegram saying that Roberts was proceeding to Pretoria to receive the capitulation of that city was dated "London, June 1st." Now a Reuter telegram, dispatched from Shanghai at 10.20 a.m. on the 2nd of June, and therefore given in at London on June 1st, informed us that "there was fighting yesterday (May 31st) at Kaalfontein, midway between Johannesburg and Pretoria." That certainly does not suggest that Pretoria surrendered on the 31st. It is to be observed that Reuter has never once misled the public throughout the whole course of the war. He has sent many telegrams which were not confirmed by subsequent events, but in every case he has stated the source of the messages and left the public to accept or reject them. Thus he has told us that the *Daily Mail's* correspondent at Lourenzo Marquez, or *The Times'* correspondent at Maseru, or Reuter's correspondent at Mafeking, and so on, wired such and such news at such and such a date. In the great majority of cases the *Daily News'* correspondent at Lourenzo Marquez has proved to be wrongly informed, and the telegrams of *The Times'* correspondent at Maseru were almost uniformly incorrect. But in no single instance has a piece of intelligence definitely formulated by Reuter been contradicted by later news. Now it will be observed that Reuter has not told us anything whatever, on his own authority, about Pretoria's surrender, and that up to this moment of writing (Sunday morning), no intelligence in that sense has been received from Lord Roberts, though it is quite inconceivable that the Field-Marshal would have delayed for one instant the communication of such important news.

Rundle's operations appear to be very vital. It is probable that quite a large force of Boers are still in the field on the Bethlehem-Harrismith line. We now know that there were some six thousand burghers engaged in the attempt to capture Wepener; that another force of nine or ten thousand threatened the British communications at De Wets Dorp, and that a third column was posted near Thabanchu. It is extremely improbable that the whole of these forces, or even any considerable part of them, concentrated at Kroonstad after being driven back from the Thabanchu-Ladybrand line. What they probably did was to retire northward by the Ficksburg-Bethlehem route, which carried them into the hilly country round Harrismith and at the foot of Van Renan's Pass. Collected there, they still remained a menace to the British communications northward of Bloemfontein, and it is evident that, if Rundle suffered any severe check at Senekal, Roberts' columns might be seriously embarrassed. Of course the point is of such importance that the Field-Marshal has doubtless provided for all contingencies, but we can not escape the conviction that Rundle has a hard task, and that, unless the success of the operations beyond the Vaal paralyses the resistance in the Harrismith region, some heavy sacrifices may yet be demanded.

Thursday, June 7.

The Boers are incomprehensible. People

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who were supposed to understand them well predicted, long ago, that they would not attempt to defend Pretoria, since it would be intolerable to them to be shut up in a beleaguered city, leaving their homesteads at the mercy of the enemy. On the other hand, they had certainly made elaborate preparations for the defence of their capital. It was encircled by forts mounting heavy guns, and if ten thousand Englishmen were able to defy the assaults of thirty thousand Boers during five months at Ladysmith, it should have been quite easy for twenty thousand Boers to hold Pretoria during half a year in the face of any army that the British could bring against it. Their strength is in defensive operations, and there could not be the least comparison between Ladysmith and Pretoria; for whereas the former place was a mere camp without any capacities to sustain a siege, all the resources of science had been exhausted to render the latter impregnable. How, then, are we to account for the almost unresisting surrender of the Transvaal capital, especially on the heels of an announcement from President Kruger that the Boers were resolved to fight to the death? With Johannesburg they have lost the source from which they drew gold, and with Pretoria they have lost the only factory where they could make ammunition. If, then, they really intend to betake themselves to guerilla warfare, they commence their new programme under most unfortunate circumstances. We find it difficult to believe in this guerilla warfare. Our impression is that the eyes of the burghers have been opened. For a long time their hopes were sustained by falsehoods about the result of operations in the field and by baseless predictions of foreign interference. But they see now at last that their leaders have been deceiving them throughout; that the men who were supposed to have been slaughtered by thousands on the veldt have arrived scatheless at Pretoria, and that the great crisis has come without any Foreign Power raising even a finger to succour them. In the northern part of the Transvaal there is ample space for them to lead a nomad existence. To follow them from place to place in that wide region, and force them to surrender, would occupy a large force for several months. But in the meanwhile the fugitive burghers would gain nothing. Their lands and stock would be in British possession, and they would be merely adding needless suffering to an inevitable fate. Probably, therefore, we may interpret the surrender of Pretoria to mean that the war is practically over. Laings Nek will very soon be rendered untenable, and whatever commandos remain on the west of the Rand Berg range between Wakkerstroom and Kanati will have to retire northward or lay down their arms. It is evident, we think, that Kruger and Steyn have effected their escape. We trust that they will both be able to cross the sea and spend the rest of their lives in peace. If England captures them, they will merely become pensioners of the Government, and in that character will command a measure of public sympathy, whereas, if they pass over to Europe, they will soon disappear from the field of public observation.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Saturday, June 2.

The latest news from China is that the marines landed from the ships of the various Powers have arrived in Peking, having proceeded thither by train. The force sent appears to consist of 70 Americans, 70 British, 63 Russians, 50 Germans, 50 French, 40 Italians, and 24 Japanese; or 367 in all. The Japanese marines will doubtless be reinforced as soon as the *Kasagi* reaches Tientsin, which will be on the 4th inst. There is reason to think that the nature of the objection raised by the Chinese Government to the landing of these troops has been exaggerated. Very naturally the Chinese were at first averse to the coming of foreign marines into the capital, but they quickly yielded to the representations of the Foreign Representatives, merely stipulating that the numerical strength of the force should not exceed that of the last detachment sent. Peking itself appears to be quiet, and we entertain little doubt that the Boxers' movement will soon be quelled.

Monday, June 4.

Telegrams from China agree in asserting that a foreigner, whose name appears to be Villard, and twenty-five Chinese, all employés of the Luhan Railway, who were endeavouring to effect their escape to Peking, have been massacred by the Boxers. The nationality of the foreigners is not stated, but, as there has been talk of a French citizen, we presume that the unfortunate man was French.

It is stated that the argument advanced by the Tsung-li Yamen, to deter the Foreign Powers from sending troops to Peking, was that such a measure would probably have the effect of still further exciting the rioters. An argument of that kind was not likely to have much weight, since it amounted to an admission of the anti-foreign sentiment of the Boxers.

Tuesday, June 5.

The Boxers' trouble seems to be gradually assuming serious dimensions. Our Shanghai correspondent telegraphs news that seven Belgians are believed to have been killed in escaping from Paoting to Tientsin. This is a very grave incident. No one can undertake to gauge the patience of foreign Powers in dealing with China. Again and again in the past it has seemed that a crisis had been reached, and that since China had distinctly proved her incapacity to discharge her treaty obligations in the matter of protecting foreign life and property, some steps subversive of the Sovereign Authority must be taken. Yet on every occasion the Governments of Europe and America have shrunk from adopting an extreme course. They will probably be swayed by the same moderate tendency on the present occasion, but that will depend, to a considerable extent, on the nationality of the murdered men, all of whom are probably not Belgians. The Powers do not treat China similarly. Some are anxious to avoid all complications threatening her integrity; other welcome all pretexts for wresting concessions from her. It is evident that the death of seven men may over-tax the forbearance even of the former States, or furnish an unique opportunity to the latter. Whatever excuses may be framed for the Peking Government, it undoubtedly stands convicted of having grossly neglected its duty with regard to the Boxers. No administration can guard against all troubles. Mob violence may at any moment and in any country over-power the resources reasonably available for preserving law and order, and full allowance is made for that fact when lives are taken in a sudden *émeute*. Such has usually been the nature of outrages against foreigners in China. It has been impossible to convict the Government of deliberately culpable negligence. The present affair, however, does not seem to admit of any exculpation on that ground. There has been manifest carelessness on the part of the Authorities. The Boxers have been *en evidence* for nearly three months, and from the very outset their anti-foreign disposition was proclaimed. On several occasions they have displayed murderous antipathy towards native converts of Roman Catholicism. The Government, if it desired to be credited with any sincere desire to preserve the peace, should long ago have adopted vigorous measures to quell these riotous proceedings, and since it has failed to do so, we fear that it will be very sternly called to account.

Wednesday, June 6.

Things do not appear to be quieting down in China. It appears from latest intelligence that seven are missing—not six, as originally reported—of the party of foreigners who made their escape from Paoting to Tientsin. Among these seven, three are known to be French citizens, and one an Italian subject, but of the remaining three nothing is certain except that there is at least one Belgian among them. It was at first stated that they had remained behind to cover the retreat of the main body, but that version is now contradicted, and grave fears are entertained for their safety. Meanwhile it is stated that an English missionary has been murdered and another seized by the rioters, and there have been further wreckings and burnings of railway stations. On the other hand, the Peking Government is understood to be treating the affair with very culpable indifference. No suggestion is made that the Boxers are actually receiving countenance from the authorities, but some of the latter certainly seem to be so far in sympathy with them that vigorous measures for their suppression have not yet been organised. Not much fear is entertained of the *émeute* extending to the walled city—the official quarter—of Peking, but the inhabitants of the Chinese city are said to be considerably alarmed. The Foreign Representatives have made joint application to the Tsung-li Yamen, demanding that prompt and efficient steps be at once taken to restore order, and have declared that, in the event of further delay, they will proceed to deal with the affair themselves by forming a compound brigade of marines under the command of the senior naval officer at Tientsin. There would be no difficulty in landing a considerable body of men, as the squadrons assembled at Tientsin now muster eleven ships, seven of which are Russian.

With reference to the "Boxer" affair in North China, we find the following in the *Shanghai Mercury* of May 29th—The "Boxer" trouble is getting very serious and the lives of foreigners are being threatened. The rioters have murdered a number of native Christians, and along the railway line from Tientsin to Peking they are doing a deal of damage. They have burnt the railway station and machine shops at Fengtai, and a number of the railway men and others have been killed. The railway bridge at Lukouchiao is also destroyed. The situation is indeed alarming. There are a number of Belgians employed in connection with the railway there, with their families, who have been surrounded at Changhsintien, and it is reported that their retreat has been cut off about seven miles from Fengtai, and they are now defending their lives, entrenched on a hill, and their safety is considered very doubtful. It is also reported that several missionaries have been surrounded at Paotingfu, which is causing a deal of anxiety.

On May 30, the same journal wrote:—

A correspondent writing from Peking on the 25th May states that the official troops that were sent

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against the "Boxers" have been defeated. A number of fresh "Boxer" placards have been posted about the city. One of the placards found posted on the 24th May stated that the death of the Emperor was predicted, and the people were advised to take vengeance on four high officials. A number of Christians have fled from their homes and are now taking refuge in Peking. The Magistrate of Ku-an has declined to try the case at Kung-t'sun of two Christians who have been foully murdered. The Magistrate of Cho-chow, thirty-five miles from Peking, obnoxious to the "Boxers" has been obliged to go to Peking in great haste.

The following is a statement given by a man whose friend is a member of the "Boxers." This friend saw the murder of Mr. Elias, an Evangelist of the London Mission, and of Mr. Leu Chang-yun, a member of the Mission at Kung-t'sun.

The man who saw the murders said, "On the 14th of the 4th moon—May 12th—the 'Boxers,' numbering about 57 men, were crossing the river Tsz-tsun (about 1 English mile from Kung-t'sun) and while passing the river met Mr. Lin Chingyun in a boat. They knew he was a Christian and at once attacked and wounded him with their swords. Then they dragged him out of the boat and tied him up securely to a tree on the river bank. Then they went to the Chapel at Kung-t'sun, found Mr. Chao, bound his thumbs and great toes tightly together, and carried him to a tree near to that on which Mr. Lin was hung up. They then cut off Mr. Lin's arms, disembowelled him, and cut off his head and threw the whole into the river. Afterwards they all set to work and hacked Mr. Chao into pieces and threw all into the river. Then they returned to the Chapel, looted the furniture, and smashed the inscription-board and went away."

Thus ends his story. Some of the chapel furniture is said to be in the houses of people in Kung-t'sun who were accomplices in the murder, and may assist in the identification of some of them.

The French Consul from Chefoo had arrived at Chinan to settle a claim arising from a recent "Boxer" out-break. The Roman Catholic losses are said to be enormous. There had been attacks in nineteen towns, and 900 families in 243 villages have been attacked, and the losses incurred are stated to be Tls. 400,000. Protestant losses in the same territory amount to Tls. 15,000, and 125 families have suffered. At present there is no disturbance at Chinan, but the officials, doubtless under orders from Peking, have exercised the utmost leniency to past offenders.

H.M. vessels *Algerine* and *Orlando* have been despatched with a hundred marines and a gun from Weihaiwei to Taku. These will form part of the Foreign guard for Peking.

The U.S. gun-boat *Monocacy* is leaving this evening for Tientsin, to protect American citizens.

A correspondent of the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, writing from Pao-ting-fu under date of May 25th, said:—From being a movement to the south of us three months ago, the Boxers have come almost to taking possession of the capital of Chihli Province. Last Friday they commenced drilling openly in one of the large temples in the city. The officials ordered them to stop,—but they showed such temper that the Provincial Treasurer called in soldiers, guns and cannon from a neighbouring camp to protect his Yamên. The Boxers then moved to another temple, but still kept up the drilling.

So many troops have been drawn off into the country, reinforcements from Peking and K'ai P'ing have arrived, the latter, straw hats and all, seven hundred or thereabouts in number, making a very decent appearance. At the rate affairs are progressing, these troops will be but a drop in the bucket. The details of the Kao-li massacre are still confused. The truth seems to be that the attack was first made on the chapel and when all there were killed attention was turned to the dwellings. Evidently a number of bands were to have united in the plunder on a fixed date already given to the village, but one or two couldn't wait, and in order to get ahead of the others caught the villagers unawares. The man who, escaping, brought the news to Pao-ting-fu was chased by the Boxers to a well into which he threw himself. They then fired down at him, also dropped in bricks, &c., and left the spot thinking him dead. His ghost, however, crawled out and reached here early Sunday morning. No other survivors have come. The Catholic population—over one hundred men, women and children—seems to have been wiped out. The soldiers sent to investigate found smoking ruins and "alas! these people had perished in the fire!" It is said some forty Boxers were driven into the plain and were killed in punishment. This is hearsay. The commander of the forces went up to Ting Hsing yesterday to investigate—but too many Boxers were there; so like the noble Duke of York he came marching down again.

To-day comes the news that somewhere between Ting Hsing and Cho Chou, a Colonel, Tang Fu T'ung, with thirty soldiers on horse were surrounded by Boxers. His horse was killed under him, whereupon his followers fled and left him to be despatched at the enemy's ease. He lived in Pao-ting-fu and at the first uprising against the Roman Catholics, fifteen miles south of us, he was sent with troops to preserve order. Just how the Dowager will look upon the playful act of her fond children who are drilling for "amusement and protection"—is not easy to foresee. Also comes the news of news of two Protestants being killed at a London Mission station S. E. of Cho Chou—the gate-keeper and a teacher named Chao. Thus the Catholics and the London Mission have been visited. A few minutes ago came a letter from Ch'i Chi—150 *li* south of us—saying one of the American Board Church members has been murdered close by that place. This opens new complications south of us. As yet the west has been untouched. Catholics south and east are leaving their homes and fleeing here for refuge. In other places, they have no time to till their fields; the Boxers, however, being so numerous divide their families, some drilling and some working in the fields to support the rest.

Two weeks ago Mr. Simcox of the Presbyterian Mission on arriving with his helper at Wan Hsien, 70 *li* W., of here, was met by a mob who wrecked the furniture of the chapel and siezed on an inquirer just coming in from the country. They twice brutally beat him, finally leaving him for dead. After some hours he recovered sufficiently to be sent home. The main leader was an official in the Yamên, who was the only one the dared to attack Mr. Simcox, hurling a block of wood at him. The Kuan finally appeared and promised repairs on the property,—also furnishing an escort out of town in the early morning. The Prefect has already punished two men for the trouble—but the two ringleaders, the Yamên official and a banished murderer from Peking, will probably escape punishment. Incidentally Mr. Simcox bag was rifled for "well poison," but the Kuan after tasting the cough tables and quinine politely returned them as being harmless—though tasty.

Friday, June 8.

According to the *Jiji Shimpo*, the number of foreign men-of-war now assembled at Tientsin, and their nationalities, are as follows: British, 5 men-of-war and 2 torpedo-destroyers; Russian, 4 men-of-war; French, 3 men-of-war; German, 2; American, 1; Austro-Hungarian, 1; and Japanese, 2, making a total of 20 ships and 2 torpedo-destroyers. The same authority says that the foreign troops already landed and distributed between Peking and Tientsin are: Japanese, 97 of all ranks; American, 125; English, 150; French, 100; Russian, 138; and Italian, 40; making a total of 650. Such a force could very easily make short work of the Boxers.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

Saturday, June 2.

The Korean Government, after some vacillation, has finally given effect to its original intention of punishing those that were implicated in the torturing and execution of Kwŏn and An. At first the Minister of Justice and the judicial officials concerned in the trial were removed from office and sentenced to various terms of transportatiou. Then the penalties seem to have been revoked, and now again they have been imposed. The Emperor, too, will probably offer some apologetic explanation to Japan, for his Majesty can not escape the imputation either of having violated his solemn pledge or of being without effective authority over his own officials. The immediate effects of the shocking incident will doubtless end there, but we may be permitted to hope that its ultimate outcome will be a thorough reform of Korea's judicial system.

Monday, June 4.

Most conflicting news is published from Sŏul. The corpse of An is said to have been examined by foreign doctors, and not to have been examined; to have been found free from evidences of torture, and to have been found horribly disfigured; the Emperor has punished the judicial officials concerned in the affair, and he has not punished them; the Korean Government has shown itself really contrite, and the Korean Government has suddenly become defiant at the instance of the Russian Representative; and so on. We believe the truth to be that the judicial officials have been punished, though as to the genuineness of the penalties we can say nothing.

A telegram published by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* alleges that the Korean *Official Gazette*, announcing the sentence on An and Kwŏn, declares them to have plotted the death of the Queen, and adds that Mr. Sugimura, the Japanese *Chargé d' Affaires*, promoted the plot. If such an assertion has been officially made on the strength of testimony elicited under torture, there is likely to be trouble.

Another story is that the two men, An and Kwŏn, charged the son of the Tai Wŏnkun, Li Chun-yong, with having instigated the murder of the Queen, and that the Ministers urged the Emperor to recall Li from Japan, where he is now sojourning. The Emperor replied, however, that, in consideration of Li's youth, he was much more likely to have been misled than to be a misleader.

Mr. Hoshi Toru, writing in the *Jimmin* over his own signature, discusses the Korean affair in most uncompromising language. He urges that Japan should insist on thorough reparation, and that she should not abate one iota of any conditions which the situation may seem to require.

There appears to be a general impression that the Japanese Representative in Sŏul is not assuming a particularly resolute attitude with regard to the An incident, and the writings of Japanese journalists evince a tone of chagrin that the episode is not to be followed by any striking consequences. But it is plain that Mr. Hayashi has to choose one of two courses; either to insist that the Emperor has been guilty of a delibrate breach of faith and to hold his Majesty to the consequences; or to accept the explanations offered, namely, that the acts of the judicial officials concerned in the trial were alike unknown and unsanctioned by the Sovereign. There is, however, no room for selection. If the Emperor pleads ignorance and punishes the offending officials—and he is understood to have done both—Japan can not reasonably demand any further reparation. It may be disappointing to some people that there are not to be any fireworks, but the situation does not admit of them. What we hope is that Japan will make such representations as shall lead to the final abolishment of judicial torture in Korea.

Wednesday, June 6.

Very conflicting rumours are telegraphed from Sŏul, but it appears to be quite certain that the judicial officials connected with the trial of An and Kwŏn have been actually condemned to transportation, and that they are now on their way to their place of exile. On the other hand, official agitation to pro-

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cure the punishment of Li, the late Tai-won-kun's son, seems to be increasing rather than decreasing. It is urged that application for his deportation should be made to Japan, and the Minister of Education is said to have memorialized the Throne that the young man's educational expenses should no longer be defrayed. It is stated that the anti-Tai-wŏn-kun party have taken fresh heart from recent events and that their agitation has resulted in the recall of two ex-officials, Li and Kin, who had been exiled to Quelpart. These men are understood to have been included in the confessions wrung from An and Kwŏn under torture, and there is an uneasy feeling that they too may fall into the hands of unscrupulous and ruthless judicial officials. At any rate it is quite plain that if the so-called "confessions" extorted from An and Kwŏn are to be employed for the purpose of framing indictments against other persons, while, at the same time, the judicial officials who extorted the confessions by illegal means are criminally punished, the Korean Government will stand convicted of flagrantly inconsistent action.

Some telegrams allege that whereas the Emperor is willing and even anxious to make a proper *amende* to Japan, he is restrained by the advice of his Cabinet Ministers, with Mr. Sands at their head; and others declare that whereas the Russian Representative is admitted frequently to secret audience with the monarch, a reception is persistently denied to the Japanese Representative. We cannot believe that any credence should be attached to these stories. M. Pablov's methods do not command the applause of moderate observers, but that either he or Mr. Sands should associate himself, however remotely, with an affair so disgraceful as the judicial murder of An and Kwŏn, and the flagrant breach of good-faith perpetrated by the Korean Court in connexion with the incident, is wholly incredible.

Friday, June 8.

The proceedings of Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Representative in Sŏul, seem to have given serious umbrage to the Korean Government, and it is said to be for that reason that an audience has been denied to him by the Emperor. Rumour attributes to his Majesty a feeling of extreme apprehension with regard to the doings of the Korean refugees in Japan. He is said to be extremely anxious to lay hands on them. Pak Yong-hyo is a special object of animosity. We imagine that after the awful experiences of An and Wŏng no more refugees are likely to find their way to Sŏul.

JAPANESE POLITICS.

Saturday, June 2.

It appears to be tolerably certain that the Ministry will go out of office. Marquis Yamagata is believed to be unwilling to remain in power at the cost of any of those that have hitherto served with him, and the Liberals, on their side, want some portfolios. The probable issue will be the organization of a new Cabinet under the presidency of Marquis Ito. The Marquis has plainly no desire to resume the control of the Administration, but no other course seems feasible. Doubtless Mr. Hoshi Toru will occupy an important place in the new Ministry; probably the portfolio of Home Affairs will fall to his lot.

Monday, June 4.

It need scarcely be said that vernacular newspapers publish column after column of intelligence and comment on the political situation. The journals of Tokyo resemble those of London in the attention they devote to everything like a change of Ministry or a Cabinet crisis. In one sense, the present complication does not seem to us to warrant such keen interest. No great question is at stake. The Yamagata Cabinet might have gone on discharging its administrative duties to the complete satisfaction of the nation had not the Liberals become impatient to enjoy an actual share in the power which they have materially helped to uphold. Thus the situation, considered under the aspect of a change of Cabinet, does not present any feature of vital interest. There is, however, a collateral issue of great importance in connexion with the development of constitutional government in Japan. It is the question of Marquis Ito's course. There seems to be no doubt that the Liberals have formally asked the Marquis to become the head of their party. A deputation consisting of Messrs. Kataoka, Hoshi, Hayashi, and Matsuda, and Baron Suyematsu, waited on the Marquis in his villa at Oiso on the 1st instant, and informed him that, though some of them had previously urged him to assume the leadership of their party, they had spoken only in their capacity as individuals, whereas they now approached him openly as representatives of the Party, and invited him to become their leader. They claimed that they had hitherto exerted themselves industriously in the interests of the country, but that commensurate success had not crowned their efforts, owing to the fact that no great statesman of established competence was associated with them. That defect would be effectually remedied if Marquis Ito undertook to be their leader. Such was the reason that presented itself to them from their own point of view. They further urged that, as Marquis Ito was understood to insist upon radical reforms in the organization and methods of political parties, he might best effect his purpose by working with material already existing, namely the Liberal elements, instead of undertaking reconstruction *de novo*; and they finally pointed out that, alike in matters of domestic and of foreign policy, there was much at present demanding the earnest attention of Japanese statesmen.

Marquis Ito reserved his answer. He might well do so, for the situation is fraught with weighty considerations. It must be evident to him that he has arrived at the parting of the ways, and that the time has come to consider seriously whether he will undertake to guide and manage the machine indirectly constructed by himself, or whether he will leave it to work out its own destiny at the continued cost of efficient administration. It is not difficult to understand that Marquis Ito finds great difficulty in deciding. As a far-seeing and thoroughly practical man he comprehends that political parties have come to stay in Japan, and that they possess power which, unless directed into constructive and helpful grooves, may serve merely to check the discharge of public business and to expose the country to political vicissitudes of a crippling and demoralizing character. Party government has its blemishes; very serious blemishes, and the tendency of the age is to restrict rather than to extend its sphere. But within certain limits it is an inevitable outcome of constitutional systems, and Marquis Ito must perceive quite plainly that by availing himself of this occasion he can peacefully control and utilize elements which, if unduly opposed, will become mischievous and even dangerous; whereas, by refusing to march at the head of the movement caused by his own legislation, he may forfeit an opportunity not likely to recur. It is true that the conduct of the Liberal Party has not been immaculate; that its reputation is impaired by stains of corruption which can never be effaced, and that even its present procedure is not free from unsightly elements of self-seeking. But, taken as a whole, it may be counted the best political association that the country is capable of producing so long as the "*Meiji* statesmen" and the "men of affairs" persist in remaining beyond the pale of parties. Can Marquis Ito hope to organise a better or more useful party if he antagonises the Liberals? We have long foreseen and predicted the conjuncture now before the nation. Government by party can never be possible in Japan until the *Meiji* statesmen descend from their position of isolation and definitely throw in their lot with party organizations. They may have hoped that the necessity for taking that step would not arise in their lifetime. But we do not imagine that they entertained such an expectation: it would have been inconsistent with all experience of their country's rate of progress. The time seems to have now come, and we cannot deny that the Liberals have shown considerable tact in fashioning the occasion. Had they advanced any grievance against the Yamagata Cabinet; had they exhibited any signs of umbrage in suggesting a change of situation, their proposal to Marquis Ito would have placed him in the dilemmna of having to choose between a political party and his old friends and colleagues. But all complications of that kind have been prudently and adroitly avoided. The Liberals have contrived, on the one hand, to furnish to the nation an object lesson illustrating the smooth and peaceful administrative potentialities created by their support, and, on the other, to preserve such relations with Marquis Yamagata and his Ministers that no violent disruption need result from the transfer of the Party's allegiance to Marquis Ito. It may be affirmed, indeed, that they offer to place themselves under the leadership not of Marquis Ito alone, but of the *Meiji* statesmen in general, thus effecting a coalition between the new factors of constitutional government and the old instruments to which modern Japan owes her very existence. For the country's sake we sincerely hope that the proposed arrangement can be effected. Certainly it would alienate some eminent men; but, on the other hand, unless these resigned themselves to a position of helpless conservatism on the neutral land between the two parties, they would ultimately pass into the camp of the Progressists, and, next to a strong Liberal Party under Marquis Ito's guidance, the thing most desirable in the nation's interests is a strong Opposition under Count Okuma. The disjointed skeleton of parties and coteries now existing is in urgent need of definite articulation.

The Liberals have fully endorsed the course taken by their general committee in inviting Marquis Ito to assume the leadership of the Party. By an unanimous vote they have declared that such an arrangement is earnestly to be desired, and that it can not take place too soon.

Meanwhile Count Inouye, interviewed by a newspaper representative, has frankly stated that he can not see any sufficient reasons for such a course. He does not detect any qualifications on the part of the Liberal leaders except that they are party men, and he does not believe, judging by their record, that they could be trusted to implicitly support the policy of Marquis Ito as their chief,

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or that all of them are quite loyal even to their own flag. The Count thinks that the instability of the Cabinet in Japan, resulting from party agitation, is causing infinite injury to the country, and that all expediency recommends the continuance of the present Ministry in office.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, on the other hand, unequivocally recommends Marquis Ito to accept the proposal of the Liberals. They have proved by their conduct that they are really swayed by patriotic impulses, and they have deserved well of the country by supporting the Government, thus enabling it not only to carry out important *post-bellum* measures, but also to place the fiscal system on a satisfactory basis. The Tokyo journal further thinks that the time has come to achieve the reality of constitutional government.

Wednesday, June 6.

Speaking at a meeting of his own special followers, the Kwanto Club, Mr. Hoshi Toru gave a precise statement of the incidents that have led up to the present political crisis. He denied that the purpose of the Liberals was to obtain portfolios for some of their leaders. The proposals they had submitted to Marquis Yamagata were that, first, the members of the present Cabinet should all enrol themselves in the Liberal Party, in which event it would not be necessary to make any change of Cabinet; or, secondly, that certain members of the Liberal Party should be admitted to the Ministry. It will appear to persons of ordinary intelligence that the difference between these proposals and a demand of Cabinet positions for the Liberal leaders, is a mere matter of phraseology. Mr. Hoshi, however, considers that there is a fundamental distinction. The reply of Marquis Yamagata was an emphatic negative to both suggestions. With regard to the first, he pointed out that a decision on such a matter must depend on the views of individual Ministers and that it would consequently be impossible to announce any collective policy. With regard to the second, he said that as the pledge desired by the Liberals involved an encroachment upon the Imperial prerogative of appointing and dismissing Ministers, the proposal could not be entertained. The receipt of this answer, Mr. Hoshi went on to explain, had virtually terminated the coalition between the Liberals and the Cabinet, though no definite announcement in that sense had been made. Thereafter the General Committee of the Party had proceeded to Oiso and waited upon Marquis Ito, for the purpose of submitting to him a definite proposal that he should assume the leadership of the Liberals. In support of that suggestion, the Committee had urged, first, that whereas Marquis Ito was chiefly responsible for the constitutional organization by which political parties were called into existence, his abstention from joining any party, and the abstention of his brother-statesmen, virtually paralysed the system; for although the Liberals regarded themselves as a party fully equipped to take over the administration of State affairs, they were aware that the public did not so regard them, and that without the cōoperation of some great statesman like Marquis Ito, who commanded the nation's confidence, it would be impossible for them to achieve the purpose of their existence, which was also the natural end of parliamentary government. In the second place, Marquis Ito was understood to contend that political parties had not yet attained a stage of development warranting their assumption of administrative functions, and that they stood in need of large reforms, if not of complete reconstruction. But a political party could not be called into being at a moment's notice, and it consequently seemed much more practical and feasible that Marquis Ito should remodel the materials which the Liberal Party offered, than that he should set to work *de novo*. Finally, the Committee saw that both in domestic and in foreign affairs questions of the greatest importance presented themselves at this juncture, and they were further persuaded that the spirit of the time tended towards an arrangement such as they proposed, since it would result in a stable Government capable of dealing with these various questions strongly and thoroughly. Marquis Ito gave careful attention to these arguments, but declared that, in view of the cardinal nature of the proposal, he must ask for time to consider it maturely. The Committee of course agreed to that, but they begged that as much expedition as possible might be employed.

The Kwanto Club, of whom 54 were present at the meeting, unanimously voted full endorsement of the course adopted by the Committee, and recorded their resolution to act in united support of the projected programme, subordinating all individual views.

Up to the time of going to press Marquis Ito had not made any announcement of his intentions. It is not regarded as certain, by any means, that he will accede to the proposal of the Liberals. Whatever course is adopted must be taken with the concurrence of the *Genro*, or *Meiji*, statesmen, and there are reasons to doubt whether they can be induced to consent to a definite amalgamation with any political party now in existence. If, after due consultation, their decision be adverse, one of two courses will probably be adopted. Either Marquis Yamagata will be persuaded to re-consider his desire to resign and will continue to direct the administration, or the Marquis alone will retire, his place as Pemier being taken by Count Matsukata, without any change of portfolios. In either of these events, a collision between the Diet and the Cabinet next Session would be inevitable, and dissolution of the House of Representatives would ensue, with an appeal to the country under the new law of elections. It is apparently impossible at present to make any confident prediction as to the decision of Marquis Ito and the other *Genro*.

Friday, June 8.

Marquis Ito has withdrawn to Oiso, a step which is interpreted by the public to mean that he intends to defer for at least a week any decision with regard to the ministerial crisis. But it is very possible that the Marquis has simply found it necessary to escape from the importunity of politicians who make their rendezvous at his residence when he happens to be in the capital at a time of public interest, and thus render it impossible for him to hold any undisturbed conferences with his brother statesmen. Count Inouye, also, has set off on a trip to the Hokuriku region. He had long been under promise to make this expedition, and he probably finds in it a welcome refuge from the same kind of "mobbing" as that which embarrasses Marquis Ito. We are inclined to think that the two statesmen have a deep reason, too, for their attitude. They purpose to prove to the Liberals, and to political parties in general, that the administration of national affairs can not be disturbed at any moment in accordance with the caprice of a group of politicians. The Cabinet was not confronted by any troublesome problems of statesmanship or diplomacy when the Liberals inaugurated their recent campaign. Everything was going on smoothly and satisfactorily, and the country was rejoicing in the possession of a Ministry which succeeded in managing public affairs without a hitch of any kind. A bad precedent would be established if it were shown that such security could be effectually troubled at any moment by the arbitrary restlessness of a political party. There is much to be said on behalf of the Liberals, but their action can not be suffered to precipitate a needless crisis. That, we suspect, is the lesson that Marquis Ito and Count Inouye intend to teach them. These statesmen have proved on numerous occasions that they have a profound knowledge of the political conditions existing in Japan, and that they understand perfectly how to deal with them. The whole course of events since the constitution went into operation in 1891 has tended to strengthen the *Meiji* statesmen's title to the confidence of the nation, and there can be no question that they will steer wisely on the present occasion also.

We may refer here to a singular rumour circulated by the *Mainichi Shimbun*. It is to the effect that the true reason of the trouble now agitating political circles is to be sought, not in the action of the Liberals, but in the umbrage of Count Inouye on account of the Treasury's attitude towards the Mitsui Bank. The Mitsui Bank is probably one of the soundest institutions in all Japan, for the Mitsui family own real property to the extent of over twenty million *yen*, and have never engaged in any dangerous speculations of any kind. But the Mitsui Bank can not escape all vicissitudes. It does not enjoy immunity from chance and change any more than other great financial institutions do. Owing to some losses which the Bank was recently reported to have made in Tanko shares, the excitable Japanese public became uneasy, and there followed a run on the Bank, the trustees of the Red Cross Hospital, among others, withdrawing a sum of two million *yen* that they had deposited. The Bank naturally sought assistance from the Bank of Japan, but instead of obtaining a million *yen*, for which it had applied, it could only get three hundred thousand. That failure was attributed to the veto of the Minister of Finance, and as it turned out that the deposits withdrawn from the Mitsui were going mainly to the Fifteenth Bank, which is under the management of Mr. Sonoda, reputed to be one of the soundest and cleverest men of business in Japan, who is of Satsuma origin, a plot on the part of Satsuma to wreck the Mitsui was inferred, and Count Inouye, a staunch patron of the great firm, resenting such procedure, began to agitate against the Cabinet. That is the wonderful mare's nest submitted for public inspection by the *Mainichi*. It can only be regarded as a mischievous and silly canard, bearing its own refutation on its face. Some ignorant folks will be deluded by it, and the *Mainichi Shimbun* will thus—unwittingly we can not doubt—have helped indirectly to strike a blow at the oldest and most respected mercantile house in Japan; an institution which every loyal Japanese should desire to safeguard and assist. All these petty shocks will not disturb the Mitsui, but they reflect very badly on the newspapers responsible for promoting them.

The British foreign-trade returns for April show that imports were valued at £42,621,876, an increase of £3,264,854 over the same month in 1899. The exports were £22,645,147, an increase of £3,187,601 over the corresponding month last year.

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COUNT MATSUKATA ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

On the 3rd instant a meeting of bankers was held in Chiba. There are no less than 62 banks, large and small, in that prefecture, and their competition having proved disastrous, a movement was recently set on foot to bring about an union. The meeting on the 3rd was for the purpose of celebrating the consummation of the project. The Minister of Finance attended, as did also the President of the Bank of Japan. Count Matsukata made a speech showing that he is in substantial agreement with the views recently expressed by Marquis Ito and Count Inouye. We are inclined to think that a portion of his remarks is falsely reported, for he is made to say that the inflated and depreciated fiat currency from which the country suffered between 1877 and 1885, tended to promote imports, and was thus responsible for a disturbance of the balance of trade. His Excellency can scarcely have enunciated a proposition so contrary to the views generally advanced by political economists. He may indeed have said that the state of the currency caused a rise in the price of labour and thus indirectly increased the purchasing power of the lower orders, but he certainly can not have said that an inflated fiat currency encourages imports. Passing on to speak of the present time, he compared the condition of affairs in Japan to that which prevailed in England after the wars at the beginning of the century, when the spirit of enterprise being unduly excited, all sorts of unsound schemes were floated, and serious trouble overtook bankers, merchants and manufacturers. The Minister regarded the receipt of the indemnity and its expenditure in Japan as chiefly responsible for the rapid appreciation of commodities and the rise in the price of labour which the past two or three years have seen. He held, therefore, that to bring into the country a large sum of foreign capital would not only have the effect of again setting in operation the factors that had produced the present trouble, but would also be a thoroughly unsound procedure unless some means of defraying the interest and paying off the principal were in plain sight. The foreign loan of 100 million *yen* effected by the Government last year had been for a definite purpose, and the resources to meet the service of the debt had been visible, namely, the increased revenue derived from the Customs under the revised tariff. To raise another loan now merely for the sake of relieving the pressure in the money market would have the effect of accentuating the malady, and would impose a fresh burden on the country without any apparent means of shaking it off hereafter.

In the second part of his speech Count Matsukata dwelt on the necessity of educating among the Japanese a spirit of effective economy. He condemned the luxurious habits into which the people have fallen since the war, as evidenced by the growth of places of amusement, and he combatted the excuse advanced by some apologists that Japan was merely following the example of Paris. The citizens of Paris seemed to spend a great deal upon gaiety and show, but they had an object in so doing; the object of attracting foreigners and inducing them to spend their money in the city. If one travelled in provincial France one found a very different state of affairs: the people were remarkable for thrift and industry, and for their love of saving. Figures showed how very backward the Japanese are. In England, the nation's savings, in cash, aggregate 3,450 million *yen*, being at the rate of 85.60 *yen* per head of population; in the United States, the savings are 4,000 million *yen*, or 64.90 *yen* per head; in France, 1,500 millions, or 41.60 *yen* per head; but in Japan, only 60 millions, or 1.38 *yen* per head. There can be no gainsaying such statistics. They show plainly how terribly backward Japan is, and how essential it is that every effort should be made to educate a spirit of effective economy. If every unit of the nation saved even 5 *yen*, the resulting fund would be 200 millions, and a saving of 20 *yen* per head would suffice almost to wipe off the national debt. Such are Count Matsukata's views.

FOREIGNERS AND SHARES IN JAPANESE RAILWAYS.

Some months ago news was published that a Japanese railway company had applied for permission to sell its shares to foreigners, but that the Government had returned an unfavourable answer. It now appears that the latter part of the story was incorrect. The application was certainly made, but, as it failed to elicit an immediate reply, and as the delay affected other matters included in the same document, the company, of its own accord, cancelled the clause relating to foreign ownership. Meanwhile, the Authorities gave the matter full consideration, and found themselves in a position to make an affirmative reply to an application in a similar sense received subsequently from the Kibe Railway Company. It is further pointed out that the Private Railway Law, which was passed by the Diet last session, and which will soon go into operation, contains a clause providing that fully paid shares may be unregistered; that is to say, they need not bear the name of their holder. Such shares would obviously be purchasable by any one, whatever his nationality. We take these statements from a Tokyo contemporary.

THE PEST.

Three fresh cases of pest are reported from Osaka and one from Hamamatsu in Shizuoka. Nothing more has been heard from Niigata, however, nor from the village in the northern hills where the bacillus was said to have been found in the bodies of dead rats.

A fresh case of pest is reported from Osaka and another from Hamamatsu in Shizuoka Prefecture. The disease nevertheless continues to be held in check by the vigorous sanitary measures that the Authorities are adopting.

Dr. Kitasato having prepared a serum which he hopes will serve as a preventive of pest, has proceeded to Osaka with several assistants to test the efficacy of the invention. It is expected that he will remain in the south for two or three weeks.

From reports issued by the Department of Home Affairs, we learn that since the reappearance of the pest in Osaka on the 12th of April, there have been 39 cases in all in that city, of which 32 have ended fatally and 7 are under treatment. In Shizuoka Prefecture the disease broke out on the 6th of May, and there have been 13 cases, all of which ended fatally. The grand total, therefore, is 52 cases and 45 deaths, being a rate of mortality exceeding 86 per cent,

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF RAILWAY SHARES.

The Government has pronounced an important decision. It has granted permission for foreigners to become owners of shares in Japanese railways. The treaties do not explicitly forbid such ownership, but inasmuch as it would amount to an indirect ownership of land, the Authorities have hitherto hesitated to sanction the privilege. Moreover, the by-laws of many railway companies contain a clause restricting the tenure of their shares to Japanese subjects. Within the past six months, however, the desirability of removing this restriction having presented itself more and more forcibly to railway directors, various applications have been made to the Government in that sense, and after considerable delay, a decision was finally formulated by the Home Department on the 5th instant. It is an unqualified assent to the applications in the case of the following railways:—the Nippon, the Sanyo, the Kibi (Miye), the Kyoto, the Hosen (Toyokawa), the Boso (Awa-kugura), the Bisei (Owari) and the Buso (Odawara), eight in all. It now rests with the directors and shareholders of these lines to recast their by-laws so as to enable foreign shareholders to posses a reasonable voice in the management of the railways' affairs.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE IN ECHIGO.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* publishes a very circumstantial statement to the effect that the Standard Oil Company has purchased a tract of land in the Mishima district of Echigo, and that trial borings for oil will be commenced immediately in the region between Miyata and Iwakata. A large party of foreigners, including the Company's experts, visited the province recently, and, after thorough investigations, selected the place here indicated. It will be a matter of great interest to watch the development of this industry under American control. The Japanese will have a fine object lesson, we suspect. What with gold in Hokkaido and kerosene in Echizen and Echigo the country's mineral resources are beginning to assume a new aspect.

THE EMIGRANTS TO PERU.

The *Chino Shimbun* is not in the smallest degree perturbed by the legal proceedings instituted against it by the Morioka Emigration Company, although the damages are put at 170,000 *yen*. It repeats all its charges in more emphatic form than ever, and announces its intention of publishing letters from the emigrants which will convict the Company of having behaved in a most culpable manner. It is very difficult to credit the accuracy of the accusations formulated by our contemporary, but, if they can be established, the Company will deserve to be held up to public execration. The *Chino* has now defied its opponents, and the question must go before a law court.

RAILWAY NEWS.

An attempt was made to wreck a train in the neighbourhood of Hojo, in Echigo, on the 5th instant, but happily the scheme was discovered before any damage had resulted.

A serious accident occurred on the Nara Railway between Fushimi and Sekida stations on the 6th instant. Two trains came into collision, and 29 persons were injured, 3 of them—all women—receiving serious hurts. No explanation is given as to the cause of the accident.

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NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The iron bridge over the Han River on the railway from Sōul to Chemulpho is progressing rapidly, and will be finished, probably, by the end of this month. The present expectation is that trains will run over the bridge from July.

It is stated that permission has been sought to ship the products of the Yuensan mine direct from Pyŏng-yang, and also for an extension of the lease of the Unsan mine to 50 years, but that no reply has yet been received from the Korean Government.

The decision said to have been arrived at with regard to moisture contained in raw silk coming into the Yokohama market is that everything over 2 per cent. shall be credited to the buyer. The *Kokumin Shimbun* gives a detailed account of the methods to be followed in determining the quantity of moisture.

Speaking at a meeting of the Nippon Boyeki Kyokai, Viscount Aoki condemned the idea of Japanese going to China to start industries when so many enterprises invite their attention at home, not only in Japan proper, but also in Hokkaido and Formosa. We entirely agree with Viscount Aoki in this matter.

The *Hochi Shimbun* continues to write about foreign distrust of Japan's business integrity. It re-asserts the proposition that the loan made by Mr. Morse to the Kobe Water Works was a tentative operation, and that its issue will be fatal to Japanese credit. It further alleges that apprehension of war between Japan and Russia is alone sufficient to deter any foreign capitalist from lending money to this country.

The Tokyo Municipality wants to raise a loan of seven million *yen* for purposes of city improvement, and it proposes to obtain money for interest and a sinking fund by imposing, first, a special tax, and secondly a tax called *bu-ichi-zei*. The former would be levied on exchanges, horse-trams, telegraph poles, gas lamps, boats, and *jinrikisha*; the latter is, in brief, a registration tax of one per cent. on transactions in real estate. The Government is understood not to have any objection to the special tax, but it does not approve of the registration fee, inasmuch as such a fee is already exacted. The *Jiji Shimpo* laughs at such scruples and accuses the Authorities of being slaves to theory and indifferent to considerations of practical utility.

In a recent issue the *Chiuo Shimbun* published a series of sweeping charges against the Morioka Emigration Company with reference to the treatment of Japanese emigrants in Peru. The charges were based on a communication which Mr. Furusawa, Governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture, had received from one of the emigrants, and which was sent by him to the *Chiuo* for publication. The directors of the Morioka Company claim that they have been grossly misrepresented; that the distress said to exist among the emigrants is fictitious, and that their business has been seriously damaged by the publication of such charges. They have therefore instituted legal proceedings against the Governor of Yamaguchi and the editor of the *Chiuo*, putting the damages at 170,000 *yen*.

It is stated that the Government has decided to forbid the export of gold dust found in Hokkaido, the Bank of Japan being ready to purchase any amount obtained by the miners. We do not believe this rumour. The Bank of Japan has to take its chance like all other buyers. It can obviously afford to pay a better price than persons at a distance, and that advantage should secure for it a monopoly of the trade.

In connexion with the above, Tokyo newspapers allege that the number of persons engaged in mining in Hokkaido last year was thirty thousand, and that they took out three million *yen* worth of gold, though the returns credited them with finding only a million and a half. This year it is expected that fully forty thousand will be at work.

The Prince and Princess Imperial returned from their wedding tour on Thursday. Their Imperial Highnesses left Hayama by the 12.45 p.m. train and reached Shimbashi at 2.50 p.m., having been absent from the capital just twelve days.

We read in Tokyo journals that, up to the 31st of May, the number of foreign residents of Yokohama who had paid the house tax was 44 in all; namely, 21 Chinese; 7 Americans; 7 British; 3 Swiss; 3 German; 1 Russian; 1 French, and 1 Italian. On the other hand, there are 241 who have not paid. The latter will, of course, be strengthened in their objection by the fact that the British Government has pronounced itself unable to endorse Japan's claim in respect of the house tax.

At a recent meeting of the shareholders of a local enterprise, Mr. J. F. Lowder, who occupied the chair, ruled that he was entitled to two votes, and proceeded to exercise the privilege. Whether he was right or wrong we do not pretend to say. Certainly, if any one is competent to decide such a question, Mr. Lowder must be considered competent. It is evident, however, that some of those present at the meeting differed from the Chairman's ruling, and one of them stated the grounds of his objection in the correspondence columns of a local newspaper. Thus far the affair invited no comment from outsiders. But it was then taken up and discussed by two journals in a manner against which we offer a most emphatic protest. The rudeness of their writing was almost bewildering, and could not be accounted for on any hypothesis except that they had seized the occasion to gratify some independent sentiment of animosity against Mr. Lowder. Such a tyrannous abuse of the power of the press calls for the strongest condemnation.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* says that the number of one-*yen* notes in circulation has been diminished from sixty or seventy thousands to about thirty-five hundreds. We find the latter figure scarcely credible, for, scarce as one-*yen* notes have certainly become, they are no mean so rare as to suggest that only thirty-five hundreds are in existence. Of course the Government's chief reason for withdrawing the small notes and replacing them by subsidiary coins was to find a means of utilizing the silver *yen* that lay in the Treasury's vaults or came into them after the adoption of the gold standard. The Minister of Finance was also influenced by the consideration that a substantial profit accrues from the minting of subsidiary coins, and he wanted that profit in order to meet the losses resulting from the demonitization of silver. But it can not be denied that the public is greatly inconvenienced by the present system. If one tenders a five-*yen* note in payment of a small sum, one's change takes the irksome form of a heavy handful of silver. The Treasury ought to consult the public's wishes by issuing a new batch of one-*yen* notes.

Concerning the question of Russo-Japanese relations, we have again to express unbounded surprise at the wild rumours circulated by a section of the public's newspurveyors. *The Overland Mail* of April 13th has the following:—

Victoria, B.C., April 5th (*Laffan*).—The Oriental Steamship Company has received advices to the following effect. Political leaders and the press of Japan no longer conceal their opinion that war with Russia seems inevitable, but that the first blow must be struck by Russia; foreign residents are leaving the treaty ports in scores, and in the event of Hongkong financiers demanding exorbitant rates of interest, conditions will be more disturbed than during the period preceding the outbreak of war between China and Japan; the Mikado is stated to be mobilising a torpedo fleet, and hastening the despatch of naval and military supplies to various bases; meanwhile, Russia is making feverish haste to complete the Trans-Siberian Railway, on which work is continued day and night; it is also stated that the Russian Government is negotiating at Peking for the purchase of the interior Chinese Railway.

Shanghai, April 5th (*Dalziel*).—Ominous preparations continue to be made by the Russian and Japanese War Departments.

The officials of the former are making strenuous efforts to fill Port Arthur with grain, even at war panic prices. To do this they are importing wheat from North China.

As regards Japan, the Government has called out the Naval Reserves for service during the approaching manœuvres, in which the entire fleet will be engaged.

There is not one word of truth in all this farrago. How do such canards originate, and by what process are they developed? We all know the game of "circulation," where members of a party whisper the same story in one another's ears consecutively, and the the version that reaches the last man is compared with that given by the first. The resemblance is generally faint, but still some resemblance exists, whereas the tales told by Laffan and Dalziel's agencies do not offer one feature identical with the facts as known to us in Japan.

THE LÈSE-MAJESTÉ AFFAIR.

The Tokyo Local Court has rejected the plea of insanity set up on behalf of Yamakawa, the editor of *Seinen no Fukuin*, who recently published an article grossly disrespectful to the Prince Imperial, and has sentenced him to 3½ years of imprisonment with hard labour and a fine of 120 *yen*, as well as police surveillance for one year. Morita, who copied the article, received the same punishment, and Wakabayashi, who set up the types, was condemned to 8 months' imprisonment, a fine of 50 *yen*, and 6 months' police surveillance. As these men can not be expected to pay their fines, their confinement in jail, without labour, will be protracted as many days as the number of *yen* in the fines.

The culprits in the *lèse-majesté* affair have appealed from the sentence of the Tokyo Local Court. We trust that the appeal may meet with some measure of success, or that, if it fails, the Sovereign will exercise his clemency. Imprisonment with hard labour for 3½ years seems a harsh penalty for such an offence. The people's reverence for the Throne does not require such safeguards, and, indeed, is more likely to be impaired than strengthened by them.

The German Emperor has forbidden all German officers to participate in the Auteuil and all other French races. Lieutenant Suermondt has been ordered to withdraw his steeplechaser Diamant, and a like order has been given to Captain von Eymard. The German sporting press approves this action because French Chauvinists would have made unpleasant demonstrations, possibly leading to international complications.

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BISHOP AWDRY'S SERMON.

LAST Sunday Bishop AWDRY, preaching in Yokohama, referred to the subject that was in every one's mind at the time, the war in South Africa. No verbatim report of the sermon has been published, but from the epitome of it that has appeared in the columns of the local foreign press we gather that the Bishop sympathises with the Boers in their present struggle. He thinks that they are fighting for freedom, that they firmly believe in the justice of their cause, and that history will pay an admiring tribute to the fine courage which induced them to enter the lists against a nation of Great Britain's strength and resources. An overwhelming majority of Englishmen unquestionably endorse Bishop AWDRY's views so far as the courage and creed of the Boers is concerned. But the same majority of Englishmen are persuaded that a sharp distinction must be drawn between the faith of the Boer rank-and-file and the ambition of the Boer leaders. The latter do not appear to have precipitated this war for the sake of securing the independence of the two Republics so much as for the sake of driving the British out of South Africa, and absorbing the British colonies into a big South-African hegemony governed by men of Dutch extraction. We all wish to do every justice to the motives of Presidents KRUGER and STEYN, but since we know as an absolute fact that territorial aggression was never for an instant in the mind of the British Government throughout the course of the negotiations, it is difficult for us to imagine that the Boers suspected such an intention. President STEYN, at all events, can not have laboured under any delusion. He knew well that the independence of the Free State was not threatened in any way, and that had the Transvaal agreed to grant to British subjects the same privileges enjoyed by them in the Free State, war would have been out of the question. President STEYN's motives are consequently indefensible, and the taint that attaches to them extends also to his partner and coadjutor, President KRUGER. But the bulk of the burghers knew nothing of the ambitions of their leaders. They left their homesteads and their families to fight, as they honestly supposed, for their independence, and their simple faith in the Bible and their courage must command the admiration of every genuine Englishman. It may be urged, indeed, that they entertained a very erroneous conception of the task before them; that they were ignorant of Great Britain's resources and that they regarded the British soldier with supreme contempt, thinking they could easily sweep him from their path. But their brave persistence has survived the dispelling of that delusion, and we give them full credit. They have been cruelly deceived by their leaders from beginning to end. Grossly false statements of Boer successes, of English reverses, of Great Britain's embarrassments and of foreign intentions have been officially published again and again to delude the unfortunate burghers into continuing the struggle. No apologist for the two Presidents can clear them from the guilt of such treachery towards their own nationals. Yet, when the worst has been said in the strongest terms, there is still a residuum of tenacious gallantry and pure trust in the God of Christianity that should disarm our animosity and make us willing to strike hands of friendship with these people who have waged such a strong fight against us. It was to give prominence to that side of the story that Bishop AWDRY spoke, as we gather from the report of his remarks, and undoubtedly he only did his duty as a minister of the gospel of peace when he sought to arouse in the breasts of his hearers a feeling of forgiveness towards their country's enemies. It seems to be thought he was wanting in tact, and an anonymous correspondent—"Veritas Prevalebit"—has addressed to a local newspaper a letter in which he charges the Bishop with abusing his power because he spoke from the pulpit where contradiction was out of the question. The charge of tactlessness is apparently founded on the fact that a thanksgiving meeting had been organized for the evening of the same day under the auspices of the clergyman whose pulpit the Bishop occupied. We need not pause to make a comment which must have been mentally framed by every Yokohama resident within the past few days, namely, that the thanksgiving ceremony on account of the imminent termination of the war was most unhappily ill-timed, and that the inexpediency of organizing it on the strength of obviously delusive telegrams should have been evident twenty-four hours before the time of meeting. Apart from that point, we fail to see that the hour of victory and rejoicing is unsuited for the utterance of a generous reminder that the vanquished are worthy of sympathy and deserving of friendship. On the contrary, it seems to us that the moment of triumph is especially adapted to the inculcation of these wholesome lessons. As to abuse of power—a charge which "Veritas Prevalebit" prefers in almost offensive terms—it seems to us that if there has been any such thing as "taking unfair advantage of a position," the guilty person is the correspondent who, under the safe disguise of anonymity, shoots poisoned arrows at Bishop AWDRY.

LAND OWNERSHIP BY FOREIGNERS.

THE question of extending to foreigners the privilege of land ownership has not provoked much discussion, which fact is, perhaps, a hopeful evidence that the advocates of the privilege will not encounter serious opposition. The *Hochi Shimbun* writes about the matter in a most liberal tone. It can not discover any ground whatever for supposing that Japanese interests would be impaired by the concession, whereas there can be no doubt that foreigners would welcome it thankfully. Japan is thus in the position of being able to give what others value without any cost to herself, and it is manifestly the part of sound statesmanship to make the gift. No reservations are necessary, nor should any concession be sought in exchange.

Another expression of influential opinion is that the granting of this privilege will not have any effect in bringing foreign capital to Japan, and that, under any circumstances, an inflow of money from the Occident would be a doubtful benefit, since it would produce another outbreak of industrial fever, another rise in the prices of commodities and another inundation of imports. It seems scarcely worth while to discuss this latter view. Japan's development is quite hopeless unless she can procure financial assistance from abroad. She need only look around, and ask herself how things would have fared with Australasia, with the United States of America, with British India, with the Argentine Republic, with South Africa, if foreign capital had not been procurable for developing their resources. There can not be the slightest doubt about the matter. She must either have recourse to the cheap money of the West or be content to sink to a position of insignificance.

As to whether the granting of land-owning privileges would help materially to bring in foreign capital, the convictions of foreigners themselves are surely deserving of greater credit than conjectures of Japanese. The average foreigner has made up his mind that superficies is an entirely unsatisfactory substitute for ownership. Granted that an almost unreasoning want of confidence in Japanese institutions is chiefly responsible for this singular prejudice, the fact still remains, and it is with facts that Japanese statesmen have to deal. Any doubt, however slight, as to the nature of his title to the land on which he erects factories and warehouses is quite sufficient to deter him. Some foreigners who were already pledged to the inauguration of certain enterprises from a date prior to that of the operation of the Treaties, have doubtless availed themselves of the privilege of superficies, and, in the course of years, their experience may prove the groundlessness of the doubts now attaching to that form of tenure. But Japan cannot afford to wait years, and we undertake to assure her that no foreign capitalist, who is without previously established interests in the country, will bring his money here to organise industrial enterprises until the difficulty about land ownership is definitely cleared away. As to lending money on the security of railways, it is needless to point out the impossibility of anything of the kind under existing conditions. We want Japan to prosper, and it is our firm conviction that the wisest step she can take for her own sake is to sweep away every barrier to industrial and commercial enterprise.

At the same time, since it is perhaps too much to expect that the prejudice still entertained by the agricultural class against allowing foreigners to own land can be dispelled at

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once, we repeat our belief that it would be wise to make a reservation about agricultural land. Foreigners do not want to become farmers in this country. They would never think of anything of the kind. They will express no dissatisfaction though agricultural land be reserved, whereas the reservation would have the effect of re-assuring those Japanese who are now most strongly opposed to the privilege.

THE OPERATION OF THE NEW TREATIES.

WE observe on the part of some of our Tokyo contemporaries a disposition to express regret that things have not worked more smoothly under the Revised Treaties. They point to some decisions of the law courts, which have caused foreigners to doubt the good faith or the competence of the Japanese Judiciary, especially the case of Mr. J. R. MORSE and the Kobe Water-Works Authorities. So far as we know, not one leading Japanese newspaper has endorsed the verdict in that case. As to the legality of the Yokohama tribunal's decision, the general opinion seems to be that the Court had no choice. It was compelled to abide by the Japanese text of the conditions printed on the bonds. But that an injustice has been done appears to be widely admitted. Hence there are many voices raised in favour of a settlement by private intervention before the matter travels to the court of appeal. We sincerely trust that these wise counsels will prevail, for the case will otherwise work irreparable injury to Japan.

A point discussed by the *Hochi Shimbun* in the same context is the dissatisfaction felt by the foreign community with regard to the manner of registering perpetual leases and with regard to the house tax. Concerning registration, we are firmly convinced that the perpetual-lease title has not been impaired in the slightest degree by the method prescribed, and that the intention of the Japanese Government is absolutely sincere. But we are also convinced that the use of the word "superficies" was an unfortunate mistake. The Japanese Authorities may claim, with much justice, that they had no cause to anticipate objections which are founded mainly on prejudice, and which have no basis of fact. But since their undoubted desire was and is to make everything pleasant for the foreigner, they might well have exercised greater circumspection. The house-tax question is a matter of opinion. We believe is to be a fair impost, in no sense contrary to the Treaties. But we also see that an excellent case may be drawn up for the opposite view. At any rate nothing is more desirable than that those points should be disposed of quickly. Every foreign resident will admit, we think, that the Japanese press has shown remarkable moderation in dealing with the two questions of registration and house-tax. There has not been any disposition to attack the foreigner or to represent him as adopting a defiant and masterful attitude. The foreigners, too, have been patient, remarkably patient. In these two facts we see ground to hope for a satisfactory settlement. It has been unconscionably delayed.

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN JAPAN.

Now that Japan in confronted by the imminent necessity of having to legislate for the control of labour, unless she is willing to see the battle between capital and labour fought within her territories, it is interesting and valuable to note how New Zealand has succeeded in dealing with this troublesome problem. In New Zealand strikes are unknown, and the New Zealanders owe their happy immunity to the Reeves Law, which, briefly stated, provides that every dispute must be either settled by conciliation or arbitrated. The law makes three things compulsory: first, publicity; secondly, reference to a disinterested arbiter; thirdly, obedience to the arbiter's award. Men are not forced by law to work, neither does the legislator interfere to fix wages. But if men choose to work, they must do so without strikes or lock-outs; and if they can not agree about rates of remuneration, the decision has to be left to an impartial person. Unorganized labour, however, does not come within the purview of the law. Only a registered trades union is an eligible subject for legal interference. That restriction is evidently necessary: otherwise the law courts would be flooded with petty adjudications. It is possible, however, for seven men in a shop to constitute themselves into an union, obtain registration and carry into Court any dispute with an employer. The State also encourages labour to organise, and allows unions to own property, to sue and to be sued. There is a "board of conciliation" for every industrial district, and there is a "court of arbitration" for the whole country:

The Boards of Conciliation have from four to six members, and are chosen every three years in each district by elections held separately by the associations of employers and the associations of employees. Each board upon organization elects a chairman, some impartial outsider who is willing to act.

The Court of Arbitration is composed of three judges, appointed by the governor-general. One must be a representative of the trades-unions and nominated by them, one must be a representative of the employers' associations and nominated by them, and the presiding juding must be a member of the Supreme Court. This Court of Arbitration, if necessary, is assisted by chosen experts from the outside, representing both in the dispute.

The moment either side, with a grievance or dispute or with any apprehension of a strike or lockout, summons the other to court, it is a punishable offence for the workmen to stop work or the employer to close down. If an employer locks his men out without warning, he can be arrested, and so can workmen who go out without warning Consequently all strikes and lockouts are prevented. Employers can summon their men to court only as members of a trade-union, but the men can compel any individual employer to appear in court. The court can compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any papers or books in a dispute; they can also visit any shop or premises where work is being done. Lawyers are not allowed to appear in a case unless both sides are willing.

The decision of a Board of Conciliation are not binding. The decisions of the Court Arbitration are binding or not in the discretion of the court, and any violation of a decision that is made binding may be punished by fine and imprisonment. These are the most essential features of the machinery of this new institution.

"THE JAPAN-AMERICAN COMMERCIAL JOURNAL."

The March number of the above periodical —which, we are inclined to think, has not been published with its usual regularity— contains in its English section a great deal of interesting matter, somewhat marred, however, by the forms of the language in which it is couched. Mr. Matsumoto, the editor, is evidently carrying on the work entirely unassisted. His method has at least the advantage of giving us Japanese thoughts and comments unalloyed, and not disguised by having passed through the hands of a foreign copy-reader. We quote an extract partly for the sake of its strong and just comments, and partly to convey to our readers an idea of the style of Mr. Matsumoto's writing:—

Human nature is fond of notoriety. Anything that does not strike us with wonder is generally discarded as a common-place fact. The love of these striking facts, not to say anything of the love of that stuff which the student of the economic science terms as a medium of exchange, induced many journalists in Japan to adopt many foul and scandalous means. A gentleman of some fame gets up one morning to be startled with the most minute accounts of his personal life, of which, at least in some cases, he himself is quite ignorant. The appearance of these writings in some of our papers generally brings troubles to otherwise a quiet and peaceful home. A number of instances of unhappy partings brought about by these reputed and unfounded charges may be mentioned. In these cases, the existence of such a paper is positively pernicious to the well-being of society. It is not a peace maker, but it is an agitator of the blackest character. The writers of this kind of paper smiles sarcastically at the mischief that their pen worked. To be sure, the wronged has power to sue for his fame, and it may be that he wins his case and the writer of the said paper imprisoned, but this does no at all injure the reputation of the paper. Why? Simply because, it is not the intelligent and gifted writer of the accounts who suffers from the treatment of the imprisonment, but some other less influential and good-for-nothing man who is employed and paid by the newspaper office for the emergency. Under the circumstance, the party who was wronged does not gain anything. The blemish and stain indelibly remain there. As has been mentioned above, these papers are financially better off. For one thing, they are read more by the people fond of sensational accounts, and another thing is that they appeal to a foul measure, mere mention of which is sufficient to make one blush, and be ashamed. To be plain, it is this. One evening, a gentleman receives a visitor who, being introduced into his parlour, takes out a paper with some writings on from his pocket, and begins to talk in a slow and solemn manner. "Sir, I have here," says he, "some unpleasant information concerning your private conduct. Our reporter is anxious to get these printed as soon as possible; but, out of sheer kindness, I have come here to find out what you would say about the matter. It is, indeed, serious for you. I shall be really sorry to see these accounts in our column. Here I am at your service to better the condition." Whether they may be printed or not entirely depends upon the kind of answer the gentleman makes in this interview. What is the underlying motive of this writer need hardly be mentioned here. Five yen in cash would have stopped the whole business.

I am far from asserting that what I have mentioned is always true of all the papers in Japan. Such extreme case as this is necessarily few, but that such a case has been reported as a fact is absolutely true. Let the truth prevail among us the journalists and let us assemble under the banner of truth and justice in order to sweep away all these pestilential elements from the journalistic circle. If a journalist is mean and low enough to break the law of justice let us cry against him and assail him all around.

SENDAI SPEECHES ON EDUCATION.

(COMMUNICATED.)

At the series of meetings held by the Oshû and Hokkaidô Education Society in Sendai on the 13th and 14th May various interesting speeches were delivered. Dr. Inouye's address has been already reported in these columns. Count Kabayama, who spoke on Sunday afternoon, dwelt first on the difficulties encountered by the Central Government in providing the money required to make education thoroughly efficient, owing to the demands made on the exchequer by the Military and Naval authorities. But the Government had fully resolved to do more toward helping local education than it had hitherto done. Yet it would be a mistake for the provincial authorities to rely too much on the Central Government. It could not be said that the Northern provinces had done so much in the educational line as their fellow-countrymen in the South. In the six prefectures represented at the meeting there were last year only 24 Industrial Schools, 4 of which were in Miyagi Ken. The pupils attending these schools numbered 1,680. Now, considering

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that the whole future strength of the country depended largely on industry, this was a very poor record to show. The enormous prosperity of Germany in recent years was largely owing to the attention she has paid to industrial education. The resources of the north-eastern part of Japan were as yet wholly undeveloped and in the opinion of many competent judges that part of Japan had a great future before it. But all progress was dependent on education and this must be undertaken and supported locally, as the central Government was unable to do a tenth part of what is required. . . . The Department had already devised a scheme for increasing the number of normal schools in this part of the empire, which would be put into operation in the course of five or six years. Female education had been much neglected hitherto, and Female Normal Schools were far too few to supply the required number of teachers. More attention must be paid to home education. It was in many ways a cause for regret that a law should have to be passed forbidding the use of tobacco by very young lads. It ought to be unnecessary for the Authorities to interfere in such matters, if parents fulfilled all their obligations.

Dr. de Forest's subject was "Mixed Residence and Education." He dwelt first on the importance of Japanese being able to converse with foreigners. He said that out of the 5,000 foreigners residing in Japan 600 were Christian believers, but two-thirds of these did not study Japanese. The difficulties of the Japanese language were enormous, as had been pointed out by interpreters and others. Hence it was necessary that the Japanese should establish language schools and employ foreign teachers. After this Dr. de Forest went on to speak of morality and religion and, according to newspaper reports, during this part of his discourse observed that the basis of Japanese morality, filial piety and loyalty, might do very well for a partially civilised country, but was quite inadequate to meet the requirements of a complex state of society, where so many conflicting interests had to be considered. Another remark attributed to him was that the two virtues in question were the mere A.B.C. of ethics.

This has been taken up by the leading Sendai paper, the *Tōhoku Shimbun*, and represented to be not only offensive to Japanese ideas, but in direct opposition to that part of the Imperial Rescript on Education which declares that these two virtues are at once the brightest ornaments of the Japanese State and the most solid of all the foundations of her educational system (*Kore waga kokutai no seikwa ni shite, kyôiku no engen mata jitsu ni koko ni son su*). The *Tōhoku Shimbun* contends that the mass of the Japanese people are not prepared to give up their basis of morality in favour of anything that America has to offer, and adds that American ethics founded partly on Christianity and partly on the relations of the sexes to each other, may suit a democratic western country, but would never suit Japan.

The article we quote probably represents the feeling of the majority of those who listened to Dr. de Forest's discourse. If Dr. de Forest did actually say that the adherence of the Japanese to loyalty and filial piety was an indication that their standard of civilisation was low compared with that of Europe and America, it was certainly, in our opinion, an unjustifiable remark to make, and one that would naturally offend the Japanese, who are very sensitive on these points. But he may have been inaccurately reported. It is perhaps very difficult for a missionary to make a speech in public without hinting in some way that he thinks himself to be in possession of a superior system of morality to anything that the Japanese possess. Dr. de Forest has repeatedly stated in print that there can be no true civilisation unless Christianity is its basis, an assertion which to educated Japanese is naturally unwelcome. To discuss what is included in the term civilisation and to determine how many of the elements that go to make up the whole had their origin in Christian teaching cannot be attempted here. But it is quite evident to unprejudiced persons that, however much in former ages Christianity may have helped forward civilisation, at the present time the distinctive teaching of the Christian church and civilisation have very little connection with each other and that it is true to say that Western sceptics and agnostics and Japanese rejectors of the doctrines of Christ are as civilised as the missionaries who propagate these doctrines.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS.

A meeting was held at the Tokyo Bankers' Club on the 25th ultimo and was attended by about 80 persons, among whom the most prominent were Mr. Yamamoto, President of the Bank of Japan; Mr. Matsuo, Superintendent of the Finance Bureau; Mr. Sakatani, Director of the Accountants' Bureau; and Mr. Saito, Director of the Banking Section.

Mr. Matsuo spoke at length to the following effect:—The number of Banks has increased considerably of late. There are at present 2,146 banks in all, with a gross capital of 462,681,169 *yen*, the average capital per bank being 210,000 *yen*. In reality, however, banks with a capital of 40,000 or 50,000 *yen* are most numerous. These were started for very various reasons—some under the pressure of absolute necessity; some formerly carried on exchange business but were formed into banks to conform with the Banking Regulations; some were inaugurated simply as organs for transacting business with the Bank of Japan; some were formed to satisfy personal ambition for the title of Director; others were inspired by fraudulent aims. The first two classes of banks were called into being by the force of circumstances, but the other three classes require vigorous measures to clear them of their abuses. As these minor banks have no connection with each other, they are always liable to embarrassment when the money market tightens. The best plan for the remedy of these abuses is the augmentation of capital and the consolidation of public credit; so that the business circle may be extended and connection secured with other banks. Incidentally, it may be observed that the want of connection between the minor banks is to a certain extent attributable to discrepancies in the rates of interest. The average scale of interest adopted by the Bank of Japan during the past eleven years was 6.9 per cent; in the case of the Tokyo Bankers' Union it was 10.3 per cent., while the figure secured by a similar Union in Osaka was 11 per cent. The difference of interest between the Nippon Ginko and all other banks in Tokyo was therefore no less than 3.4 per cent., while with respect to Osaka the difference was 4.3 per cent.

As to the loans and discounts issued by the various banks, the former amounted to 424 millions of *yen* and the latter to 272 millions approximately. The loans, therefore, have nearly doubled the discounts,—a fact which illustrates the predominance of fixed capital and the consequent tightening of the money market. Apart from these circumstances the diminution of specie reserves has become a subjecs of discussion. People are inclined to suppose that the steady exodus of specie will have the effect of changing the convertible notes now in circulation into an inconvertible currency. The confusion which such a notion has involved is indeed serious. Statistics show that from January to April this year the hard currency of this country was taken abroad to the value of 20,163,520 *yén*. But as the excess of imports of specie from China, Korea, and Australia during the last year reached 11,312,340 *yen*, the actual balance in favour of export did not exceed 8,851,288 *yen*. The specie reserves of the Bank of Japan in January of the 32nd year of *Meiji* (1899) amounted to 89,570,239 *yen*, while by the end of April this year the figure had fallen to 88,617,497 *yen*, a decrease of 952,742 *yen*.

As to the trade for four years from January, 1896, to April, 1900, it may be observed that the imports aggregated 1,000,625,922 *yen* and exports 721,421,652 *yen*, the balance showing an excess of 279,204,270 *yen* in favour of the former. How was this amount of excess paid abroad? The excess of exports in specie from January, 1896, to April, 1900, amounted to 78,300,233 *yen*; whereas the remittances made on account of Indemnity and public loan bonds aggregated 168,994,215 *yen*, making a gross total of 247,294,000, which were appropriated to settle accounts with foreign countries. But the remaining 31,909,822 *yen* are still owed by Japan, and have to be paid in future. Nevertheless, Japan possesses at present yarns to the amount of 12 millions of *yen* and raw cotton aggregating 21 millions in value, these two classes of commodities being stored in Kobe and Yokohama. If they are exported, the sum of 32 millions above referred to may be restored, and there can be no cause for apprehension as to the exodus of gold which is now so much the subject of adverse criticism.

Precautions are only necessary to avert the present difficulty. With regard to the causes of the appreciation of commodities, Mr. Matsuo remarked that, although they are ascribed to the alteration in the coinage system and to the augmentation of currency in circulation, neither of these can be regarded as the correct version. Taking the amount of money in circulation in January of the 26th year of *Meiji* (1893) as 100, it may be alleged that as the value of gold was fixed at 200 *yen* at the time of the revision of the coinage system, against 149 *yen* quoted prior to the revision, the ratio borne to the total currency showed an increase of 34 per cent. If the amount of currency taken as 100 for January, 1893, is compared with the figure for February, 1900, an increase of 41 per cent. is noticeable; whereas the market value of rice in the former period seems to have increased by 76 per cent. in comparison with the latter period. A similar enhancement is observable with regard to other commodities. The domestic staples have risen 60 per cent.; wages, 42 per cent.; food and beverages in Tokyo, 74 per cent.; fuel, 84 per cent.; cotton and silk textiles, 59 per cent.; metals, 80 per cent.; fertilizers, 64 per cent. From these facts it may be inferred that the appreciation of commodities was entirely beyond the influence of the revised coinage system, or was quite disproportionate to the increase of currency in circulation. Although these two conditions, namely, the revision of the monetary standard and the expansion of the currency, cannot altogether be excluded from the category of causes that have tended to enhance the prices of commodities, it is neverthless undeniable that the main and direct cause of appreciation was the general increase in demand and in the purchasing power of the people. The population from January, 1893, to the end of 1898 had increased by 6,586,161, while wages were raised by 42 per cent; the price of rice by 76 per cent., and that of fuel by 84 per cent. The enhancement of these articles of consumption may be taken as a conclusive evidence of general increase in demand. This development of the purchasing power may necessitate the encouragement of savings banks to absorbs the fund now in the hands the people.

Mr. Toyokawa urged the necessity of allowing the use of small cheques in payment of taxes, and obtaining the consent of the Bank of Japan for the speedy enforcement of the scheme.

Mr. Sakatani stated that although the advantages of the use of cheques for taxes had already been recognised by the Finance Department, in practice the matter was still fraught with immense difficulties, in view of breaches of faith which were likely to occur.

Mr. Yamamoto, President of the Bank of Japan, addressed the meeting as follows:—The cry of depression is raised throughout the empire. But, out strange to say, the 45 millions of population appear to have scarcely been affected by it. Luxury prevails in the provinces. The encouragement of thrift is absolutely essential at the present conjuncture, as has already been remarked by the Finance Minister and Count Inouye. In Wakamatsu and Shimonoseki a pair of *geta* valued at 7 *yen* and a piece of soap worth 5 *yen* are on sale and similar things are not iceable in other localities. Kumamoto has always distinguished itself by a rich crop of rice, the annual output being no less than 700,000 *koku*, valued at 7 million *yen*. Yet no enterp rise worthy of public notice has ever been started in the locality; the town itself is notorious for the insignificance of the deposits in its banks. Last year a farmer went to a certain bank with a sum of 10,000 *yen* for deposit, and was told that

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the money would be held at 6 per cent. interest per annum. At this he was struck with surprise, and made answer that the money required two watchmen while in his hands, and that since its custody by the bank would relieve him of trouble and anxiety, it was too much for him to be "honoured with interest." The story, simple as it is, clearly illustrates the ignorance of the agricultural classes as to the organization of savings banks. Another fact worthy of notice is that in balancing the amount of gold coins struck at the Osaka Mint during the past few years with the specie reserves actually held by the Bank of Japan, the sum of 18 millions is obtained. This money must be somewhere in the empire, but the place where it lies is not accurately known. As it is not in the hands of bankers, however, it must be in those of private individuals. At any rate there can be no second opinion as to the prevalence of luxurious habits in the country and the fact of funds being hoarded unproductively by individuals. The economic world of Japan underwent serious change after the triumphant war with China. At one time acute depression was experienced, at another undue inflation of the money market, and the effects of the changes were inevitably felt by the middle classes. In order to prevent them from extending to the lower orders, however, schemes were suggested as to the advisability of raising loans abroad or purchasing bonds in the interior, the result being the abnormal appreciation of commodities and the raising of the rates of interest. So soon as tradal depression sets in, wholesale merchants contrive to decrease the amount of their stocks. This may to a certain extent bring about a depreciation of commodities, but the depreciation in question can not be regarded as the result of a decrease in demand on the part of the 45 millions of people. On the other hand the purchasing capacity of the lower orders is exercised without interference in disregard of the steady increase of imports. In this condition of affairs the fair development of the economic community can scarcely be expected. The encouragement of thrift among the labouring classes is the only means for the improvement of the present situation.

Mr. Ogawa remarked that the people of Japan have a greater propensity for the indulgence of their tastes than for amassing wealth, and at the same time they display an insatiable desire for speculation.

Mr. Sakatani alleged that thrift would have a more beneficial effect upon the nation's economical position than the introduction of foreign capital, and that the foreign capital hitherto secured in the form of Indemnity and foreign loans had failed to bring about any good results upon the commercial community at large. The existing regulations for savings banks should be radically changed.

INDIAN FAMINE CONCERT.

The committee of American ladies and others responsible for the entertainment given in the Van Schaick Hall on Friday evening in aid of the sufferers by the gigantic famine in India, are to be congratulated on the success that attended their endeavours, and a goodly sum should result. The room was decorated with tall white lilies, and on the innumerable small tables were bowls of flowers, the whole producing a most charming effect. The programme opened with a violin overture by the Misses Page, the Dances from "Henry the Eighth," most admirably played. Then Mrs. Apcar, from the wealth of her intimate knowledge of Indian life, gave an interesting address on the conditions, customs, beliefs, and yearnings of the vast Asiatic peninsula. She was followed by Mrs. Doering and Mr. Richter, who played Suite VI., Op. 49, No. 1, by Goldner, and they were rewarded by liberal applause. Mr. Somerton was unfortunately incapacited by a severe cold, but in his place appeared Madame Henkler, who sang pleasingly. Mr. Sharp's recitation of Kipling's "The 'eathen" was excellently given, and the programme was brought to a close by Mr. Richter with a piano solo, "Lyrische Stuche" by Grieze. Then refreshments were served and the evening developed into a social entertainment of a most enjoyable kind.

PUBLIC HALL ENTERTAINMENT.

The monster variety bill presented at the Public Hall on Tuesday drew a crowded house, and a considerable addition to the funds of the institution should result. From first to last nearly forty persons were engaged in the performance and much genuine fun was distilled. The programme all the way through reflected great credit on everyone concerned in its production, but specially hearty thanks must be awarded to Mr. F. C. McWilliams, Property Master; Mr. E. Beart, Stage Manager; and Mr. W. Karl Vincent, Musical Director, for on them fell the lion's share of the preliminary hard work.

The Coon-town Black Tulips (Messrs. Ellis, Fuller, Ginn, Gunn, McChesney, Jackson, Morton, J.E. Moss, Pettit, and Pollard) opened the ball with a plantation song, after which Mr. McChesney sang "I'll make that Black Gal Mine," in the chorus of which he was admirably assisted by his ebony-coloured companions. The troupe gave place to Mr. N. G. Maitland, who sang with excellent feeling, "My memories" (*Tosti*), receiving a rapturous recall. In quite a different vein was Mr. Charles Aslet's "Oh! Her face"—and to some the sharp transition in style and taste from the preceding item was rather distressing in its suddenness. Mr. Aslet, a very recent arrival in Japan, has a strong vein of low comedy running through him, and should win much popularity in Yokohama. The Coopers' Chorus from "Boccacio," the solo of which was taken by Mr. N. G. Maitland, was capitally given, the jovial coopers —(Messrs. G. G. Brady, C. H. Fearon, H. E. Hayward, A. R. Owen, H. Riddle, and S. Wheeler)—entering with gusto into their work of hammering and singing. A recall was inevitable, and even then the audience were loth to see the last of the wearers of the brown aprons and octagonal paper caps. A recitation by Mr. H. J. Sharp, "Lucky Jim," evoked much applause for the masterly manner of its delivery and Mr. Sharp responded to an encore with "Faust O'Grady." Next Mr. Brady appeared in Chevalier's diverting sketch "Our Bazaar," the humours of which lost nothing in his experienced hands. A very pretty sight was presented a few minutes later, when a bevy of fair milkmaids, attired in the costumes immortalised by Watteau, tripped upon the stage armed with diminutive buckets and spotlessly clean milking stools. They were the Misses Andrews, Bishop, Carst, A. Page, H. Page, K. Page, Patchett, M. Lloyd-Thomas, M. Sharp, Thorn, Tripler, and Varnum. Having announced their presence with the first verse of a chorus from "Robin Hood," they welcomed to their midst Miss H. Lloyd Thomas, who sang of the delights of a milkmaid's life—as depicted by the poets—whereupon Miss Poole entered from the wings and told in demurely bewitching manner the other side of the story—the grim realities of a milkmaid's slavery, only to be rewarded with the jeers of her companions. The pretty *scena* had to be repeated.

Mrs. McWilliams opened the second half with a monologue, "Behind the Curtain"—a clever piece of declamation as well as of characterization. Mr. S. H. Somerton was the next down on the programme for "A soldier's song" (Mascheroni); and we are glad to say he displayed little trace of his recent severe cold. This singer was was followed by Mr. Aslet with "One hundred and one faces under one hat," a very clever series of impersonations. Then again the ladies mentioned above occupied the stage and sang the Legend of the Chimes from "Robin Hood," Miss Lloyd Thomas taking the solo part. This was one of the prettiest things in the whole programme, and was redemanded. A very successful item was that given in character by Mr. L. S. Hudson, "When I was a girl at school," his make-up in the costume of an ancient lady of the early seventies being particularly effective. He was followed by a most tatterdemalion crew, who came on to sing the "Tinkers' Chorus" from "Robin Hood"—and very well they did it too. These ragamuffins were really Messrs. Brady, Fearon, Hayward, N. G. Maitland, Owen, Riddle, and Wheeler, but their manner of dress was most bizarre. It was some time before the audience would let them depart. The final item, "In the Suburbs" (Herbert Darnley) was given in Mr. Brady's inimitable style—surely none but he could have invented such "patter" as that which interlarded this song.

The humour and gaiety of the whole evening, if described in greater detail, would intrude too greatly on our space. We can but borrow and adapt gossipy old Pepys in concluding —"And the playing, in one word, was the best, for the variety and the most excellent continuance to the very end, that I ever saw, or think ever shall, and all possible, not only to be done in the time but in other respects very admittable; and the house, by its frequent plaudits, did show their sufficient approbation."

MR. SID BLACK.

There was a large attendance at the Cricket Ground on Saturday afternoon to witness the truly remarkable performances of Mr. Sid Black on his Cleveland bicycle. Mr. Black is certainly a marvellous trick rider. He can apparently do anything on a bicycle. He can detach a wheel while going at full speed, and seems to feel no inconvenience on account of such a trifling loss. He can clamber through the framework of his machine without stopping it; he is quite as much at home with his feet in the air and his hands clutching the saddle as an ordinary rider is in the normal position; and, in a word, the bicycle seems less a machine than an intelligent member of the cyclist. His various feats, in which he was assisted by Mr. Vaughan, evoked hearty applause. The exhibition of bicycle polo, in which four riders, including Mr. Sid Black and Mr. Vaughan, took part, was exceedingly clever. The ball was propelled by striking it with the rim of the wheel, and the dexterous manner in which this was accomplished and in which "passing," "centreing," and "shooting" were done, really deserved all the applause elicited. The scoring of a goal was by no means easy, for the posts were but a small distance apart, but there were two or three successful shots.

PEACE THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

A special Thanksgiving Service was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Irwine, recar of Christ Church, Yokohama, in the smaller Public Hall on Sunday evening, in connection with the intelligence of the imminent cessation of hostilities between the British forces and the Boers in South Africa. There was a large attendance, the congregation flowing over from the small hall into seats provided in the vestibule from the larger hall. The service was fully choral, the choir numbering some fifteen boys and a number of ladies and gentlemen. The first hymn sung by the Choir and Congregation was the Processional Hymn 157, in unison. The proper Psalms of the day were chanted by the choir, and the *Magnificat*, and *Nunc Dimittis*, were by Simper, in E. flat. The Anthem selected was "Praise the Lord," by Clarin, and the hymns sung were Nos. 378, 143, (in unison) and 232. At the conclusion an original Vesper, composed by Mr. Karl Vincent, the organist, was rendered by the Choir, and was followed by the National Anthem. Mrs. Irwine took the soprano solos in the anthem and Vesper with her usual success and altogether the musical service was one of the best that the congregation of Christ Church have ever listened to.

Mr. Irwine chose for his text the words of the 76th Psalm "At Thy Rebuke, O God, both the chariot and horse are fallen."

The preacher remarked that at such moments as the present the safest vent for our feelings was found in the words of these ancient inspired poems, springing as they did either from the stress and strain of a national or personal conflict. We had not been ready to couple the name of Heaven with our cause, though we believed it to be the cause of civil and religious freedom, and analogous to that of the American colonies, who rightly demanded a franchise and representation as an equivalent to the fiscal burdens laid upon them. Now that the war seemed to be practically over,

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we could not, however, refrain from thanking God for giving us the victory, firmly believing that it was our destiny and that of our western kinsmen to enfranchise every spot of God's earth upon which we set our foot. We admired the many instances of bravery in our foes—we pitied their sorrows and none of us or of our soldiers would hesitate to extend a kindly hand to a wounded Boer, or, as our men did at Belmont Station, extend a "cup of kindness" to a vanquished foe. But we remember that, misled by the rapacity of an ambitious clique, and thinking to surprise us, they first invaded our borders. Like others within our own memory who crossed their neighbours' land mark with victory already self-inscribed upon their banners, they had been repelled, and once again the scene of bloody conflict would become, we firmly trusted, peaceful British soil. Let us then, while rejoicing that God had pleased to cement our kingdom and colonies and extend our Empire, pray that He who sitteth above the heavens would make that Empire great not only in extent but in its aims to christianize, civilize, enlighten, and free the world. Let us rejoice today with the many hearts that were rejoicing at the restoration of peace. Weary prisoners, who, though champing the curb, had cheerfully and bravely shown a bright face. Weary waiting mothers longing for their valiant sons, and among them all the old brave-hearted lady for whom we should now sing and pray "God save the Queen."

PASSPORT REGULATIONS.

Regulations with regard to foreign passports are published in the *Official Gazette* as follows:—

Art. I.—Passports for travellers to foreign countries shall be issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs; those issued in foreign countries shall be made out by a Japanese Minister or Consul.

Art. II.—Applicants for passports are required to forward a statement containing the following items, to the local authorities of their districts, or to a Legation or Consulate in foreign countries. (Note.—In the case of Japan a copy of the registration of the applicant's family must be annexed.)

1. Full name (with pronunciation indicated in *Kata-kana*).
2. Place of permanent domicile (When the place of actual residence differs from the place of domicile, both must be stated).
3. Personal status (whether head or member of a family; and in the case of the latter the name of the head as well as particulars of connection must be mentioned).
4. Personal order or classification.
5. Age.
6. Profession or occupation.
7. Destination, or names of places to be visited.
8. Object of journey.

Persons retaining a permanent domicile or actual residence in Tsushima Island, Nagasaki Prefecture, may apply for passports to the authorities in the island. In the case of Formosa the passports shall be issued by the Governor-General.

Art. III.—Travellers on official business shall apply for passports to the Foreign Department through the Government Office to which they belong, and in foreign countries to a Japanese Legation or Consulate, stating the items specified in clauses 7 and 8 of the preceding Article. In the case of travellers accompanied by their families or by attendants, clauses 1 and 5 must be complied with with reference to the latter.

If any person staying abroad on official business desires to summon his family or attendants to his place of residence, he must apply for passports for the latter.

Art. IV.—In case a family accompanied by its head, a wife accompanied by her husband, or a child travelling with its parent, desires to obtain a passport, his or her personal order, status, and age may be mentioned on the passport issued to the head, husband, or parent. This provision, however, applies only to persons under age, except in the case of a wife undertaking a journey with her husband.

Art. V.—In case application is made, as specified in Article II., by emigrants under the charge of emigration agents, or for whom securities are required in accordance with the provisions of the Emigrants Protection Law, the counter-signature of such agents or securities is necessary.

Art. VI.—To a passport issued in Japan in accordance with Article II. of these regulations must be affixed a 50 *sen* revenue stamp. In foreign countries the fees shall be fixed by the consul.

Art. VII.—The passport must be signed as soon as it is received. In travelling through countries where a *viśé* is deemed necessary, no attempt must be made to evade such inspection.

Art. VIII.—Persons coming within the purview of the following clauses are not eligible for passports, an exception being made in the case of persons other than those included in the category of clause 2, who intend to undertake a tour to China or Korea:—

1. Persons coming under the Law of Premonition.
2. Persons not allowed to stay in China or Korea.

Art. IX.—Travellers abroad must return their passports on their arrival in Japan, and this provision applies also to holders of passports who have failed to start on a journey within 6 months after the receipt of the passport.

Art. X.—Any person undertaking journeys abroad at frequent intervals for purposes of commerce, fishing, or other business need not return his passport, except when he returns after three years from the date on which the passport was issued.

Art. XI.—Any person not returning to Japan for ten years after leaving the country must submit his passport for inspection by a Japanese Minister or Consul, prior to the expiration of the period referred to. This submission of passport must be repeated every ten years.

Art. XII.—Holders of passports are required to return the same to the authorities when they happen to fail to comply with any of the clauses enumerated in Article VIII., or when alterations are made in regard to items 1, 3, 7, and 8 of Article II.

Art. XIII.—In case of the loss of a passport the fact must be immediately reported. A report is also necessary when the passport is found.

Art. XIV.—The passport shall be returned or a report of its loss or discovery be made to the superior adminstrative authorities in Japan, and to a Japanese Legation or consulate in foreign countries.

Art. XV.—Any person acquiring a passport by fraudulent means shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 25 *yen*, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 25 days. The same penalty attaches to persons who have assisted in the fraud.

Art. XVI.—The foregoing penalty shall also be incurred by persons using, or causing others to use, a passport issued for a different person. Any person continuing to use a passport without returning it as prescribed by these regulations shall be liable to the same punishment.

Art. XVII.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st July.

Notification No. 1 of the Foreign Department issued in the 11th year of *Meiji*, embodying the regulations concerning foreign passports, and notification No. 6 of the same Department, of the 30th year of *Meiji*, are rescinded.

THE TRAGEDIES IN SÖUL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Söul, May 28.

General An Kyeng-su and Kwŏn Hyong-chin were strangled last night, or early this morning, in the city jail. General An was, according to his own account, the author of the proposition that His Majesty should retire from active participation in the Government. The plot was discovered and An spent the last eighteen months in Japan. Kwŏn was Commissioner of Police in October, 1895, and was implicated in the murder of Her Majesty the Queen. In February 1896, he fled the country and was a refugee in Japan until about two weeks ago. General An returned under the avowed protection of the Japanese Minister, Mr. Hayashi, who secured a promise that a fair trial would be accorded An and that torture would not be used. An was at once remanded to the Supreme Court, at first under Japanese guards, but later these were withdrawn. The trial was delayed from time to time and An spent his time quietly in a comfortable place in the Supreme Court precincts.

On the return of Kwŏn whose crime was of a different sort, it was found necessary, a few days since, to remove An to the Commissioner of Police in order to have him answer some question. Here he was put to torture in the most approved ancient style.

The Commissioner of Police, Yi Yu In, had both prisoners in his power and, if report may be believed, dispensed with all appearance of trial and almost literally beat and mangled the unfortunate men to death. He announced officially that he was unable to restrain his righteous indignation and therefore, without formal and necessary Imperial sanction, he strangled the men. In reality they died from the fearful and outrageous torture to which they had to submit.

In the meantime the Japanese Minister, on hearing of the treatment to which An was subjected, immediately asked for an audience with the Emperor. This could not be granted on account of His Majesty's illness, and protests had to be filed along the usual channel of the Foreign Department with the information offered that the Commissioner of Police had acted in this matter on his own accord and without the knowledge of His Majesty the Emperor.

At noon to-day an immense crowd assembled at the city jail, and demanded the bodies so that they might treat them in the way the bodies of traitors ought to be treated—exposure to the crowd at the Big Bell and possibly mutilation. Up to this time, as far as I know, the bodies have not been delivered and I hope Korea will be saved this further disgrace.

What the effect of this sudden dispensation of justice in this summary way will be, time alone will tell. No one seems to know why these men voluntarily surrendered themselves. It would also seem that the Japanese Minister had lost his grip on his man and was as helpless in protecting him as were the Russians in protecting their one time famous interpreter.

UNION SPINNING COMPANIES.

The result of the Union Spinning Companies' transactions during March last, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, was, according to the *Shogyo*, as follows:—

	—March— 1900.	1899.	Increase or Decrease.
Number of factories	62	69	7*
Number of spindles at work	1,050,360	1,023,091	27,269†
Working days per month	28	28.5	0.5*
Working hours per day	23	21.5	1.5†
Average fineness of yarns produced ..... Ring	20	18.5	1.5†
Average fineness of yarns produced ..... Mule	27	24	3†
Amount of production (in *kwan*)	3,354,829	3,204,538	150,291†
Daily average production per spindle (in *mommé*) ..... Ring..	115	110	5†
Daily average production per spindle (in *mommé*) ..... Mule.	69	81	12*
Supply of cotton for spinning (*kwan*)	3,948,784	3,754,802	193,982†
Waste cotton obtained (in *kwan*)	459,308	433,964	25,344†
Waste yarns (*kwan*)	43,179	44,122	943*
Consumption of coal (lbs.)	70,682,977	65,721,070	4,961,907†
Price of the same per 10,000lbs. (in *yen*)	19.18	19.86	0.68*
Horse power	676	616	60†
Average consumption of coal per hour per horse power (in *sen*)	3.68	3.67	0.01†
Artisans ..... Men	16,029	15,091	938†
Artisans ..... Woman	55,581	52,644	2,937†
Wages (in *sen*) ..... Men	27.95	26.73	1.22†
Wages (in *sen*) ..... Women	17.49	15.87	1.62†

* Decrease. † Increase.

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MINES.

The *Jimmin* publishes a statement of Mr. Tanaka, Superintendent of the Mining Bureau. He says the expenses allotted to the Mining Bureau remain the same at present as in the 25th or 26th year of *Meiji*,—an anomaly all the more striking in consideration of the progress made in mining enterprises during the past few years. The Mines Superintendence Office in Fukuoka alone has had over 4,000 applications requiring official notice. The coal mines in Chikuho have made extraordinary progress, but the development of kerosene enterprise in Niigata is still more surprising. During March this year, the number of new applications received in Kashiwazaki for permission to work petroleum wells totalled over 400, and in April the figure increased to 700. Petroleum deposits, however, differ in character from other mines. Although there are so many applicants many are seeking for one and the same vein, struck at different places. The wells taken as a whole therefore are not so extensive as would seem from the number of applications. According to latest statistics the total import of kerosene from abroad is estimated at 20 millions of *yen* a year. It is expected however, that success in the enterprises now undertaken will have the effect of virtually obliterating the importation of oil.

SILK.

Reports on the silk industry in various prefectures are published in the *Mainichi* as follows:—

Yamanashi Ken.—In consequence of the abnormal number of silkworms raised last year, many of the mulberry trees were considerably impaired, and leaves for this year are therefore in a most unsatisfactory condition. Still, in spite of this drawback, the growers have increased their stocks. The value of leaves has quickly risen. While at the beginning of the season they were quoted at 40 *sen* per 1,600 *momme*, they are now sold for 60 *sen*. Under these circumstances quantities of worms are being daily thrown away.

Kanagawa Ken.—Operations in this prefecture commenced some ten days later than usual, while the amount of stock has increased by 50 per cent. The grubs are healthy, and have abundant food. Last year the output amounted to 55,400 *koku*, but this year the figure, it is anticipated, will reach to 58,500 *koku*.

Shinshiu.—In Minato-mura and Uyeda satisfactory results are anticipated.

With regard to the financial condition of the silk producers in Shinshiu, Koshiu, Joshiu, and other north-eastern districts, it is stated that the prosperity they enjoyed last year has enabled them not only to liquidate their former debts, but also to pocket a portion of their gains. They have even been able to establish a small bank, and with the credit thus secured have succeeded in obtaining ample funds from Yokohama merchants.

EPISODES OF THE WAR.

We quote here some extracts from *The Times* setting forth episodes that illustrate Boer methods. The first relates to their treatment of women:—

The following telegram from Lord Roberts has been received at the War Office:—

Bloemfontein, April 25, 2.35 p.m.

The Boers captured several native women trying to escape from Mafeking, but (these) were turned back after having been stripped and sjambokked.

The second illustrates their respect for truth:—

Kimberley, April 20.

Boer official notices which were displayed at Campbell on the 10th inst. stated that during recent battles the Boers had captured 13,000 troops, 18 cannon, and nearly 300 wagons.

The Boers, they said, were full of valour, the outlook being bright, and further reports have been received that the Russians had invaded India with 2,500,000 men.

The third throws a lurid light on the value that the Boers attach to native life:—

Mafeking, April 14.

The past week has been practically without interest so far as Mafeking is concerned, but on Friday occurred one of the dramatic incidents of the war in this region. For some time past it has been impossible to prevent the natives from raiding cattle. The high prices which they are able to obtain in the town and their natural love for expeditions of this sort lead them to break out in small parties, and they return more often than not in triumph with valuable additions to the foodstuffs of the garrison. In the early part of the week two Baralongs arrived in the native stadt and offered to show any party of cattle-raiders where a good haul could be made with comparative safety. On hearing this, 25 Fingos determined to make an effort to capture the prize and started out eager for adventure. They were armed chiefly with old muzzle-loading rifles, only one or two of them having breech-loaders. The treacherous Baralongs led them into a trap, where they were surrounded and attacked by a Boer patrol. So well did the Fingos fight that the Boers, though they out-numbered the natives, were compelled to draw off and await reinforcements. Seeing that escape was impossible, the Fingos fell back to a pan, the only cover obtainable.

The Boers brought up another 100 men with a Mannlicher Maxim and a one-pound Maxim Nordenfelt, and surrounding the pan opened a murderous fire. There was no question of surrender. The leader of the natives, a tall, spare man named Indabaziti rallied his men for their last fight. From the rising to the setting of the sun the 25 Fingos, armed with obsolete rifles, fought a grim, desperate fight. From their two machine-guns and their Mausers the Boers poured a ceaseless fire into their midst, whilst the one-pound Nordenfelt shells cracked all round like fireworks. The Fingos fought till their ammunition was exhausted, and then the Boers killed them all with the exception of one man, who was wounded and escaped by hiding among some reeds.

On the following day Commandant Snyman sent a letter under a flag of truce to Colonel Baden-Powell complaining that the British commandant should employ barbarians to raid cattle.

The natives in the course of the fight killed six Boers and wounded a great number. Had they possessed a larger supply of ammunition they would, no doubt, have inflicted heavier execution, but the expedition, being unauthorized, had been unable to procure more. These poor blacks who died so bravely were loyal to the last to the nation which had protected them against the Boers, and to the "Great White Queen" whose children they claimed to be.

Later.

The following is the correspondence which passed between Commandant Snyman and Colonel Baden-Powell in reference to the alleged employment of "barbarians" by the British in cattle-raiding expeditions:—

"Marico Laager, Molopo, April 7.

"To his Honour Colonel Baden-Powell, Mafeking.

"Enclosed I beg to send to you a copy of a pass signed 'A. T. Mackenzie, Black Watch,' and dated April 4, which is a clear proof that Kaffirs are sent out, with your Honour's knowledge, naturally, as head officer, to plunder, rob, and murder. I am very sorry to see that tyranny carries away the good nature of so polite a nation as the English. They know that the barbarians have nothing else in view. Twenty Kaffirs were sent last week in a northerly direction by an English officer, according to the statement of a wounded native who was taught a lesson by one of my burghers. Thirty-two were sent on the 4th, according to a pass found in the pockets of one of the killed. They were all shot yesterday. I request you to be kind enough to fetch the bodies. Please send an ambulance under a Red Cross flag in the direction of Canton Kopje, and notify me immediately the wagons have left. I will send some of my burghers to point out the battlefield. Your Honour's obedient servant, "J. P. SNYMAN."

"Mafeking, April 7.

"To his Honour General Snyman.

"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of to-day. In regard to the pass signed 'Mackenzie,' this man had no authority to issue a pass of any kind, much less for the purpose stated. I am obliged to you for bringing the case to my notice. As regards your Honour's statement that your burghers killed 32 natives, I beg to inform you that I know nothing whatever about these men. They were certainly not acting under orders received from myself, nor, so far as I am aware, from any of my officers. I would point out that there are a number of natives about the country in a destitute condition owing to their homes having been burnt and their cattle stolen by your burghers, and it is only too probable that they have taken the law into their own hands to endeavour to obtain food. Of this I have warned your Honour before. For their acts I must decline to be held in any way responsible. I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

"R. S. S. BADEN-POWELL, Colonel commanding H.M. troops in Mafeking."

BASEBALL.

TOKYO HIGHER SCHOOL VERSUS Y.C. & A.C.

This match, played in glorious summer weather on Saturday afternoon, resulted in a win for the visitors, the score at the close being Tokyo H.S., 14; Yokohama, 7. Yokohama's prospects were viewed as gloomy before the game began, few of the team having had any opportunity for practice since autumn, while some of the strongest players in last year's team have left Japan or removed to other ports. Consequently it was not to be wondered at that errors were frequent and combined play almost out of the question. Thorn made one good catch in the field, and Merriman put out a man very smartly at second base: these were the only individual bits of smart play worthy of notice on the home side. The visitors were, as usual, in good form: their fielding as smart as ever, while the pitcher's work was very pretty to watch. Looking back over the years, however, there seems to be less dash and daring in the present day Japanese players. Perhaps a better knowledge of the laws of the game has taught them caution; certainly they do not steal half so many leases or hazard half so many runs as they did in times gone by.

The match naturally attracted a huge crowd of students from Tokyo, who rewarded any good play, whether on their own or the foreigners' side, with hearty plaudits. During the afternoon Mrs. E. Flint Kilby, wife of the popular President of the Y.C. and A.C., assisted by the Misses Kilby and others, dispensed tea in the Pavilion to the large company of ladies who had assembled to watch the match. Score:—

Y. C. & A. C.

	Pos.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st B.	P.O.	A.	E.
Ellis	C.	5	1	1	12	1	2
McChesney	1st B.	5	—	—	2	—	1
Vaughn	2nd B.	4	1	1	3	1	1
Blake	P.	5	2	1	2	2	1
Merriman	2nd B.	5	2	1	2	3	1
Hellyer	L.F.	4	—	1	1	1	1
Joline	S.S.	4	—	1	1	1	2
White	R.F.	4	1	—	—	—	1
Thorne	C.F.	4	1	1	1	1	—
Total		40	7	8	24	10	10

TOKYO HIGHER SCHOOL.

	Pos.	At Bat.	Runs.	1st B.	P.O.	A.	E.
Takato	C.	5	1	2	13	—	3
Shoda	1st B.	5	1	2	8	—	1
Hirano	S.S.	3	2	—	—	—	—
Moriyama	P.	5	1	1	1	—	2
Yabe	L.F.	3	2	—	—	—	—
Kubota	3rd B.	4	1	1	1	—	1
Ota	C.F.	4	3	1	1	—	1
Yamamoto	R.F.	4	2	1	—	—	1
Nagayo	2nd B.	5	1	1	3	—	1
Total		38	14	9	27	—	9

INNINGS.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Y.C. & A.C.	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	= 7
Tokyo H. S.	0	3	0	4	4	0	0	3	—	=14

SAILING RACES.

The Yokohama Yacht Club was favoured with most satisfactory wind and weather on Saturday last for the race by the 17-raters for the "Bonito" Cup (on handicap) and a second prize by the Club on Club time. The course was that known as No. 7, six miles, and the result was a win for *Wettinge*, which took the first prize and two record points, while *Eclair* took second prize and one record point. The times were as follow:—

Rating.	Stort.	Har. Entr.	Finish.	Cor. Time
Wettinge...17	2.80.25	2.38.50	3.54.35	3.54.35
Eclaire ...17	2.31.00	2.39,30	3.54.38	3.54.35
Bonito.....16½	2.30.16	2.40.00	3.58.25	3.57.00
Devonia...16½	2.30.15	2.38.45	4.01.21	3.58.20
Shamrock..16	2.30.16	2.39.30	4.04.17	4.01.21

The 12-raters also had a race over the No. 10 Course, the result being a win for *Titania*, who also took two record points, *Madeleine* being second with one record point. The times at the finish were:—

	Finish.
Lornae Doon	—
Madeleine	3.31.50
Titania	3.30.35
Dora	3.32.45
Albion	—
Thistle	—

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SHOOTING.

The following were the scores made on Sunday in the shooting for the Championship Flag at Tsurumi, between teams representing the Tokyo and Yokohama Shooting Clubs:—

Tokyo.	points.	Yokoham.	points.
Mr. Ijuin Jur.	11	Mr. J. F. Drummond..	16
Mr. Miyazawa	17	Mr. K. Uchiyama	9
Mr. Uchida	14	Mr. Nakajima	20
Mr. Suzuki	11	Mr. G. Hood	13
Mr. Negishi	14	Mr. K. Kimura	14
Mr. Eijima	20	Mr. L. W. Eyton	18
Mr. Nakayama	17	Mr. Yano	16
Mr. Mori	15	Mr. A. Kingdon	17
Mr. Matsudaira	14	Mr. J. Higginbotham..	16
Mr. Ishizuka	16	Mr. W. H. McGowan.	17
Mr. Inouye	16	Mr. S. Matsumura	18
Mr. Amano	17	Mr. T. Niwa	13
Mr. Ichinoi	15	Mr. K. Kawazu	15
Mr. Ijuin	18	Mr. H. Hiranuma	16
Mr. Ayai	13	Mr. J. Eyton, Jnr.	15
	228		232

Yokohama thus won by 11 points.

In the other Matches (usual Club Monthly) Mr. L. W. Eyton secured the best average for the day and won the gold medal; Mr. Matsumura was 2nd, and also received a gold medal; Mr. Higano third. In the Blue Rock Match for a silver cup presented by Mr. Furuya, Mr. W. H. McGowan shot a full score (20 points out of a possible 20). The Yokohama Town Band was in attendance and the pavilion was crowded with spectators. Various stalls were erected near by for the supply of beer and edibles free. At the finish of the matches the Yokohama people marched back to the station with the band playing a march and the Champion Flag shouldered by Mr. Nakajima.

STRANGE SHOOTING AFFAIR.

An extraordinary affair occurred at the offices of Oppenheimer Frères, No. 14, Bund, early on Friday morning, June 1st. Madame Gastard, who with her husband, under the names of Madame de Thèbes and Professeur de Delphes, gave a mesmeric performance at the Public Hall recently, proceeded to the office, and asked to see M. Francois. She first saw a Japanese woman, whom she asked to take her to Francois' room. The woman, however, noticed that Madame Gastard had a revolver, and she ran upstairs and acquainted M. Francois with the fact. He got up and locked the door just as the visitor reached it. The lady fired three shots through the door, and the reports alarmed the porter, who went for a constable. On the police coming Francois unlocked the door to see if Madame Gastard had gone, when another shot was fired. The police tried to seize the revolver, and in the struggle another shot was fired, breaking one of the windows. The lady was finally allowed to return to the Central Hotel, where she locked herself up in her room. Eventually Dr. Wheeler, who was sent for by the police, saw her, and advised that her arrest should be postponed, as she was apparently suffering from temporary derangement. Constables were therefore stationed around the hotel, but no active steps were taken to apprehend the lady. Francois has meanwhile sought police protection.

Madame Gastard, who made an attack on M. Francois at No. 14 Bund on Friday, has been examined by Drs. Munro and Watanabe. She is in a delicate state of health, and is in consequence suffering from mental derangement. It appears that some words written by Francois on a bill roused her resentment to an extraordinary degree, and she determined to attempt Francois' life, leaving her bedroom while her husband was asleep. M. Gastard states that under ordinary circumstances his wife would be afraid of firearms, and attributes the strange access of passion to her physical condition.

A collision occurred on May 15th between two boats on Lake Vico, Italy. They were returning from a religious fête loaded with passengers. About forty persons were drowned. Thirteen were rescued.

"THE ROOI-BAATJE."

The following appeared in the *Cape Town Telephone*. It is supposed to be the thought of a dying Boer. "Rooi-Baatje" is Boer for red-coated soldier.

Lay my rifle here beside me, set my Bible on my breast,
For a moment let the warning bugles cease;
As the century is closing I am going to my rest,
Lord, lettest Thou Thy servant go in peace.
But loud through all the bugles rings a cadence in mine ear,
And on the winds my hopes of peace are stowed;
These winds that waft the voices that already I can hear—
Of the rooi-baatje singing on the road.
Yes, the red-coats are coming; I can hear the steady tramp,
After twenty years of waiting, lulled to sleep.
Since rank and file at Potchefstroom we hemmed them in their camp,
And cut them up at Bronkerspruit like sheep.
They shelled us at Ingogo, but we galloped into range,
And we shot the British gunners where they showed;
I guessed they would return to us—I knew the chance must change—
Hark! the rooi-baatje singing on the road!
But now from snow-swept Canada, from India's torrid plains.
From lone Australian outposts, hither led,
Obeying their commando, as they heard the bugle's strains.
The men in brown have joined the men in red.
They come to find the colours at Majuba left and lost,
They come to pay us back the debt they owed;
And I hear new voices lifted, and I see strange colours tossed,
'Mid the rooi-baatje singing on the road.
The old, old faiths must falter, the old, old creeds must fail,
I hear it in that distant murmur low—
The old, old order changes, and 'tis vain for us to rail,
The great world does not want us—we must go.
And veldt, and spruit, and kopje to the stranger must belong;
No more to trek before him we shall load;
Too well, too well, I know it, for I hear it in the song
Of the rooi-baatje singing on the road.

INSURANCE NOTES.

We understand that Mr. W. B. McNaughton, who arrived by the *Empress of Japan*, will undertake the management of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada for Japan, for which Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are agents. This gentleman is already well and favourably known in the East, and has been connected with the Equitable Life Company for the past 18 months. We wish him every success.

We have received the annual report of the Union Assurance Society, one of the oldest of the English Insurance Companies, the report in question being issued for the 186th year of the Society. We notice that the accumulated funds of the Society now amount to the enormous sum of £3,459,044 4s. 1d. or an advance of over £205,000 since the previous year. Such figures speak for themselves as to the prosperity of the Company and the security it offers to its policy holders. The local Agents are Messrs. Flint Kilby & Co. and Mr. James Johnstone.

Fire Insurance agents declare that 1899 will go down in their history as one of the most disastrous years ever known among them. It is therefore very gratifying to see the fine showing of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company for the same period. In the directors' report, setting forth the results of the business for the year ending 31st December, 1899, they say:—The net premiums, after deducting those paid to other companies in reduction of this company's liabilities, amounted to £841,208 5s. 3d. The net fire losses incurred, including full estimates for all those remaining unadjusted at the closing of the books, amounted to £449,751 6s. The surplus on the working of the business, after making full provision for all commissions, expenses, depreciations, bad debts, and other charges, amounts to £90,298. Adding thereto £39,611 4s. 6d. for interest on investments, there results a total credit balance for the year of £129,909 4s. 6d. This amount, in addition to the balance of £394,730 15s. 6d. brought forward from the previous account, but deducing the interim dividend of £17,020 paid in November last, makes an available total of £507,620. The directors propose to transfer to the reserve and reinsurance fund the sum of £150,000, thereby raising that fund from £600,000 to £750,000: to pay on the 4th proximo a dividend of 8s. per share free of income-tax, making, with the interim dividend already paid, a total distribution for the year of £51,060, or 12s. per share; and to carry forward the remaining balance of £323,580 to the next account. The financial position of the company will then stand as follows:—Capital fully subscribed, £2,127,500; of which is paid-up £212,750; reserve and reinsurance fund, £750,000; balance carried forward, £323,580—£1,073,580.

At the 38th annual general meeting held in Liverpool on April 26th, the Chairman pointed out that up to that date 21 English companies had published the results of their operations during the past year. They had taken premiums of £7,876,141, but the net results, after making the necessary provision for unexpired risk, was a profit of £15,748, or rather less than ½ per cent. on the total amount of business. In the United States the showing was worse. Taking the 76 leading companies, the Chairman said he found these companies had received in premiums last year $114,659,181, and the result of the aggregate working, after making in this case also the necessary provision for unexpired risk, was a net loss of $10,294,177. There was no conflagration in the United States to account either wholly or partially for this very disastrous result. It was simply the outcome, on the one hand, of a steady incidence of everyday fires on a very much more frequent scale than usual, and on the other hand of the absurdly inadequate rates which had been prevailing there—rates which were quite inadequate to meet the ordinary average loss of a series of years, and still more inadequate to meet the excessively heavy losses of the past year.

INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama send us the following continuation of the names of subscribers to the Indian Famine Relief Fund:—

Amount already acknowledged	¥2,959.30
P. Hodnett	20
L. Pollard	50
P. K.	10
King's Daughters	235.57
T. A. Singleton	50
John C. Budd	100
Charles Cecil Capel	50
Wing Cheong Wo	20
Loo San Cheong	10
Wing Cheong	10
Kung Cheong	5
Che San Bros	5
Kwong Man Tai	20
Tai Tuck Tong	20
Sun Lung & Co.	10
Chun King Leong	10
J. R. Parsons	25
E. Blandenstein	25
Total	3,634.87

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Will you kindly acknowledge the following amounts received for the India Famine Fund, and forwarded to G. S. Eddy, Esq., Y. M. C. A., Madras?

	yen.
Previously reported	778.12
Miss Gertrude Cozad	29.00
F. S. Curtis	10.00
Miss S. C. Smith	20.00
Sapporo Students	8.00
"Friends"	45.00
D. Norman	5.00
Mrs. J. M. McCauley	5.00
Miss I. H. Hargrave	10.00
Nagano Bible Class	10.00
Miss L. A. Wigle	30.00
	941.12
In addition I have been notified of proceeds of Yokohama Concert sent direct to Mr. Eddy	415.00
	1,356.12

Sincerely,
V. W. HELM.
Y.M.C.A., 3 Mitoshiro-cho, Kanda, Tokyo, June 7, 1900.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

INDIAN FAMINE FUND ENTERTAINMENT.

To the Editor of the "Japan Mail."

Sir,—In behalf of all those interested I desire to express heartiest thanks to Mrs. Winfield and her coadjutors who were instrumental in making the Entertainment in aid of the Indian Famine Fund so conspicuous a success. To Mr. Booth also, and to all who so kindly assisted in making up the programme, our gratitude is due. I have received from Mrs. Winfield, as the proceeds of the affair, the sum of *yen* 415, the equivalent of which has been sent by draft to Mr. Geo. S. Eddy, of the Y.M.C.A., Madras.

Sincerely yours, Diana Aycar.

Following is the report of the Treasurer:—The receipts from the Entertainment amount to *yen* 415 and the expenses were *nothing*. The above amount includes the sum of 57 *yen* directly and generously contributed.

Anne L. Winfield.

Yokohama, June 6, 1900.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The remains of the late Mr. J. Scott were laid to rest in the Cemetery on Saturdayin presence of a large number of mourners. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. S. Booth. Capt Iwata, Messrs. Unite, Wright, Tresize, Paxton, and McKirdy were the pall bearers.

We have been asked by the U.S. Legation authorities to publish the following:—"General McArthur, U.S.A., telegraphs the American Legation from Manila that R. B. Cramer, a dismissed officer of the U.S. Army, is reported travelling in the Orient engaged in swindling, using his credit as an officer."

H.M.S. *Rosario*, a twin-screw steel-sheathed sloop of 980 tons displacement, on her way out to replace the gunboat *Rattler*, arrived at Colombo on May 12. The *Rosario* was built at Sheerness in 1898 at a cost of £65,578, and is fitted with Belville tube boilers, the engines indicating 1,400 horse power with a speed of 13.2 knots. She was commissioned for service on the China station on the 20th March last at Sheerness, and after taking in stores put to sea on the 31st of that month and had a fine passage out; and her last port of call, Perim, was left on the 1st May. Commander Hamilton has had much experience on the China station. The *Rosario* carries two guns—6.4-in., and 4.3-pounder quick-firers, and has a complement of 104 officers and men.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on Major William Babtie, C.M.G., Royal Army Medical Corps. At Colenso, on Dec. 15, 1899, the wounded of the 14th and 66th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, were lying in an advanced donga close in the rear of the guns without any Medical Officer to attend to them, and when a message was sent back asking for assistance, Major W. Babtie, A.M.C., rode up under a heavy rifle fire, his pony being hit three times. When he arrived at the donga, where the wounded were lying in sheltered corners, he attended to them all, going from place to place exposed to the heavy rifle fire which greeted anyone who showed himself. Later on in the day, Major Babtie went out with Captain Congreve to bring in Lieutenant Roberts, who was lying wounded on the veldt. This was also under a heavy fire.

The *Daily Telegraph*, writing on April 27, said—It is a far cry to the Orient, but it has been frequently shown during the history of the Fund that the many thousands of miles which intervene do not detract from the sympathetic and patriotic interest of our fellow-countrymen, who are there living in pleasant exile. From no distant land have we, perhaps, received more generous help than in the case of Japan. Recently, with a donation from Yokohama, the busy shipping and commercial centre of Dai Nippon, there came an intimation that the Community had decided to celebrate St. George's Day by making an effort to swell the total of *The Daily Telegraph* Fund. That decision has been carried into effect with splendid success, and to-day we have pleasure in acknowledging the handsome subscription sent by that source, through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of 3,600 shillings—a sum which appropriately stands in the position of honour this morning, for it is eloquent testimony to the loyalty and generosity of our fellows who have gone to the Far East.

The case instituted by Mr. Bardens against Mr. Tanaka Riyemon, rice merchant, applying for a provisional seizure of property, was again before Judges Oshima, Hipama, and Nozoye at the Kobe Chiho Saibansho, on Monday afternoon. The plaintiff was represented by Mr. Sunagawa and the defendant appeared in person. Mr. Bardens contracted with the defendant for the purchase of rice amounting to *yen* 98,280 in value and defendant failed to carry out the contract, which breach of agreement resulted in Mr. Bardens suing him for damages. He learned that the defendant, who was in possession of a large fortune, has been concealing his property to evade the demand for damages, somehow or other, and therefore instituted an action to intercept the action of the defendant. The decision was delivered in favour of Mr. Bardens, and his application was granted upon his making a legal deposit of *yen* 2,000.—*Kobe Herald.*

According to the *Osaka Asahi*, the amount of *sake* brewed in Nada this year reached 366,716 *koku*, an increase of 16,722 *koku* in comparison with the previous year. Sakai is said to have produced 59,924 *koku*, a decrease of 1,437 *koku*. This year sales of liquor commenced about ten days earlier than last, and freight has risen by about 40 *yen* for every 10 pack horses. Sakai liquors are now quoted at from 26 to 33 *yen* per *koku*, the average rate of increase being 4 *yen*. The appreciation is ascribed to the enhanced value of rice and casks during the brewing season. The demand for *sake*, however, is increasing year by year, and the liquor is even exported to Hawaii, Korea, China, and America. Below are comparative figures for the past three years:—

Year.	Nada. *koku.*	Sakai. *koku.*
1897	364,994	70,962
1898	349,994	61,421
1899	366,716	59,924

It is said that the number of brewers in the two places above mentioned had increased in 1899 to 160 and 64 respectively.

The number of emigrants to Hokkaido during the past four months, as compared with the corresponding period of the two previous years, was as follows:—

	1898.	1899.	1900.
January	25	3	3
February	707	37	18
March	9,968	381	1,403
April	14,641	2,386	7,400

The total for this year includes the gold mines in Esashi, so that the number of real immigrants is comparatively insignificant.

An official communication from the branch Consulate in Seattle, under date of the 23rd ultimo, is published in the *Official Gazette* as follows:—"Immigrants from Japan have of late increased to an alarming extent. On the 15th April over 1,500 were brought by the steamer *Riojun Maru;* on the 17th more than 1,000 arrived by the English steamer *Goodwin* at Tacoma; on the 19th another 1,000 were brought by a German steamer to Victoria. A few days ago 700 men were landed at Portland by a foreign ship. Such a enormous tide of immigration has naturally provoked strong opposition from the white labourers, who are preparing for a gigantic demonstration. The press, too, makes vehement attacks upon the Japanese immigrants. It is desirable, under these circumstances, that some restrictions should be imposed."

It is said that Government has now under contemplation the sending of immigrants to Peru and Madagascar. It cannot, remarks the *Keizai Zasshi*, escape the charge of indiscretion in this matter.

The exhibition of water-colour sketches now being held in Mr. Tamamura's studio in Bentendori is very well worth a visit by any one interested in art matters. There are nearly 200 sketches on view and the whole are the work of Mr. F. Baske and his seven pupils, the result of 40 days spent industriously and entirely in the open-air. Naturally among such a big collection the quality of the work is an ever-varying quantity, but the pieces signed by Mr. Baske or by Mr. Kobayashi are deserving of very warm praise. One little gem takes the spectator to the neighbourhood of Tsurumi beach on a misty morning in early spring-time. The tints are all vague, the outlines of the boats and huts shadowy and indistinct, and the water almost eludes the gaze, but the general effect is strikingly effective. A pretty river scene is treated in sepia, and not far away is a delicate creation in greens and yellows and ethereal blues that takes one in fancy to the shores of Dzushi Bay when earth and sea and sky are enfolded in the poetic glamour of a spring morning. There are several very effective moonlight sketches, with the ruddy light gleaming through the *shoji* of way-side houses; many charming riverine studies; and one bold, breezy conception of

A wet sheet and a flowing sea;
And a breeze that follows fast.

A pleasing subject is one entitled "After the Rain," which is treated very skilfully. Mr. Baske is undoubtedly leading his pupils in the right direction, and the future for some of them is distinctly promising.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN.

[By Mr. Arthur Hyde Lay, H.B.M.'s Legation.]

The foreign commerce of Japan entered upon the new stage with Jan. 1, 1899. The year saw the inauguration of radical changes calculated to have an immediate effect upon trade, and bringing with them possibilities for the future. That being the initial year of the new system, it is as yet impossible to predict with any approach to accuracy what the result of the changes will be, but they would certainly appear to indicate great opportunities for the development of foreign trade. At the same time, Japan is not a new country, and although foreign firms are establishing branches in several places throughout the country, such as Nagoya, and the ubiquitous Chinaman is to be found peddling his wares in many of the inland towns, it is probable that trade will remain largely in its old channels for some time to come, and that the chief centres of foreign trade hitherto existing will not lose their importance. Few foreigners have left the old treaty ports for the interior, and it must be many years before there will be sufficient inducement for such a radical change. So far the opening of the country has had little, if any, effect upon the foreign trade of Japan.

New Tariff.—From the beginning of the year the new customs tariff with its higher rates of duty on imports came into force, and in July all duties on exports were done away with. To give examples from among the new duties, which are of chief interest to British manufacturers, we have those on arms and ammunition, such as cannons, muskets, pistols, side-arms, projectiles, cartridges, &c., 25 per cent. *ad valorem*; locomotive engines and parts thereof, 5 per cent.; machinery and machines, engines of all kinds, and parts thereof, not otherwise provided for; and steam engines, boilers, and parts thereof, 10 per cent.; cotton tissues from .006 yen per square yard on shirtings (gray) to .053 yen per square yard on cotton duck; cotton yarns, 4.180 yen per 100 catties; iron and mild steel, pig and ingot, .083 yen per 100 catties; bar and rod exceeding ¼ inch in diameter, .261 yen per 100 catties; plate and sheet, .296 yen per 100 catties; rails, .129 yen per 100 catties; woollen and worsted cloth, .093 yen per square yard; Italian cloth, .029 yen per square yard; caustic soda, .454 yen per 100 catties; vessels (steam and sailing) and boats, 5 per cent.; railway carriages (passenger), 5 per cent.; freight, 10 per cent. The new tariff contains 497 items of dutiable commodities, in addition to which there are twenty-eight articles exempt from duty, and seven prohibited articles, 532 items being enumerated in all. Conventional tariffs exist wth Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, and Germany, and the rates of duty specified above are the lowest, and those which apply to countries entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment. Few of the new duties can be called high, but an amendment of the tariff, made on Feb. 13, 1899, raised the duty on all kinds of prepared tobacco to 100 per cent.; on Chinese alcoholic distilled liquors and spirits, or distilled liquors and spirits of all other kinds not enumerated, to 100 per cent.; on Chinese alcoholic fermented liquors and wines, or

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fermented liquors of all other kinds not enumerated, and saké resembling the home beverage, to 80 per cent. The duty on alcohol was at the same time fixed at the rate of 250 per cent. *ad valorem*, which was intended to be prohibitive. The tariff schedule would appear, on the whole, to have been loosely drawn up, as disputes between the customs authorities and importing merchants are of frequent occurrence.

The conditions of trade during the first few months of the year were abnormal, owing to the fact that the new customs duties on imports took effect from Jan. 1. During the months of January and February the value of the goods imported was, in consequence of the large quantity of foreign produce and manufactures which passed into the country during the latter part of 1898, with a view to the enjoyment of the benefits of the old tariff, less considerable than during any two months since 1896. Imports for these two months were exceeded by exports to the extent of £920,362 in value, but the magnitude of the excess was partly due to the greater volume of the export trade for the period. In March, however, the tide turned, and from that month, and more noticeably from May on to the end of June, exports fell off and showed increasingly less values than imports.

AGGREGATE TRADE.—The total trade of the first six months of the year, compared with that for the corresponding half of 1898, is as follows :—

Half-year.	Value.		
(January-June).	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1899	£9,463,360...	£9,079,561...	£18,542,921
1898	15,798,402...	7,115,805...	22,914,207

Exports for the half year thus exceeded those for the six months ended June 30, 1898, by £1,963,756, while imports marked a decline on the values for the latter period of the large amount of £6,335,042. The first half of the year is, as a rule, the period during which imports are in excess of exports, the bulk of the staple exports from Japan falling within the latter six months. The total trade from January to June, 1899, exhibited a falling-off amounting in value to £4,371,286, though in *yen* values it was larger than that for the whole of the year 1893, when it stood at 177,970,036 *yen*. During the latter half of the year, however, the volume of foreign trade expanded, both imports and exports being larger than for the preceding six months. By the end of 1899 the total returns of foreign commerce for the year had reached the highest figures since the first opening of the country to foreign trade, with the one exception of the year 1898. Imports for 1899 were valued at £22,499,363 and exports at £21,940,760, Total trade £44,440,123, showing a decrease in imports as compared with 1898 of £5,828,982, but an increase in exports amounting to £5,020,066; total decrease £808,916. At the end of October and also of November the balance of trade was in favour of Japan, but by the close of December imports had once again exceeded exports as they have done for the past few years.

Attention, however, must be called to the change which was made by the customs authorities from Jan. 1, 1899, in the method of compiling the returns of imports. In former years the practice was to draw up the tables so that the import figures represented only the original cost of the goods at the place of production or shipment, and in previous trade reports an addition of 15 per cent. was made to cover freight, insurance, and other charges, in order to arrive at a correct estimate of the cost to Japan of imported goods. According to the new system these charges are included in the calculations of the value of imports, and the value of imported articles is now taken to be the actual cost of the articles at the place of purchase, production, or fabrication, with the addition of packing charges, cost of transportation, insurance, and all other charges incurred up to the arrival of the articles at the port of importation. Imports have, therefore, declined much more than is at first sight apparent from the comparative figures in the customs returns.

As pointed out in the report on the trade of 1898, the income derived by Japan from her shipping industry, which continues to expand at no slow rate, must be reckoned as representing one of her "invisible exports." This would more than counterbalance the excess in value on the import side of the account, and consequently the year 1899 must be pronounced a very favourable one for Japan from the point of view of her foreign commerce.

IMPORTS.

The causes which led to the decline in the importation of foreign commodities were: the large quantity of goods imported prior to the coming into force of the new tariff and the resulting accumulation of stocks at the end of 1898, the higher prices prevailing in foreign markets for many of the principal manufactures and natural products required by Japan, and higher rates of freight, the development of home industries, and the diminution in the rice import owing to the supply of domestic requirements by the plentiful crop of 1898. Manufactures nearly all display a striking decrease. Cotton and woollen yarns and most cotton and woollen tissues have fallen to figures considerably less than in 1898. Under the heading of iron and mild steel, the items, with a few exceptions, are represented by lower values. Locomotive engines, and railway carriages, machinery, rails, and fittings thereof, and the materials of bridges and buildings have fallen off largely. Nails and telegraph wire have, on the other hand, had a larger import, the value of the former articles being more than twice that of the previous year. Printing paper, sugar, and watches are other important staples of import which were in much less demand according to the trade statistics. The importation of raw materials has very much grown on the whole, more noticeably in the case of raw cotton and wool.

The importation of raw cotton continues to increase rapidly. This material occupies by far the most important position on the list of the imports of Japan. The reason for the growth in the demand for raw cotton is the steady development of the cotton-spinning industry. One point which merits special mention is the increase of the importation of Egyptian cotton, between two and three times as much being imported in 1899 as in 1898. This is an indication that the Lancashire mills are no longer in undisputed possession of the field as regards gassed yarns, and although native competition has not yet assumed very serious proportions, its growth is merely a question of time. From India the importation of cotton shows a large increase, but of late the tendency has been for Japanese cotton-spinners to make use of the American, rather than the Indian product, in view of the advantage thus obtained, when both quality and price are considered, and the preference for cotton from the United States will probably be more marked during 1900. It seems possible that if the rise in price of Indian cotton remains permanent, some of the Japanese mills may give up mixing their cotton, as they do at present, and take to spinning yarn from the American material only; but in the meantime they are afraid to alter the standard of their spinnings lest a fall should occur in prices in India, when the new crop is gathered in, and the present shortage terminates.

The value of cotton prints imported during 1899 was somewhat less than during the year before. There is a talk of a large establishment being set on foot in Tokyo for the manufacture of cotton prints to compete with the manufactures of Europe. Shirtings similarly show a certain decrease. As the native weaving establishments become more expert in manufacture, the manufacturer of Manchester will suffer more and more from their competition, seeing the advantages which the new tariff gives to the domestic goods.

T-cloths will probably be no longer imported, as the duty is practically prohibitive, and the local mills are able to supply the requirements of the market in Japan.

Contracts for cotton yarns in 1899 were on a small scale, and the foreign importer who brought goods out for sale profited by the steady and abnormal rise in Manchester prices.

A striking instance of the tendency of Japan to import raw materials and manufacture them at home is to be witnessed in the growth of the importation of raw wool. The woollen industry has made great strides in Japan during the past few years. The import duty of 5 per cent. on wool, which was formerly levied, was abolished on April 1, 1896, and the exemption of the raw material from customs charges imparted an impetus to the development of woollen manufactures. The demand for woollen goods and woollen clothing among the Japanese has been rapidly growing since 1896. The value of the raw wool imported during 1899 is set down at £441,452. A rise in the price of wool, as compared with 1898, is noticeable.

Manufactures of iron and mild steel, which during 1898 were imported in much larger quantities than in previous years, exhibited for the most part a decline in importation in 1899. The causes of this falling-off were the accumulation of stocks, which commenced in the spring of 1898, and which resulted in few new orders being given after the middle of that year, and the much higher market prices prevailing abroad, taken together with enhanced cost of freight.

Japan is poor in iron, and her meagre resources of the mineral stand in the way of her manufacturing development along this line, and render it incumbent upon her to seek the raw material abroad. Pig-iron from Great Britain still occupies the most important position. During the year a large Japanese firm imported iron from the Hangyang ironworks in China, and though the material was not of the best quality, it was comparatively cheap, and on the whole pronounced satisfactory. Chinese iron seems likely to be a serious rival to English and American pig-iron in the future as it is at present sold in Japan at about £1 per ton cheaper than that which comes from Great Britain.

MACHINERY AND LOCOMOTIVES :—As predicted in the immediately preceding report on the trade of Japan, the importation of machinery of all kinds, of locomotives and railway carriages, and of rails, has decreased in a signal manner, the reason being that the contracts entered upon in 1898 were on a much more economical scale than in 1897. The figures for 1898 showed a falling-off of some magnitude, as compared with those for the preceding year in the case of machinery and rails, as well as of locomotives and railway carriages purchased from foreign countries.

So, far not many locomotives have been constructed in Japan—about fifteen in all. These have been built at the Kobe Railway Station Works and in the workshops of the Sanyo Railway Company. Engines made in Japan are considered to cost a much less sum than those procured out of the country, but it is a moot point whether this is actually so when all expenses, including wear and tear of shops, &c., are taken into consideration. As regards the merits of foreign locomotives, competent observers who have made a careful study of the question say that the Japanese have become firmly convinced that the British engine is the best. Formerly orders for numbers of engines were sent in preference to the United States, but that was because manufacturers there were prepared to sell at two-thirds of the cost of British engines, and to promise delivery in one-third of the time. The active demand, however, for American locomotives has given the establishments in the United States plenty of work, and they have raised their prices and have ceased to offer the same facilities as to promptness of delivery as heretofore. One thing which still militates against the sale of the British locomotive is the long time taken in the execution of orders, manufacturers at home not having sufficient leisure to contract for delivery as speedily as the Japanese wish. To cite a case in point, an agent for an English firm was recently told by the authorities in the direction of the Hokkaido Railway, where the engines all come from the United States, the line having been planned by Americans, that they would be very glad to place some orders in England but that their regulations forbade them to undertake contracts for more than a year ahead. Consequently the impossibility of effecting delivery of British locomotives in less than fifteen months' time prevented their use on the line in question.

Not the least progressive among the modern industries of Japan is that of railway carriage building. A huge factory for the manufacture of railway carriages, with a capital of close on £100,000 and numbering among its promoters many very influential men, was opened at Osaka on July 5, 1899. The object in view is in the first place the supply of the home demand for railway rolling stock. To the new company, it is said, will fall, the order for the railway carriages to be used on the Formosan Railway. In Tokyo there are no fewer than three large private railway carriage works, at one of which rolling stock for use on the line between Söul and Chemulpho is at present being constructed, and there are two similar establishments at Nagoya, and at least one in Osaka. In addition, the Government works at the Shimbashi and Kobe railway station manufacture some of the carriages for the State lines.

IMPORTS GENERALLY.

The year 1899 was the most profitable one to importers for many years, and the extraordinary rise in values, which extended to most branches of the import trade, helped to compensate merchants for the preceding years, when things were not so favourable. 1900 gives promise of being equally satisfactory from the point of view of the importer, as the absence of large stocks allows him to entertain the hope that any fall in price which may take place in home markets will be followed but slowly in Japan. On the other hand, caution is compelled by the fact that in prosperous times the Japanese dealer has a proneness to purchase excessive stock, while he is apt to leave goods ordered by him in the warehouses of importers at their entire charge when the market turns out to be unfavourable to him.

SPECIE AND BULLION.—The total movement of specie and bullion during the year 1899 amounted to £3,199,470, imports being £2,058,377, and exports £1,141,113. From September till the end of December, the exports show a substantial increase, while the imports exhibit an almost corresponding decrease. Although the grand total gives a balance of £917,244 on the side of imports, for the last four months of the year the excess of exports came to no less than £815,632 in value.

Gold has been leaving the country in sufficient quantity to cause comment and some discussion among Japanese financiers. In these discussions the schemes favoured were (1) raising import duties, (2) fostering industries which would lead to increased exports. It is noteworthy that the drain of specie which gave rise to these suggestions came just after (1) a large increase in import duties, (2) a record export year. There was at one time talk of the imposition of a premium on gold, the case of France being cited in support of the plan. But in France vast amounts of gold coin are in the hands of the public and any such action taken by the Bank of France is of little effect, whereas the conditions in Japan are entirely different, and any step of that nature on the part of this country would be disastrous. The statesmen of Japan, how-

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ever, seem quite alive to the fact that the main factor in the problem is the volume of the fiduciary part of the currency, though steady pressure is probably brought to bear in favour of expansion on various pleas.

Large expenditure of the national wealth on armaments abroad involves restriction in currency at home, with resulting starvation of production. As long as it is necessary for the country to live up to nor beyond her income, the want of cheap capital must continue to be felt.

JAPANESE INDUSTRIES.—Japanese industries were in a flourishing state during 1899; numerous undertakings yielded larger returns than they had done for some years, and many new enterprises were started. Although the idea prevalent in some quarters a few years ago that the Japanese were to conquer the markets of the world with their manufactures has died a natural death, there can be no two opinions that they are making rapid progress both in commerce and manufactures.

Their great lack is capital and efficient organisation. If Japan could obtain a sufficiency of foreign capital by encouraging its investment in the country; if small Japanese business concerns and industrial bodies (of which there are so many) would unite and so provide more working capital, and if the Japanese were to bring to bear upon their industries the power of organisation which they have shown they possess in a high degree in the development of their naval and military forces, they would no doubt accomplish much more than at present. Recently tendencies towards the creation of larger capital funds for business undertakings have been seen in the amalgamation of spinning companies, banking corporations, &c., and in the formation of trusts.

EXPORTS.

Since 1868 the export trade of Japan has exhibited a gradual and steady expansion, few years showing lower values of articles exported than those preceding them. In 1869 the value of exports was 12,908,978 *yen*; in 1879 27,505,069 *yen*; in 1889, 70,060,705 *yen*, and in 1899, 214,929,894 *yen*. In no previous year were the exports represented by such high figures as last year, and the increase over the year 1898 was no less than £5,020,066. In *yen* values the export trade was three times what it was ten years ago. The principal causes of the satisfactery condition of the volume of exports lie in the revival in the raw silk trade, the greater activity of the cotton spinning and manufacturing industry as evidenced by the large quantity of yarn and cotton tissues sent out of the country, and the exceptional rice harvest of 1898-99, which provided a considerable surplus of export. The other articles which mainly contributed to the increased exportation were silk tissues, camphor, copper, sulphur, and timber. Exports of tea, matches, mats, and coal remain more or less satisfactory.

The rice crop of the past season was expected to be abundant, and it was calculated that it would be more than 10 per cent. above the average, but storms and floods in the summer and autumn had an adverse effect upon the harvest, and the production for the year 1896 finally turned out to be 194,295,550 Imperial bushels, less than that for an average year, the average of course having been raised by the yield of 1898. The yield for the year 1898, 235,186,247 Imperial bushels, however, having been much the largest for many years past, more than twice as much rice was available for export in 1899 as in 1898.

The second largest quantity, over £222,000 worth, went to Great Britain, whither comparatively little of the cereal had found its way the previous year. Hongkong and the United States of America both took more than twice as much as during the preceding period of twelve months.

Raw silk was exported in much greater quantities than during the year 1898, when the market in the United States was influenced by the existence of a state of war between that country and Spain. The export was, indeed, larger than it had ever been in past years, not even excepting the year 1897, which hitherto was the record season. The increase, however, was more marked in value than in quantity. The improvement in the silk trade is attributable to the more favourable conditions for the sale of Japanese raw silk prevailing in America and also to the abolition of the export duty in July.

TEA.—The quantity of tea exported from Japan during 1899 exceeded that shipped abroad during 1898; but all the same the tea business in Japan is becoming more and more unsatisfactory each year, and, for the foreign merchant at any rate, there is litile or nothing to be made out of it. In quality the tea of 1899 compared unfavourably with the crop of 1898. The practice of picking the young leaves in the early spring before they are properly matured, for the sake of obtaining exorbitant prices for small quantities, is undoubtedly having a very injurious effect on the plants, and it is surprising that Japanese tea-growers do not realise this fact.

Of the teas shipped from Yokohama during 1899, 31 per cent. went to New York, 26 per cent. to Chicago, 14 per cent. to San Francisco, 26 per cent, to Canada, and 3 per cent. to Europe.

COTTON YARN.—Each year the cotton spinning industry exhibits great activity, and the stage of its development may be gathered from the fact that cotton yarns now occupy the second place among the exports from Japan. China proper, and North China in particular, is the best customer for Japanese yarns, and the trade is growing rapidly, and the Japanese mills seem likely to drive the Bombay cotton-spinning factories from a field at one time considered, in the case of low counts, theirs exclusively. From the markets of Korea, Japan has ousted all its competitors. Hongkong, however, does not take the same quantity as in recent years. The increase in the volume of export in 1899, as compared with 1898, was very great, being 19,955 tons valued at £857,995. In the spring of 1899 the cotton industry began to recover from the depression from which it had suffered since the middle of 1897, and which was most intense during 1898.

The lower rates of interest at which capital was procurable, combined with cheaper coal, caused a considerable advance in the value of the shares of the cotton spinning mills, and in the dividends declared by them. The price of cotton yarn rose in consequence of the great demand for yarns in the China market. For the first half of 1899 the profits of the spinning companies were on an average higher than they had been for four years, and the second half of the year is expected to show still better results. The advance in the price of cotton, owing to the bad crops in India and the United States, will, however, affect those mills which had not the foresight or the capital to lay in large supplies.

GENERAL.

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE.—The statistics given below indicate the proportion in which the trade of Japan is distributed among the countries which principally take part in it:—

Country.	Value. Imports.	Exports.	Total.
British Empire—			
Great Britain.....	£4,577,812	£1,150,557	£5,728,369
Hongkong.....	749,134	3,500,571	4,249,705
British India.....	4,749,813	618,834	5,098,647
Australia.....	174,426	221,513	395,937
Canada.....	18,581	240,722	259,303
Total.....	£9,999,766	£5,732,963	£15,731,963
United States.....	£3,901,205	£6,525,092	£10,429,227
France.....	588,835	3,087,800	3,676,435
Germany.....	1,798,013	387,603	2,185,616
China.....	2,928,539	4,109,573	7,038,112

Imports from all the leading countries interested in the trade show a decrease, with the exception of those from British India, Australia, and Canada, which have slightly increased. Goods coming from Great Britain show a large falling-off, but during 1899 one or two men-of-war and several torpedo boat destroyers, built in England, which of course are not accounted for in the trade returns, were completed and handed over to the Japanese Government. The explanation of the decline in the importation of commodities from Great Britain, and also from Germany, is that these two countries supply the greater portion of the manufactured materials, and that imports of almost all manufactured goods decreased in 1899, as compared with 1898. The United States on the other hand have also a large trade in raw materials, the importation of which has been greater either in quantity or in value than in the previous years, and these increases counterbalance to a great extent the decline in manufactured goods which has been proportionately as great as in the case of the other countries. Exports have, on the contrary, increased in each case, with the exception of British India and Canada.

On the whole, when the decreased importation of commodities in 1899 is taken into consideration, Great Britain's share in the trade cannot be termed unsatisfactory. The smaller quantity of cotton yarn imported is accounted for partly by the growth in the output of the domestic manufactures. The value of the shirtings and cotton prints purchased from Great Britain was greater than that for 1897. The Italian cloth coming to Japan from home shows higher value than in 1898, and the same is true of the iron and steel. Flannels show a great falling-off, but so they do also in the case of the material procured from Germany. English flannel is said to be finding more favour among the better classes of Japanese than that from any other country owing to its better quality and greater durability. Woollen cloths from Great Britain do not show any great falling-off, less in proportion than that from elsewhere, and have actually increased when compared with 1897. Machinery and engines of British manufacture were less in demand proportionately, but in the case of locomotive engines and railway carriages the decrease was less marked than that noticeable in the importation from the United States. The imports of iron, bar and rod, coming from Great Britain diminished by more than half, but while the decrease in the value of the rails also showed a large decline, the value of the rails taken from the United States, which was more than double that supplied by us in 1898, fell to little more than the same figures for 1899.

TRADE WITH CHINA.—China as a field for Japanese trade is more and more attracting the attention of the statesmen and merchants of Japan. Trade between the two countries has increased with rapidity since the war. The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha sent ten students across to the Continent to study questions connected with Chinese trade and the commercial conditions prevailing there, and is sending ten more this year. And there are many other indications of the intention of the Japanese to make commercial profit out of the opening up of the neighbouring Empire. Exports to China during 1899 were much larger than during 1898. Almost twice as much cotton yarn was exported thither, and cotton tissues, matches, European umbrellas, seaweeds, mushrooms, and coal all show an increase of no small extent.

DIRECT TRADE.—The question of direct trade between the home manufacturer and the Japanese consumer is constantly discussed, and demands careful consideration. Numerous inquiries are addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Legation by merchants and others at home desirous of opening up direct connection with Japanese purchasers in this country. The only reply that can be with safety returned is that no dealings should be had except with firms of whose financial integrity satisfactory assurance can be obtained. In Japan there are to be found a very large number of petty traders, without capital, whose idea of business is mere speculation, and who, in the event of failing to dispose of their purchases at a profit, are unable to meet their monetary obligations. Most of the firms regarding which inquiry is made are of recent origin and little is known about them even in the locality where they are situated. One of the leading Tokyo daily newspapers recently complained that, generally speaking, foreigners were able to obtain better accommodation at a certain Japanese bank than the Japanese merchants themselves, being allowed to do business on credit, whereas the latter were required to deposit full security. The inference is obvious.

The proportion of the trade in the hands of Japanese merchants is steadily rising. In 1898 the value of the goods imported and exported direct was not quite half of that of the imports and exports which passed through foreign hands; while the figures from the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1899, are:—Imports and exports by Japanese, £16,802,836. Imports and exports by foreigners, £27,167,609, which is a considerable increase in the case of the former and decrease in the case of the latter. The balance of the trade is represented by the Government imports.

Although there can be no doubt that the Japanese are actually getting more of the foreign trade into their own hands, yet the customs figures are apt to be deceptive, insomuch as large quantities of goods, nominally imported by Japanese firms in Tokyo and other places, are actually the imports of foreign firms brought into the country for convenience sake, in the name of Japanese merchants.

It must not be forgotten that the foreign population of Japan remains practically stationary, the increase since 1891 being under 500 persons. The latest returns of the foreign residents give the number as 4,718 (British, 1,763), exclusive of Chinese who number about 5,300. The Japanese population, according to the last census taken up to the end of 1898, consists of 44,733,379 souls, an increase of 754,884 compared with the previous year. The largest cities are:—Tokyo, 1,425,366; Osaka, 811,855.

SHIPPING.—In number of vessels and tonnage the Japanese mercantile marine is continuously growing. Statistics up to the end of September, 1899, the latest available, tell that there are 723 Japanese registered steamers, with a tonnage of 489,371 tons, and in addition 2,556 sailing ships, large and small, with a tonnage of 256,896 tons. The leading Japanese steamship companies showed great energy and enterprise during the year 1899.

The enterprise manifested by the Japanese in shipping matters brings into greater relief the apathy displayed by the British shipowners in these Far Eastern waters. Opportunities neglected by them have been taken advantage of by others more far-seeing and blessed with broader ideas and greater aims, though not nearly so well equipped for the purpose, either in money, means, or experience.

It has been mentioned several times in these reports that British steamers trading to Japan, *viâ* the Suez Canal, do not give such prompt and reliable service as foreign lines, and on this account the competition of the latter is much more successful than would otherwise be the case. It would seem as if the British shipowner preferred to sacrifice the interests of the cargo in general for the sake of gaining extra freight between ports *en route*, while the foreign shipowner looks at the matter from a wider point of view, and, instead of attempting to serve a variety of ports with satisfaction to none, devotes his attention to a more limited field, and thus gains the confidence and support of shippers. The result is seen in the fact that the Japanese and German lines, although

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carried on with vessels of practically the same type and speed as those of their British competitors, make the fastest and most regular voyages, and such is the preference now given to these lines that they could double their fleets and still secure all the cargo required.

It is regrettable that there is no British steamship company running direct mail and passenger steamers from England to Japan. Other things being more or less equal, British subjects would naturally give the preference to their own line, but as things are at present, the bulk of the passenger traffic between Great Britain and Japan, by way of India, goes to foreign lines, more particularly to those of Germany.

From the spring of 1900 the P. and O. Company are to improve their service from Japan to England, so that it will only be necessary for passengers to make one change, and that at Hongkong, instead of to change twice as heretofore.

German Shipping enterprise in the Far East was very marked in 1899. A new fortnightly direct service to Japan was inaugurated by the North German Lloyd Steamship Company on Oct. 4, and the *König Albert*, a vessel of 10,000 tons, the largest steamer that had ever entered a port in Japan, which reached Yokohama, the terminus of the line, in November, was the first ship placed on the run. The service between Hongkong, where passengers from Europe transhipped, and Japan had previously been monthly, and carried on by one small steamer. The *König Albert* represents the class of vessel by which the trade to these waters will eventually be entirely conducted. She is a distinct advance in size and accommodation upon any British vessel ever sent to the East, and with the advantage of a journey without change from Japan to Southampton the line is rapidly coming into favour with British passengers, who cannot secure anything approaching to similar accommodation on British steamers. All concerned in the management of the new line are using their best efforts to cater for British travellers, and unless our shipowners show themselves better able to keep up with the times they will before very long lose entirely their share in the traffic.

It is a noteworthy fact that while a few years ago British steamers carried a large proportion of the cargo from Antwerp and Hamburg to Japan, they have now almost wholly disappeared from that route.

The Hamburg-America Company is now well established, and maintains an excellent cargo service with European ports.

The shipping trade across the Pacific continues to develop. It has been subject to considerable interruptions on account of the regular vessels having been chartered as transports by the United States Government, but these have been replaced by other boats, and it is probable that the tonnage of goods carried over this route was greater in 1899 than ever before, and for some time the cargo offered was in excess of the carrying capacity of the vessels engaged in the trade. This expansion will undoubtedly continue, and, with the establishment of settled rule in the Philippines, there is ample prospect for the employment of much additional tonnage.

Russia was not idle in 1899 in the matter of the extension of her shipping. Russian vessels passing through Nagasaki *en route* to Port Arthur or Vladivostock disclosed a remarkable increase. The acquisition of Talienwan has had a great effect upon the development of Russian shipping.

The total number of vessels entered at Japanese ports coastwise and from foreign countries last year was 5,883, with a total tonnage of 8,295,531 tons, an increase compared with 1898 of 184 vessels, with a tonnage of 262,286 tons. The British share in the shipping trade was 40 per cent. of the total, but shows a large falling-off as compared with 1898. German shipping, while it increased towards the end of the year, displays a decrease on the whole, while that of France remains more or less stationary. Japanese shipping has grown by more than one-third, that of Russia shows a substantial augmentation, and the United States shipping was almost as large for the first half of 1899 as for the whole of the preceding year.

TAXATION.—The taxes which chiefly affect foreigners resident in or doing business with Japan are as follows:—The business tax which takes the form of a national business tax on value of merchandise sold, a national business tax on rental value of buildings for imports, a national business tax of 1 yen (2s.0½d.) per annum on each employé, and in addition a prefectural tax and also a city tax calculated on the basis of the above three taxes; and an income tax on net profits of business to which is added an additional city tax on the national income-tax. The city and prefectural taxes vary in different districts. Persons with a salary of 300 yen (£30 12s. 6d.) or over pay income tax. There is no tax on servants or labourers. Then there is the registration tax, which is as much as 2½ per cent. on registration of transfers of land on buildings, and there are stamp duties, and various local taxes. As a matter of course aliens in Japan are under the new régime subject to the same laws and must pay the same taxes except in so far as they are exempted by treaty, as Japanese subjects.

'KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE.—In spite of the widespread use of the English language in Japan, a knowledge of the Japanese language on the part of the foreigner doing business here is more necessary now than ever it was, and the necessity will be more and more apparent as time goes on. Hitherto, the majority of foreigners have conducted their dealings with Japanese in a foreign tongue, but since aliens have now passed under Japanese jurisdiction it is to their interest to be at least acquainted with the colloquial language of the country whose laws they must obey.

INCREASED COST OF LIVING.—Of the factors contributing to the continued increase in the cost of living in Japan, one of the chief is to be found in the ever-growing spending power of the middle and lower classes of the Japanese. A very considerable number of merchants and others have made money since the opening of the country to foreign trade, and more particularly since the war.

Farmers, too, are becoming more prosperous and feel able to indulge more largely in articles that are not necessaries; and the demand for luxuries among all ranks of the people becomes more apparent year by year. Living is more expensive for the people of the country, and the foreigner experiences the result in the enhanced cost of living in Japan for himself.

Taking the average of the market prices of commodities in December, 1899, we find that it is over 7 per cent. higher than it was in December, 1898. The foreign consumer found that during 1899 Japanese produce, such as vegetables, poultry, game, and eggs, was dearer than the year before. Butcher's meat, while it did not show much rise in price, is far above the prices prevailing in Shanghai, whence many of the foreign residents procure their supplies during the winter months in spite of having to pay freight and other charges. Servants' wages had gone up materially in 1899. One fact there is which strikes the foreign observer as curious, namely—that the Japanese to a very appreciable extent adopt a sliding scale of charges. It is noticeable, for example, that the foreigner who is in popular estimation not very well off can obtain goods at prices much lower than he who is supposed to occupy a much better position pecuniarily. In other words, the purchaser has frequently to pay a price calculated by the seller upon the basis of his supposed income.

RAILWAYS.—According to the latest statistics, those up to the end of the financial year ending March 31, 1899, 3,420 miles of railway were open to traffic, of which 768 miles were Government, and 2,652 miles of private lines. This is an increase during the year 107 miles of State and 342 miles of private railways, 449 miles in all. It is now possible to travel over 1,000 miles in Japan without break and one ticket, starting from Aomori in the north of the main island to Mitajiri on the Sanyo Railway, *viâ* Akabane, Shinagawa, and Kobe.

FIRE ON BOARD THE "TAMBA MARU."

[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

A fire broke out on board the *Tamba Maru* on the 12th of May, when about 50 miles from Penang. Oriental-like the engineers' storekeeper, a Japanese, was examining the tap of a kerosene oil tank with an oil lamp, when the oil spurted out over the lamp, and immediately the whole of the engine storeroom was in flames. The fire spread rapidly, rendering the stoke-hole and engine-room almost unbearable. The Japanese stokers cleared out at once, and no amount of persuasion could induce them to return to their work. The third engineer, a young Scotchman, Mr. Wallet, and the 5th, Mr. Hunt, of London, worked like Trojans, and it was mainly through their efforts that the fire was got under. They had to stoke the furnaces and attend to their fire hose with the fire raging round them, although in the confusion on deck somebody had covered up the stoke-hole and engine-room ventilators. With such men as these on board foreigners need never fear to take passage in the N.Y.K. boats. The storekeeper was enveloped in flames and would have been burnt to death, had not the 4th engineer, Mr. Wallace, with great presence of mind rolled him over and over, extinguishing the flames. As it was he was very severely burnt about the breast and arms.

At one time things seemed very ugly. Volumes of smoke poured out of the skylights, and some of the boats were swung out, and provisions were got ready in case of need. To make matters worse a heavy squall and mist came down on us, and when the fog whistle blew the vessel seemed to cry out like a thing in pain. The fire raged for about two hours, during which time 120 gallons of oil were consumed.

This is the third accident since the ship left Kobe. At Moji one of the ship's boats capsized with 20 sailors, happily with no loss of life. Near Singapore the starboard engine broke down, and now we have had a fire. One man remarked that as accidents generally go in threes we shall probably travel the remainder of our voyage in peace. But another and more experienced man said, "We are in the Lord's care and He will take care of all His bairns." With our bairns around us, we felt this to be the true position to take.

Altogether we have about 400 persons on board, including 250 Japanese bluejackets *en route* to St. Nazaire, to take charge of a new cruiser for the Japanese navy. They are all good fellows, and have behaved admirably throughout the voyages. During the fire they worked the pumps and swung out the boats, and if their officers had ordered them down to the stoke-hole they would have gone without hesitation. Their presence gave confidence to all on board.

JAS. WARE.

Penang, 13th May.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, June 2nd:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	17,541,875
Amount of convertible notes issued	193,798,123
Government deposits	63,767,616
General deposits	5,978,186
Exchange liability	35,915
Total	311,121,767
CR.	
Discount notes	66,499,693
Foreign discount notes	11,340,595
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	67,713,408
Exchange liability	2,312,029
Government bonds	54,041,226
Property	2,064,790
Bullion and Specie	85,030,022
Total	311,121,767

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	194,728,310
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	99,997,478
Silver	4,000,000
Total	83,999,478
Securities:—	
Government bonds	15,592,088
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,612,348
Commercial notes	61,526,256
Total	110,730,832

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	364,279
Silver	—	—
General loans	—	1,311,104
Government deposits	—	409,411
General deposits	—	181,162

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

KRUGER'S ESCAPE.

Shanghai, June 1.

The newspapers regard the war as over.

It is believed that President Kruger has escaped to Delagoa Bay.

JOHANNESBURG.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent, telegraphing from Lourenzo Marques, says that Johannesburg has surrendered, and that all the Boers have been dismissed from the forts at Pretoria.

CUTTING THE RAILWAY.

The British have reached Hatherley, thus cutting the railway between Pretoria and Delagoa Bay.

BRITISH PRISONERS.

The British prisoners remain at Waterval. There was no time to remove them.

THE OCCUPATION OF JOHANNESBUG.

Roberts telegraphs from Germiston on Wednesday night that at the urgent request of

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the Commandant of Johannesburg he deferred occupying the town for 24 hours, desiring to avoid disturbances inside the town, where there are many armed burghers. Moreover the enemy are holding the adjacent hills.

A SEVERE FIGHT.

Ian Hamilton yesterday fought a severe fight until dusk on the westward of Johannesburg. The Boers held a strongly entrenched position with heavy artillery and blocked the road. The Gordons cleared the kopjes with great gallantry.

Hamilton is now at Florida, on the westward of Johannesburg. Our troops occupy the heights on the north and south of the town.

BRITISH FLAG FLIES OVER JOHANNESBURG.

Roberts telegraphs from Johannesburg at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 31st that the troops have occupied the town and the British flag flies over the Government buildings.

PRINCES KANIN AND IWAKURA.

Prince Kanin was presented at the Yildiz Kiosk and received the Grand Cordon of the Osmanieh.

Prince Iwakura has received the Order of the Medjidieh. The Princes have proceeded to Vienna.

FIGHT AT KAALFONTEIN.

Shanghai, June 2.

There was fighting yesterday at Kaalfonten, midway between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

THE KAISER'S CONGRATULATIONS.

The Emperor of Germany has telegraphed his warmest congratulations to the Queen on the success of Lord Roberts.

THE SITUATION AT PRETORIA.

It is believed that the Pretoria telegrams representing the readiness of the Boers to surrender were perfectly accurate, but that the people in Pretoria were misinformed as to the course of events in Johannesburg, and thought that the British forces were nearer to Pretoria than they really were.

RUNDLE.

Rundle fought a severe action on the 29th May near Senekal. The results at nightfall were indecisive.

CAPTURE OF A LAAGER.

The Yeomany captured the rebel laager at Kheis in Griqualand West. Major Orr-Ewing and three men were killed, and three officers and seventeen men wounded.

RACING.

The result of the Oaks is La Roche (1), Merry Gal (2), and Lady Schomberg (3).

GRIQUALAND WEST.

Shanghai, June 3.

A thousand rebels surrounded and fiercely attacked 700 British under Warren at Faberspruit near Douglas. They were repulsed after severe fighting. The British loss was 15 killed and 30 wounded.

CAPE COLONY DISAFFECTION.

At the people's congress of 800 influential Dutch colonists in Graafreinet, violent anti-British speeches were made, and resolutions were adopted declaring that any interference of the Imperial Government in African affairs would be intolerable; that if the Republics were annexed, the country would never know peace and harmony again, and that the restoration of unqualified independence must be insisted on.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE AT HEILBRON.

Shanghai, May 3, 4.20 p.m.

The Highland Brigade arrived at Heilbron on the 29th, having been opposed all the way from Ventersburg. Its casualties were 8 men killed and 4 officers and 32 men wounded.

PRETORIA.

Telegrams from the Transvaal are stopped. The latest was that the Boers hold all the positions around Pretoria.

RUNDLE'S FIGHTING.

Reuter's agent, telegraphing from Winburg under date of the 31st May, says that Rundle's object on May 29th was to drive the enemy from Lindley, where 500 of the Yeomanry were isolated. His object was attained. The engagement was not a whole day affair, as previously stated. The Boers were posted on an elevated kopje. The Guards lost heavily in their attack owing to the accidental firing of the veldt by our own men, which made the khaki conspicuous. The Grenadiers had 33 killed and 98 wounded and the Scots 4 killed and 77 wounded.

LORD ROBERTS.

Shanghai, June 4.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Johannesburg on Friday, 1st June, that Wavell's brigade remains to preserve order in Johannesburg. The rest of the troops are encamped on the Pretoria road. The occupation of Johannesburg passed off satisfactorily, thanks to the excellent arrangements made by Commandant Krause. The officials consented to remain at their posts pending further arrangements.

NATAL.

The enemy are still at Laings Nek. A few Free-Staters guard the passes of the Drakensburg.

JOHANNESBURG.

Everything is quiet in Johannesburg. The people are surrendering their arms and ponies. Only three Boer guns are left in the fort.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

Shanghai, June 5.

Mahon's column from Mafeking is advancing to join hands with Hunter, whose exact whereabouts is uncertain. Hilyard, who recently occupied Utrecht, is advancing through difficult country with the view of turning Laing's Nek.

PRETORIA OCCUPIED.

London, 5th June, 12.04 p.m.

(Received, Yokohama, June 6, 8.52 a.m.)

Pretoria has been occupied by the British.

CONFIRMATION.

Shanghai, June 6.

Pretoria is occupied.

THE WAR.

According to the latest advices from Pretoria, *viâ* Lourenzo Marquez, the British invest Pretoria, and the burgomaster will surrender the city unresistingly as soon as a formal demand is made.

Colonel Mahon has effected a junction with General Hunter.

General Rundle has arrived at Hibernia and is now in touch with Brabant.

THE CAPTURE OF PRETORIA.

Lord Roberts' advance against Pretoria began at day-break on the 4th inst. After marching ten miles to Six-mile Spruit, stubborn resistance was encountered, but the Boers were eventually driven back towards Pretoria. Nightfall prevented pursuit and the British bivouacked on the ground gained. A later telegram says that Roberts made a triumphal entry into the town at two in the afternoon. Details have not been received. Enthusiasm has been caused throughout the empire by the capture of Pretoria. The scenes in London and elsewhere are similar to those that took place on the relief of Mafeking.

ASHANTI.

The absence of news from Ashanti causes uneasiness. Carter with 300 troops has left Fumsu to try to meet the Governor.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY CAPTURED.

Shanghai, June 7.

The 13th battalion Imperial Yeomanry have been overwhelmed by the Boers near Lindley. Lord Methuen made a magnificent march to rescue them but was too late.

THE SURRENDER OF PRETORIA.

Lord Roberts telegraphs from Pretoria under date of the 5th inst. that the surrender was unconditional. The fighting Boers retreated through the town.

MESDAMES KRUGER AND BOTHA.

Mesdames Botha and Kruger are both in Pretoria.

BRITISH PRISONERS.

The majority of the British prisoners are still at Waterval.

PRETORIA.

The chief civil officials met Field Marshal Roberts early in the morning, and stated their wish to surrender the town.

A few prisoners have been removed, but over 100 officers were in Pretoria.

PLUCKY BADEN-POWELL.

Major-General Baden-Powell has joined hands with General Hunter at Lichtenburg.

THE 13TH YEOMANRY AFFAIR.

The 13th Yeomanry consisted of three Irish companies under Col. Spragge. Apparently the majority of them surrendered.

(There is) a belief that Gen. Rundle's operations relieved them.

METHUEN'S ATTEMPTED RESCUE.

Lord Roberts reports that General Methuen attacked and completely routed between 2,000 and 3,000 Boers after a running fight of 5 hours, the troops having previously marched 44 miles in 25 hours.

BRABANT.

Brabant has twice routed the Boers to the north of Vicksburg. The enemy are now in the neighbourhood of Bethlehem and the British are closing around them.

THE BOXERS' OUTBREAK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, June 3.

A party of refugees from Paotingfu, consisting of British and American Missionaries and some Belgian engineers, have fought their way through the Boxers. They sustained a loss of four killed and four wounded. Armed volunteers are starting from Tientsin to meet them.

A CORRECTION.

Shanghai, June 4.

News has just been received from Tientsin that there were no missionaries among the refugees who fought their way through from Paoting-fu. Instead of four missionaries being killed, it appears that there are seven Belgians missing, and it is thought that they have been killed. Twenty-three arrived at Tientsin wounded, after awful suffering.

DISTURBED CHINA.

ENGLISHMAN MURDERED AND DISEMBOWELLED.

Shanghai, June 6.

The murders of the Revd. C. Robinson and the Revd. N. V. Norman, of the Church of England Mission at Yung-ching, are confirmed. The Rev. Mr. Robinson was disembowelled.

CHINESE MAGISTRATE FLEES.

The local magistrate has fled to Peking.

THE BOXERS GATHERING STRENGTH.

Antung Station has been burned, and the Boxers have surrounded Langfang.

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TRAIN SERVICE STOPPED.

There are no trains running on the line to Peking, as the drivers refuse to undertake the work without a foreign guard.

MORE MARINES LANDED.

The Powers are landing more marines.

DISTURBANCE IN THE PALACE.

A disturbance is reported to have taken place at the Palace in Peking.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

JOHANNESBURG.

Saigon, June 1.

At the request of the Commandant of Johannesburg, Field Marshal Roberts has delayed his entry into the town.

GENERAL DE GALLIFET.

Saigon, June 2.

The Chamber of Deputies, by a vote of 313 to 171, has postponed for a month the discussion of an interpellation as to the motives of the resignation of General de Gallifet, Minister of War.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The English have entered Johannesburg.

CHINA.

News from Tientsin says that, the Boxers having burned the railway station at Tengtai, 350 soldiers of various nationalities have been sent to Peking.

Saigon, June 3.

THE FRENCH SENATE.

The Senate is engaged discussing a project of amnesty for acts connected with the Dreyfus affair. The Prime Minister, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, supports the project and raises the question of confidence.

LABOUR TROUBLES IN FRANCE.

Saigon, June 5.

At Chalons-sur-Saône, in connexion with a strike of metal-workers, stones having been thrown at the gendarmes, the latter fired, with the result that one of the demonstrators was killed and three were wounded.

THE LABOUR TROUBLES IN FRANCE.

Saigon, June 6.

Two of the wounded at Chalons-sur-Saône have succumbed. Everything is quiet.

PRETORIA.

The English have taken possession of Pretoria. The official occupation took place on the 5th (?). There were sharp engagements round the town yesterday.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg 1	Sa. June 6
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru 2	Su. June 10
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 11
Hongkong.....	M. M. Co.	Laos 3	W. June 13
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	Th. June 14
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 4	Su. June 17
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	M. June 18
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	M. June 18
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 5	M. June 25
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. June 28
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Tu. July 3

1 Left Nagasaki on the 6th inst.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 7th inst.
3 Left Shanghai on the 8th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.
5 Left San Francisco on the 6th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. June 12
Hongkong.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	M. June 11
Hongkong.....	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. June 13
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakuai Maru	W. June 13
Canada, &c.....	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. June 15
Hongkong.....	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg	Sa. June 16
Hongkong.....	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	M. June 18
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	W. June 20
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Laos	F. June 22
Hongkong.....	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. June 26
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Su. June 30
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	W. July 4

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 475.

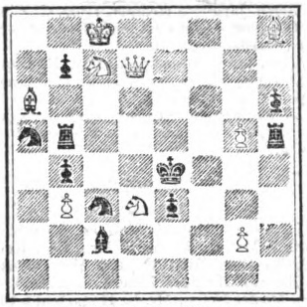
1. Q R2 — K Q4	2. Q Rsq, ch — K K3	3. Kt Q4, mate	
	2. ..... — B K5	3. Kt QB7, mate	
1. ..... — K B4	2. Q QB2 ch — K K3	3. Kt QB7, mate	
	2. ..... — QxQ, or interposes	3. Kt Q6, mate	
1. ..... — QxB	2. QxP, ch — K Q4	3. Kt B3, mate	
	2. ..... — B B4	3. Kt QB7, mate	

PROBLEM No. 477.

By C. V. BERRY.

First Prize *Reading Observer* Tourney.

Black—Ten Pieces.



White—Nine Pieces.

White mates in two moves.

We have received the following :—

2, Yayoicho, Hongo, Tokyo, June 3rd, 1900.

CHESS EDITOR "JAPAN MAIL."

PROBLEM 474.

Dear Sir,—The solution given to this problem in your issue of June 2nd, omits two important variations :—

White.	Black.
1—R to Kt 7	1—Kt to B 3
2—Q to B 4 ch	2—K must take Q
3—B to Q 2 mate	
	1—R takes B
2—R takes Kt	2—Any move
3—Q to K 5 mate	

Were these considered to be too obvious to require setting forth?

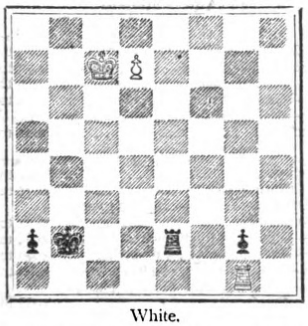
PATT.

CHESS IN TOKYO.

END GAME.

Mr. W. B. Mason sends us the following :—

Black.



White.

The above instructive position occurred recently in a game played in Tokyo, White giving the odds of Q Kt to his opponent. The game was drawn as follows :—

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—R takes P	1—R takes R
2—P to Q 8 (Queens)	2—P to R 8 (Queens)

3—Q to Q 4 ch., and draws by either perpetual check or winning the Rook. Black had winning chances by 2 R to B 7 ch. before Queening, but the temptation to Queen at once was great and the inevitable draw not at all evident.

GAME 596.

THE AUSTRALIAN OPENING.

In a recent match at the Melbourne Chess Club, Mr. C. G. Watson, a rising young player, and until recently the champion of Victoria, employed the Charlick Counter Gambit against Mr. J. E. Crewe, who will be remembered as competing in the major tourney of the Adelaide Jubilee Chess Congress of 1887. The result was an addition to the long list of successes achieved with this latest novelty in the openings. The defence has been tried by the champion, Lasker, Albin, in Vienna, Marshall, in the United States, with success, as well as by numerous players in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. Appended is the game in question, taken with notes from the *Australasian* of March 31 :—

Charlick Counter Gambit.

White—Mr. J. E. Crewe. Black—Mr. C. G. Watson

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to K 4
This is the innovation introduced by Mr. Charlick.	
2—P takes P	2—P to Q 8
3—P takes P	3—B takes P
4—P to Q Kt 3 (a)	4—Q to K B 3
5—P to Q B 3	5—B to K B 4
6—B to Q Kt 2	6—Kt to Q B 3
7—Kt to Q 2	7—Castles
8—P to K 4	8—B to K B 5
9—K Kt to K B 3	9—B to K Kt 5 (b)
10—Q to Q B 2	10—Kt to K 4
11—P to Q B 4	11—Kt to K 2
12—B to K 2	12—B takes Kt ch
13—Kt takes B	13—B takes B
14—K takes B	14—K Kt to Kt 3
15—B takes Kt	15—Kt takes B
16—Q R to Q	16—Q to K B 5
17—Kt to K B 3	17—Kt to Q 6
18—R takes Kt (c)	18—Q takes K P ch.
19—K to Q 2	19—R takes R ch.
20—K to B	20—K R to Q
21—R to K	21—Q to K B 5 ch.
22—K to Kt	22—K to K Kt 5
23—R to K 8	23—R takes R
24—Q takes R	24—Q to K 5
25—K to Q B 2	24—Q to K 7 ch.
26—Q to Q 2	26—Q to K B 8
27—Q to Q 3	27—R to K 7 ch
28—K to B 3	28—Q to Q B 8 ch.
29—K to Kt 4	29—R takes Q R P
30—Q to B 5 ch.	30—K to Kt
31—Q to Q 5	31—Q to R 6 ch. (d)
32—K to B 3	32—Q to Kt 7 ch.
33—K to Q 3	33—Q takes Q Kt P ch.
34—K to K 4	34—R to K 7 ch.
35—K to B 4	35—R to K
36—Kt to K 5	36—Q to Q B 6

At which stage time was called, and the game was adjudged to be a win for Black.

(a) Apparently not a good move.

(b) Undoubtedly 9 B takes K P would have been better.

(c) This loses the exchange. The only move to save the Pawn is 18 P to K 5, whereupon Black would have played 18 K R to K, threatening R takes K P ch., with a good attack.

(d) At this point Black should have played 31 P to Q B 4 ch. Then if 32 Q takes P, 32 Q to R 6 ch., winning Queen or forcing mate. If 32 Q takes P 32 R to R 4 ch., winning Queen. Lastly, if 32 K to Kt 5. 32 R to R 4 ch. : 33 K takes R, Q to R 6 ch. ; 34 K to Kt 5. Q to Kt 5 mate.

GAME 597.

(From *Modern Chess-Brilliancies.*)

GIUOCO PIANO.

White—Kölisch. Black—Paulsen.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	13 P Q6	PxP
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	14 Kt QB3	P QKt3
3 B B4	B B4	15 Kt Q5	Kt Kt2
4 Castles	Kt B3	16 B Kt2	Kt B4
5 P QKt4	BxP (a)	17 Q K3	Kt K3
6 P B3	B K2	18 Kt Q4(b)	B B3
7 P Q4	PxP	19 Kt QB6(c)	PxKt
8 PxP	K KtxP	20 KtxBch	PxKt
9 P Q5	Kt R4	21 Q R6	P Q4(d)
10 B Q3	Kt B4	22 BxP	Q Q3
11 B R3	KtxB	23 P KB4	R Ksq
12 QxKt	Castles	24 R KB3	Resigns.

(a) The game is now transposed into an Evans Gambit.

(b) The initial move of a grand combination.

(c) Extremely brilliant and also sound. Nothing can be finer than the sacrifice of both Knights and the subsequent play. If 19...Q to Ksq ; 20 Kt takes B ch., etc.

(d) If 21.., B to K B4 ; 22 B to B 6, followed by R to Ksq, winning.

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LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Dalny Vostock, Russian steamer, 2,265, Alex. Gove, 1st June,—Tacoma, Wash., 13th May, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 1st June,—Shanghai via ports, 26th May, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, J. Kennedy, 1st June,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 31st May, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Bowman B. Law, British barque, 1,359, Gullison, 2nd June,—New York, 14th Dec., Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 2nd June,—Hongkong vja Nagasaki and Kobe, 1st June, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 3rd June,—Yokkaichi, 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peacock (6), British gunboat, 750, Lieut.-Com. P. S. St. John, 2nd June.—Wei-hai-Wei.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 2nd June,—Kobe, 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 3rd June,—Otaru via ports, 1st May, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 3rd June,—Yokkaichi, 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Yoshizawa, 4th June,—Bombay via ports, and Kobe, 2nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lennox, U.S. Army Transport, 2,361, J. C. Williamson, 3rd June,—Manila via Nagasaki.

Futami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, James Thorn, 4th June,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, Kobe, 3rd June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, ———, 4th June,—Kobe, 2nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Fuji, 5th June,—Hakodate, 2nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Komoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, K. Shima, 5th June,—Kobe, 3rd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Nakajima, 5th June,—Yokkaichi, 4th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Antenor, British steamer, 3,327, M. H. T. Jackson, 5th June,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 4th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pascal (14), French cruiser, 3,990, Capt. Mattet, 5th June,—Kobe, 4th June.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 6th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 19th May, Mails & General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, Gordon, 6th June, —Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 5th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Royalist, British steamer, 2,024, S. Tierney, 6th June, —New York via ports, and Kobe, 5th June, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 6th June,—Otaru via ports, 1st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 7th June,—Kobe, 6th June, General.—C. P. R. Co.

Iki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, T. Sakai, 7th June,—Otaru via ports, 2nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 7th June,—Kobe, 5th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 7th June,—Yokkaichi, 6th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W.W. Greene, 1st June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jean Bart (10), French cruiser, 4,162, Capt. Aubin, 1st June,—Nagasaki.

Albatross, U.S. Fish Commission steamer, 638, Com. J. F. Moser, 2nd June,—Hakodate.

Ardandearg, British steamer, 2,090, Kinley, 2nd June,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Sachsen, Germean steamer, 3,119, G. Dannemann, 2nd June,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co.

Doric, British steamer, 2,936, Harry Smith, 2nd June, —San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 1,872, J. Kennedy, 2nd June,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General. —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,911, N. Trennt, 2nd June,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 2nd June, —Kobe, General.—C. P. R. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Nakajima, 3rd June,—Yokkachi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 3rd June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dalny Vostok, Russian steamer, 2,265, Alex. Gove. 2nd,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yosemite (10), U.S. cruiser, 6,179, Com. Seaton Schroeder, 4th June,—Nagasaki.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,526, Burmeister, 4th June,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Lennox, U.S. Army Transport, 2,361, J. C. Williamson, 4th June,—Portland, Oreg.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 4th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

S. P. Hitchcock, American ship, 2,086, E. V. Gates, 5th June—New York via Hongkong, Manganese Ore.—T. M. Laffin.

Albion, British steamer, 2,373, John Race, 5th June, —Moji, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 5th June,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 5th June,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer. 1,507, C. Christiansen, 6th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 6th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K, Nakajima, 6th June,—Yokkaichi, Geueral.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, from Shanghai via ports :—Mr. R. Damour, Mr. Alex. Kenmore, Miss A. E. Glen, Miss Forster, Mr. Douns, Mrs. Guise, Baron K. Iwasaki, Lieut.-Col. H. Ishii, Master N. Oba, Master Nagai, Mr. K. Haga, and 6 Chinese, in cabin ; 29, in steerage.

Per British steamer *Rosetta*, from Hongkong via ports :—Capt. and Mrs. Walker, Miss Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Star, Mr. N. Hill, Miss Splittgerber, and Mr. San Chick Kai, in cabin : 25 on deck.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mr. J. C. Bentz, Mr. J. Kajima, Mr. Basil Rhodes, Mr. K. Tsuboi, Mr. Frank, Mr. S. H. Perky, Miss Mabel Hyde, Mr. T. Mori, Mr. T. Saito, Mr. Y. Muroto, and Mrs. Y. Muroto, 3 children and 3 servants, in cabin. For Kobe :—Mr. H. Blackman, and Mrs. H. Blackman, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Mrs. H. L. Nason, Mrs. Tormey, Miss Tormey, Miss Tormey, Miss K. McIsaac, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Chang Yin Tung, Miss E. Townsend, Mrs. J. W. Heard and 5 children, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Things are still, except for a few small retail transactions, at a standstill in all lines.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARNS.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	$25.50 to 26.00
Indian Broach	24.50 to 25.00
Chinese	23.00

METALS.

No enquiry.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 to 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

There is little demand, and the market is weak.

American	$2.28
Russian	2.75
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	8.00 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

There is very little doing, buyers showing no eagerness for the poor stock of last year now left on hand. Prices are therefore nominal, but holders would probably accept less than the quotations given below. Reports as to the new silk are favourable, and indicate a crop considerably in excess of last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	Nominal
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	Nominal
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	940 to 950
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	875 to 885
Common—Coarse	Nominal
Re-reels—Extra	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1	890
Re-reels—No. 1½	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 2	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 3	Nominal
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1½	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 2½	Nominal

WASTE SILK.

There is practically nothing doing, and prices are nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	135 to 140
Noshi—Filatures, Goood	145 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	Nominal
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	Nominal
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	85 to 90
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	115 to 120
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	25 to 30
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	25 to 30

TEA.

There is not much demand at present for the highest grades, and consequently the quotations remain more or less nominal. From Common to Medium there is some advance. The results of the present season so far do not compare well with the corresponding period of last year. The total settlements for Yokohama are 82,828 piculs as against 106,455 last year. For the whole of Japan the total is 28,000 piculs less than last year. Prices are on the whole 10 per cent. higher, and with increased freight teas are laid down on the other side at one to two cents. advance.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	35 to 56
Choice	34
Finest	32
Fine	31
Good Medium	29
Medium	27
Good Common	26
Common	26

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 7.

Silver from London unaltered and discount slightly easier; local rates remain the same.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 7/8
— — Bills on demand	2/0 1/4
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 9/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4 @ 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 7/8 @ 15/16
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	260 1/2 @ 59 1/2
— — 6 months' sight	261 1/2 @ 61
America—Bank sight	49 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	50 3/4 @ 1/2
Germany—Bank sight	206 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74 1/8
— Private 10 days' sight	74 7/8
India—Bank sight	151 1/4
— Private 30 days' sight	153 1/2
Bar Silver (London) 2nd	27 5/8

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, June 7.

Breweries are steady at *yen* 160. Engine and Iron Works quiet at *yen* 217.50. Oriental Hotels—old shares are obtainable at *yen* 150. Langfeldts have sellers at *yen* 105. Helms are obtainable at *yen* 50. Laundries are offering at par. A few Bretts can be placed at *yen* 9.

Y. U. Club debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Marusan Breweries changed hands to-day at *yen* 40.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	217.50 St.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	160 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	85 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	150 Sa.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	500 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	40 S.
Oriental Hotel, preference shares, ¥25	40 S.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, June 7.

Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Offers are wanted for Langfeldts. Helms can be had at par. Oriental Hotel Founders shares can be had at *yen* 500. Old shares can be had at *yen* 150. New shares are obtainable at *yen* 40.

Kechan Gold Mines have buyers at $26.

	YEN.	
Yokohama E. & I. Works	220	Steady.
Grand Hotel	245	Sales.
Club Hotel	90	Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	150	Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	100	Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	160	Sales.

TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, June 6.

BANKS.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	$317 % prem.	S.
National Bank of China, Limited	27	Buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited	54	Buyers.
North China Insurance Company, Limited	Tls. 165	Buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	$295	Sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	80	Sellers.

SHIPPING.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited	30 1/2	Buyers.
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	50	Sellers.

MINING.

Pnnjom Mining Company, Limited	6 1/4	Sellers.
Raub A'lian Gold Mining Company, Limited	60	Sellers.

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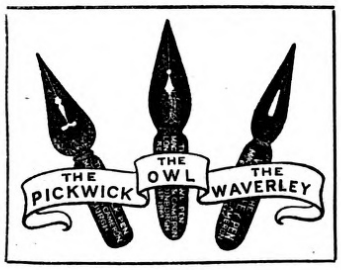

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

No. 24.] REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER. YOKOHAMA, JUNE 16TH, 1900. 明治卅三年五月十三日 認可通信者 [VOL. XXXIII.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1900.

BIRTH.

On the 12th June, at No. 3, Aoicho, Akasaka, Tokyo, the wife of H. S. BICKERTON BRINDLEY, of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

On May 7th, 1900, at 38, York Road, Tunbridge Wells, England, ALFRED JOHN WILKIN, late of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Yokohama.

At the Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, on Monday, May 14th, 1900, ALMEDA RUTH, beloved wife of J. O. Spencer.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Boers have evacuated Laing's Nek. Fighting continues north and east of Pretoria.

A FIRE broke out on the morning of the 9th inst. at Sapporo. A post office and thirteen houses were burnt.

ON the 3rd instant the Prince Imperial presented 3,000 *yen* to the three villages at Numazu as a contribution towards education expenses.

A FATAL case of plague having occurred on board the P. & O. steamer *Rosetta* while in Yokohama, the vessel has been placed in quarantine.

MADAME GASTARD, who fired several revolver shots at M. Francois on Friday week, has been admitted to the Yokohama General Hospital.

AT Pretoria at the end of May, Transvaal paper money was circulating at 80 per cent. discount. Becket's firm offered £1 in gold for £5 in paper.

THE *Daily Express* says it learns that Queen Victoria has definitely decided to spend six weeks of her holidays during the summer of 1901 in Ireland.

THE troubles in China are increasing. A Japanese Secretary of Legation has been murdered. All the Powers have handed marines. Russia has sent a very large force.

SHIRATORI GENJIRO, Proprietor of the *Nisseiro* (restaurant), of Otamachi Gochome, Yokohama, was arrested by the Isezakicho Police on the 7th instant on a charge of forging a seal.

AT the conclusion of General Sir George White's visit to Windsor the other day, Queen Victoria decorated the defender of Ladysmith with the cross and star of the Royal Victorian Order.

LAN CHAONG, compradore to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and a prominent member of the Hongkong Chinese commercial community, has succumbed to an attack of plague.

REPLYING to a question on the subject, in the House of Commons, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. R. W. Hanbury, said the cost of the war up to March 31st was $116,250,000.

ACCORDING to the *New South Wales Government Gazette*, the estimated population of New South Wales on Dec. 31, 1899, was 1,356,650—729,005 males and 627,645 females. This shows an increase of 12,010 persons from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1899.

THE British in the hands of the Boers at Pretoria learned by some extraordinary means of the British victories at Mafeking as soon as the Transvaal authorities, and built bonfires and sang "God Save the Queen."

THE East Siberian Syndicate (Limited) has been registered with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. The object is to prospect and explore, develop and work lands, mines, mineral ores, mining rights, and claims in any part of the world.

HATTORI, the employe of the Oriental Hotel, who was charged by the police with having acted as a guide to certain foreigners, though not possessing a guide's license, has been acquitted by the Ku Saibansho, owing to lack of evidence.

FIRE broke out at 2.20 a.m. on Saturday at the store house of Hosaka Torasuke, waste paper seller, 15, Fukutomicho Ichome, Yokohama. Nine houses were destroyed and eleven damaged. It is stated that the place was purposely set on fire.

THE Lourenzo Marques correspondent of the *Times* says that he has it on unquestionable authority that President Kruger has transferred the bulk of his property in the Transvaal to personal friends in order to avoid its confiscation by Great Britain.

THE long-distance telephone service will be extended as follows from the 1st July:—Between Tokyo and Nagoya, fee 2 *yen*; Yokohama and Nagoya, 0.95 *yen*; Nagoya-Otsu, 0.40 *yen*; Nagoya-Kyoto, 0.45 *yen*; Nagoya-Osaka, 0.55 *yen*; Nagoya-Sakai, 0.60 *yen*; Nagoya-Kobe, 0.65 *yen*.

IT is rumoured that the Prince of Wales contemplates a visit in the autumn to the West of Ireland. He will, it is believed, make a coasting tour in his yacht, and having touched at Belfast he will visit Sligo, Westport, and Galway, landing on Tory Island, Clare Island, Achill, and Arran on his way.

AN interesting subscription to the *Daily Telegraph* shilling fund for soldiers' widows and orphans is that sent from Shanghai, from "Three in a houseboat on the Yangtsze-Kiang, as a thank-offering for a delightful trip and for having escaped the perils of the Upper Yangtsze rapids." Two of the party were ladies.

A PROJECT is afloat to establish a tobacco company at Ninsen, Korea. Capitalists of the Kimura Gomei Kaisha intend to ask the Korean Imperial Household to invest 40,000 *yen*, they themselves furnishing a similar amount. Mr. Murakami is said to have been despatched for Korea in connection with the business.

STATISTICS of the Suez canal traffic for 1899, show receipts of $17,510,142, of which British steamers contributed $11,658,325; German and French follow with $1,627,351 and $1,100,610 respectively, American ships furnished $136,230. The total receipts are the greatest in the canal's history. The first year, 1870, they were but $838,791.

THE construction of the mint at Ryusan, Korea, has been completed, and trial workings are now being made. There is active competition for the privilege, the First Bank of Japan, and a capitalist named Umeuchi being among the applicants. The former has on hand 700,000 *yen* in $1 silver which is no longer legal tender in Japan, and naturally the Bank jumps at the opportunity of recoining this.

AT 11 o'clock on Sunday night two Russians entered a Nagasaki confectioner's and made away with the cash box. Early the next morning the same men, armed with knives, made their appearance in Saitamachi, where they met an old Japanese, from whom they obtained by threats the sum of *yen* 11. Later in the day the two men were arrested by the police. They are deserters from the battleship *Rurik*.

IT is said that Captain Lambton, of *Powerful* fame, is to be the successor to Vice-Admiral Sir John Fullerton as Commander of the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*. Captain Lambton was a favourite with the Prince and Princess of Wales long before the present war made him a popular favourite, and it was to him that the Princess of Wales addressed the telegram containing the now historic phrase, "Long live the handy man!"

THE Russian whaling steamer *Nicolai* (132 tons), which stranded on Saturday last off the north-eastern part of the Tsushima Island, was on her way to Nagasaki from a Korean port, having in tow a junk laden with whale-flesh. On receipt of the news the Russian steamer *Alexander* left Nagasaki on Sunday morning for the scene of the accident. The *Nicolai* was built at Christiania in 1895, and is owned by Count Henry Keyserling of Russia.

IT is estimated, says *Science Siftings*, that each cavalry man among the forces in South Africa will need four remounts during the year. A veteran officer, in referring to this point, says the hardiest and most effective cavalry forces the world ever saw were some of the Confederate squadrons in the American Civil War. Forrest's troop, harassing Sherman during the operations of the march to the sea, used up horses at the rate of 11 per man in 12 months.

AN amalgamation has taken place between the American Trading Company and Messrs. Flint, Eddy & Co. of New York, two of the most important general export mercantile companies in New York. The former Company has branches in England Germany, China and Japan, and the latter in South and Central American countries, Mexico, Australia, India and the Philippines. The combined value of exports from the United States in 1899 of these two Companies to various countries, was over fifty million *yen*.

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THE WAR.

Monday, June 11.

President Kruger is becoming quite farcical. He reminds us of Mr. Snodgrass, who, when the fight with the police had been handsomely finished by Sam Weller and others, took off his coat and announced that he was going to begin. One of the two South-African republics has been over-run by the British troops and annexed by the British Government. The capital of the other, as well as the only town of real importance, the town of the gold mines, have been captured. The Boers have been driven back from every position occupied by them and have been defeated in every one of their enterprises. Yet President Kruger announces that the real struggle is only now beginning. The wreck of all his high hopes and the succession of reverses his burghers have experienced have, perhaps, impaired the old man's reasoning powers. Otherwise he should surely see the foolishness of talking about commencing in earnest when nearly everything worth fighting for has been lost.

Tuesday, June 12.

Mr. Webster Davis, recently Assistant-Secretary of the Interior in the United States Government, paid a visit to South Africa and conceived a very strong respect and admiration for the Boers. His impression as to their right to be left independent was so strong that he resigned his official appointment in order to publicly plead their cause, which he has done, we are bound to say, in a manner rendered all the more effective by his carefully refraining from any of the abuse or sweeping accusation that disfigures the writings of most of the Boer partizans. But he has been exceedingly unfortunate. He contributed an essay to the *Independent* for May under the heading "The Boers must win." The essay saw the light just before the capture of Johannesburg and Pretoria, and these events have imparted a rather farcical character to the following prediction made in the course of Mr. Davis' article:—

> But the slaughter seen so far will be as nothing to that which would ensue before Pretoria could be taken. The Boers' capital is finely situated for defensive purpose, its fortifications are immensely strong, and it is provisioned for years. Moreover, all the Boer women who can possibly be spared from their homes will aid the men in the defence of the capital. They are fine markswomen, some as good as the men, and when I was in Pretoria they were practising every day with the rifle. A few of these women are in the trenches now.

Seldom has a prophecy been more unlucky. Almost before the sheets had left the press, Pretoria had fallen without a struggle. The only thing now to be said about the Boers is that their stout-hearted old President is keeping up appearances with dogged perseverance. When all is practically lost he announces that he is going to begin fighting. There are certainly some thousands of Boers that share their President's unflinching determination, and it is not impossible that these men, when they are brought finally to bay among the Lydenburg hills, may make a stubborn resistance. But we can not ignore the fact that ever since Cronje's surrender the Boers have not stood up once to repel a British attack. Paardeberg seems to have been their *coup de grâce*. Since then they have been merely proclaiming their intention of defending places, and have been abandoning them at the crucial moment. They have shown great skill in effecting rapid retreats without any loss of material, but their adroitness in that respect illustrates the fundamental fault of their fighting systems, namely, its limitation to defensive tactics. Their preparations for retreat are always complete; their preparations for attack are never effective. It does not pay to have troops go into battle with the conviction that everything is ready for getting out of it comfortably and safely. The Boers seem to have carried that conviction into all their fights, and it has made them emphatically weak-kneed. Ladysmith was their *magnum opus*. There they showed admirable tenacity, and their want of dash did not disfigure their operations conspicuously, since to reduce the town by starvation would have been quite as legitimate from a military point of view as to capture it by assault. But it is clear that the credit they achieved by safely moving away all their guns and troops from Ladysmith was not deserved, for had not the garrison been too much weakened to assume the offensive, the Boers would have suffered a crushing disaster in their retreat from the lines of siege. They doubtless felt a sense of intense relief when they found themselves beyond the reach of effective pursuit. But it seems as though the peril they then escaped so narrowly and the capture of Cronje's army greatly unnerved them. They have been thinking ever since of avoiding disaster for themselves rather than of inflicting it on their foes, and their fighting has shown a corresponding want of backbone. On the other hand, if that analysis be correct, their final stand in the Lydenburg region may be of a much higher order than their fighting during the past two months. With nothing to lose but their independence they may possibly fight a grim fight. We do not expect it, however. Pretoria appears to us to have been the crisis. The whole resources of the Transvaalers had been employed for years to render it impregnable, and nature had contributed fortifications which rendered the position almost ideal for defence. A few thousands of resolute men might have there defied the British army for months, unless Lord Roberts decided to make a ruthless sacrifice of life. With the examples of Ladysmith, of Kimberley, and of Mafeking before their eyes, the Boers should not have wanted encouragement to defend Pretoria. That they could not nerve themselves to make the effort does not suggest much obduracy among the Lydenburg hills.

Thursday, June 14.

The telegraph does not bring us any further particulars of the Roodeval catastrophe, and we must conclude that it is one of those incidents which will be only too likely to happen until the Boers are more effectually broken up. They themselves have hitherto managed to evade similar disasters, but their immunity has been purchased at the expense of fighting efficiency, for by invariably retreating before any serious risk was incurred, they have deprived their resistance of all strength. The British can not adopt similar tactics, even if they were disposed to do so. They have to guard nearly a thousand miles of communications, and they are always to be found at spots pretty clearly indicated by the nature of their duty. Therein lies the Boers' opportunity. They have at least one corps of some three thousand mounted men organised with a view to maximum mobility, carrying eight days' rations in their holsters, and capable of launching themselves, within three days, at any point of the British line of communications a hundred miles distant. They have with them two or three machine guns, and when they obtain information as to the whereabouts of a British detachment of infantry rendered immobile by the nature of its task, they can be tolerably sure of achieving a *coup*. The results, however, are paltry, for their mobility has been secured by rendering them temporarily independent of any fixed base, and it follows that even if they manage to throw themselves across the British line of communications, they can not stay there long enough to be a serious menace. Meanwhile, the time for such enterprises is rapidly drawing to a close. The fall of Harrismith and the opening of the Drakensberg passes will reduce the Boers to insignificant detachments, in the Free State at all events.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Saturday, June 9.

At length the Chinese Government has put it foot down resolutely, and the result is a crushing lesson for the Boxers. General Nieh—whom we all remember on account of the part he played in the war of 1894-5—is said to have attacked the insurgents in the neighbourhood of Lôba (?), killed 500 of them and burned five of their villages. Unless the figures are greatly exaggerated, such a *coup* ought to end the disturbance. Meanwhile the Foreign Powers have been adopting vigorous measures to protect the life and property of their nationals. Large forces have been landed by the united squadron. There is some difficulty in discovering the exact distribution of these marines—whether there are 525 in Tientsin and 345 in Peking, or whether the latter number is included in the former—, but it is at any rate certain that the British Admiral has put ashore an additional detachment of 180, and the Japanese Admiral, a further contingent of 28. The railway between Peking and Tientsin has also been re-opened to traffic, and, on the whole, it seems fair to say that the crisis is past. The Powers are evidently working in unison, and in the face of their combined action China will be powerless to resist a demand for just reparation, even supposing that she had any disposition to resist it, which we do not believe. The *Jiji Shimpo* urges that Japan ought to take the lead in recommending some combined representation which would have the effect of finally drawing China from her position of conservatism.

A copy of the decree issued on May 30th by the Empress-Dowager for the suppression of the Boxers, is published by the *N.-C. Daily News*, having been telegraphed to that journal from Peking:—

> We issued yesterday a special Decree concerning the Boxer outrages the day before and gave orders for their immediate suppression. Now the first thing of importance is to discover and capture the real leader and culprits and disperse their followers. At the present moment we learn that the people in the vicinity of Peking and Chihli province are getting excited and unsettled, hence if measures be not taken for the speedy suppression of the outbreak it will be difficult by-and-by to distinguish the really guilty from those who have been merely led by the excitement of the moment. It will be hard to root out those who have thus incited the ignorant country people. We hereby command Chu'ng Li (Imperial Clansman), Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie, the Governor of Peking, the Police Censor of the Five Cities of the Capital, and the Viceroy of Chihli as well as those holding military commands, to combine and arrest the real disturbers of the peace and all who heartily desire to commence a rebellion against the Government, and to punish all such to the severest extent of the law. Let there be no more shirking of responsibilities and delay or attempt at whitewashing the matter at a time like this, and if there be failure in obeying our commands the responsibility will rest on the said Ch'ung Li and the civil and military officials above noted; we are determined that there shall be no leniency this time. As for those persons who have been found merely to have followed in the wake of, and encouraged the rioters without actually joining in the riots, these also must be strictly warned from doing so again and immediately dispersed on pain of condign punishment.

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Monday, June 11.

Telegrams from Peking represent the British Minister as taking a very strong line. The Foreign Representatives had agreed to wait until Saturday, the 9th instant, before adopting any decided policy of active interference, but, in the meanwhile, Her Majesty's Minister, in obedience, doubtless, to instructions from London, sought audience of the Empress Dowager, and formally announced that, unless vigorous and effective means were immediately employed by the Chinese Authorities to quell the disturbance, the task would be undertaken by British troops. This intelligence is forwarded by the correspondent of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and we do not vouch for its correctness. A telegram to the *Asahi* says that the railway service between Peking and Tientsin is interrupted, and that no prospect exists of its being quickly restored. It that be true it is a serious matter, for the distance between the two places is 90 miles, and it is a matter of no small difficulty to move troops by road or river. The insurgents, meanwhile, seem to be pushing on steadily, so that the crushing defeat said to have been inflicted on them by General Nieh becomes rather apocryphal.

Tuesday, June 12.

It is evident that the Chinese Government has placed itself in a most embarrassing position by its curiously tolerant attitude towards the Boxers. Reports from Peking seem to indicate that a strong blow has at length been struck, that, in an engagement at some point between Peking and Tientsin, six hundred of the Boxers have been killed out of a force of about five thousand who opposed the Government's troops. This statement, however, requires confirmation. The engagement is represented as having taken place on the 7th instant, whereas several items of subsequent intelligence show the Foreign Representatives consulting as to the advisability of taking the law into their own hands, and inform us that the British, the Russian, the American, and the French Representatives have made independent announcements of their resolve to hold the Chinese Government responsible, and to make provision on their own account for the safety of their nationals' lives and property unless the Peking Authorities interfere immediately and effectually. It appears to us that all this activity on the part of the Foreign Representatives can not be reconciled with the allegation that General Nieh had already moved the Imperial forces against the insurgents and had inflicted a crushing blow on them. Moreover, news comes of further outrages; of the cutting of the Peking-Tientsin line; of the slaughter of native Christians—one account says twenty, another forty—, and of the burning of two churches. Whatever the Peking Government may now do, it will stand convicted of criminal negligence in the past. We can not imagine that it will show the extreme unwisdom of giving to foreigners a pretext for taking the law into their own hands. Probably the Tsung-li Yamên has hitherto regarded that contingency as quite remote. It has counted on cooperation as a necessary feature of foreign armed interference, and experience shows that cooperation for purposes of military activity is well nigh impossible to Occidental Powers in these days of inter-State rivalry. But a sudden change has come over the situation. Instead of struggling to disentangle the complications precedent to united action, the Powers have suddenly displayed a disposition to compete for the lead. By which of them the step was taken that induced this metamorphosis of attitude, there are as yet no means of certainly judging. But rumour lays the responsibility on Russia's shoulders. She is reported to have engaged in secret negotiations of some kind with the Chinese Government, while openly professing to be acting in loyal concert with the other Treaty Powers, and these latter consequently found it necessary to assert corresponding independence. Rumour, as moulded in British news factories, always takes a form disagreeable for Russia, always represents her as the villain in the play, waiting to be wicked whenever the opportunity offers. This last tale has to be received, therefore, with the greatest caution. But whatever may have been the train of circumstances leading up to the result, there can be no doubt about the fact that the Powers are now asserting their independent right of action, and China, if she still possesses any of the astuteness displayed by her in the past, must feel like the bird in the fable when it heard the farmer declare his intention of putting in the sickle on his own account. At the eleventh hour she will probably put forth her full strength—such as it is—and crush these insurgents. It will not matter to her that her own insouciance is largely responsible for the heavier penalty they will have to suffer. But it may matter very much to her if the ease with which she finally subdues the riots furnishes an index of the negligence she showed in not dealing with them earlier. She doubtless feels persuaded that, although the Powers may have been temporarily dissociated by rivalry, they will fall into line again when confronted by the question of concessions. In that she is probably right, provided always that she herself does the unaided work of crushing the insurrection. But if she once suffers a Foreign Power to take it in hand, a troublesome settlement will be in store for her.

There is a disposition on the part of some Japanese journalists to advocate stalwart action by this empire. Japan could embark a regiment—twenty-five hundred men—for the scene of the trouble within 24 hours, and she would thus be in an unquestionable position to take the lead in any operations that might seem necessary. We can well appreciate and sympathise with the feeling that dictates this course. To many Japanese the present occasion must seem uniquely adapted for utilizing the military energy which the country has been accumulating since 1895. Perhaps, too, the time has at last come when China must be either prised in her entirety from the groove of stagnation, or taken out of it by the process of disruption. We do not venture to express a definite opinion on that point, without knowledge of many things that are still obscure. But Japanese statesmen possess the required knowledge and will act on it, without displaying precipitancy which might expose the nation to damaging charges of restless ambition.

Wednesday, June 13.

It need scarcely be said that the state of affairs in China causes much uneasiness in Japan. Rumours of all kinds are received, but nothing appears to be quite certain except that the Chinese Government is behaving with extraordinary perfunctoriness; that the patience of the Foreign Representatives is well nigh exhausted, and that the combined squadrons at Taku have landed about a thousand men, of whom a considerable part have proceeded by train towards Peking, carrying tools and material to repair the railway. There is a rumour that the Government's troops have been signally defeated by the insurgents in the neighbourhood of a village called Yang, and there is also a rumour that General Nieh, who was said to have killed 600 of the Boxers, has been reprimanded by the Throne for excessive severity. Telegrams published by Japanese newspapers put the Boxers' total strength at eighty thousand, and say that the spirit of disaffection has spread to Chefoo and Newchwang. It is even asserted that there has been an attack on the foreign settlement at Chefoo, but no particulars are yet to hand. Admiral Seymour appears to have landed in Tientsin and assumed command of the operations on shore, and the *Terrible* is believed to be on her way from Hongkong, carrying a thousand troops supplied by the garrison of that place. There are, of course, many strange reports about Russia's doings. She is in a specially favourable position for despatching a strong force, since she has many thousands of troops in the Liaotung Peninsula who can be carried to Chihli either by rail or by ship in a very brief time. But there is no trustworthy indication that she contemplates any action independently of the other Treaty Powers. The Japanese Authorities are understood to have ordered the *Tokiwa*, the *Takasago*, the *Akitsushima*, and the *Yoshino* to rendezvous at once in Saseho, but we are unable to say whether these four ships are destined to reinforce the fleet at Taku. There is, however, a strong disposition on the part of Tokyo journals to urge the despatch of a considerable body of Japanese troops. Even the level-headed *Jiji Shimpo* thinks that further delay in this matter would be culpable; that China must now be considered to be without an efficient administration, and that, as the Foreign Powers are not at all likely to misconstrue Japan's action, she should take immediate advantage of her exceptional position by sending forward a substantial body of troops. Rumour says that the Tokyo Government has already taken preliminary steps, and that a mixed Brigade—about 4,000 men of all ranks and arms—has been warned to hold itself in readiness for immediate embarkation. Japan is naturally reluctant to take the lead in putting an extreme construction on China's attitude, but, on the other hand, this is an unique opportunity for her to come to the assistance of Occidental Powers in suppressing an insurrection which daily assumes more and more the complexion of an anti-foreign uprising, pure and simple. With scarcely any exception the objects of the insurgents' attacks have been Christian converts, the persons of foreigners, and the material evidences of foreign civilization. In any State claiming to possess ordinarily effective machinery for the preservation of order, strong measures to check these outrages and to punish their perpetrators would have been taken long ago. But the Chinese Government, with strange infatuation, stays its hand. It appears to be repeating the policy of culpable indifference that has been charged against Chinese local officials in almost every case of anti-foreign violence. In the present instance, however, the disgraceful performance is taking place under the very eyes of the Foreign Representives, who certainly can not act the part of passive spectators any longer. How the conduct of the Peking Authorities is to be explained we are unable to conceive. The only credible hypothesis is that they rely on the rivalries and jealousies of foreign Powers to save them from any serious consequences, and that the severest reparation likely to be exacted by Occidental States seems to them less formidable than the estrangement of the anti-progressive section of their own nationals. If that be the explanation, the gravity of the crisis can

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scarcely be over-estimated, for it is scarcely possible that Western States will hereafter entrust the duty of protecting the persons and properties of their nationals to a Government which has shown that it believes its tenure of power to depend upon placating its anti-foreign subjects.

The *North China Daily News* publishes the following telegram, received from Peking under date of June 5th:—

At a secret conclave of the Empress Dowager's principal advisers held at the Palace last night it was decided after a long discussion not to crush the Boxers, as they are really loyal to the dynasty and if properly armed can be turned into valuable auxiliaries of the army in opposing foreign aggression. Jung Lu and the Prince of Li were the only ones to oppose the measures, but were overruled by Prince Ching, the Prince of Tuan, (the Heir-Apparent's father,) Kang Yi, Ch'i Hsui, and Chao Shu-chiao. Wang Wen-shao was silent, while the Empress Dowager appeared to keep her own counsel. In the mean time the Boxers seem to be everywhere; hundreds are joining them daily and make no secret of it. The Manchus, without exception, are members of the society and openly flaunt the distinguishing badge of the organisation—a red girdle. The situation is hourly growing more critical, and, unless the Empress Dowager backs up Jung Lu, there can be no peace in the country. If the countryside rise up, the couple of thousand foreigners and their guards here will be but a mouthful to the 200,000 Boxers on the spot, without counting the Grand Army of the North.

Thursday, June 14.

The telegraph between Peking and Tientsin not being available at present, the news received from China is very unsatisfactory. It is impossible to tell whether the telegraph is really broken or whether the Chinese Authorities have decided not to allow it to be used. Naturally the latter view is taken by many people, but to us it appears that since the railway is interrupted, the probability of the telegraph's being left intact is very remote. At all events, since the 10th instant the Chinese capital has not been in telegraphic communication with the outer world, and inasmuch as none of the correspondents in Peking seems to have been able to organise a service by messenger, although the distance between Peking and Tientsin is only from 80 to 90 miles, we are practically without detailed news from the capital since the 10th. So far as Tientsin is concerned, the gist of the intelligence is that the Powers are landing marines and troops with all possible alacrity. Apparently some 600 men are stationed in Tientsin to guard the Settlement, and about as many more have set out for Peking, with the intention of repairing the railway as they proceed. Evidently that may be a very lengthy operation. The latest news goes to show that this force had not got farther than Hang-tung, which is about 15 miles north of Tientsin. It appears to us very unlikely that the Foreign Representatives in Peking are depending on such a slow process. They are doubtless causing troops to come independently by the river route, a comparatively easy matter at this time of year. The Peiho passes 16 miles to the eastward of Peking at Tungchow, and troops moving in touch with the river could readily use it for the conveyance of stores and baggage.

Concerning the progress of the insurrection, want of telegraphic facilities renders it impossible to speak with certainty, but there appears to be no doubt that the Chinese Authorities have not yet adopted any vigorous measures to restore order. The Boxers are said to have arrived at Makia-pu, which is within a few miles of Peking. The Lu-han Railway reaches the city from the West, the Tientsin Railway from the East, and between them is the road along which the Boxers seem to be advancing. If they have really got as far as Makia-pu, the capital is seriously menaced. Rumour puts their force at twenty thousand—another, evidently wild, report says eighty thousand—, and they are supposed to have a thousand adherents within the city. The crushing blow said to have been given to them by General Nieh, of Yashan memory, when he killed 600 of them, does not appear to have been crushing at all. Indeed rumour now alleges that Nieh is in collusion with the insurgents, and that the story of his victory over them was a deliberate invention for the purpose of deceiving foreigners. It is further alleged that the Governor of Shantung, Yuan Shikai, is also opposed to the Peking Authorities, but the probable grain of truth in that rumour is that the Governor condemns the treachery of the Empress Dowager and her advisers.

Treachery may seem a strong term, but we do not see that any other is applicable. The Peking Government is obviously swayed by the anti-foreign conservatives, and, while pretending to respect its treaty engagements, is not taking any effective step to protect the lives and properties of the subjects and citizens of the Treaty Powers. Tsêng, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, is said to have promised a reward of ten thousand taels to any one that would provide for the escape of 23 foreigners employed on the Lu-han Railway. These men seem to have effected their escape by their own resolution and promptness, but Tsêng's action offers, none the less, a remarkable contrast to the inaction of the Peking Authorities. A correspondent of one of our Tokyo contemporaries wires that some foreign ladies who have fled to Peking, and are living in the hotel there, do not know what fate has overtaken their husbands, and consequently pass the days and nights in a state of harrowing anxiety. Yet the Peking Government remains impassive. It appears to be afflicted with an access of the madness that precedes destruction. All the consequences of its inaction should be as palpable to it as they are to every onlooker; but it seems to ignore them.

The Japanese press is an unit in calling for strong measures. Japan has now four ships at Taku, the *Atago*, the *Suma*, the *Takasago*, and the *Kagero*. The last, being a torpedo-destroyer with small draft, can easily cross the bar at Taku and communicate with the railway station at Tong-ku on the eastern bank of the Peiho. Orders have also been given to the torpedo-depot ship, *Toyohashi* (4,120 tons; armament 8 quick-firers), to proceed at once from Saseho to Taku. But these measures by no means satisfy the newspapers. They want to have a strong military contingent despatched at once. They regard the occasion as one peremptorily calling for a resolute step on Japan's part, and they declare that such action could not be misconstrued, inasmuch as there is complete cooperation between all the Powers. We may mention here that no confirmation has been received from any Japanese source of the alleged landing of 4,000 Russian troops at Tientsin, or Peh-tai-ho, or Taku. The statement appears to us quite incredible. Our own telegrams speak of 400, which seems much more credible. Japanese journals are also unanimous in thinking that the Chinese Government has demonstrated its thorough incompetence and untrustworthiness, and that the time has come for foreign Powers to take the law into their own hands. Some of them hold that the only chance for China is to sweep away the rotten administration of the Manchus, and substitute the rule of enlightened Progressists. But our contemporaries do not indicate where such persons are to be found.

In an article entitled "The meaning of the Unrest in China," published by the *Spirit of Missions* for May, we find the following interesting remarks:—

But the Chinaman is naturally a tolerant human being; why, then, should he persecute the converts to Christianity? The idea that he regards them as traitors to religion and country is an explanation that does not explain. The fact seems to be that the Chinese convert acquires by conversion a certain superiority over his fellow-countrymen, which a good many of them are disposed to resent.

To find the reason for this it is necessary to refer to the peculiarities of the judicial system of China. As has frequently been pointed out, one of the first impressions that the foreigner receives, as missionary or merchant, in dealing with the people of the interior, is that of all people the Chinese are the most litigious. It is also, unfortunately, true that justice in China has its price, and that the result of a lawsuit may be determined either by the aid of money or of powerful friends. In rendering judgment in a court of justice, a Chinese official is undoubtedly swayed by the rank of the plaintiff or defendant who comes before him. He will think twice, as has been truly said, before giving judgment against a man who has relatives higher in rank then himself. His place having been purchased for the emoluments it brings him, and his tenure of it being dependent on the good-will of his superiors, he will naturally take heed not to antagonize those who can deprive him of his means of making a living. Among the obscure millions with whom a Chinese district magistrate has to deal there are probably few who have protectors powerful enough to be feared. But of late years there has emerged into the place of superior to the district magistrate—the missionary. His converts regard themselves as his protégés; they are not slow to claim his protection when they come in contact with public officers, judicial or otherwise, and thus a new order has been gradually growing up in China which a large section of the people regard as subversive of their individual rights.

It is said by a dispassionate observer on the spot, from whom we have already quoted, that in some of the Protestant missionary stations almost the first inquiry made of every convert is whether he has a lawsuit at the yamen, and if he has the man is quietly advised to agree with his adversary as the only sure means of being received as a candidate for Church membership. It is also alleged as being part of the popular belief that large numbers of the converts to the Roman Catholic faith have entered the Church in order to obtain aid in lawsuits. It should be noted that missionaries of the Catholic faith have recently acquired this advantage over their Protestant coworkers of being accorded by imperial decree the privileges of officials, so far as their relations with the mandarins are concerned. That is to say, a Roman Catholic priest can demand an audience from a mandarin in virtue of his rank, and not merely on the score of his religious profession. It is said that when calling upon Protestant missionaries the announcement of the arrival of a Roman Catholic by his attendants is in some such phrase as "The great man has come; be quick and announce his arrival."

The murder of the two Jesuit priests in Shantung, which furnished the occasion for the intervention of Germany and the seizure of Kiaochou bay, is now known to have been the result of this supposed preference before the law enjoyed by the Christian converts. It was not these who were the intended victims, but the old priest at whose house they stayed for the night, and who had enraged a rich man by conducting the lawsuit of a Roman Catholic against him. The dissatisfaction due to such causes is undoubtedly the main element of the anti-Christian movement in Shantung and Chihli. That it could be promptly quelled by the authorities does not admit of question, but that it is liable at any moment to reappear when the pressure of authority is removed is equally beyond doubt. It is an extremely difficult problem to settle in any way satisfactory to both sides. As the authority already cited puts one view of the case: "The Chinese have the instincts of a democracy, and though accustomed to endure great injustice from their fellow-countrymen, it has been noted again and again hat, while they are thus patient, at the same time hey are the most impatient of people when new burdens are placed upon them."

But why should the Christian convert be supposed to acquire immunities which are felt as a burden by his fellow-citizens, or why should Chinamen be tempted to embrace Christianity for the purpose of acquiring a standing in the courts of law which they did not possess before? The missionary, who is the pioneer of all progress in China, may surely be trusted to find some way of accommodating himself to the stubborn, because long-settled, prepossessions of the people among whom he lives. If there be missionaries who indulge too great an ambition for political power, they cannot be too soon reminded that the entire structure of foreign influence in China may easily be imperilled by inconsiderate aggressiveness.

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Friday, June 15.

News comes from Peking that Mr. Sugiyama Hin, a student interpreter of the Japanese Legation, was assassinated by soldiers under the command of General Tung Fuhtsiang outside the Yung-ting gate of Peking. There are no particulars, but it is known that General Tung is one of those supposed to have been charged with the duty of suppressing the Boxers. Mr. Sugiyama had proceeded to the Yung-ting gate for the purpose of meeting the contingent of marines sent up from *Suma*.

Japan has already four ships at Taku—the *Atago*, the *Suma*, the *Kagero*, and the *Kasagi*. A fifth, the *Toyohashi*, left Saseho for the same place on the 12th inst. The *Toyohashi* seems to have been sent chiefly as a transport. She carried 300 marines belonging to the *Kasagi*, which had left without her full complement. Orders have now been given for the *Chin-pen* and *Chin-chu* to proceed to Taku. These are two gunboats of 450 tons, which are among the ships taken from China in the war. They are specially suited for river service. It is a somewhat dramatic incident that vessels captured from China should be seen in her waters for such a purpose. Another cruiser is said to be under orders for Taku. If that be the case, the Japanese flag will soon be represented by 8 vessels.

It appears pretty certain that Russia has landed 2,000 troops at Tong-ku—that is to say, at the mouth of the Peiho. There is a rumour that a thousand British soldiers from Hongkong have also landed, but although this story has now been twice wired, we are disposed to doubt it. Had such a heavy draft been made on the Hongkong garrison, the fact would certainly have been foreshadowed in some of the journals of that colony, but although we have received their issues up to the 5th instant, there is no word of anything of the kind. Russia's activity is doubtless well intentioned, but we are much mistaken unless its indirect significance elicits general comment. She has offered a practical demonstration of the facilities that the possession of Port Arthur confers on her for organizing an invasion of Chihli, if she be so disposed. Not untruly did she join France and Germany in warning the Japanese off the Liaotung Peninsula, on the plea that their presence there would be a menace to the security of the Chinese Capital. So far as the mere movement of troops is concerned, Peking lies at Russia's mercy, since she holds Liaotung. She has now shown what her position means. There is however, one reservation. Without the command of the sea Russia could not act in a time of war as she is now acting. She would have to move her forces round the northern coast of the Gulf of Petchili. We do not mean to accuse her of any sinister designs. These are obvious reflections.

There has been a collision between the foreign troops and the insurgents, though some doubt exists as to the actual locality. One account says Loh-fah, which is a station on the Tientsin-Peking Railway; another mentions Lang-fang, which is a town to the north-west of Loh-fah. But the two places are so close to each other that we may at least assume their neighbourhood to have been the scene of the contest. Its result was the shooting of some 50 Boxers without any casualties whatever on the foreign side. It would not, perhaps, be right to infer that the Boxers are a mere helpless mob, for those at Lang-fang may be very different from the main body, of whom we last heard at Ma-kia-pu, in the environs of Peking. Yet we do not imagine that the Boxers could make the smallest stand against Occidental or Japanese troops. The sooner a fight occurs, the better. Meanwhile there are rumours that the Ko-lao-hui have thrown in their lot with the insurgents, and that all those hostile to the Manchu Government are likely to adopt the same course. If that prove to be the case, things may become seriously complicated, for the Foreign Powers will then find themselves virtually supporting the Government against rebels with whom they accuse it of sympathising. There is an obvious contradiction, however, in supposing that enemies of the Manchu dynasty are likely to unite with the Boxers.

Mr. Hoshi Toru has an article over his own name in the *Jimmin*. Arguing from the experiences of the European Powers in Crete and elsewhere, he contends that united action is out of the question, and that the best plan is for each Power to proceed independently on purely defensive lines. In other words, he would have each Power guard its own nationals, and await developments, as England and France did in Japan thirty-five years ago.

On the whole the Japanese press favours a strictly cooperative policy, but there is an evident disposition to advocate the despatch of a strong military force.

The *North China Daily News* prints the following Imperial decree, which is dated at Peking, June 6th :—

The Western religion has existed and been disseminated throughout China for many years, while those who disseminated it have done nothing except to exhort people to do good. Moreover, converts to the religion have never, under the protection of religion, raised up disturbances: hence converts and the people at large have always remained at peace with one another, each going his own way without let or hindrance. Of late years, however, with the constant increase of Western churches throughout the country and the consequent overwhelming numbers of converts joining them, men of evil character have stealthily gained a footing into their ranks, making it difficult, under the circumstances, for missionaries to distinguish the good from the bad amongst the converts. Taking advantage of this, these evil characters have accordingly, under the guise of being Christians, harassed the common people and bullied the countryside; but we are of opinion, however, that, perhaps, such a condition of affairs cannot have been viewed with favour by the Missionaries themselves. As to the Iho-Ch'uan (Patriots and Champions of Peace) Society, this organisation was first prohibited during the reign of the Emperor Chia Ch'ing (1795/1820). Owing, however, to the fact that of late the members of this Society simply trained themselves for purposes of self-protection and to defend their homes and villages from attack, and moreover because they had abstained from creating trouble We [did not issue our ban of prohibition according to precedent but] merely sent repeated instructions to the local authorities concerned to keep a proper restraint on the movements of the Society. We pointed out to the said authorities that the present was not a question of whether these people were Society-men or not, but that the point was whether, being banded together, their object was to create trouble in the country or not. If, then, the Society-men should indeed rise up and break the peace it should be the duty of the authorities to make a strict search for the law-breakers and punish them according to law. Whoever these parties may be, whether Christians or Society-men, the Throne makes no difference in its treatment of them, for they are all the subjects (children) of the Empire. Moreover, even in cases of litigation between Christans and the common people our instructions have ever been that the authorities settle them according to the rights of the matter, no favour being allowed to be shown to either party. It transpires, however, that our commands have of late years never been obeyed. The officials of the various prefectures, sub-prefectures, departments, and districts have been proved to have neglected their duties: they have neither acted in friendly conjunction with the missionaries, sympathised with the people under them in their difficulties, nor settled litigation in the spirit of impartiality, and the consequence has been that those concerned began to hate one another, the enmity becoming deeper and deeper as occasions for ill-will multiplied. On account of this, therefore, we now find the members of the Iho-Ch'uan Society banding themselves together as village militia and declaring war against the Christians. In the meantime, we find discontented spirits in conjunction with lawless ruffians joining in the movement for their own ends; riots are the order of the day; railways are destroyed and churches are burnt down. Now the railways were constructed by, and are the property of, the Government, whilst churches were built by the missionaries and their converts for their own occupation. Do these Society-men and others then think that they will be allowed to destroy and burn at their own sweet will? In thus running riot these people are simply opposing themselves to the Government. This is really beyond reason. We, therefore, appointed Chao Shu-ch'iao, Grand Councillor and Governor Adjunct of Peking, to proceed yesterday as our Imperial Commissioner to restore peace and to call upon the people and Society-men to immediately disband and return each man to his own avocations and daily work. Should traitors and revolutionary Society-men try to stir up the people to rise up and pillage and destroy the countryside, we hereby call upon the Iho-Ch'uan people to hand over to the authorities the ringleaders for punishment according to the laws of the land. Should any be so misguided as to persist in disobeying these our commands they shall be treated as rebels, and we hereby warn them that when the Grand Army arrives, their fathers, mothers, wives, and children will be separated from one another and scattered, their homes destroyed and they themselves slain. They will also bring upon themselves the stigma of disloyalty and of being false to their country, for it will then be too late to repent. Our heart is filled with pity when we think of the retribution that will then overwhelm our people. We, therefore, hereby declare that if, after this warning, should there be still any who refuse to obey our commands, we will immediately order the Generalissimo, Jung Lu, to send Generals Tung Fu-hsiang (Kansu Corps,) Sung Ch'ing and Ma Yü-k'un (Szech'uan Corps,) with their commands to punish these rebels and to disperse them. Finally, in sending troops out the primary purpose is to protect the law-abiding people; but we now hear that those sent out by the Chihli provincial authorities have not only failed in affording such protection and restraining evil characters, but, on the contrary, have themselves been guilty of preying upon the countryside. We now hereby command Yü Lu, Viceroy of Chihli, to investigate this matter at once, and also to send trusty deputies to make secret investigations. If it be found that these military officials have indeed been guilty of encouraging their men to loot and pillage, such guilty officers are to be summarily executed. There must be no leniency or mercy shown to such. Let this our decree be copied out on yellow paper and posted through the country as warning to people and army, and that all may know our commands.

Note :—It will be seen from the above decree that, even at this late hour, the advisers of the Empress Dowager are still intent upon screening the so-called "Boxers," making out the recent outrages to have been made by "militia men, traitors, and revolutionary Society-men."—Translator.

AN ICHANG EXILE'S PRAYER.

(*After the Tragedy and Subsequent Farce at Sungpu.*)

Because, oh Lord, there is none other way
Whereby we may escape these evil days,
Because we are as jetsam on the strand,
Forgotten of our country and our kin,
We, who join East to West, the pioneers
Of many better days that are to be :—
Because we, ever toiling overseas,
We who have sold our heritage, our all,
Excepting certain ancient chartered rights
To breathe Thine air and tread the common earth;
Now see these rights invaded day by day
By the encroaching tide of pagan wiles,
Of native insolence and savagery:
Because the distant fate of Margary
Is coming ever nearer to our doors,
And deeds which once had set the world ablaze,
Ay, even to the starting of Crusades,
Are looked upon as commonplace and trite;
Because a murdered Christian does not bring,
As did with Rome's proud citizens of old,
Swift-footed vengeance on the slayers' track,
But is atoned for by official lies
And certain hideous payments of sycee,
Which, on a rapidly descending scale,
Will soon attain that meagre estimate
At which they quoted sparrows long ago:
Because we know not whose it next shall be
To guard his home against the howling mob,
To be the victim of their fierce attack,
And then of mild, politely-penned despatch,
To leave his mangled carcase in the street,
With face uncovered, while the Consul sits
In some Viceregal Yamên, over tea,
Assessing the small value of the dead:

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And last, because the sacredness of life
Rests on nice points of quality and clothes:
Therefore it is, oh! Lord, that now we pray,
When next the rabble moves to deeds of blood.
Let not the pillage or the slaughter be
Of Customs hireling or of merchant churl,
Or humble missionary, glad to gain
Exit from trouble to a martyr's crown,
But rather grant, when the incited mob,
Like unleashed blood bound, seeks its nearest prey,
That it may find obtrusive on its path
Some personage important to the state,
Or high official representative,
Some travelling faddist, potent in the press,
Or information-gathering M.P.,
Some Anti-Opium League authority,
Aristocratic trotter of the Globe,
Or human atom authorised to wear
Gold lace upon the edges of his clothes,
Upon whose taking off there shall ensue
The steady tramp of solid infantry
And inexpensive Chinese funerals;
That, with the thunder of artillery,
And sack of goodly cities, there may be
Restored again that wholesome deference,
That usual and necessary respect
Which, from the Asiatic, is our due—
And thus, from evil, shall arise great good.

—TUNG CHIA, in "Lays and Relays."

VERY RABID.

From time to time—though now very rarely, it must be admitted—the local foreign press extends the hospitality of its columns to correspondence betraying the extraordinary anti-Japanese feeling that exists among a section of the residents at the treaty ports. The most flagrant case of the kind that has ever come under our notice is that of a letter appearing in the *China Mail* of June 5th. It is such a remarkably rabid document that we reproduce it as a curiosity, since no *résumé* could do it justice:—

A COAST PORT VIEW.

Those in the Coast Ports who have had dealings with the Japanese are astounded at the tone adopted by the Hongkong press in reference to the present political situation as regards Russia *vis-à-vis* Japan, and the pro-Japanese feeling is unaccountable in the face of facts. The whole tendency of the Japanese has been anti-English so far as British interests in the Far East are concerned, and so long as Russia keeps away from India and its frontiers, their so-called aggression in China and Korea should be regarded with equanimity rather than alarm, and if only there were half-a-dozen English even alive who really understood the situation, the cry would be for an alliance with Russia in her forward work and let Japan relapse into the condition of semi-barbarism, that in reality she has shown herself quite unfit to emerge from. Taking the situation as it stands to-day, in what shape or form has Japan shown England any sign of 'the open door' more than Russia would or will do? On the contrary she has nigh ruined herself in subsidies to corporations created with the intention of ruining British trade—she has borrowed English money to squander in fighting the English Mercantile flag—she has befooled Great Britain into allowing the cession of Ports and Islands opened to British Trade by British blood and developed by British money. Take Formosa, where she rides rough-shod over every article of her Treaty with the Foreign Powers. A corrupt gang of Officials are allowed to place differential duties, taxes, and burthens against British Commerce. Any Chinaman daring to ship, or travel, is subjected to squeeze and extortion if he ship by any other than a Japanese Government subsidized line. Justice for Britishers in Japanese Courts is absolutely unobtainable. No respectable Chinaman dare enter into Foreign employ for fear of being cast into gaol and kept for weeks without trial and with a fair chance of penal servitude for life if convicted of the crime of being a British employee. British graveyards have been desecrated and Foreign life and property are far more insecure than they were under Chinese rule, and this without any protest from our country's representative, and for why? because forsooth, as they state to the home Government, 'Japan will be a useful ally against Russia,' British trade and honour can be ruined and dragged through the mud, and her Treaties disregarded by Japan simply because we fear or don't understand Russia, and Russian motives. Misled by weak and befooled representatives England elects to let Japan be her ally, and what an ally. Her performances show.

The answer to this usually is 'See how Japan beat China; she must be a great country.' Those who really know and were really there reply—Japan beat China by borrowing European money and bribing Chinese Viceroys with it. No battle worth mentioning was really won in open field and they fought only against forces paid to be traitors or who became traitors to their country from lack of pay. Their glorious exploits on land were purely and simply confined to the massacre of villagers defending their homes. Imperial troops were paid to run away by an agreement with Pekin. At sea it was only an order from a highly-bribed Viceroy that prevented poor Admiral Ting from saving his fleet at Yah-Loo, which fight has passed into history and has been adopted in Europe as a glorious Naval victory on the part of the Japanese! and this also partly accounts for the present howl that "Japan is England's invaluable ally.' It will be remembered that poor dear Lord Wolseley formed the same idea of China, and perhaps he was not so far wrong as our present advisers *in re* Japan are. These facts are known to those in contact with Japan as she is—they know further that she is rotten to the core, and on the eve of a vast Rebellion—that she is anti-English and anti-American to the backbone, yet in order to gain her alliance we are prepared to let her possess, and, have let her possess, to the exclusion of British Trade, ports in Formosa and China opened by loss of British life and given up to Japanese occupation, maintained and developed by British capital and enterprise. What the Britisher in China proper desires is that England and Russia should work hand in hand, and after their experience of Japan and its ways that these two great powers should reduce that country to its proper level amongst nations and open her doors to foreign commerce by a distinct mutual understanding just as their desire is that by helping the Patriotic party they can open the doors of China to the world and so create a Far East, unannexed but happy and prosperous in itself. England, Russia, and America working in concord could create a Far East that would cause happiness and prosperity to be the lot of millions. To make individual entangling alliances with barbarians or semi-barbarians is not the way to advance that great cause of progress which the history of the ages shows us is, undoubtedly, the mission of Russia and the western nations.

So far as commerce is concerned Japan has shown her hand and it is more anti-British than ever Russia, if properly approached, could be. So far as British trading interests are concerned take a trip to Formosa and see how they have been shattered under the Japanese regime, or journey to Japan and look under the veneer there.

The *China Mail*, by way of preface to this wonderful diatribe, says:—"There appears to be much feeling in the coast ports at the attitude adopted by Japanese officials and merchants towards the other residents," and adds that "a very painful impression has been produced by the practically wholesale desecration of the graves in the cemetery at Takow." "It is quite evident," says our contemporary, "that this work has been done by Japanese, for it is well-known that the Chinese here would never proceed to such extremities." The *China Mail* fails to perceive the comicality of that assertion; fails to perceive that it is simply a reflection of its own prejudice. As between the Japanese and the Chinese, no sane man could hesitate for a moment to determine on which side anti-foreign sentiment exists, but no sooner is an act of sacrilege committed in a foreign graveyard than the *China Mail* unhesitatingly acquits the Chinese and condemns the Japanese. "The dislike of Japanese, almost amounting to hatred, to foreigners in Formosa has long been noticed," it observes, "and has apparently culminated in an act which will cause universal condemnation." These are the Hongkong journal's excuses for publishing the letter quoted above; a letter teeming with falsehoods from beginning to end and breathing a spirit of rabid antipathy to everything Japanese. We have been readers of the Japanese press for thirty years, and never have we seen any letter or article which could compare even remotely with the *China Mail's* correspondent in point of virulent animosity. We do not propose to dignify it by dealing separately with its wonderful sillinesses, which culminate in the assertion that "Japan beat China by borrowing European money and bribing Chinese Viceroys with it." What we wish to point out is that when correspondents who pen such documents, and newspapers which gravely publish them, venture to charge the Japanese with being anti-British or anti-foreign, they display almost incredible blindness, for their own fierce animosity throws into the shade any prejudice displayed by the Japanese against foreigners during the past thirty years, and is eminently calculated to provoke the very sentiment of which they complain. It is wholly impossible that international friendship, or anything approximating international friendship, can ever exist, so long as vindictive and unscrupulous slanderers like the *China Mail's* correspondent find newspapers to publish and endorse their false libels. The incident is specially regrettable in the face of the remarkable sympathy shown by the Japanese press towards Great Britain throughout the whole course of the South-African war.

KOREA AND JAPAN.

Saturday, June 9.

The refusal of the Korean Emperor to give audience to the Japanese Representative pending the settlement of the An-Kwŏn affair, naturally causes much umbrage in this country. It is a singularly defiant measure for any Power to adopt. Indeed, unless it can be justified by some very convincing explanation, it amounts to an official announcement of severed relations, which is only one step removed from a declaration of war. Korea may claim that her manner of dealing with criminals among her own subjects concerns herself alone, and that no foreign Power has any right to interfere. But that plea does not hold good in the face of the fact that the Emperor had given a distinct pledge with respect to the treatment of An. His Majesty, from the moment that he gave such a pledge, conferred on Japan an unquestionable right to watch An's case and discharge towards him the duties of an *amicus curiæ*. Thus the refusal of the monarch to receive Mr. Hayashi amounts virtually to an insult and demands very resolute treatment at Japan's hands. It may be urged, perhaps, that Japan is not separated by a very long interval from the time when criminals were put to torture in her own courts of law, and that, consequently, it does not become her to interfere in this matter. We can not see that any value attaches to such an argument. Who can undertake to fix the limits of time in such affairs, or to declare how many years a nation must spend in repentance and well-doing before it becomes qualified to be a propagandist of the reforms it has embraced? One might as justly pretend that because a man had once been addicted to alcohol he is permanently unfitted to preach the advantages of temperance. Japan is the Eastern pioneer of Western civilization, and if she does not act that rôle resolutely, she will lay herself open to the suspicion of half-hearted conversion.

No one imagines, of course, that Korea has adopted a stalwart attitude of her own motion. She is obviously obeying the prompting of some other Power, and the plain belief among the Japanese is that Russia is that Power. The *Yomiuri Shimbun* shows its conviction very distinctly. It urges that there can never be real peace between Japan and Russia unless the Korean problem is radically solved; that Korea can never be led into the path of progress so long as she finds a conservative refuge in

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the rivalries of neighbouring empires, and that the only practically effective course is to place her definitely under the tutelage of one or other of the rival States. Naturally Japan is the one that commends itself to our contemporary, and a most unequivocal assertion is made that if Russia consented to give Japan a free hand in Korea, Japan should refrain from all interference with Russia's doings in North China, so that the two Powers must thus tranquilly work out their civilizing mission. We make no comment on the general principle here at stake, but we can not refrain from saying that if M. Pablov is supporting Korea in her present attitude, he has chosen his occasion most maladroitly. It may be possible for his apologists to clear him from the general charge of having employed large means to attain very small ends, and of having produced a great deal of unwarrantable commotion in the Far East. But no defence they can make will avail anything should it be now found that he indirectly encourages Korea in courses which shock the civilized world. M. Pablow serves his country ill if he associates her with the Söul Government in its recent doings.

Li Chai-nyön, son of the *Tai-wön-kun* and father of the young man who is now studying in Japan, has been exiled in the sequel of the recent trials in Söul.

A correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* sends to that journal a description of a remarkable meeting and conversation which he had with the late Kwön Yung-chin at Fusan on the latter's arrival there to give himself up. The description throws a new and surprising light on the tragedy surrounding Kwön's fate.

In the port of Fusan (writes the correspondent, whose letter is undated) I changed steamers, taking one for Chemulpo. There were in the saloon two first-class Japanese passengers. We left at one o'clock, and at six met round a table, four of us in all, the skipper included, to share our rice with chopsticks. The Captain spoke a little Korean, and with him I conversed, but the other two passengers were silent. One was dressed as a foreigner, the other in silken kimono and Japanese slippers, seemed a refined and modest gentleman, with intelligent expression stamped on a face rather badly scarred by small-pox. Next morning, as I sat in the saloon looking over some views that happened to be there, this gentleman in silk glided in and sat opposite me. "Evidently tongsin (you) have been many years in our country," said he. I looked up with a start, for the accent was too truly Korean to ever come from a Japanese. "I thought you had come from the Rising Sun," I said, "but it is evidently Morning Calm instead, is it not?" "I am a Korean" was the answer, "and we've met before, if I mistake not, in Prince Eiawha's rooms in Tokyo four years ago"; and then I recalled the face and name, Kwön Yung-chin. He had been an exile five years, had been branded as one of the wickedest and most influential of all the rebels, had formerly been Police Commissioner of the Capital, and had gone to Japan in January 1896, just before the fall of the Kim Hongchip ministry.

In surprise I asked "Where are you going?" "Back with a message to my country!" was the answer. "They'll take no message from you but your head." "That's what I mean to offer," was his answer. "I am going back to give myself up. They regard me as guilty of death, and will undoubtedly behead me, but through my death, there is a plan to save my country."

I left the subject and called up other things in order to find if the man was mad, but a more sane, intelligent gentleman in these respects you might travel far to see.

He was posted on the subjects of the day, spoke of the cancer which had eaten the vitals of the Transvaal, and of how one selfish Krüger had ruined a whole country. He touched on points of history here and there, calling attention to Westerners such as Nelson, who had given his life for his country. "All this goes on," said he, "while we, in the East, sit in selfish contentment, and see our countries die. These years that I have been in Japan have been years of plenty. I have many friends, but while I live Chosen dies. It was not so with Shakamuni, he left his palace and became a poor man. Jesus of Galilee elected to die on the cross for the sins of the world. These were acts of the Gods but we men too have little ways in which we can imitate. My people look upon the ruling classes as altogether selfish. 'To die for one's country' they never heard of, and to see such a thing will cause even the dullest to think and it is to wake my countrymen that I die." "Surely you will not die! Let's meet again in peace; God will watch over you." "If I live we meet. When you pray remember me," was the request.

The steamer anchored at Chemulpo. A telegram was sent to Police headquarters:—"I am here, Kwön Yung-chin, you may arrest me, my life is yours." He was at once arrested, and hurried up to the capital where he now lies in his noisome prison awaiting sentence. He said to me, last of all, "Others are going to follow." We certainly have fallen upon odd days in the history of Korea.

Monday, June 11.

There is no longer any doubt that the Korean Government instructed its representative in this country, Mr. Li, to inform the Japanese Foreign Office that the Emperor of Korea would not receive Mr. Hayashi in audience until the An-Kwön affair was finally terminated. Mr. Li hesitated to convey the message, but he did so finally. Considering that Mr. Hayashi's object in asking for an audience was to discuss this very matter of the breach of promise with regard to An and Kwön, the announcement made by the Korean Government is most extraordinary.

A deputation from the Kokumin Dömei Club proceeded to the Foreign Office in Tokyo to inquire about the above incident. In the absence of Viscount Aoki the members were received by Mr. Takahira, the Vice-Minister. He explained, in answer to questions, that the Emperor of Korea had undoubtedly given a pledge about the treatment of An and Kwön, and that the Japanese Government was determined to obtain an explanation of the apparent breach of faith. The Emperor's reason for refusing to receive Mr. Hayashi was obscure, but the Foreign Office had no intention whatever of re-calling Mr. Hayashi, as rumour alleged, or of relaxing its resolve to secure audience for him. In short, Mr. Takahira made it quite clear that the Foreign Office is determined to pursue a strong policy. The deputation then proceeded to the residence of the Prime Minister, where they were received by Count Hirosawa, the Minister's Private Secretary. The interview does not appear to have been important, except that it elicited a declaration from Count Hirosawa that not public considerations alone but personal also prompted the Prime Minister to adopt a resolute line, since the unfortunate Mr. Kwön had been a friend of Marquis Yamagata, and had visited him to say farewell on the eve of his departure for Söul.

News from the Korean capital, dated the 9th instant, is to the effect that the Government of that country is abandoning its obdurate attitude. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has called upon the Japanese Representative for the purpose of offering explanation.

Having tasted blood at the executions of the unhappy An and Kwön, the Korean Government has apparently become insatiable. Three times the Ministers of the Crown have petitioned for the recall and punishment of the principal among their nationals now residing in Japan, and finally the Minister of Justice has issued warrants for the apprehension of Li Cheonyong (Ri Shunyo), Yu Kilsun, Cho Wiyön, Cho Wimeen, and Kwön Pongchin. It is to be sincerely hoped that this order may prove abortive. We do not want to hear of any more judicial savageries. What these young men are accused of we do not know; but, even supposing that they were directly or indirectly cognizant of that most barbarous crime, the assassination of Queen, the Korean judicial authorities have been shown to be wholly unfit to be entrusted with the duties they are appointed to perform. The worst criminal should not be handed over to their savage devices.

Thursday, June 14.

Although the accounts thus far published by the press with regard to the recent judicial outrage in Söul are not specially inaccurate, they err in one or two very important respects. They state, for example, that An Kyeng-su and Kwön Yungchin were extradited by Japan at the request of the Korean Government and in consideration of a pledge given by the latter that the lives of the two refugees should be spared and that no extreme measures should be employed against them. It is further alleged that a Japanese guard was placed at the prison where the ex-Ministers were confined. These are altogether erroneous assertions. The Korean Government did not make any attempt to obtain the extradition of either An or Kwön. An's return to his country was entirely of his own contriving and carrying out. His intimate friends doubtless know what project he entertained in taking such a step, but the explanation which the public has to accept, and which may be regarded as a very close approximation to the truth, is that, by surrendering himself to justice, he counted on being treated with clemency, and probably condemned to nothing worse than transportation. Such a sentence he would ultimately have been able to get commuted for a fine, and thereafter there would have been no insuperable obstacle to his return to public life. An was a man of unquestionable competence. He was regarded as the ablest of the Korean refugees now in Japan; a genuine patriot and sincere believer in progress and reform, whose restoration to office could not have failed to prove advantageous to his country. It is a mistake to suppose that he was suspected of complicity in the murder of the Queen. The charge against him was that he had taken part in the project for the abdication of the Emperor in favour of the Prince Imperial, a measure which would probably have borne very useful national fruit. His Japanese friends tried to dissuade him from returning to Korea, but his desire to see his family, his confidence in the clemency of the Government, and his hope of resuming active life, overcame all scruples, and he proceeded to Chemulpho. Up to that time, his movements had not been in any way influenced by official action. Arriving at Chemulpo, he placed himself in communication with the Japanese Consul, who communicated the fact of his coming to Mr. Hayashi, in Söul, and the latter, happening to have audience shortly afterwards, spoke incidentally to the Emperor of An's coming, and expressed the hope that he would be treated with consideration. His Majesty at once replied in the affirmative, and after that assurance the Consul in Chemulpo seems to have had no hesitation in recommending An to give himself up. An did so, and his trial commenced, ending in a sentence of ten years' transportation. Thus far things had taken the course anticipated by An. But at this stage Kwön returned to Korea and surrendered himself to the Authorities. Some romantic tales have been circulated about Kwön. It has been represented that he went to Söul with a firm conviction that he was going to his death, and that he deliberately sacrificed himself in the belief that his fate would materially affect the course of politics and, in some unexplained and inexplicable way, draw his country into the path of progress. Kwön is dead, and to speak any ill of him is repugnant. But there is little room for doubt that in re-visiting his country he harboured the design not only of claiming clemency on the ground of voluntary surrender, but also of

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obtaining consideration by turning informer. Had the information given by him been true, there would be nothing to say. But it was not true. There is little question that it was untrue, and that he deliberately sought to win favour for himself by bearing false witness against An and others. What followed is already known. An was put to the torture. Outside the circle of his examiners no one appears to know what confessions, if any, were wrung from him in his pain. Kwŏn also seems to have been tortured; and, whether on the strength of testimony thus obtained, or on the pretence that testimony had been obtained, the Judicial officials drew up a statement in which the late *Tai-wŏn-kun* was declared to have been the chief plotter of the Queen's assassination, and the conspirators were said to have met at the Japanese Legation for the purpose of concocting their scheme. Mr. Hayashi at once asked the Emperor for an audience, but his Majesty made an excuse, and, when pressed by Mr. Hayashi, wired instructions to Mr. Li, the Korean Representative in Tokyo, to inform the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Emperor did not wish to give audience to Mr. Hayashi until the affair of An and Kwŏn was concluded. Probably Mr. Li understood that delay was the chief aim of his Sovereign, for it is understood that he allowed some time to pass before conveying his message to the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs. The latter, of course, replied at once that such an announcement was quite inadmissible, since it would be contrary to all diplomatic usage that a Sovereign should decline to give audience to the Representative of a friendly Power accredited to the Court, unless illness or some exceptional obstacle presented itself. Mr. Hayashi was, at the same time, instructed to press for an audience, which he will doubtless obtain very soon, if he has not already obtained it. The Korean Emperor's reason for seeking to evade an audience appears to be very simple: he is unprepared with any valid explanation of his failure to make good his promise, and he consequently shrinks from meeting Mr. Hayashi. The unfortunate Sovereign is in a dilemma, but probably Japan will not exact her pound of flesh.

FAREWELL DINNER TO BARON ROSEN.

On the evening of the 7th instant, the members of the Tokyo Club gave a farewell dinner to His Excellency Baron R. Rosen, Minister of Russia, who is about to leave Japan for an European post. About fifty sat down to dinner, the chair being taken by His Excellency Colonel Buck, United States Representative. After the health of the Emperor had been drunk, Mr. Buck proposed the toast of the evening in these words:—

GENTLEMEN of the Club,—In presiding at this entertainment, as appears to be my duty, I wish I had that facility of speech by which I could do justice to the occasion and express in more fitting terms than I possibly can the sentiments of high regard of all present for the guest of the evening, whom we have met to honour on the eve of his departure from the country.

Our guest and fellow-member, by his rare qualities of good fellowship, has won the hearts of us all. Always genial and cordial, he has made us all happy in his friendship and association.

The loss of no other member of the club, perhaps, would be more keenly felt, or would be more regretted. What he has been to the club and to his fellow-members individually, during the three years he has so ably represented his country at His Majesty's Court, he has been to his colleagues and officials of the Government as well—winning the highest confidence and respect and the lasting friendship of all.

To know our guest is to appreciate his superior qualities of head and heart. His loss to the Diplomatic Corps, the Court, and to this club will indeed be great, and he will not soon be forgotten by any who have had the honour and pleasure of his intimate acquaintance.

As a club, individually and collectively, we wish him and his family a safe and pleasant journey to his new post to which he has been assigned.

Gentlemen, I propose health, prosperity, and long life to his excellency, Baron Rosen.

The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm.

Baron Rosen, who, on rising to reply, received an ovation, made an eloquent and witty speech. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all his kind friends for the cordial good-feeling they had shown him in so many ways and for the splendid send off they had united to give him that evening. He also dwelt upon the history of the club, recalling its small beginnings as compared with its present large proportions and prosperous condition, and, while offering the members his sincerest congratulations upon this success, he invited them to drink to the continued well-being of an institution which, during the twenty-five years of its existence, had been a centre not only of genuinely cordial fellowship but also of international good feeling.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The general impression in well-informed circles seems to be that the issue of the political complication will be the retirement of Marquis Yamagata and his replacement by Count Matsukata as Minister President, the other portfolio-holders remaining pretty much as they are. It is said to have been somewhat difficult to effect this arrangement, and no one doubts that it can not prove permanent. The next session of the Diet will show a formidable opposition to any Cabinet not organized on party lines, and there will result an appeal to the country under the new law of elections. We do not venture to affirm that the solution here indicated is definite, but we place before our readers the prospect that seems most credible. For our own part, we should be disposed to welcome any settlement which leaves the present Cabinet virtually unchanged, though, on the other hand, we recognise that all solutions short of parliamentary Ministries must be ephemeral.

It is generally assumed that Marquis Yamagata has postponed his resignation in view of the serious problems presenting themselves in the field of foreign affairs. Under any circumstances it is not probable that the plan proposed by the Liberals could have been put into a working shape.

PEST.

Another case of pest is reported from Osaka; a girl of 13. Death resulted on the third day. It is also reported that a suspicious case has been found on board the *Yeijo Maru* in Nagasaki, but we know nothing as to whence the ship had come.

A case of pest was found on board the P. & O. mail steamer *Rosetta*, in Yokohama harbour, on the 9th instant. The sufferer was a Filipino fireman. He died on the 11th instant, and the ship was sent to the disinfecting station, at Nagaura, where she will stay 10 days. The remains of the fireman have been cremated.

There has been another case of pest in Osaka.

THE FINANCES.

Saturday, June 9.

A correspondent of the *China Mail*, cabling from Yokohama, says that Japan "may be forced into war with Russia by a possible approaching financial crisis," for "the budget this year is reported to show a deficit of forty million *yen*, and it is not known how this is to be made up." It is difficult to understand why men that undertake to discuss great questions in public will not be at the trouble to post themselves in the cardinal details of their subject? A deficit of forty million *yen* in the Budget! What reckless silliness! One would suppose that the Japanese Budget was a secret affair, entirely beyond the reach of ordinary investigations, and that "report" had to be relied on for any information about the document's contents, whereas, in truth, the Budget is open to all, and every figure of it is public property. Had the correspondent of the Hongkong journal taken the trouble to step into the office of the *Japan Mail*, he could have obtained an exhaustive translation of the Budget, and he would then have seen that, so far from there being a deficit, the ordinary revenue exceeds the ordinary expenditure by many millions of *yen*. Apparently one of the developments of *fin-de-siècle* progress is a newspaper correspondent who cares not one straw about the accuracy of his statements provided only that they are sensational, and who is quite above the trouble of collecting easily accessible information about the subjects he descants upon.

Monday, June 11.

Rumours of a most unsatisfactory Budget next year having been circulated by certain newspapers, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has obtained an official statement of figures bearing on the subject. It speaks, first, of the results of last year's financial operations. The returns show that in four cases the revenue did not quite come up to the estimates; namely, in the cases of customs, land tax, the tobacco monopoly, and telegraphs. On the other hand, the receipts exceeded the estimates by 1,700,000 *yen* in the posts, 770,000 *yen* in the income tax, 2,000,000 *yen* in stamp duties, and 1,200,000 *yen* in forests. Hence the total diminution was not more than 1,300,000 or 1,400,000 *yen*; whereas, on the other hand, a sum of from 12 to 13 million *yen* remained over from unused funds. Thus there was no embarrassment whatever. This year, things are moving smoothly and satisfactorily, so that there is no prospect of any discrepancy between results and estimates. As to the Budget for 1901-2, the proposals from the various Departments ought to be in the hands of the Finance Minister by May 31st, but those from the Educational Department and the Agricultural and Commercial Department have not yet been received. Nevertheless it is possible to set down the main figures of the Budget with a close approximation to accuracy. They are these:—

	Million Yen.
Ordinary Revenue	198
Extraordinary Revenue	50
Total	248
Ordinary Expenditure	161
Extraordinary Expenditure	83
Total	244
Surplus Revenue	4

This is a very different showing from that of the pessimists. If Japan's credit is bad, she has to thank, in great part, the reckless statements of some of her own newspapers.

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TOKYO IMPROVEMENTS.

The Tokyo City Assembly passed two very important resolutions on the 8th instant. On the motion of Mr. Hoshi Toru it decided that no time must be lost in undertaking the work of harbour construction, and it appointed a committee to consider details, voting, at the same time, a sum of 23,850 *yen* to meet the expenses of the committee. Plans and estimates prepared by Professor Furuichi were submitted to the Assembly, but it wisely decided that their examination by a committee must precede any final vote. There could not be any doubt, however, as to the temper of the members; they were unanimously in favour of having a harbour, and their only apparent objection to Mr. Furuichi's scheme was that twelve years will be needed for its completion.

The second decision taken related to the building of street railways and the conversion of the present horse tramway into an electric line. Both of these projects have received the approval of the Department of Home Affairs, and the City Assembly passed them without debate or dissent. The conditions attached to the street-railway project are very strict. Among them the principal are these:—The gauge is to be 4 feet 7¼ inches; the minimum width of street where a single line is laid must be 36ft., and the minimum for a double line, 48ft.; the posts for carrying the cable must not be more than 120ft. apart; the work must be commenced within 6 months from the date of granting the charter, and thereafter finished in 5 years; the speed must not exceed 8 miles an hour; extensive powers of inspection and control are to be vested in the Chief of Police and the Governor of Tokyo—*e.g.* they may fix the fares, determine the number of passengers and cars, the times of starting trains, the special rates granted to students and labourers, and so on; the Minister of Home Affairs may at any time revise the rules, order a change of motive power or alteration of the lines, and take other steps; one-tenth of the net profits is to be set aside as a reserve, and, after a dividend of seven per cent. on the paid-up capital has been paid from the remainder, one-third of the residue is to be contributed to the Municipality; in June of the 85th year of *Meiji* (1952), the whole of the lines and the rolling stock is to revert without payment to the City, but at any time after 1932 the latter may buy the lines by paying a sum the manner of whose assessment we can not follow. These conditions are said to be considered very harsh by the Three Companies' Union (*Sampa Godo*) which is to receive the charter, but since fresh and perhaps interminable delay would be caused by raising any objection at the present stage, the Union will accept the conditions and subsequently petition for an extension of the date when the lines are to revert to the Municipality.

Concerning the conversion of the horse-trams into electric lines, the conditions prescribed by the Home Department and endorsed by the Assembly are that the work must be undertaken within 3 months and finished within 2 years. Moreover, there is no provision against competing lines being laid over the same routes. These terms are considered prohibitive. The price of land is so high in the districts traversed by the horse-trams that the Municipality itself has hitherto been unable to accomplish any widening of the streets, yet it now requires the Tram Company to effect the necessary widening in two years. Evidently the thing is practically impossible.

The charter for the construction of street railways was duly handed to Mr. Amenomiya and his associated representatives of the Three Companies on the 9th instant. At the same time, the document sanctioning the Horse-Tram Company's application to change its motive power to electricity was also tendered to Mr. Nakano Buyei, as the Company's delegate. He declined to receive it, however, on the ground that the conditions attached were prohibitive. It was pointed out to him by the officials of the Home Department that his objections were not substantial, inasmuch as the tax to be paid by the Company would not exceed that paid by the Street Railways Company, and inasmuch as the period of the charter was 50 years, although 30 would have been the natural term in consideration of the fact that the Company's lines traverse the most populous parts of the city. This reasoning did not convince Mr. Nakano. He persisted in his refusal, and said that he should consult his colleagues.

The scheme of harbour construction planned by Mr. Furuichi, which has been adopted in principle by the Tokyo City Assembly, is said to be based on the designs of a French expert, M. Lemotte (?). The main harbour is to be at Shiba-ura, and the advanced harbour at Haneda, the two being connected by a canal and an embankment. The cost of the work will be 41 million *yen*, and the time of completion, 12 years. A sum of 36,100,000 *yen* will be obtained by floating a municipal loan, and the Treasury is expected to contribute 12 millions. The loan will remain unredeemed for 12 years, and thereafter be paid off in 63 years, for which purpose a sum of 400,000 *yen* annually during 75 years will be appropriated from the City's taxes.

ELECTRICITY AND TUBERCULOSIS.

One of the extraordinary developments of electrical science seems to be a method of curing tuberculosis by the aid of the electric current. The inventor is Dr. Francisque Crôtte, who is now working at St. Luke's Hospital, New York. His method, briefly described, consists in driving medicine through the skin, flesh and bones, instead of administering it by the mouth. It has been known for some time that the microbe of consumption can be destroyed by formaldehyde gas. But this gas can not be administered by inhalation, for it produces coughing so severe as to be dangerous. Thus the question to be solved was, could the gas be introduced into the cavities of the lungs without passing it through the mouth? Dr. Crôtte knew that in France waterproof material is driven into wood by means of electricity, and it struck him that what was possible in the case of vegetable fibre might be possible also in the case of the fibre of the human body. Experiments proved the perfect feasibility of the idea, and the cure is now regularly practised. Sponges saturated with formaldehyde are placed against the back and chest, having been previously attached to one pole of the electric machine, which is a specially contrived affair, capable of producing a voltage of over a million with a very low amperage. The machine being started, the static electricity flows in a steady current through the sponges and carries the formaldehyde with it into the patient's body. It is claimed that this cure is effective in every case of consumption in the first stage; in 75 per cent. of the second stage, and in 30 per cent. of the third, or so-called "hopeless stage."

DEATH OF MR. A. J. WILKIN.

The death is announced from Tunbridge Wells, England, of Mr. A. J. Wilkin, one of the oldest residents of Yokohama. Mr. Wilkin was born on June 7th, 1836, and left London with Mr. R. D. Robison in October, 1862, and arrived in Yokohama about Christmas the same year. He and Mr. Robison founded the firm of Wilkin and Robison, general merchants, and Mr. Wilkin continued to occupy the position of a partner till April, 1885, when he left Japan for Manitoba, where he started farming. His venture, however, was not over fortunate; and he again turned his thoughts to Japan. Arriving in Yokohama in the spring of 1890 he took charge of the business of the Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan, and the Straits, the agents of which were Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co. This position he held after the T. and L. Co., was converted into a Bank, and he continued in the firm's service till quite recently, when, being in a poor state of health, he left for England. Mr. Wilkin was for many years associated with the religious life of the Settlement. He was an attached member of the Union Church, and in his capacity of Superintendent of the Sunday School threw the whole ardour of his nature into the work. He was also for some time President of the Literary Society. He was not a man of robust health, and had of late years suffered greatly as the result of a cowardly assault made on him by some Japanese coolies while riding on a bicycle near Honmoku. These ruffians struck him about the head with their *geta*; inflicting injuries which affected him during the remainder of his life; and probably had something to do with his death. It is characteristic of his kindly and forgiving nature that in spite of the serious injury he suffered, he requested that the cowardly assailants should not be punished. It appears that since his return to England he had grown steadily weaker, and continually complained of pain in the head; indeed, for some time before his death he was completely confined to his bed. He leaves a widow and grown-up family to mourn his loss.

Mr. Wilkin naturally had some very interesting reminiscences of the early days in Japan. Some years ago he delivered a most entertaining paper before the Yokohama Literary Society. It contained so vivid a description of the state of the Settlement nearly 40 years ago that we make no apology for reproducing a few passages:—

To picture Yokohama as it then was, you must first dismiss from your minds altogether the Yokohama of to-day; the Settlement extended only from No. 1 to 89, and thence down Honmura Road to the "creek,"—then a narrow stream. All back of Honmura Road was marsh and swamp. The ground was but sparsely covered with buildings, and there were many vacant lots, especially towards the centre and back. Each firm had generally a large compound with only a bungalow and some out-buildings, and a mud godown or two on it, the lot being surrounded by those black pole fences common in Japan. There were were three or four barn-like two-storied houses, but for the most part the dwellings were of the bungalow type, in fact, Japanese houses improved by glass in the sliding doors and windows, and sometimes with fixed divisions to the rooms. Fireplaces were rare, and stoves not abundant. In the bungalow which we occupied till destroyed in the fire of 1866, there was only one small stove. People used *hibachi* with a shovelful of charcoal to supply the deficiency, and many accidents occurred therefrom.

The price of land and rent were very high already: $300 and $400 a month was asked for such meagre accommodation as the compounds then afforded. I cannot say what the population was, but it was small, and the ladies might be counted on your fingers. Children were scarce and I remember well what a strangely pleasant sound it was when later some

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troops came up from Hongkong with a number of married men, to hear the merry shouting of a number of youngsters, as I passed the camp in the evening. You will judge of the population when I say that we used to bathe off the Bund opposite our compound in the morning. The native town was also small, extending no further than Benten-dori or Otamachi. At the far end of the former was the Benten shrine in a grove of trees; over the creek a village extended towards Noge Hill, and a causeway led over to Kanagawa.

The port had then been opened 4½ years, and the worst of the roughing it was over. Residents had supplied themselves from Shanghai with a certain amount of furniture and house fittings, and the time when if you went out to dinner with a friend you took your plate and knife and fork with you, was past. A certain "cliquism" prevailed, but there was a good deal of jolly fraternizing, and the presence of so many naval and military officers added a good deal to the society. Settlement affairs were very much in a state of chaos. The Japanese of course had no idea of sanitation or of the making of roads: consequently our streets were like those of any country road and the traffic reduced them to a frightful condition in wet weather. Not only mud but ponds of water stood in some of the principal thoroughfares, and we had at such times to flounder about in sea boots. There was no drainage of any kind, if we except an abortive and unwholesome attempt which had been made in that direction by digging ditches at the sides. After our worthy and well-known Consul, they were called "Winchester drains." The streets were unlighted, and each one at night took his own coolie and *chochin*. The only thing in the way of police was a small squad of 2-sworded men who occasionally patrolled the place, accompanied by a man stamping on the ground one of those iron staffs with rings at the top to warn thieves to get out of the way.

At this time there were no jinrikishas,—the only way of getting about was on shank's mare or on horseback. In a desperate case at night, one might send down town and get a kago. The Japanese of that day were "pukka" Japanese; the advent of foreigners had but very little affected them in this respect, and they had made but little advance towards Western ideas. The authorities showed the greatest jealousy in their attitude towards foreigners, and did their utmost to prevent their having more dealings with the people, or knowing more about the country than could possibly be helped. Officials exercised complete surveillance over the transactions of their people, and at times most seriously interfered with trade by inhibiting the supplies of silk or other produce to the market. It has happened even that the servants in the place have been withdrawn. As for their own people it was death to attempt to leave the country.

All the two-sworded class lorded it over the civilian and peasant class, and on the slightest provocation would flesh their swords on any unfortunate who crossed their path, and never be called to account. To cross the path of a man of rank was an insult; such a thing as an inferior daring to ride past him was too dreadful an insult to be thought of, and the offender would be immediately cut down. Every morning the Governor of Kanagawa came on horseback to his office. A betto led his pony, a knot of armed men preceded him crying out "Shitaniiro, Shitaniiro," and every person in the road had to squat down. Consequently with all these gentry about we had to be always on our guard. He was accounted a bold man who rode or walked out any distance alone. Passing any of these men, we had to keep an eye over our shoulder. The preparatory motion of drawing a sword was to throw back the sleeve of the coat and press down the handle and we were especially on the look-out for this.

The punishments in vogue in those days were of a very severe character. It was understood that a theft of more than 40 *bus*, or a third conviction for smaller thefts, was punishable with decapitation. A foreigner naturally shrank from giving a delinquent boy over to the hands of the Saibansho to be thus dealt with. For arson, murder of parents, and so forth there were burning alive and crucifixion; in the latter method the culprit was stretched on a cross set upright and speared. For examination of an accused person torture, in the way of flogging, was constantly restored to, and if the sufferer made no confession after being subjected to a sufficiency of this treatment, he was deemed to be innocent.

The *Rangoon Gazette* records the death of a remarkable missionary, the Rev. D. L. Drayton, who died at Rangoon on the 28th ult., after 63 years' active service in behalf of the Two Karens of the Rangoon Province. He was over 91 years of age, yet only last month was delivering a public address in a large hall at Rangoon.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A conflagration of considerable dimensions has occurred at Taka-machi in Niigata Prefecture.

Marquis Mayada is said to be dangerously ill. His brain and kidneys are both attacked, and, though there has been a slight improvement since the 10th instant, fears are still entertained.

Very favourable reports are made of agricultural prospects in Japan this year. Barley is said to be a full crop; rape and tobacco plants promise well; the outlook for silk is excellent, climatic conditions being good and the price of cocoons low—only 40 *yen* per *koku*—, and the yield of tea is expected to be 230 *kwan* per *tan* against 160 *kwan* last year.

It is announced from Hokkaido that an extensive auriferous area has been discovered in Ishikari near the head waters of the Sorachi River. Very glowing accounts are given of the prospects, but, as they seem to be partly written in the interests of speculators who have acquired a large tract of land in the district, they should not be implicitly trusted.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press cleverly caricatures the persistence of war-scare journals which keep the public perpetually fed with rumours of a fight between Russia and some Power or other. Russia is represented as a stolid, peaceful-looking old man smoking a large pipe," and the scare-press takes the form of a donkey in "striped pants" seated at an editorial desk. The old man placidly observes:—"Just thought I'd call around and find out who I'm going to fight tomorrow."

The Chinese Customs Returns for the first quarter of the current year show an increase of revenue to the extent of a million taels, as compared with the figure for last year. The sum actually collected was 5,395,032 Tls. against 4,325,297 Tls. for the corresponding quarter of 1899. We observe that Japanese yarns make a very good showing in the returns:—

	1900.	1899.	1898.
English	6,045	6,153	8,128
Indian	196,524	193,599	206,379
Japanese	122,265	94,690	81,125

It is alleged that the attempts made to effect a compromise of the Kobe Water Works case have been suspended. Mr. Otani Kahei has been engaged in the affair. Finding Mr. Morse naturally unwilling to make any proposal, Mr. Otani approached the Kobe Municipal Authorities. But they, having already gained their case in the lower tribunal, declined to listen to anything, and announced their intention of adhering strictly to what they consider their legal rights.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that the *sake* saloon in the Paris Exhibition has proved a failure. When it was first opened it sold all kinds of beverages, as well as ices, and it did a roaring trade. But the Japanese commissioners considered that it was exceeding its license, which referred to *sake* only. They therefore compelled it to close for two or three days, and when it re-opened on strict lines, its daily visitors did not exceed twenty or thirty. The tea saloon (*kitcha-ten*) has also been a failure.

An institution to encourage a spirit of saving has been organized in Tokyo. It is called the *Chokin Shōrei Kabushiki Kaisha* (Savings Encouragement Joint Stock Company), and its chief manager is Mr. Kimura Juyata. The programme is to receive money on deposit without paying any interest for it, and to pay back the double of the sum thus received by a system of lots, so arranged that every depositor must be recouped within 20 years. Thus the most fortunate may find his deposit doubled within a twelvemonth, and the least fortunate will find himself in the position of having lent his money at simple interest of 5 per cent. for twenty years. The newspapers do not give any indication of the minimum sum receivable on deposit.

The following sums (for the first period) have to be disbursed out of the Second Reserve Funds for the current year:—

Expenses.	Yen.
Prevention of epidemics	125,866
Compensation for slaughtered animals	6,698
Attendance at International Convention	50,698
Commissioners for the investigation of American population	4,000
Repairs necessitated by typhoons	2,505
Typhoons and inundations in cities and prefectures	40,172
Water supply for the central observatory	2,159
Control of gold miners in Hokkaido	16,757
Special buildings for the Anti-toxin Serum Institute	7,250
Special buildings for the Yokohama Silk Conditioning Office	15,054

The *Mainichi* attributes the falling-off in the tea output to climatic conditions being behind last year. In spite of a rise of two *yen* in quotations, in consequence of the appreciation of rice and increased expense of manufacture, the manufacturers still fail to secure a fair profit. Under these circumstances prominent tea districts such as Suruga and Totomi are reported to have restricted the amount of manufacture. Compared with last year the stock is considerably less, while sales show a diminution of no less than 1½ million catties. Below are comparative figures for the two years:—

	Up to 28th May, 1899.	Corresponding period of 1900.
Arrivals	77,171 bales	96,991 bales
Sales	6,453,100 bales	8,012,800 bales

The Tokyo Tram Company held its annual meeting on the 11th instant, when the following accounts were presented and passed:—

Gross Earnings from Passengers carried		¥627,695
Miscellaneous Receipts		19,425
Total		647,120
Costs of Working	¥342,057	
Contributed to celebration of Imperial Wedding	5,000	
Total		347,057
Net Profit		300,082
To Reserve (5% of Profits)	¥15,005	
Rewards (10% of Profits)	30,000	
Remainder		255,077
From previous account		29,170
Total		284,248
Dividend at the rate of 35%		253,750
Carried forward		30,489

The meeting then proceeded to discuss the conditions attached to the Government's permission for transforming its service into an electric system. The conclusion unanimously arrived at was that the widening of streets, required by the Government, and the percentage of profits to be paid to the Municipality were altogether too onerous conditions, and that, unless the Authorities consented to modify them, the Company would have no resource except to continue its present method of horse trams.

It is thought that the resolutions adopted by the Tokyo City Assembly with regard to street railways and harbour construction will mark a new era for the city, which will now cease to be merely the political metropolis of the empire and will become the commercial capital. On the other hand, there can be little doubt that the centre of the city will be

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shifted in a southerly direction. Such a tendency, indeed, has already been displayed, as may be seen from the following table published by the *Jimmin*, relating to the districts of Tokyo :—

District.	Population in 1898.	Increase or decrease as compared with 1897.
Kojimachi	76,992	6,985 †
Kanda	126,282	12,083 –
Nihonbashi	137,424	3,542 –
Kyobashi	138,793	10,714 †
Shiba	128,663	2,382 †
Azabu	52,726	1,203 †
Akasaka	44,357	3,639 †
Yotsuya	42,173	3,345 †
Koishikawa	55,739	3,791 †
Ushigome	51,469	1,457 †
Hongo	84,220	6,593 †
Shitaya	112,195	17,155 †
Asakusa	139,955	1,086 †
Honjo	132,221	6,631 †
Fukagawa	102,127	5,942 †

In the Tokyo of the future, Kyobashi, part of Shiba, and Kojimachi will probably be the official centre; Shinagawa, the business centre; Azabu, Akasaka, and Yotsuya, the military centre; Koishikawa, Hongo, Kanda, and Asakusa, the educational and recreation centre; and Fukagawa and Honjo, the manufacturing centre.

"JAPANESE NOTIONS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY."

We received, a few days ago, a brochure headed as above. It professed to have been written by "Tentearo Makato, commissioner of Japan to make the investigation," but pasted on the cover was a little slip of paper bearing the legend "Camden, N. J. James Love, 627 Market Street." There never was such a name in Japan as "Tentearo Makato," and there never could have been. Therefore we applied ourselves with some misgivings to peruse the pamphlet. In the very first page we found it stated that books had been written in Japan on "*Akirau* and *Kayuru*, that is to say, on commerce and exchange;" on the second "Mr. Neeshima" was spoken of as Minister of Education, and on the third the "head of the Foreign Office" in 1896 was called "Ishtamusho." Plainly no Japanese ever had any hand in the compilation of the brochure, and after reading it through we were not surprised to discover at the close an "interlude" explaining that the Japanese guise was really a disguise simulated for the purpose of attracting attention which would probably have been lacking had the author written frankly over his own signature. Apparently the ruse succeeded, for the little book has reached its third edition. When we say that it is published by the Scottish Single Tax League, our readers will understand at once the nature of the doctrines it inculcates. We may add, however, that it is a thoroughly clever composition, and although we do not undertake to predict that it will convert every careful reader to Henry George's philosophy, we do venture to affirm that no one can peruse it intelligently without discovering the extraordinary confusion of ideas and contradictions of terms that disfigure the writings of a great majority of the classics of political economy. Any one, therefore, who clings lovingly to his old faith and dreads to have it shaken, had better refrain from perusing "Japanese Notions of Political Economy."

The opinion prevails throughout the southern provinces of Luzon and Samar that arms are being shipped into the country in large quantities. A friend of an officer in the Philippines asserts that he has seen them packing rifles in beer barrels in Hongkong.

DIVIDENDS.

The Tokyo Electric Light Company has just held its semi-annual general meeting. The accounts were passed as follows :—

		yen.
Profit for the half-year		102,219
Brought over		3,075
Total		105,294
To Reserve	5,111 *yen*	
Dividend (8 % annually)	95,000 „	
To next account	5,183 „	105,294

The Muslin Company has also had its general meeting and adopted this statement of results for the half-year :—

Profit		¥128,788
To Reserve	¥10,000	
Dividend (10 % annually)	50,000	
Second dividend (10 % annually)	50,000	
To next account	6,788	128,788

"THE SPHERE."

The Sphere is a new illustrated weekly, published at Great New Street, London. It is printed on beautiful paper, and the illustrations have the merit of being not only interesting in their relation to current events, but also artistic. It is characteristic of the time that such a journal can be produced and sold for the small sum of six-pence; and it is also characteristic of the time that a page is devoted to fashions. What sacrifices are made on that shrine, to be sure! Mr. Clement K. Shorter, the well-known *littérateur*, is the editor.

ORDINATION AT TOKYO.

The ordination of the Rev. V. H. Patrick to the priesthood of the Church of England took place on Sunday at S. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo, at the eleven o'clock service. Mr. Patrick is a missionary on the staff of the C.M.S. in Tokyo; he was a student of the C.M.S. College at Islington, and was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London on Trinity Sunday of last year. The service on Sunday began with the missionary hymn, "Lord, her watch Thy Church is keeping," whilst the procession of clergy entered the Church, the Rev. L. B. Cholmondeley, Bishop's Chaplain, carrying the pastoral staff before the Right Reverend Bishop Awdry. Then, according to the prescribed order of the Ordination Service, the sermon was preached. The Rev. H. McC. E. Price, M.A., Principal of the C.M.S. Theological College at Osaka, took for his text, "And He gave some, apostles, etc." (Ephesians IV). He spoke of the dignity and importance of the ministry entrusted to the priesthood of the Church, in accordance with our Lord's will,—a ministry "appointed for the salvation of mankind"; and, on the other hand, of the great responsibility of the individual priest, according to his ordination vows, not only to be diligent and faithful in teaching, in ministrations, and in discipline; not only to be an example to his flock, to promote peace and order, and himself to render due obedience to his superiors; but more especially to be a man of prayer and a devout student of the Bible, and thereby to gain spiritual power for his great work.

After the sermon the candidate was presented to the Bishop by Archdeacon Shaw; then the Litany was said by the Rev. W. C. Gemmill, and the Trinity Sunday hymn, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty," was sung. The Bishop then began the Holy Communion, the Epistle being read by the Rev. A. E. Webb, and the Gospel by the Rev. W. P. Buncombe. The actual ordination comes in the service between the Gospel and the Nicene Creed. The Bishop, seated in his chair in the sanctuary, facing west, read the exhortation and put the eight solemn questions to the candidate, who stood before him. Then, after an interval of silent prayer, the *Veni Creator* (the ordination hymn) was sung, and a prayer was said. With the Bishop nine priests laid their hands on the head of the candidate, whilst the Bishop pronounced the solemn words of ordination,—viz., the six already mentioned and the Revs. W. T. Austen, of Yokohama, J. T. Imai of Tokyo, and P. W. C. Wise, of Australia. After the ordination the Bishop proceeded in the celebration of Holy Communion, which was as far as possible choral. The Communion hymn, "Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord," was sung during the Offertory. The organist was Mrs. Awdry.

LAW OF CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

The Law of Civil Administration, recently passed by the Diet, has been published in the *Official Gazette* as follows :—

Art. I.—The administrative authorities may impose necessary restrictions upon, or seize, dangerous weapons or articles from drunkards, idiots, or persons suspected of intention to commit suicide. Similiar steps may be taken for the prevention of acts of violence detrimental to public welfare. The restraint imposed, however, shall not be prolonged until after sunset on the following day. In the case of the seizure of weapons or articles, the period shall not exceed 30 days.

Art. II.—The administrative authorities are not empowered to enter a private residence without the consent of the occupant, before sunrise or sunset, except when it is deemed that danger to life or property is imminent, or gambling or secret prostitution is proceeding. This provision, however, does not apply to inns, hotels, restaurants, and other public houses, which are open to visitors at night, provided that the official entry be made within business hours.

Art. III.—The administrative authorities may cause a medical inspection of women convicted of secret prostitution, and direct them if necessary to be taken into hospital for medical treatment at their own expense, or that of their agent. If they are unable to meet the expenses, the same may be defrayed out of the local police funds. Restrictions as to the place of residence of those whose occupation requires special official control in the interests of public morals, shall be determined by Ordinance.

Art. IV.—The authorities may use any land or property, or impose restrictions for the use of the same, whenever they deem it necessary for the prevention of danger or enforcement of sanitary regulations, in cases of emergency or natural calamities, or in conformity with the provisions of Imperial Ordinance.

Art. V.—The administrative authorities may adopt the following measures for the compulsory carrying out of measures ordered in accordance with laws and ordinances :—

1. They may take upon themselves the carrying out of the work, or may cause a third party to perform it if necessary and collect the expenses incurred from the persons liable.

2. In case the work cannot be performed by a third party, or in case measures have been taken against regulations, a fine not exceeding 25 *yen* may be inflicted in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance.

The foregoing measures shall not be enforced without notice, except in case of urgent necessity. In no case, however, shall the authorities directly carry out such work, except under the pressure of circumstances, or when they are convinced that otherwise such work will not be carried out.

Art. VI.—The expenses specified in Articles III. and V., together with fines prescribed in Article V., shall be collected in accordance with the rules for the collection of national taxes.

The administrative authorities shall have a right of priority in the collection of the above expenses, after national taxes have been collected.

Art. VII.—In case any articles the possession of which requires official sanction or permission have passed into the custody of the administrative authorities, the same shall be transferred to the Treasury, provided that they are not of a nature to be legally held. In the case of articles under temporary seizure, the same procedure will be followed unless they are claimed within one year.

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THE JAPANESE PRESS AND THE WAR.

THE leading Japanese newspapers comment on the successful progress of the war in the same spirit of friendly appreciation that has marked their attitude throughout. They speak with enthusiasm of the magnitude of the task undertaken by England and of the apparent ease with which she has performed it, and they are evidently much struck not only by the calm unflinching attitude of the British nation throughout, but also by the skilled diplomacy which averted all complications with foreign Powers in spite of the bitter hostility towards England shown by the nations of Continental Europe. They also regard as most important the effect that the struggle has had in displaying the patriotism of the British colonies and their profound devotion to the mother country, and they think that this consolidation of the British empire in every part of the globe furnishes an object lesson which the nations of the world can not misinterpret. The *Jiji Shimpo* believes that the immense sacrifices made by England will be amply rewarded by results. She will consummate her project of a railway from the Cape to Cairo; she will carry civilization into wide districts hitherto beyond the range of progressive influences; she will add military strength to the immense naval strength she was already known to possess; she will acquire fresh confidence in her destiny from the assurance that her sons in every part of the world are firmly knit into a great federation of force, and her spirit will rise into realms of fresh enterprise and faith.

Englishmen will not forget the unfaltering friendship towards their country and the confidence in her resources that the Japanese press has shown from the beginning to the end of this war. Not one of us feels any special pride in the war. If we had any desire to come to blows with the Boers, it was a desire born of the instinct which dwells in the breast of every strong nation, namely, that a beating can not be taken quietly. The Boers beat us in 1881. There is no denying the fact. Some our statesmen thought that we were big enough and strong enough to treat the beating as an insignificant accident which could be redressed at any moment, and that our failure to redress it would neither be misinterpreted by the Boers and the world, nor prove an unendurable memory to ourselves. The eminently false factor in that calculation was the intelligence of the Boers. They entirely misunderstood our temper. Publicists may find plenty of material for discussion in the circumstances directly responsible for the war, but in our own opinion the question of sentiment was largely responsible. The Boers treated us throughout as a despicable people from whom they had nothing to fear and nothing to gain. They thought, and they took no pains to conceal the thought, that at any moment they could repeat the successes they had achieved nineteen years previously. That mood of theirs was the chief obstacle to an understanding. That mood also betrayed them into assuming the aggressive. They are receiving a great deal of credit for entering the lists against a Power like England. Many critics are disposed to conclude that they wittingly engaged in a desperate struggle for the sake of striking a blow in the cause of freedom. But no critic has ventured to deny that the Boers were firmly convinced of their ability to beat England. The struggle did not present itself in a desperate light to their eyes. They struck, not for mere freedom, but for the overthrow of England's dominion in South Africa and the erection of a great Dutch republic on its ruins. A fight was therefore inevitable, but it is not a fight of which Englishmen are proud, and its unwelcome character has been accentuated by the temper of Continental Europe. A great English philosopher, writing forty years ago, said that one of the notable traits of French national disposition is ardent sympathy with every struggle for freedom in every part of the world. We believe that the romantic features of this war appealed from the first with irresistible force to the mind of the French people, and in that supposition we find a sufficient explanation of the attitude of their upper classes towards us, though not of the vulgar hysterics indulged in by the lower. Russia's animosity, too, is natural. We must expect a Rowland for our Oliver. But Germany's mood is beyond comprehension. It has astonished England, and it will not, we fear, be easily forgotten. These accompaniments have not mitigated the pain of the struggle, or helped to lessen the conviction that there was little glory to be gained out of it. We are glad to know, however, that on the profit side of the account, stands the unequivocal evidence Japan has given of her friendliness to Great Britain. She has brought herself very close to us, and we cherish the hope that she and England will always be found in the same camp when the big problems now rising above the horizon of Far-Eastern problems come up for final solution.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

In writing on "Religion and Ethics," the *Seikyô Shimpô*, the Greek Church Organ, observes that during the first half of the nineteenth century European philosophers were engaged in discussing the nature of man's intellect and the kind of knowledge that he acquired by exercising it. But in recent years the subject of ethics and religion has attracted the attention of great leaders of thought. In Japan during the first twenty-five years of the *Meiji* era desperate efforts were made by our scholars to render educated readers familiar with the results of Occidental investigation of a pyschological kind. The intellectual part of man, however, was the chief subject of inquiry. It is only during the past 4 or 5 years that ethics have been earnestly and generally discussed. A large number of writers seem to be of opinion that ethics do not need religion as a basis. Prince Konoye returned from his European tour impressed with the conviction that morality in Europe has a better basis than it has in Japan and proposed that, since the immediate adoption of Christianity as a basis was impracticable, scholars should devise some substitute for it. Such utterances come from those who have studied human nature and philosophy to little purpose. Ethics can find no sure basis but religion, simply because nothing else can give man the power to perform the actions which ethical teaching has led him to regard as right and good.

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The *Rikugô Zasshi* has a good deal to say on the tenets of Unitarians in Japan and their attitude toward various bodies and various questions at the present time. The occasion which called forth these remarks was the departure of Dr. Clay MacCauley several months ago. At the farewell entertainment which was given to him by his numerous Japanese friends and admirers Dr. MacCauley made a speech; in the course of which he related the history of the founding of the Unitarian Mission in Japan. From the report of the speech published in the *Rikugô Zasshi* we cull the followings particulars:—The Unitarians of America sent out Dr. Knapp as their representative on account of the action taken by some leading Japanese. About 16 years ago Mr. Fukuzawa Yûkichi repeatedly pointed out in the columns of the *Jiji Shimpô* and elsewhere that Japan would certainly derive many benefits from the introduction of some form of Christianity, could this be effected, and hinted that the least strict and the least bigoted form would be most acceptable. About the same time, Mr. Yano Fumio, then editor of the *Hôchi Shimbun*, took the same line, urging that Christianity minus dogma would furnish a suitable basis for Japanese ethics. The desirability of establishing a Unitarian mission in Japan was publicly admitted by such leaders of thought as Doctors Katô Hiroyuki and Toyama Masakazu. The mission was strongly founded. A very fine set of men were sent to this country to engage in school work. while they helped forward the Unitarian cause; Messrs. Droppers, Wigmore, Mac Cauley, Liscomb and Knapp will all be remembered as earnest Christian scholars. But the connection of these gentlemen with the mission was of short duration. Dr. MacCauley was the last to leave and his mission life did not exceed about ten years. The Unitarian body now entirely consists of Japanese. Dr. MacCauley, says the *Rikugô Zasshi*, was a faithful representative of Unitarian thought in the United States without any of the sectarianism that characterizesas certain Unitarians in America. He is of opinion that even the name *Kyôkai* (教會) church, had better he changed to (協會) *Kyôkai* (Association), if it is found that according to Japanese law the retention of the former title involves certain political disabilities, and this is also the view taken by the American Unitarians whom Dr. MacCauley represented.

The writer we are quoting next proceeds to discuss the tenets of Unitarianism in the following terms:—Is Unitarianism Christian? We answer, yes and no. Historically Unitarianism is closely connected with Christianity and has no relation to any other creed. But as regards the views which are held by the persons who call themselves Unitarians they are not distinctively Christian. It is impossible for me to regard the body as a religious sect. It is merely a club or association of men who have agreed that they shall all be allowed perfect freedom of thought and expression in religious matters. No test of suitability for membership is applied. . . . . Some

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say that a body held together so loosely can not expect to effect much; that definiteness of teaching is essential to influence over others. This may be so. But experience has shown that a certain class of minds prefer to approach religion in a free and easy manner. The Unitarian net catches fish that avoid the meshes of other nets. . . . . If people object to our retaining the name "Unitarian," it would cost us no effort to give it up. Dr. MacCauley was a man of rare self-devotion. He has gone home without reaping the fruits of his own labours. He came to the conclusion that the Japanese get on best when not interfered with by foreigners. Would that other missionaries would follow his example! By so doing they would lessen the expense of mission work and remove many obstacles to the progress of the gospel.*

* * *

The *Taiyô* discusses the views of Dr. Murakami on Buddhism, as recently stated, and compares them with those of Dr. Inoue Tetsujirô. We gave a full summary of Dr. Murakami's article referred to by the *Taiyô* a few months ago. It will be remembered that Dr. Murakami laid great stress on the craving of human nature for a personal object of worship and predicted that the Budhhism of the future would certainly meet this want. Dr. Inoue, another great authority on Buddhism, we are told by the *Taiyô*, differs from Dr. Murakami on this point. Discussing the connection of religion with nature, personal objects of worship and ethics, Dr. Inoue says that of late years the feeling that the ethical side of religion is by far the most important has been growing, and that he himself does not think that the relation of religion to nature and the worship of personal embodiments of virtue are of vital moment. Dr. Murakami's view, says the *Taiyô*, seems to have originated in a desire to popularise religion. What he says about personality is a concession to human tradition, and not a rational deduction. This question concerning personality is one of the most crucial questions of philosophy and religion, says the *Taiyô*, and that two great leaders of Buddhist thought should differ on it is not surprising.

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The *Taiyô* deprecates the part taken by ministers of the Gospel during the discussion of the "Religions Bill." It says that it is the duty of ministers to steer clear of all political questions and that the "Religions Bill" was one of these. It does not deny that the Buddhists were as much to blame as Christians and observes that the course followed by the former thoughout the agitation over the rejected Bill was both narrow-minded and selfish. Christians ought to be content with their own special sphere of influence and should not try to interfere with legislation. If those persons who teach religion feel that they must mix themselves with politics, then they should follow the course of the Unitarians and cut their connection with recognised sects, and enter the ranks of the laity.

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The last number of the *Teikoku Bungaku*, under the title of "The World of Thought," passes in review the various opinions on the subject of religion which have been expressed by noted scholars during the past few months, beginning with those of Doctors Inoue Tetsujirô and Motora and ending with those of Professor Murakami, a writer in the *Taiyô* and Mr. Fukuzawa. The one point of agreement between all these essayists, says the *Teikoku Bungaku*, is the preeminence of the ethical element in religion. On the worship of nature or the recognition of a personal originator of its many operations opinion is divided. While the ideas of the learned have been expressed by one or other of these writers, Mr. Fukuzawa has come forward as the mouthpiece of practical men of the world who take things as they find them and try to discover a remedy for what they conceive to be fundamental weaknesses in the moral nature of the modern Japanese. The *Teikoku Bungaku* remarks that this principle of independence and self-esteem of Mr. Fukuzawa is the essence of Anglo-Saxonism, of which Mr. Fukuzawa is an ardent admirer. The *Teikoku Bungaku* then proceeds to quote two opposite opinions as to the merits of Mr. Fukuzawa's proposed system of ethics. The first of these is taken from the *Chûô-kôron* and is couched in the following terms:—Japan is by no means out of the wood as regards feudalism and its attendant evils. The spirit of slavish subjection to the wills of others still prevails to a very large extent. The bulk of the nation is ignorant of the meaning of independence and self-respect. Hence Mr. Fukuzawa's doctrine exactly suits the present time. It is a remedy that has been suggested by the disease it is intended to cure. Mr. Fukuzawa's followers will do well to proclaim this new ethical gospel on the housetops. In the same magazine Mr. Tsunashima, a Christian writer, tells us that he thinks Mr. Fukuzawa's *Shûshin Yôryô* to be full of egoism. To ask a people in whom regard for others is as yet an undeveloped feeling to pay more respect to themselves and to rely on this self-esteem as a means of making them more virtuous seems to me, says Mr. Tsunashima, like expecting a fire to go out after one has poured oil on it. Surely egoism needs checking and not encouraging. The *Tetsugaku Zasshi* writes in the same strain, as stated by us in last month's Summary. Turning to the *Kokumin Shimbun*, continues the *Teikoku Bungaku*, we find Mr. Aizan reviewing Mr. Fukuzawa's latest thoughts under the title of *Kinji no Fukuzawa-ô* in the following manner. That a man who has spent all his life in discoursing on the practical things of life should on the brink of the grave turn preacher and supply his followers with a creed; that a man who has despised philosophy and treated religion coldly should now endeavour to found a sect is, to say the least of it, a very striking phenomenon. When the silk-worm grows old it prepares its cocoon. When man grows old he seeks for the materials wherewith to build for himself a monument that shall perpetuate his memory. Here we have Mr. Fukuzawa following in the footsteps of the evangelists whom he has so often laughed at and providing solace for the weary. It would seem as though in solemnly reviewing his life he felt that it would not be complete without some definite expression of opinion on philosophy and religion. It looks as though the things which satisfied Mr. Fukuzawa in his vigorous days appeared insignificant to him on the threshold of the unseen world and that he, like so many others, feels that the deeper questions of life should be grappled with and if possible answered.

We have considerably curtailed Mr. Aizan's remarks. He writes as if Mr. Fukuzawa had given up his Utilitarianism and adopted something nearer Christianity, but surely the *Shûshin Yôryô* is utilitarian throughout.

L'Abbé Francois Ligneul has kindly forwarded to us his two latest works, the *Sekai Kwanken* 管見 (A Peep at the World) and the *Hôri Tetsugaku* (The Philosophy of Law). The former was issued on May 15th and sells at 14 *sen* a copy, and the latter appeared on May 19th and sells at 17 *sen* per copy. Both works are full of interest. The first is expository and didactic, the second controversial. From the prefaces to the two little volumes we learn what objects M. Ligneul had in view in preparing them. In his "Peep at the world," M. Ligneul, after observing that though travellers go over the same ground they see different things, tells us that what interests him most in his study of the world's affairs may be classified under three headings as follows:—(1) The distinction between civilisation and barbarism. (2) The difference between original religion (本教) and its off-shoots (支教) (3) The connection of race with the events of history. The *Sekai-kwanken* discusses these three subjects in a concise and attractive manner. M. Ligneul does not claim to have gone into the depths of the three branches of inquiry, but only to have shown that they are extremely interesting topics and topics on which thoughtful people ought to have definite opinions.

The *Hôri Tetsugaku*, though partly written before Dr. Katô Hiroyuki published his learned work entitled *Dôtoku Höritsu Shinkwa no ri*, is, M. Ligneul tells us, to a certain extent intended to be a counter-blast to Dr. Katô's treatise. M. Ligneul, as is natural enough, writes in regretful tones of Dr. Katô's career as a philosopher and a popular writer. The thought which seems to underlie M. Ligneul's remarks about Dr. Katô is, what grand things might have been accomplished by this talented man if he had only been a Christian! People have tried to detract from Dr. Katô's greatness, says M. Ligneul, by observing that he is "a man with one idea." But this rather adds to his fame, as all the great men of the world have stuck to one idea in the main, and it has been around this one idea that their fame has clustered. It will be found in reading the *Hôri Tetsugaku*, says M. Ligueul, that there are other people full of one idea besides Dr. Katô. A comparison of the two recently issued books on the same subject (the *Hôri Tetsugaku* and Dr. Katô's work) will show that the stones with which the two structures are built come from different quarries (他山の石). It often happens that sparks of truth are produced by the friction of ideas, says M. Ligneul, and hence persons interested in the subject will do well to peruse both works, though in point of style and general attractiveness there can be no comparison, says M. Ligneul, between my treatise and that of Dr. Katô.

Another work on religion recently published demanding a brief notice is Mr. Anezaki Masaharu's *Shûkyô-gaku-gairon*, which has been issued by the Tôkyô Semmon Gakkô, and which sells at 1 *yen* 50 *sen* a copy. This book claims to be a thoroughly up-to-date treatise on religion, treating it from various points of view and illustrating the author's theories by extensive quotations from history. Mr. Masaharu is now in Europe for the purpose of carrying on further investigations in the same line. In view of the new interest which religion has awakened in this country Mr. Masaharu published the *Shûkyô-gairon* before leaving for Germany.

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The *Jiji Shimpô* on April 26th published an interesting account of an interview granted to one

* The policy here recommended has been largely adopted by the Greek Church, which, we believe, has only one foreign minister connected with its Japanese Church.—(WRITER OF THE SUMMARY.)

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of its staff by Bishop Nicolai, during which the Bishop gave a concise history of his own career and of the founding of the Greek Church in Japan that is well worth transcription. The venerable prelate is represented to have spoken as follows:—I first came to Japan 39 years ago at the age of 25. At that time anti-foreign spirit was at its height and it is hardly necessary to say that my life was constantly in danger. As I came for a religious purpose, I hired a teacher and commenced to study the language. After spending some time over it, I commenced to read the *Nihon Gwaishi*, the *Kojiki*, and other books, and obtained some knowledge of Japanese religion and of Oriental thought generally—subjects that were quite new to me at the time and which interested me immensely. When I began to explain Christianity in a quiet way, the names, "Christian," "heretic," "magician" were hurled at me in bitter reproach. Since the majority of persons in those days thought that Christianity was a form of necromancy, people came to me with the strangest requests. I was asked to conjure up mountains and rivers in my house for their diversion, to call spirits from the unseen world, and even to make it rain silver and gold or to place myself over the fire without getting burnt. My first convert to Christianity was a young fencer in the employ of the Russian Consulate at Hakodate called Sawabe Kazuma. This young warrior at first scowled on me with the eye of a wild beast. He looked as though the very sight of me was loathsome to him, and when he began to speak to me I knew that this was the case. For one day he came to me and said, "You are one of those traitors who have come here to teach heresy. The sooner the like of you leave the country the better." I dealt with him gently, urging him to read the Bible for himself. This he refused to do. Then I pointed out that it was unreasonable to abuse what he knew nothing about, and I explained certain things to him. He took notes of what I said, and this led to his afterwards becoming a convert. He has spent his whole life in teaching Christianity.

Subsequent to the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate I breathed the air of freedom, and, after returning to Russia and taking steps for the founding of a mission, I took up my quarters in Tôkyô in the spring of 1872, where I have remained ever since.

There are at present in Japan a very large number of different religious sects, more than a hundred. And even in the case of Christianity there are many different forms. Shintô lacks some of the chief characteristics of a religion, and therefore should not be so called. Buddhism is a form of pantheistic philosophy. It encourages the worship of nature, but since it is not founded on belief in one personal God, it can never prosper. Japan desires to made the civilisation of England, America, and Germany her own, and as these are Protestant countries is somewhat inclined to favour this form of belief rather than the Greek Church, which has its home in a country that occupies a lower stage of civilisation than that possessed by the three above-named nations. But, looking to the future, it seems certain that the numerous divisions among Protestants will undermine their influence altogether, and that hence final victory will lie with us. Even now there is a great demand for our teaching. The need of a higher tone of morality is felt everywhere, and this can only be obtained by basing it on the Christian religion.

We have spent more than 250,000 *yen* on Church building.* This sum was collected by me in Russia, and not supplied by the Russian Government, as some suppose. Russian Christians have given liberally, not a few princes being among the subscribers.

Our priests are all married with the exception of myself. Though at one time priests of the Greek Church were not allowed to marry, in the early days of the Christian Church marriage was permitted. During the first years of our mission in Japan, the Christians who applied for admission into holy orders aimed at celibacy, but failed and brought disgrace on the Christian cause. In view of this I made a rule that all priests should be married men.

I live one of the busiest of lives, rising before 6 in the morning and never retiring before 11. I have been working hard at the translation of the Scriptures from the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin versions. The New Testament is now finished, after being revised three times. It will be found to differ very considerably from any version of the scriptures in circulation in this country.

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In reference to the translation of the Scriptures we read in the *Fukuin Shimpô* that the Baptists have a new translation in hand in which the Japanese word for immersing, *hitasu*, is used for baptism on every occasion. Mr. Takahashi Gorô has completed his translation of the Old and New Testaments for the Roman Catholic Mission. The Fukuin-Dômeikai talk of revising the Bible now in use by Protestants. In various directions dissatisfaction with the translation made by a Committee of Delegates many years ago is expressed. The *Fukuin Shimpô* is of opinion that there is plenty of room for improvement in what has hitherto been considered the Japanese authorised version of the Scriptures.

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Under the heading of "The Urgent duty of the Christian Church" the *Tôkyô Maishû Shimpô* gives an account of an important meeting of Christians called together by Mr. Kataoka Kenkichi, the President of the House of Representatives, at which those present were asked to give their opinion of the present situation of Christian affairs and of the prospects of future success. Some urged the necessity of the Church's deciding on the educational policy to be adopted and of all Christians' supporting it. Others contended that more prayer meetings should be held. Others thought that attempts should be made to work up a revival. All were agreed that Christianity is about to enter on a new stage. What to us seems to be most important, says the *Tôkyô Maishû Shimpô*, is that each Church should set before it some definite object and strive to attain it. There is a great want of clearness in the minds of Christians as to what Christian belief and Christian life are. At so many of the meetings that are held there is too much indulgence in vague generalities that leave no impression on the minds of those who listen to them. Much of the profession of Christianity proves its hollowness by its failure to effect anything practical. Numerous evangelists are satisfied if numbers increase, taking no cognizance of the fact that the majority of their converts are persons of no strength of character whatever. Thus do they erect a building whose foundation is shaky. Their adherents prove too often to be mere hothouse plants that die when exposed to inclement weather. The urgent duty of the Church is to decide what kind of converts are needed and to set about getting them.

Another writer in the organ quoted above dwells on the difference that exists between the Christian religion as known to the world and the Christian religion as known to real believers or would-be believers. The first is the real gospel, the second is a modified form of Christianity adapted to the intelligence and taste of the people of any given age. Persons who take an interest in the latter very seldom care a straw for former. The ethical, political, and social side of Christianity interests them, but not its strictly religious side. To worship and faith in a Saviour of the world they are alike indifferent, and any attempt to preach them into devotion only repels them. They are ready to admit that Christianity confers certain ethical benefits on the world; beyond this they will not go. There are two classes of exponents of the creed of Christendom. The one class states the naked truths of the gospel, the other class dresses these truths up to suit the feelings of the persons who are asked to accept them.

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To a recent number of the *Tôkyô Maishû Shimpô* Mr. Matsumura Kaiseki contributes an article entitled *Kirisuto-kyô ni tsuite no Chishiki*, the gist of which we give below. There is a great dearth of well-informed Christians. Many of the young men in the Church who pay special attention to the cultivation of the mind are averse to becoming evangelists. Many real believers who are willing to become preachers have not the knowledge necessary to make them successful. Even Christians who have a great deal of theoretical knowledge are quite ignorant of the state of the world's affairs and of the tendency of thought, and hence they waste effort fruitlessly. A case in point is Dr. Wright's attempt to influence Japanese by stating to them at great length the argument from design. It produced no impression whatever on the young men who listened to it. They are not in the state of mind to be affected by an argument of that kind. . . . The number of illogical and self-contradictory things that are uttered by Christians is very large. There are Christians that say the tobacco smoker cannot inherit the kingdom of God, while Dr. Verbeck habitually smoked. There are teachers that make out that orthodoxy and heresy are a mere matter of numbers. The teaching of the majority is to be considered orthodox, that of the minority heretodox. There are those who say that it is necessary for Japan to accept Christianity in order to save herself from invasion and annexation, thus indirectly justifying the action of Russia in Poland and of Spain in Mexico. People talk much about Christianity's abolition of slavery, but seldom mention the fact that in an earlier age slavery was preached from Christian pulpits as an institution pleasing to God.* Arguments that are not only quite inconclusive, but which if pressed by a skilful antagonist prove to be of a most destructive character, are ignorantly cited by ill-informed representatives of the Christian cause. Thus deficiency of knowledge in those who take upon themselves to explain Christianity to others frequently brings reproach on the creed.

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The *Kôye* makes use of the *Lèse Majesté* affair as a text for preaching the superiority of the Ro-

* It is not clear how much of this was spent on the Surugadai Cathedral, or whether the whole of this sum was required for the erection of that huge structure.—WRITER of SUMMARY.

* The famous preacher George Whitfield advocated slavery.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

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man Catholic form of Christianity to Protestantism. The Roman Catholic Church, says this organ, as an eminent French Protestant, Guizot, remarked, has ever been a great school for the culture of respect for royalty. It is of the essence of Catholicism that due respect should be shown to all lawfully constituted authority. Since the Protestants are for ever preaching the doctrine of liberty and removing one restraint after another from the minds of their converts, it is not surprising that one of their number should commit such an offence as that perpetrated by the youth Yamakawa Hitoshi. The enemies of Christianity are doing their best to make use of the incident in the crusade against our faith, says the *Koye*. The best way to meet this is to explain that our Church lays special stress on the importance of subjection to authority and of showing deep respect for all civil rulers. In reply to these remarks Protestants would no doubt have much to say.

L'ABBE FRANCOIS LIGNEUL ON FREEMASONRY.

Damnantur Clandestinae Societates, wrote Pius IX. in 1864, in the Papal bull *Quanta Cura*. Former bulls had said some hard things against the order of Freemasons, but no previous utterances had expressed Papal ire in such trenchant terms. M. Ligneul has recently published in Japanese a work on Freemasonry which might well bear the above words on its title page. For throughout the 250 pages of which the book consists the author does nothing but denounce the whole system of Freemasonry as one of the greatest evils the world contains. Now there is no denying that as a compiler of books M. Ligneul has no equal among missionaries. The rapidity with which he produces volume after volume, the extent of the subjects treated, and the great vivacity which characterises everything he writes are most striking. We are informed that his books are very widely read. They have received favourable notice from all impartial Protestant literary organs, as well as from leading purely literary magazines. He has supplied to his Japanese readers so much information that is thoroughly reliable that it is with no small regret that we find among his works a volume which is a gross misrepresentation of the whole subject it undertakes to treat. Perhaps it may be too much to expect that so keen a controversialist as M. Ligneul should write impartially on any subject. One has to bear in mind that in war the common canons of life may be broken with impunity. The terms fairness and unfairness seem to be no longer applicable. Ardent Christian partisans seldom see any good in their foes. They denounce them *in toto*, and this course, it is considered, pays best in the long run from a controversial point of view. But M. Ligneul, as has already been pointed out in these columns, is a philosopher as well as a stalwart defender of the decisions of the Council of Trent, and as a philosopher it is not unreasonable to expect that he should take a broad view of men and things, as when writing on some other subjects he has invariably done. We would put the following question to M. Ligneul. If Freemasonry were the thing it is represented to be in the *Himitsu Kessha*, could it possibly find the support it does in England, America and Germany? In America the success of Freemasonry has been astonishing. The first lodge established at Boston dates from 1733. We have no recent statistics by us, but in 1870 there were in the United States no less than 5,000 lodges with nearly 200,000 members.

There are many evidences in M. Ligneul's treatise that he is acquainted with the history and tenets of French Freemasons only, and that even concerning these he has been guided rather by the utterances of the French clergy than by accounts penned by impartial writers. We are quite prepared to admit that the English Freemasonry which was introduced into France by Lord Derwentwater in 1725, perhaps owing to the fact that it was largely patronized by the nobility, who were mostly corrupt at the time, gradually lost all its high moral tone and in later years imbibed many ideas that were subversive of ecclessiastical authority. Without believing the slander, which M. Ligneul repeats and endorses, that French Freemasons are engaged in any definite conspiracy against the State, religion, and social order, we can admit that there is something in their fundamental principles and their indifference to theological belief which justifies their being regarded with a certain amount of suspicion by the Church. But what we have to bear in mind is that M. Ligneul's book does not profess to be an account of French Freemasonry and its relation to the Church of Rome only, but to be a description of Freemasonry the world over. However unfavourable to the Ultramontane party many of the lodges of France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland may be, it would be quite untrue to to say that Freemasonry in England and America is anti-religious. According to M. Ligneul, we are required to believe that the thousands of pious souls who belong to the fraternity are at heart opposed to order, religion, and family life. M. Ligneul, we observe, takes for granted that there is a real connection between modern Freemasons and such sects as the Essenes and Carmathites, though he does not go so far as the Rev. George Oliver, one of the most popular Masonic writers of the Nineteenth Century, who informs us that Moses was a grand master, Joshua his deputy, and Aholiab and Bezaleel grand wardens. It seems to us quite evident that the cosmopolitan brotherhood which forms the basis of Freemasonry to-day was impossible in the ancient world. The origin of Freemasonry, however, is comparatively an unimportant subject. It is the tenets and objects of Masons that most concern the Japanese, whom M. Ligneul is trying to guard so jealously from the pernicious influence of these so-called enemies of mankind. But the point we are concerned in making here is this, if, as M. Ligneul maintains, the fraternity has always been an evil sect, how does he explain the facts that in England the early mason mechanics, from whom, according to M. Ligneul, modern masons are descended, admitted into their body ecclesiastics of the highest rank, Roman Catholic abbots, prelates, and bishops, and that the artisans who belonged to the fraternity built churches and helped forward Christian work in various ways? For a long time the Freemasons of England were patronised by the clergy and smiled on by Popes. It is stated on competent authority that the very title "Free" to which Mr. Ligneul gives such a sinister meaning was first applied to those English builders who were exempted by several papal bulls from the laws which regulated common labourers, and exonerated from various burdens thrown on the working classes at large both in England and on the Continent. In those days the principal function of the craft was church building, so that its connection with the clergy was very close. But even before the Reformation the English Masons seemed to have excited the jealousy of the Church on account of their great influence and their impatience under control. We do not believe there is any real connection between these early masons and the modern fraternity, but M. Ligneul thinks there is, and hence to him this argument ought to appeal. It is not true to say that even ancient Masons were the enemies of the established Church.

In our opinion modern Masonry is neither connected with the building craft nor with architecture. It is of British origin and dates from the 17th century. In the phraseology of the masonic brethren it is founded in "the practice of moral and social virtue." Its distinctive characteristic is charity in its most extended sense. Brotherly love, relief, and truth are all enjoined by its precepts. The symbolism it uses, which is no essential part of the system, was borrowed partly from the Knights Templars and partly from the Rosicrucians. Charles II. and William III. were Masons, and, perhaps on account of his connection with operative Masonry, Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect, was appointed Grand Master. A distinction was made in England between Masons and the members of ordinary secret societies. When in 1799 an Act was passed suppressing the latter, exception was made in favour of Freemasons. In 1717 a Grand Lodge was formed in London with power to grant charters to other lodges. In 1742 the Duke of Cumberland, was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge and he was succeeded by the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. The Grand Lodge of England had in 1870 more than a thousand lodges under its protection.

We have stated these facts in order to show how preposterous is the notion, which M. Ligneul adopts and presses upon the Japanese, that Freemasonry is an anti-government, anti-religious, anti-moral, and anti-domestic organisation. That Free-masonry has often been used for political purposes in all countries cannot be denied, but so has Roman Catholicism. Its employment for political objects is a violation of its constitution, which prohibits political, partisan, or sectarian discussions in the lodges. American readers will remember that the conflict between the lodges of Scotch origin calling themselves *Escoceses* and the lodges chartered by the Masons of New York which called themselves *Yorkinos* led to civil war. But this was not the fault of Masonry as a system, but is to be attributed to that deep-seated American tendency to make everything serve a political purpose, not excepting the pulpit and the altar of worship.* Freemasonry is not to be held responsible for the uses to which it has been put by unscrupulous persons. Even the holiest things are not proof against profanation. M. Ligneul makes much of the secrecy which enshrouds the doings of Freemasons, and in one of his chapters argues that shame can be the only reason for secrecy. M. Ligneul cannot be ignorant of the fact that just as secrecy is resorted to by those who are bent on the lowest forms of evil so it is adhered to by those who are performing acts which in all times and in all civilised countries have been pronounced to be highly virtuous and god-like. There are cases, and those not a few, where secret charity is the only possible charity, where any assistance offered openly would be spurned, though sorely needed. It is not mere silly pride that makes many a man and many a woman strive to the very utmost to keep up appearances with slender means, but the right kind of self-respect. Help given to such persons before the gaze of the cruel world would destroy their self-respect. The Freemasons help them in secret. They perform, do these maligned secret societies, a thousand acts of benevolence that would bear comparison with any of the works of charity of which even the Church of Rome can boast. And yet by M. Ligneul the Christ-like secrecy with which they work is quoted as though it were a reproach to them. Did not Christ say, "When thon doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: *that thine alms may be in secret!*" Persons who have not joined the brotherhood have from time to time demurred at the secrecy observed. Its origin was very simple. In the early days of the fraternity a set of pass-words, or a peculiar grip of the hand, enabled the initiated to recognise each other and gave zest to their meetings. There was no special significance about such secrecy. The secrecy that is significant, as far as English and American Masons are concerned at any rate, and probably as far as all Masons are concerned, is certainly never used as a cloak for evil. But secrecy is no longer observed by many lodges, for quite thirty years ago the Grand Master in England gave permission to the *Freemason's Magazine* to publish reports of the proceedings of grand and private lodges.

It would seem at first sight that the title M. Ligneul gives to his work, *Himitsu Kessha*, indicated that it was not Freemasonry specially that was to be made the object of his attack, but associations like the Nihilists and Anarchists in the West and the

* It is quite common for a man to reveal his political sympathies by the language he uses in prayer in various parts of the United States, and cases have been known where one supplicant has answered a praying opponent while addressing the Almighty by skilfully worded petitions.

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numerous secret societies in China. But a perusal of the book dissipates this notion. It is on Freemasonry that M. Ligneul's assault is made, and it is of it that he writes in the following manner in Chapter IV:—The Freemasons assert in a most open manner that in order to deliver men from the thraldom to which they are subjected the following six delusions must be removed from their minds.

1. *Respecting the Family.*—The custom of one man marrying one woman is an old superstition that has been transmitted to us. It is a remnant of barbarism and must be got rid of.

2. *Property.*—The holding of property is to be regarded as a sin against society. It begets cruelty and oppression. The custom should be abolished.

3. *National Boundaries.*—To divide off one country from another and put barriers between them to prevent free intercourse is treating human beings as though they were sheep. It interferes with development and curtails the liberty to which man has a right. Such obstacles to human progress should be removed.

4. *Morality.*—The distinctions between virtue and vice, right and wrong, praise and blame, exaltation and humiliation, these are the chains which have kept man in prison long enough. They should be snapped and ground to powder.

5. *Authority.*—Whether in the case of fathers or masters, in the house and the State, the assumption of authority over others without their consent is an encroachment on the rights and an interference with the liberty of the many by the few. No one has a right to govern people unless they are appointed by the people they govern. The people alone possess power. All other kind of authority should be overthrown.

6. *Religion.*—This is a bad dream, a pernicious fiend, that makes sad the hearts of women, children, and weak-minded men and keeps them in a perpetual state of anxiety, which haunts and depresses them even in their hours of recreation and prevents them from fulfilling any high purpose in life. Hence no trace of religion should be left in the heart of man.

The above is a fair specimen of the Freemason dummy that M. Ligneul sets up as a target for his arrows. He entirely ignores the fact that in the ranks of Freemasonry there are thousands of devout Christians, who believe that Freemasonry is a handmaiden to the church. M. Ligneul is a powerful special pleader, but all the rhetoric at his command does not hide the fact that this time he has got hold of a bad brief and that the case must go against him in open court. The conclusion which he reaches, as stated in the last chapter of his work, is that Freemasonry is on the side of materialism, lawlessness, and atheism, and therefore is the mortal foe of all devoted Christians. Since, as M. Ligneul reminds us, the Japanese nation knows so little about the whole subject, we have deemed it our duty to point out that it would have been infinitely better that the Japanese should have been left in their ignorance rather than be treated to such a caricature of Freemasonry as it exists to-day as that which M. Ligneul has penned. We trust that before M. Ligneul brings out a second edition of his work he will take the trouble to study something beyond the account of French Freemasonry run wild that has fallen into his hands. For his scholarship, zeal, and single-mindedness we have the greatest admiration, but in the present case he has fallen a victim to partisanship. We recognise no longer the calm philosopher weighing the pros and cons of complex questions in his wonted style, but make acquaintance with a man who is so blinded by prejudice as to hurl anathemas at corporations which in the opinion of the thousands of upright men who belong to them possess the charity that suffereth long, and is kind, the charity that envieth not, that doth not behave itself unseemly, that thinketh no evil, that rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.

A telegram to the *Manila Times*, dated New York, June 1, states that the Venezuelan revolution is at an end. Hernandez, the revolutionary leader, has been captured.

HOKKAIDO.

According to the latest investigations, as published in the *Keizai Zasshi*, the population of Hokkaido has now grown to 853,000, the average increase per year being no less than 53,000. The island has an area of 5,100 square miles, of which 2,900,000 *cho* are available for cultivation. Supposing each *cho* to yield a profit of 7 *yen*, the total will be something like 203 millions of *yen*. At present the cultivated area does not exceed 245,000 *cho*, against 2,660,000 of unreclaimed land. This unreclaimed land, however, yields sleepers for railways to the amount of 660 millions *yen*, and offers prospects for the organisation of preservation forests to the extent of 3,600,000 *cho*, from which a profit of 28,800,000 *yen* might be realized annually. As to mining, statistics show that coal is obtainable in 116 districts comprising 63,950,000 *tsubo*. The districts under trial number 1370, comprising 708 million *tsubo*. Sulphur is obtained in 43 districts, extending over 5,110,000 *tsubo*; kerosene in 29 districts, with an area of 2,540,000 *tsubo*, together with 68 sections (36,800,000 *tsubo*) on which trial borings are being made. The gold fields cover 237 million *tsubo* in 123 mining sections, besides 36,800,000 *tsubo* in 68 sections where experimental works are being carried out. Manganese mines extend over 5,870,000 *tsubo*. It is said that the value of the productions of Hokkaido amounts to 34 millions of *yen* annually. Of this amount 880,000 *yen* is accounted for by match wood; 2,370,000 by works of art; 70,000 by silk cocoons; 260,000 by marine products; and 802,000 by agricultural produce. The fertility of the soil may be perceived from the following comparative figures:—

	Northern district of Japan proper. *Koku.*	Hokkaido. *Koku.*
Barley	1.00	1.14
Wheat	0.76	0.88
Panicum Frumentaceum	0.83	1.00
Beans	0.74	0.92
Red beans	0.57	0.67
Millet	0.65	1.49
Rape-seed plant	0.74	0.96
Indigo	0.27	2.26
Potatoes	1.66	0.98

There can be no second opinion as to the superiority of Hokkaido.

A NEW HOTEL AT KOWAKIDANI.

A number of eminent personages, among whom are Mr. Yokoyama Magoichiro, who, from his experience abroad, is familiar with the conditions of European life, Mr. Masuda Kotoku, and Mr. Yamagata Shinkichi, well known in commercial and industrial circles, and others, have under contemplation the construction of a large hotel at Kowakidani, Hakone. Kowakidani, as most foreigners know, lies in the centre of the Hakone mountain district between Miyanoshita and Ashinoyu, and is situated about 2000 feet above the level of the sea. To the west lies Kowaki mountain, and to the north and south is a fine view of distant hills and peaks. The whole district is delightfully fresh and verdant, and in the spring the mountains around have almost the appearance of a natural garden of cherry trees. In summer the district is swept with fresh breezes; the autumnal tints are fine; and even in winter the neighbourhood has a charm of its own. The climate is comparatively equable. In the hottest part of the year the thermometer does not rise above 80° F., while in winter the hot springs with which the region abounds rob the cold of much of its rigour. The springs are, as most foreigners know from experience, of great efficacy in many complaints, and are moreover much more pleasant for bathers than at some other resorts. The district has the advantage of easy accessibility from Tokyo and Yokohama. The Tokaido railway brings the traveller as far as Kozu, whence an electric railway conveys him to Yumoto at the foot of the hills, over which is to be carried at some future time. The only difficulty is a hilly path of about a mile leading from Miyanoshita to Kowakidani, but a practical survey has already been made for the construction of a carriage road, so that greater facilities may be secured at no distant date. A trip from Tokyo or Yokohama to Kowakidani and back can then be effected in one day. Kowakidani is well provided with foreign food and beverages, but so far the hotel accommodation has not been of the best, though the foreigner used to roughing it has found little to complain of. The promoters of the present scheme, however, apparently mean to do things thoroughly. They will purchase the existing buildings, together with adjoining land, extending over 20,000 *tsubo*, upon which a fine edifice suitable for foreigners is to be constructed as an annexe to the present establishment. It will be well furnished, and provided with means for indoor and outdoor games, sports, and exercises. Billiard rooms, and rooms for *yokyu* and other games will be included in the building, while a riding paddock, tennis court, and *daikyuba* (archery ground) will be formed outside. A fine garden is also to be laid out. Visitors will be divided into two classes. With regard to the foreign section arrangements will be made on purely western lines; for the Japanese section the best methods will be adopted. Special attention will be paid to cuisine and baths. The enterprise appears to be a hopeful one, and subscriptions to shares should be readily forthcoming. Arrangements have been made, as will be seen by the advertisement in another column, to receive applications for shares at various banks, or at the *Japan Mail* office. Any person interested in the scheme is requested to apply for particulars.

CHINESE NOTES.

The children of the British Minister have been sent to Chefoo, but Lady Macdonald remains in Peking. None of the ladies or children of the Russian Legation have left.

The *Universal Gazette* says that the Boxers having threatened to burn down the Tung Wen Kun College and the Peking University and murder the teachers and scholars, every one of them has left the college.

Regarding the recent troubles at Wei-hai-wei, a correspondent at Tientsin writes to the *N.-C. Daily News*:—"The opinion obtains here that it might have been obviated, had an experienced Consul, who was also *persona grata* to the Chinese, been sent to explain British intentions to the rustics. Our folks should have followed the old policy of the Indian frontier. The Consular official who is there is a most able and excellent man, but, as he is quite a junior and a stranger, he could hardly be expected to exercise considerable personal influence either with the British military and naval men or with the natives. In all probability Sir Claude had not a man to send, as the service is very short-handed just now."

The arrival of the British gunboats *Woodcock* and *Woodlark* at Chungking on 7th May was a spectacle to be remembered. A correspondent writes:—"The whole of the foreign community turned out to see the arrival, which was announced by a terrific salvo from the Chinese gunboats, which were all gaily dressed with flags; the gunboats returned the salute and then the Chinese began firing indiscriminately in their usual fashion and continued to do so all the morning. A number of the foreign community boarded the gunboats as soon as they had anchored off the Customs Pontoon and heartily congratulated the Captains upon the success of the trip. The ships were then dressed and the National Anthem sung, which was followed by three cheers for the Queen. The trip took exactly 33 days, but only 69 steaming hours, the delay being caused by the accident to the *Woodcock*.

Dispatches received in Shanghai from Tientsin state that Brigadier-General Yang, who was ambushed and murdered by Boxers at Laishui near Paoting-fu recently, while *en route* to investigate a case of reported murder of Christians at Kaoli, is to be "cashiered for disobedience of orders, in that he had been ordered 'to investigate' and not to come to blows with the mob." This, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, was the same

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officer whom our correspondent at Tientsin in his last letter eulogised as a "fine old soldier." By rights Brigadier-General Yang's family should have been compensated by a grant of money and posthumous honours for him for having died doing his duty, but for the fact that he had "disobeyed orders." That the Boxers are secretly favoured by the powers that be in Peking has been again and again insisted upon in these columns and what clearer proof can there be of this than this censure of Brigadier Yang?

We find the following in *The Times* of April 28th:—

St. Petersburg, April 27.

The *Novoe Vremya* publishes news of the sitting of a committee in Peking to inquire into the claim of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., to territory at Hankow which is disputed by the Russians. The manager of the Russo-Chinese Bank, M. Pokotiloff, and a tea merchant named Litvinoff attended on behalf of the Russians, and a Chinese lawyer was also present. The account states that, when the question came up as to the identity of the land claimed and taken possession of by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., with the site described in their lease, Mr. Gardner, the English representative of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, explained that, by a mistake which had only just been discovered, the land claimed by the English firm was situated in quite another place, and not in the territory claimed by the Russians. This unexpected conclusion is described as having caused some little merriment, but the *Novoe Vremya*, fearing that Sir Claude MacDonald may not confirm the admission, advises the presence of a Russian gunboat at Hankow to ensure protection.

The Shanghai papers are full of the Boxer trouble in the north, of which the telegraph has kept us fully informed in Japan. It seems that the first Legation guards to enter Peking was the American contingent from the U.S.S. *Newark*; then came the Russians, the Japanese, French, British, and German in the order named. The Russians and the French, in the first week of June, had the largest number of marines. The Peking correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury*, writing on June 2, said:—The slaughter and pillaging of the native converts goes on with increased violence. In one station of the American Methodists ten Christians were killed, most of them being women and children. A station of the American Board Mission is wiped out. A native woman of the Church of England has been killed. Wiring to his journal on June 7th, this correspondent announced that Madame Astier and Messieurs Ossent and Cades are reported as among the foreign victims of the "Boxers." The last news received in Tientsin from Paoting-fu was alarming, but the telegraph had since been interrupted. A British gunboat is guarding Peitaho.

We quote the following from a recent leading article in our senior morning contemporary:—Unlike impressionable Japan, China goes slowly. She imitates the road waggon rather than the stage coach. But her progress is, for her, as perfectly natural as was the rapid dash to the front of the Japanese. Japan learnt and adopted Western manners and customs as it were by intuition. Seeing and appreciating were one operation with her: imitation and experience have done the rest. With China, the experience has had to come first; seeing was not sufficient, and appreciation was hindered by conceit. But in a hundred different ways the effect of the tens of thousands of foreign object lessons is being felt, and the great wall of partition between native and outlander has been breached in scores of places. Year by year, too, the number of natives brought under foreign influence increases as trade and treaty ports increase. The original five ports have been multiplied many times over, missionaries have doubled and trebled, while the travelling Chinaman is comparatively common to what he was. There is thus a revolution actually going on amongst the people of this great land. It is not meteoric as was that of Japan, but it is in consonance with the genius of the Chinese race, and, being slow of growth, may from analogy be expected to be all the more thorough.

AMERICAN NOTES.

New York, says the *Literary Digest*, has the most expensive municipal government in the world. Last year, according to Controller Coler, the city received and paid out again, for all purposes, more than $200,000,000. The great city of London, with a million more inhabitants, was run at an expense of $20,000,000 less than New York; and Paris, with its vast and varied municipal services, pertaining to education, cleanliness, health, charity, banking, and its almost paternal care for its citizens, being far in advance of the American metropolis in this respect, cost $18,000,000 less than New York last year. Indeed, the combined expenses of Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia in 1899 were only $1,000,000 more than those of New York. The city's expenses amounted to $19.56 per capita on the estimated population of 3,500,000. Mr. Coler, who gives these interesting facts in *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly*, says that "the combined annual expenditures of the six largest States in the Union are less than those of the city of New York, and the financial transactions of the latter are equal in amount to one-seventh of those of the national government." In spite of these enormous expenditures, however, the credit of the city is second only to that of the federal government.

The month of May was marked in the United States by pronounced activity on the part of the working classes throughout the country. Labour parades were held in the large cities, and several thousands of working-men, most of them in the building and cigar-making trades, went out on strike. Of these symptoms of labour's unrest, the strike among the building trades in Chicago attracted most attention. The labour troubles there are of long duration, and have arisen largely from the employment of non-union labour by the contractors and city authorities.

At Acworth and Grafton, N.H., very large crystals of beryl have been found. One from Grafton weighed 2,900 pounds, and another from the same locality was 45 by 24 inches and weighed by calculation about 2½ tons. In Utah crystals of gypsum, sulphate of lime, over 4 feet long have been found. What is probably, however, the largest crystal yet recorded, says *The Engineering and Mining Journal*, was mentioned in a paper by Mr. E. O. Hovey on the Harney Peak District, S. Dak., read before the New York Academy of Science, This was a crystal of spodumene, lithium-aluminum silicate, which, by actual measurement, was 30 feet in length.

All records in the broad jump have been broken by Captain Krenzlein, of the Pennsylvania University team. He cleared on May 15, in practice, 24 feet 8½ inches. This jump cannot stand as a record, as it was not made in a contest. The world's record is now held by Prinzlein, of Syracuse University, who cleared 24 feet 7¼ inches on April 28 last, beating Krenzlein's previous world's record of 24 feet 6½ inches, made May 26, 1899, on Manhattan field, New York.

In 1899 as many pianos were sold in the great wheat-producing States of the northwest as had been disposed of in the same territory during the previous six years. In the east the standard of luxury is diamonds, in the west it is top buggies, says the Chicago *Tribune*. In 1897 the total value of the diamonds imported into the United States was $72,000,000, in 1899 it reached the astonishing figure of over $12,000,000. In the matter of top buggies it is stated that during last year twice as many were made and sold as during any previous year in the history of the industry. Almost equally significant are the figures on imported millinery, which must surely be put down as an article of luxury. In 1899 the total value of milinery goods brought to the United States from abroad $2,650,000, an increase of more than $500,000 over the figures for 1897. In the same way imported pictures and other works of art increased from $2,300,000 in 1898 to $2,800,000 in 1899. Add to this demonstration of prosperity the figures furnished by the savings banks of the country, which show how the poorer classes of the people are progressing, and the picture is even more impressive. In 1889 there were in the United States in all 3,800,000 depositors in the savings banks of the country. Ten years later, in 1899, there were no less than 5,200,000 depositors, a gain of 1,400,000 in the ten years. In 1894 each depositor had an average of $369 in bank. In 1899 this had risen to $419.

Figures showing excessive fire losses last year were presented at the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, recently held in New York. In his address the president, Mr. E. C. Irvin, of Philadelphia, said:—If we may judge from such records as are accessible, property in the United States is burning in greater proportion to values than in any other country. This is the more startling when the destruction goes on in a year like the one under review, when business is generally admitted to have been good. With an active demand and prices generally rising, so that goods cannot be replaced except at figures above their cost, the moral hazard is minimized. Everywhere the signs of prosperity have been abundant, yet fire insurance has suffered as it has not done in years. The loss in 1898 was $1,919,650, or 1½ per cent. on the premiums of $127,730,726. In 1899 the premiums were $134,450,639 and the losses $18,428,693—that is, 13$\frac{7}{10}$ per cent. of the premiums. Leaving out the increase in liabilities, it will be seen that the losses and expenses together exceeded the premiums received by $9,430.167."

The report of the Canadian Department of Railways and Canals for 1899 shows that the number of railways in actual operation in Canada, including the two government roads—the Intercolonial and the Prince Edward Island railways—was 153. The total number of controlling companies is 84, not including the Government railways. The number of miles of completed railway was 17,358, an increase of 488 miles, besides 2,402 miles of sidings. The number of miles in operation was 17,250. The paid-up capital amounted to $964,699,784, an increase of $23,462,737. The gross earning amounted to $62,243,784, an increase of $2,528,679, and the working expenses aggregated $40,706,217, an increase of $431,328 compared with those of the previous year, leaving the net earnings $21,537,567, an increase of $960,011. The number of passengers carried was 19,133,365, an increase of 689,316, and the freight traffic amounted to 31,211,753 tons, an increase of 2,425,750 tons. The total number of miles run by trains was 52,215,207, an increase of 1,526,924. Gross earnings of the Government roads in the past fiscal year amounted to $32,945,817, an increase of $631,970 over the preceeding year. The net profit on the operations of the year was $739,205.

A New York telegram, dated May 17 says:—Admiral Dewey returned to Washington from his western trip to-day, and while we will not talk politics it is understood by his friends that the Presidential nomination is admitted by him to be beyond his reach. The Admiral is highly elated by the popular ovation that met him at every step, is convinced that he has the love of his countrymen everywhere in the broad land, is satisfied with this and is indifferent as to the future. The statement of political principles that it was believed in some quarters would be forthcoming on the Admiral's return has not been prepared. It probably never will.

"Ben Hur" has proved a literary gold mine for General Lew Wallace, and the "pay streak" promises to last for many years. He has just received $30,000 from the theatrical firm of Klaw and Erlanger as the royalty earned during the six months that the popular book's dramatization has been running on Broadway. It is the intention to present the play in other American cities, and it is predicted that by the end of another year General Wallace's royalty will have amounted to another $30,000.

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GERMAN NOTES.

The following remarkable facts appear in *The Times* :—

A report on the economic position of the German Empire in 1900 by Mr. Gastrell, Commercial Attaché at Berlin, giving some interesting comparisons between 1900 and 1872 was issued yesterday. The Report says :—

No exact comparisons of commerce in 1872 and 1900 can be made, as there have been several breaks in the continuity of statistics ; but the volume of commerce has gone on increasing rapidly, as may be judged from the following figures for "special" trade (*i.e.*, of imports for home consumption and of exports of domestic produce). In 1872 the total amounted to £279,000,000, consisting of £163,000,000 for "special" imports, and £116,000,000 for "special" exports. In 1890 it had reached £374,000,000, or £208,000,000 for imports, and £166,000,000 for exports. For 1899 the figures are (temporarily calculated on the 1898 values) a total of £459,421,500, being £259,850,500 for imports, and £199,571,000 for exports.

The development of the country's industries during the same period is a subject that cannot be entered into here. But it is characteristic of the general prosperity to note that the quantity and value of the imported raw materials for local manufacture are yearly increasing, and, at the same time, the quantity and value of exported manufactured articles are also steadily rising from year to yeal.

A recent official calculation states that at least 70 per cent. of all German commerce is now carried by sea. Moreover, in actual tonnage, German shipping now stands second in the world, with 1,594,596 tons, and its steam tonnage in 1899 was about ten times as great as that of 1872. During the last 25 years the relative proportion of the mercantile marine of Germany to that of the whole world has risen from about 5 to over 8 per cent.

With regard to the continuance of this rapid progress, the report finds three chief obstacles ahead. First, the labour problem—"every year the demand is louder for workmen . . . . wages are steadily rising, and the agricultural districts are daily more and more depleted of their labourers." Second is the question of the further opening up of foreign markets. And finally :—

There is a third factor that will, undoubted, seriously influence future expansion; and that is the want of available capital which has already arisen, to a considerable extent, in consequence of the recent prosperity of German industries and commerce which have absorbed such large sums, and which, nevertheless, continue to require still further investments. That there is already a tightness in the money market is shown by the abnormally high Imperial bank rate recently ; and, in the next few years, the demand for capital will be far greater still with the prospective large loans that the Imperial Government will be wanting for the project of an increased navy, and that the Prussian Government will be requiring for the projected Midland Canal. The stringency of the money market is, therefore, likely to become more acute in the near future, not only on account of the probable demands upon it for Government purposes, but also in consequence of the increasing drain due to the requirements of a normal development of industry and commerce.

The report further deals with the Imperial Budget, and debt, and the contributions of the federated States ; and gives some interesting figures concerning the naval programme :—

The total cost of this programme for the fleet alone, which it is supposed it will take 16 years to completely carry out, is put at £80,000,000, of which £30,150,000 is to be raised by loans and £49,850,000 is to come out of the ordinary yearly revenue. This expenditure is for the construction of ships (including the replacing of out-of-date vessels by new ones) and for their armaments. In addition, £13,050,000 is to be spent on dockyards and harbours, of which £8,282,000 will come out of loans and £4,768,000 out of the ordinary revenue. The grand total asked for from 1,901 to 1,916 is therefore £93,050,000, of which £38,432,000 is to be met out of loans year by year, and £54,618,000 out of the revenue during those 16 years ; there will, in addition, be an increased current expenditure for the maintenance of the navy, for the naval pension fund, and for the interest on loans.

The general ordinary recurring expenditure for the navy will, if this Bill is carried in its present form, be £7,040,000 in 1901, rising to £15,313,500 in 1916.

If the whole of the new naval plan be carried out there will in 1920 be a German navy of the following strength :—38 line-of-battle ships, 20 large and 45 small cruisers. This is without counting great numbers of torpedo-boats of all kinds, gunboats, training ships, &c.

The Times correspondent in Berlin wires this :—

Berlin, April 27.

The *Vossische Zeitung* protests this evening that the German Press has been misjudged by its English contemporaries. What has been regarded as hatred of Great Britain has, in the opinion of the Berlin Radical organ, been nothing more than a disapproval of English policy. "The justice of the distinction will be at once admitted. One can sharply reproach a good friend on account of one of his actions without ceasing to be his friend." The *Vossische Zeitung* states that, while there are, of course, people in Germany who hate Great Britain, these people mostly belong to the uneducated classes and have little influence, Great Britain is regarded with great friendliness by the educated classes, which recognize that she is ahead of Germany in a great many respects. "We have learnt much from England, and there still remains much that we might learn. That, indeed, does not alter the fact that we have reached a point where England has much to learn from us."

The Berlin journal goes on to state that the educated classes of Germany believe that there are many reasons why the two nations should live together in friendship, and that Germany has no inducement to adopt an attitude of hostility towards Great Britain. "When our Emperor and our Government endeavour to maintain such relations with England as are traditional between friendly nations, they only act as we all desire that they should." "But," adds the *Vossische Zeitung*, "we who are not bound by diplomatic considerations are compelled to express our true opinion of the policy of England, just as we are accustomed to discuss events which belong to the distant past." This opinion is, of course, that Great Britain has made a mistake in South Africa, and could have attained the justifiable objects of her policy by peaceful methods.

It is pleasant to find a German journal discussing Anglo-German relations and British policy in South Africa with such moderation and goodwill. The assurances of the *Vossische Zeitung* that Great Britain has still friends in Germany deserve to be set against the recent boast of the *Cologne Gazette* that it had succeeded in destroying all pro-English sentiment in Germany by the long series of attacks it made upon England and the English a few decades ago. There are still a number of journals which vigorously carry on the anti-British campaign. The *Berliner Neueste Nachrichte* this evening quotes with approval attacks made in the German Press upon those representatives of industry and finance who have founded an Indian Famine Fund in Berlin. England, says the Conservative organ, is perfectly well able herself to raise the millions necessary to assist her most important colony, and the incapacity of the Indian Administration is such that there is not the slightest guarantee for a proper use of the funds subscribed by private charity.

A gallant deed has been done at Berlin by Lieutenant-General Count Alexander von Wartensbeben. The Count was out riding, when, quite suddenly, a woman of about fifty years of age jumped from a bridge into a canal to drown herself. The Count, by no means a young man, at once sprang from his horse, plunged in full dress into the water, and, with a risk to his own life, saved the woman. The Count then silently mounted his horse and rode home.

A forest fire of such extent as has hitherto never been seen before in Germany, has been raging in the province of Hanover, near the town of Celle, where an area of over 5,000 acres of fine forest was laid bare by the destructive element. It was only by the prompt help of a battalion of infantry and pioneers at Celle, that the destruction did not spread much further, as an area of 100,000 acres was endangered. If the military help had arrived ten minutes later, the fine country and hunting seat of Mr. Loesener, of Hamburg (partner of Robert M. Sloman and Co.), would also have been destroyed. Much game, such as deer, boars, &c., have perished.

The following quotation from the *Reichswehr*, of Vienna, will assist people to form some idea of the kind of thing which is written—and believed—of England by a certain sort of foreigner :—

"A school-boy named Johann Puchta, aged fourteen, has disappeared from his home at Goeding. Before being missed, he was noticed in the company of a tall, blonde man. Probably this was an English recruiting agent seeking soldiers to carry on the campaign in South Africa."

Germany's commerce with the world in all commodities, except the precious metals, amounted last year to $2,186,744,000. Her imports the same year amounted to $1,236,816,000 ; exports, $949,858,000. The most pronounced decrease in imports in the last few years has been in wheat and rye on account of the gain in home production. Some lines of trade have suffered set-backs, sugar exports having fallen from $54,502,000 in 1897 to $45,695,000 in 1899. This decrease is said to be due to the lessened demand from the United States.

Five Japanese officers have arrived in Germany to do service in the German Army for military training. The gentlemen are Majors Arita, Matsuishi and Kurita, Captain Kawamura, and Lieutenant Kanematei. The first-named four gentlemen are to study military science, as they intend to become instructors of the Japanese army after their return, while Lieutenant Kanematei is to do service at the German field artillery. At present no less than twenty-seven Japanese officers are attached to the German army.

The German Emperor offers a prize of some £4,000 for the best automobile for military service. The Germans have been trying the motor car for this use and the prize indicates that the Emperor believes in its future. The French, however, saw its advantages in warfare before the Germans, and especially for colonial service, where there are no railways. They have already adopted it in Senegal and Madagascar for the quick supply of military posts and detachments. The automobile will also be useful in road and railway construction, as well as for postal and passenger traffic.

As the steamer *Koping* was passing the *Prinz Carl* at Koping, Sweden, on May 17th, a man sprang upon the deck of the latter vessel and shouted :—"If any one comes near I will shoot !" At the same moment a woman was seen hanging over the ship's side, shrieking for help. The man escaped in a boat. When the *Prinz Carl* was boarded it was found that twelve men on board had been shot, seven of whom, including the captain, were dead. The rest were found locked in their quarters. It appears that shortly after the *Prinz Carl* had passed Quicksund a man closed the doors of the cabins and saloons and then with a revolver in each hand he began firing at every one he encountered. He stabbed the captain in the back and a lady passenger in the breast with a dagger, and hacked a boy with a knife. He also shot the mate through the shoulder and of four gentlemen who were playing cards in the smoking-room, one was shot in the temple, because he moved when the murderer warned him not to stir. The man was afterwards arrested at a town 57 miles from Koping. He calmly confessed the crime, which he said he had deliberately planned. He regretted he did not kill more, and said that he committed the murders in order to revenge himself on mankind.

SAILING RACES.

On Saturday afternoon there were races for the 39 raters of the Yokohama Yacht Club, for the Commodore's Cup ; for the cruising class for the Spray Cup ; and for the 17 raters for the Wanderer Cup, with second prizes in each instance. The 39 raters and cruisers sailed over No. 2 course and the 17 Rater overs No. 8. There was a nice topsail breeze during the afternoon, and good times were made :—

39 RATERS.

	Rating.	Start.	Finish.	Cor. Time
Haidée	39	2.15.15	4.32.10	4.32.10
Kingfisher	39	2.15.10	4.28.10	4.28.10
Maid Marion	31½	2.15.13	4.27.15	4.24.29
Spray	—	2.15.14	4.34.10	4.27.19
May	—	2.15.12	4.19.50	4.18.13

May thus takes first prize and two record points and *Maid Marion* second prize and one record point.

17 RATERS.

	Rating.	Start.	Finish.	Cor. Time.
Wettinge	17	2.45.10	4.30.30	4.20.30
Eclair	17	2.45.05	4.23.30	4.23.30
Devonia	16½	2.45.03	4.29.45	4.28.21
Bonito	16½	2.45.02	4.33.15	4.31.51

Wettinge takes first prize and two points. There is a question of *Eclair* taking second prize, as a foul was claimed.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Earl de la Warr, who was supposed to have been captured at the time of the disaster that befell the squadron of Bethune's Horse, contrived to escape. He lay all night, with a wounded leg, behind an ant-heap, reaching the camp next day.

A plot of land of some 2,046 *tsubo* at Honmoku Dai-mura was sold on Tuesday afternoon at public auction by Mr. Jno. W. Hall. This lot is outside the Foreign Settlement and is the first public sale of land so made. It was bought by Mr. Durand for the sum of 3,700, a very low price considering that land in the same neighbourhood was sold last year at five and six *yen* per *tsubo*.

The Prince of Wales has now been at the head of the Freemasons of England for over a quarter of a century. He entered, at the annual meeting of the craft, upon his twenty-sixth successive year as their Most Worshipful Grand Master, being reinstalled with an enthusiasm specially cordial on account of his escape from the recent attempt on his life at Brussels. To commemorate the completion of his 25 years of Grand Mastership, the Prince conferred "past rank" on 25 of the brethren.

Abdul Hamid has been submitting the inmates of his harem to some violent discipline. It is said that he discovered that a number of his favorites were engaged in a political intrigue to an end that was unfavorable to his interests. He made an investigation, and as a result fourteen of the women were brutally flogged and nine others were exiled to Asia Minor. In addition to flogging the fourteen the Sultan ordered that they be degraded to the level of servants and forced to attend upon those whom they had formerly ruled.

The approach of the British General Election has put into circulation strange rumours. Among them is one published by the *Daily Express* which says:—It is more than whispered that a Rosebery-Chamberlain coalition will take place, the new party to fulfil the Rosebery formulae, as before 1885. Lord Rosebery's aspirations are to see Liberalism separated from so-called "Little Englandism," and Mr. Chamberlain's is to be Prime Minister. Should this coalition result, an exceedingly lively election will occur.

Judge Fujise continued in the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho, on Tuesday, the hearing of the case brought by Messrs. Bruhl Freres against Mr. M. Takashima for the payment of *yen* 250 on two promissory notes, given by the latter as bargain money in a sale of plush. Defendant's counsel stated that the promissory notes were invalid owing to their not being signed by the actual parties in the transaction, a clerk signing for the plaintiffs. The case, after several witnesses had been examined, was adjourned.

A brewery under German superintendence and run with Chinese capital is about to be started near Hongkong. We read that the working capital is over 5.000,000 dollars. The number of employées will be 120, of whom seven are foreigners. The output is estimated at 1,080,000 quart bottles a week. Mr. von Maslowsky, the Head Brewer, has sent ten Japanese coopers to Hongkong, who are now making 1,500 barrels, to hold 50 hectolitres each. Hops of the finest quality have been purchased from Kent (England), Canada, and Poland. The malt, made from special fine double barley, is also from the last-named country, and rice from the Caroline Islands.

The total losses—killed, wounded, and missing—during the war, as set forth in the official list issued by the War Office at the end of April, stood at 18,383. This includes 4,009 officers and men missing or prisoners, but does not include 4,745 officers and men sent home sick or wounded. The actual deaths in the field are only 2,228, while 1,909 have died of disease, deaths due to that cause now averaging 40 per cent. of the aggregate mortality. The bright feature of these figures is the extraordinarily low death-rate from wounds, little more than 4 per cent. having succumbed to their injuries. It must also be remembered that out of the total wounded—9,659—a large number have recovered and have rejoined their regiments at the front.

The cargo of the *Rosetta* and the belongings of the passengers and crew have been undergoing thorough disinfection at Nagahama. Apropos of the plague, it would appear to be a wise step for all shipping companies to place their washing in the hands of a mechanical laundry, where the extreme heat to which the clothes are subjected preclude the possibility of the survival of germs. Some of the shipping companies do observe this rule, but one or two do not. Those which patronise the Steam Laundry at Yokohama have the satisfaction of knowing that at least one bye-way for the plague bacillus has been stopped.

The removal of the late Duke of Argyll from the House of Lords leaves ten of the twenty-two Dukes who sit in that assembly without sons to succeed them. As things are at present, therefore, on the death of these ten present holders of Dukedoms, the titles will pass to brothers, uncles, nephews, or cousins. The Dukes who are without heirs-apparent are the present Duke of Argyll and the Dukes of Hamilton, Devonshire, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, St. Albans, Somerset, Wellington, and Westminster.

Sir Alfred Milner, speaking at Cape Town the other day, before an enormous assemblage, celebrating the relief of Mafeking, referred to the remark of a speaker, who had condemned the Boers as "cowardly scoundrels." He said: "There are many among our enemies, who are to be honoured for their bravery. Although cases of treachery and barbarity have occurred, they have been exceptional. The conduct of the enemy is that of brave men. They are fighting for a bad cause, but they are entitled to respect."

We take the following from the *Hongkong Daily Press*:—

We have received a telegram from our Singapore correspondent stating that the *Straits Times* had been sold by public auction to the highest bidder for $85,000. This includes the *Straits Budget*, which is the weekly summary of the *Straits Times*, and a small job-printing business attached. The profits of the business for 1899 were $26,576, so the price for which the paper is sold may be considered cheap, as at the rate of profit made on the last year's working the capital will be recovered in four years. Mr. Arnot Reid, who for some years past has so ably edited the paper, and occupied the position of part proprietor, leaves for home, and the sale of the paper was rendered necessary on the death of the other part-proprietor, Mrs. Cameron. Singapore will miss Mr. Reid. From the north we also learn that Mr. J.D. Clark has floated the *Shanghai Mercury* into a public company with a capital of Tls. 70,000, only two hundred shares being placed on the market, the rest being taken up by the vendor and others.

A very well-known old Shanghai resident writes to the *N.-C. Daily News* from Port Elizabeth, under date the 28th of April:—Our difficulties in South Africa are very great, as we cannot treat the Cape Colony as a hostile country, although its government is really hostile . . . It is in the hands of the Dutch party, really concealed enemies, and they manage the railways, and, I believe, obstruct the movement of troops and stores from the coast to the front. It was shameful to see the Guards (2nd Grenadiers), the finest battalion ever landed in South Africa, put into coal trucks exposed to rain and cold, while there were plenty of good carriages kept for the Easter holiday excursionists. The Colonial Government ought to be suspended, at least for the present, and we ought to have control of all the resources of the country. Every horse fit for military service in this colony or in the Free State should be requisitioned. Horses are more wanted than men, and if we don't take the horses the Boers get them, in many cases with their owners. Our stores, fodder, etc., can't be landed fast enough, as there is nowhere to store them. Steamers remain months waiting to discharge. It is the same at Cape Town and East London, whilst there are plenty of public buildings which should be requisitioned."

ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD'S JAPAN MISSION.

The Survey of the Field and Work of the American Board's Japan Mission and the Kumiai Churches for 1899, has just been published. Its Report contains some interesting notes which we quote:—

It is fitting that this report should begin with a reference to the new treaties which have brought the missionaries, in common with all other foreigners, under the immediate jurisdiction of the Japanese government. As is well known, these treaties, excepting those with France and Austro-Hungary, came into operation July 17th, 1899, those with the two powers mentioned becoming effective on the 4th of August. For many years past the sentiment of the missionary community has been decidedly favorable to the abolition of extra-territoriality, and the missionaries have accepted the new conditions with great cordiality. It was inevitable that the change should bring with it some inconveniences arising from unfamiliarity with the Japanese methods of governmental administration, but the transition has taken place without serious friction in any quarter, while the experience of our own mission certainly goes to show that the new order is much more favorable to healthful progress in every department of missionary work than the old.

If regard be also had to the broader interests of the whole body of foreign residents, in spite of certain more or less important questions now under discussion, a hardly less favorable report must be made. While there are certain features of the Japanese law which Anglo-Saxons, at least, might wish different, and some which they view with deep regret, the system as a whole promises to work well and to be in harmony with the interests of all law-abiding residents.

We may, therefore, heartily congratulate Japan both upon the recognition which has thus emphatically been given to her methods of legal administration, and upon the wisdom and tact which have made the transition, not merely so free from friction and annoyance, but also so suggestive of a speedy and natural adjustment of all concerned to their new obligations.

An impressive illustration of the liberal spirit of the Western branch of the great Shin sect of Buddhism is worthy of special mention. For some time past this branch (and indeed the Eastern also) has had a school for training prison chaplains. Lectures are given regarding the latest theories of prison discipline, instruction of prisoners, etc. At the earnest request of the authorities of this school, the Rev. K. Tomeoka, the foremost expert in such matters among the Christians, has arranged to give a course of lectures on the history of prison reform. Mr. Tomeoka was for several years chaplain in the Hokkaido and later at the model prison of Sugamo in the suburbs of Tokyo. He is now an instructor in the school for prison officials under the Prison Bureau of Japan. He was formerly pastor of a church in the Kyoto field of our mission and is still active in Christian work. This hearty invitation is a worthy tribute to Mr. Tomeoka's success as an advocate of prison reform, but it is rather as a token of the nobility of spirit which has of late especially marked this branch of the Shin sect that it demands a place in our record of the year.

It is often asserted that the Christians have gained very little prominence in Japanese society, but a very slight acquaintance with the facts will satisfy the most obstinate doubter that they have won an influence out of all proportion to their numbers. According to the latest statistics, the number of enrolled Christians was as follow:—

Protestants	41,808
Greek Catholics	25,231
Roman Catholics	53,924
	120,963

Here we have in round numbers 121,000 Christions, representing a Christian community, including children (which are not included in the Protestant rolls) and other dependents, of not far from 225,000 souls, or about one half of one per cent of the population of Japan outside of Formosa. This comparatively small body has already furnished one cabinet minister, two justices of the Court of Cassation (the national Supreme Court), two speakers of the Lower House of the Diet, one of them having been twice elected, two or three vice-ministers of State, not to speak of several heads of bureaux, judges of the Courts of Appeal, etc.

In the first Diet, besides the the Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and eleven other members were Christians, out of the 300 members of the House—nearly nine times the normal proportion. In subsequent Diets, the proportion has never been less than four times the normal. In the present Diet, besides the Speaker, thirteen members of the House are Christians, and among them are to be

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found some of the most efficient men in the Diet. One of them was elected in a strongly Buddhist district by a majority of five to one.

In the Executive Committee of the great Liberal Part last year, two of the three members were Christians, while for the present year the ratio is one to three in the same Committee.

In the army, there are said to be 155 Christian officers, that is about three per cent. In the navy, too, it is noteworthy that the two 12,500 ton battleships, the largest, with one exception, now in commission, are under the command of Christian captains.

In the universities and Government colleges, both among the instructors and students, the Christians are found in abnormal numbers. The same is true of the students sent abroad at Government expense. There are, it is said, at the present time six graduates of one of the best Goverement colleges studying abroad, and among these, five are Christians.

Not less than three of the great dailies of Tokyo are under the control of Christian men, while in the case of several others, Christians are at the head of departments on the editorial staff.

The most successful charitable institutions are also under Christians leadership, and the volume of such work in Christian hands is very large. Among the most noticeable of these institutions are the Orphan Asylum of Okayama and Mr. Hara's home for released prisoners in Tokyo. Mr. Tomeoka's Family School for wayward children near Tokyo has been established, with one cottage, to which others will be added as experience warrants and the funds at his disposal permit. The largest public institution for the poor in all Japan is also greatly indebted to the wise counsel and efficient service which it has drawn from the same small fraction of the nation.

This prominence of Christian men in so many departments of life is not due—it cannot be due—to accident; it must be attributed to a certain stimulus which is the product of their Christian faith. They have made a deep impression upon society. They fill these numerous positions of influence because, in spite of much prejudice, they have proved themselves worthy and have won the confidence of their countrymen. The influence accorded them is an unconscious tribute to the faith which has made them what they are.

THE LATE REV. S. J. MILLIKEN.

The East Japan Mission of the Presbyterian Church, at a meeting held in the City of Tokyo on June second, entered the following minute on its record.

WILLIAM IMBRIE,
SECRETARY.

On the fifteenth day of May, the Rev. S. J. Milliken, an associate member of the Mission, entered into the rest of God.

Our beloved friend and fellow labourer was born in a home where Christ was honoured; and even from a child he accepted Him as his Master and made His commandments the rule of his life. Thus he ever kept himself in the love of God, and received the promise which the Lord made to his Disciples in the Upper Room. When the time had come for him to choose his course in life, he chose the ministry of reconciliation; and for many years in his own land he did the work of a good shepherd tending the flock of Christ, not of constraint but willingly and according unto God. As the evening of life drew on, in company with his beloved wife, he came to this land to visit the daughter whom they had cheerfully given up for the sake of Christ and the gospel, and to see how God had opened a door of faith unto the Gentiles. It had been his prupose to remain in Japan for only a single year; but the cords of kinship and friendship are not quickly broken; and his deep joy in the work of an evangelist constrained him to prolong his stay for nearly three full years. During all this time, as a good and faithful servant, he was ever busy even beyond his power to do whatsoever his hand found to do; and he was always more than ready to lighten the labour of others. He taught in the Joshi Gakuin; where he won the lasting respect and affection of the pupils. He went to various places in the city to meet classes of young men, and he received them into his own house; and while he was a faithful teacher of English, what always brought a flush of joy to his face was some sign that one or another of his pupils was being drawn to Christ. When these young man came to look upon him for the last time, one of them said in tones of grateful appreciation, "He was our teacher." On the Sundays following two of them confessed their faith before men. From time to time he preached in the churches and elsewhere; an evangelistic tour which he made with his daughter through the Island of Sado was always one of the brightest memories of his sojourn in Japan; and wherever he went he was always careful to redeem any little passing chance to do a possible good, nor was he ever hindered by the thought that his labour might be in vain. So he was an example to many and to some an inspiration. In the meetings of the Mission, over which for the past two years he presided, the same dignity and courtesy that marked him in all the relations of life were ever present. His reading of the Scriptures in the opening services was the reading of one who has read them in his closet long and reverently; and his prayer was the prayer of one who has come to know that in the name of Christ he may ask for what he will. If as a member of the Mission he had a fault, it was the fault of modesty. So there was no one in the Mission who did not look up to him and love him; and without the circle of the Mission, in the foreign community and in the churches of Christ in Japan, his genuine goodness won him many friends. During the winter and spring he was never in perfect health, and at last the time came when it was uncertain whether he should magnify Christ by life or by death; but to him also to live was Christ and to die gain. It was on the Lord's Day, the last Sabbath of the more than three score years and ten of his pilgrimage. The hours of the day were passed in sweet peaceful speech never to be forgotten by those who heard it. Already he had written parting messages to be sent to loved ones far away, if indeed they should prove to be the last that he should ever write to them. He committed himself and all whom he loved, the churches whom he had served at home and his converts in this land, in child-like trust to the keeping of Him whom he believed. On the next day but one he was called into the presence of the King.

The Mission inscribes this memorial in its record in affectionate remembrance. To the bereaved household it offers the tribute of sincere sympathy; a sympathy in which sorrow is crowned with praise.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, in acknowledgment of a remittance of Rs. 5,000 from the contributions in Yokohama towards the Indian Famine Fund, has received the following telegram from Calcutta:—

"Grateful thanks for remittance
Chairman
Famine Fund."

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama send us the following additional names of subscribers to the Indian Famine Relief Fund:—

Amount already acknowledged	¥3,634.87
Clear profit	11.00
J. D. Hutchison	100.00
S. Strauss & Co.	25.00
Bishop P. K. Fyson	50.00
Japanese employees of Messrs. Singleton, Benda & Co.	24.00
Haseo Shinko	1.10
Wm. Awdry	100.00
Bavier & Co.	100.00
J. P. Thomas	10.00
English Church Offertory, Hakodate	103.90
C. B. Bernard	25.00
	4,184.87

INSURANCE NOTES.

The report and balance sheet of the National Assurance Company of Ireland has reached us, and from the pamphlet we take the following figures:—Life Department:—In the various sections of the life department the income and expenditure were as follows:—Premiums and considerations for annuities, £18,032 18s. 0d.; interest and dividends, and other receipts, £11,577 1s. 2d.; claims, including endowments matured and surrenders, £20,522 8s. 10d.; annuities, £6,985 16s. 11d.; expenses, commission and other payments, £2,572 1s. 2d. The funds at the end of the year were £252,387 4s. 9d. Accident Department:—The premiums, less re-assurances, received by the Company for the year amounted to £5,481 4s. 7d.; and the losses and expenses of magagement to £5,193 4s. 3d., leaving a balance of £288 0s. 4d., which has been carried to reserve fund. Fire Department:—The premiums, less re-assurances, for the year amounted to £377,992 11s. 2d.; the fire claims were £256,850 4s. 5d.; and the commission and expenses of management were £119,033 7s. 7d. profit and loss account:—The balance of the profit and loss account, after deducting the final dividend of 3 per cent. for 1898, and the interim dividend of 2 per cent. for 1899, paid in August last, will be £8,870 18s. 1d., out of which the directors recommend the payment of a further dividend of 3 per cent., being 1s. 6d. per share, making together 5 per cent. for the year, after payment of which £5,870 18s. 1d. will be carried forward to next year's account.

The local agents are Messrs. R. Isaacs & Bro., and Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co.

The local agents, Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., send us the annual report of the Law Union and Crown Insurance Company for the year 1899. In all the departments of the company's business steady progress was made, so that the dividend for the year was increased to 6 shillings, per share, or 50 per cent on the paid-up capital, beside a bonus of 1 shilling per share—an excellent showing indeed.

The report of the directors of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company shows that the Fire Premium income for the year, after deducting the sums paid for re-insuring surplus risks, amounted to £1,509,038. The losses, inclusive of full provision for all claims that had arisen up to the close of the year amounted to £993,982. The account, after providing for expenses, shows, without the addition of interest, a deficit of £22,740, which amount had been carried to the debit of profit and loss account. With regard to the life department, the premiums on new assurances during the year amounted to £16,516 the total premium income, after deducting the amount paid for re-assurances, being £239,295. The net claims paid (including bonuses) amounted to £258,180, of which the sum of £8,058 was in respect of endowment assurance matured. Three hundred and twenty-seven annuity bonds was issued for a consideration of £223,327, granting annuities amounting to £20,726. One hundred and ninety-three annuities, amounting to £9,372 terminated in consequence of the deaths of the annuitants. The life and annuity funds were increased by £133,642 during the year, and now amount to £5,354,351. The profit and loss account showed a balance of £1,189,397. It is proposed, out of this amount, to pay on account of the fire department a dividend of 22s. per share, together with a bonus of 11s. per share, and out of the life profits carried for this purpose to this account at the end of the last quinquennium, a bonus of 3s. per share, making in all 36s. per share, free of income tax. The local Agents of the Company are Messrs. Mollison and Co.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, June 9th:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	17,664,239
Amount of convertible notes issued	192,474,535
Government deposits	62,710,125
General deposits	5,968,004
Exchange liability	60,335
Total	308,877,139
CR.	
Discount notes	63,441,688
Foreign discount notes	11,816,699
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,393,965
Exchange liability	2,511,279
Government bonds	54,025,836
Property	2,066,533
Bullion and Specie	84,621,236
Total	308,877,139

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	192,711,915
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	79,712,429
Silver	4,000,000
Total	83,712,429
Securities:—	
Government bonds	15,280,588
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,590,148
Commercial notes	59,534,750
Total	108,405,486

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	285,049
Silver	—	—
General loans	630,557	—
Government deposits	—	1,057,491
General deposits	—	10,182

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WEATHER AT SHOJI.

Our readers will find the accompanying weather table, compiled at the Shoji Hotel during last week, of interest :—

	Temp. Air Max.	Temp. Air Min.	Temp. of Lake Max.	Temp. of Lake Min.	State of Weather.	Remarks in General.
Sunday, 3rd	68°	54°	61°		Fine	Cloudy in afternoon.
Monday, 4th	66°	53°	61°		Fine	Clear all day.
Tuesday, 5th	68°	58°	61°		Fine	do.
Wednesday, 6th	57°	53°	61°		Showers	Cleared at 2 p.m.
Thursday, 7th	63°	55°	62°		Fine	Cloudy.
Friday, 8th	68°	58°	62°		Fine	Cloudy.
Saturday, 9th	68°	59°	62½°		Fine	—

CRICKET.

MR. CRAWFORD'S TEAM V. MR. H. A. STEWART'S.

A match between these sides took place on Saturday afternoon. Crawford's team went first to the cricket and compiled 120, A. W. Read's 32 and H. Kilby's 27 being the chief contributions. Stewart's side were dismissed for 104, E. W. Kilby's not out 36 being the best performance. H. W. Clarke bowled exceedingly well, taking 5 wickets for 8 runs. Score :—

MR. CRAWFORD'S TEAM.

Mr. H. Kilby, run out	27
Mr. F. H. Bugbird, b. Edward	8
Mr. P. B. Clarke, b. H. S. Goddard	9
Mr. G. Braess, c. E. W. Kilby, b. Goddard	0
Mr. H. W. Clarke, c. and b. Edwards	0
Mr. K. F. Crawford, b. E. W. Kilby	9
Mr. A. Scott, c. Cartwright, b. E. W. Kilby	12
Mr. H. Goddard, run out	9
Mr. C. M. Duff, b. Pumfrett	0
Mr. A. W. Read, c. Cartwright, b. E. W. Kilby	32
Mr. H. Irwine, c. Thwaites, b. H. S. Goddard	2
Mr. W. J. White, b. Edwards	1
Mr. A. T. Hellyer, not out	1
Mr. A. W. S. Austen, b. E. W. Kilby	0
Extras	10
	120

MR. STEWART'S TEAM.

Mr, J. H. Cocksedge, b. P. B. Clarke	11
Mr. J. N. Pumfrett, b. P. B. Clarke	5
Mr. E. W. Kilby not out	36
Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, h.w., b. P. B. Clarke	15
Mr. A. Kingdon, c. Duff, b. H. W. Clarke	4
Mr. H. A. Stewart, c. Braess, b. P. B Clark	0
Mr. E. B. Clarke, b. Braess	5
Mr. O. Strome, c. White, b. Bugbird	6
Mr. H. S. Goddard, c. Scott, b. H. W. Clarke	13
Mr. L. S. Hudson, b. H. W. Clarke	0
Mr. E. Powys, c. H. W. Kilby, b. H. W. Clarke.	0
Mr. F. Pollard, b. H. W. Clarke	0
Extras	9
	140

YOKOHAMA CHARITY ORGANIZATION.

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT, APRIL 1ST, 1899, TO MARCH 31ST, 1900.

The Committee beg to lay before the subscribers the following report and statement of finance.

The principal work, and that for which the association was founded, has been to provide for distressed seamen. During the above-named period tickets for 302 days' board and lodging at the Salvation Army Depot, No. 123 Settlement, have been issued. The great majority of the recipients were as usual seafaring men from Great Britain, the United States of America, Northern Europe and the British Colonies, the remainder hailing from Austria, China, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, and Syria. A few other avocations were represented, namely acrobat, apothecary, auctioneer, book-keeper, clerk, comedian, iron founder, machinist, miner, painter, policeman, stevedore, tallyman, tidewaiter, and telegraphist.

The accommodation afforded by the Salvation Army has been excellent, and the Manager, Mr. Ellis, has rendered valuable service in procuring employment for the men, and in shipping them off. He has also judiciously distributed parcels of clothing sent to him from time to time by the Honorary Secretary.

It will be noticed, on examination of the subjoined analysis of expenditure, that the operations of the Society have been extended to other local wants, such as the assistance of families in poor circumstances and broken-down men who have long resided in the port.

The thanks of the Organization are due to Sir Ernest Satow, K.C.M.G., and to the Committee of Entertainment of His Imperial Majesty for the handsome donations recorded in the annexed list.

The Committee note with regret the announcement of the death on April 3rd of Mr. Thomas Rose, one of their original colleagues.

They sincerely trust that the call for Subscriptions, which will shortly be made, will meet with the usual generous response.

JAS. DODDS, Chairman; B. C. HOWARD; J. COLE HARTLAND, Treasr; JAS MARTIN; W. F. MITCHELL; E. CHAMPNEYS IRWINE, Hon. Secy.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

BALANCE SHEET, APRIL 1ST, 1899.

DR.	Yen.
To Balance from preceding year	317.36
„ Subscriptions, as per list	971.00
„ Donation from Committee for Entertainment of His Imperial Majesty	56.13
„ Interest Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	11.71
„ Donation from Sir Ernest Satow	100.00
	1,456.20

TO MARCH 31ST, 1900.

CR.	Yen.
By Board & Lodging supplied to seamen	302.00
„ Passage money	166.00
„ Provisions to Poor Men	59.74
„ Rent for same	35.00
„ Donations in cash	40.00
„ Hospital Expenses	119.00
„ Burial Expenses	26.00
„ Medicine	11.25
„ Collector's Commission	24.00
„ Printing, etc.	5.95
„ Balance, March 31st, 1900	667.26
Yen	1,456,20

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, 4th April 1900.

J. COLE HARTLAND. Acting Hon. Treasurer.

Audited with vouchers and found correct.

CHAS. W. URE.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Adet, Campredon & Co.	10.00	Laffin, T. M.	5.00
Ahrens & Co	10.00	Lane, Crawford & Co.	12.00
American Trading Co.	12.00	Langfeldt & Co.	12.00
Andreis, E.	10.00	Lias, F. J.	10.00
Apcar & Co.	5.00	Lines, A. J.	10.00
Arthur & Bond.	10.00	Litchfield, H. C.	10.00
Averill & Co.	12.00	MacArthur, H. & Co.	12.00
Averill, C. S.	5.00	Martin & Co.	20.00
Bavier & Co.	12.00	Mason & Co.	10.00
Bennett, Dare and Wilckens	20.00	Middleton & Smith	12.00
Bonar, H. A. C.	10.00	Mollison & Co.	10.00
Boyes & Co.	10.00	Nabholz & Co	25.00
Browne & Co.	12.00	North & Rae, Ld.	10.00
Bruhl Frères.	12.00	Owston, Alan	12.00
Butterfield & Swire	12.00	Pacific Mail and O. & O. Co.	12.00
China and Japan Trading Co.	12.00	Parsons & Blad	12.00
Colomb, J. & Co.	10.00	Peyre Frères.	5.00
Cornes & Co.	12.00	Pope & Co.	5.00
Curnow & Co.	10.00	Reimers, Otto and Co.	12.00
Dent, H. & Co.	10.00	Retz, Fr. and Co.	12.00
Dodwell & Co., Ld.	12.00	Robison and Co.	12.00
Favre Brandt, C & J.	12.00	Rohde, Carl & Co.	12.00
Findlay, Richardson & Co	12.00	Rosenthal and Co.	12.00
Flint Kilby & Co.	12.00	Samuel Samuel and Co.	12.00
Fraser, Farley and Varnum	12.00	Siber, Brennwald and Co.	20.00
Frazar & Co.	12.00	Sieber and Co.	12.00
Gillett B.	6.00	Simon, J. R. and Co.	12.00
Ginsburg & Co., M.	10.00	Simon Evers and Co.	12.00
Hall, F. J.	6.00	Smith, Baker and Co.	10.00
Harris, M. R. H	12.00	Standard Oil Co.	25.00
Hellyer & Co.	15.00	St. John and Daniel	12.00
Herb F. & Co.	12.00	Stedman, C. B.	10.00
Hodnett P.	5.00	Strachan, W.M. and Co.	12.00
Hunt & Co.	12.00	Strome and Co.	10.00
Hutchison & Co.	12.00	Tuska E.H.	12.00
Illies & Co.	12.00	Vincent, Bird & Co.	5.00
Isaacs and Brother.	12.00	Vivanti Bros.	12.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	12.00	Wadman, H.P.	5.00
Kelly and Walsh, Ltd	10.00	Walford, A. B.	10.00
Kingdon, Schwabe & Co.	12.00	Walsh, Hall & Co.	12.00
Klingen & Seux	12.00	Weinberger & Co.	12.00
Kuhn & Komor	10.00	Witkowsky & Co.	12.00
		Worch & Co.	12.00

DONATIONS.	Yen.
Sir Ernest Satow, K.C.M.G.	100.00
Committee for Entertainment of His Imperial Majesty	56.13
P. J. Hellendaal	10.00

SILK.

Reports from various silk-producing districts are published in the *Nichi Nichi* as follows :—

Okayama town, Bizen.—New cocoons are just on sale. Some are quoted at 40 *yen*; others at 37. The tradal depression in Yokohama has seriously affected the prices.

Yokoshiba, Kazusa.—The quotation for raw cocoons stands at 4 *yen* per *kwan*. No considerable transactions have yet been made.

Hiratsuka, Sagami.—The quality of cocoons is excellent. Some 40 or 50 *kwan* at 4 *yen* per *kwan* have been sold every day since the 1st instant. Sales, however, are not brisk yet, and a fall in price is anticipated. The principal buyers at present are the Kairyosha, Seishinsha, Mochita, and Miyazuki, Sagami, Marumo of Shinshiu, and Izumikwan of Soshiu.

Kumamoto.—Of the total output seven-tenths is good.

Tatsugasaki, Joshiu.—Some business is now being done in new cocoons, the quality being extremely fine. Quotations stand at from 4 to 4.20 *yen*.

Gifu, Mino.—Extra fine is quoted at 4.30 *yen*, common at 3.70 *yen*, and inferior at 3.20.

Hachioji.—New banks are sold at the rate of 19.3 *momme* for first class and 21.5 *momme* for second. Raw cocoons are quoted at 7 *yen* for 1 to 6 *sho*.

Kumagai.—The Mikihara firm has recently bought new cocoons to the amount of 70 *kwan* at 3.80 *yen*.

Takegahana, Mino.—Prices are :—Extra fine, 4.50 *yen*; medium, 4.15 *yen*; lowest, 3.35 *yen*.

Asafuji, Owari.—Stocks have accumulated from the neighbouring districts to a greater amount than anticipated, the finest being quoted at 4.30 *yen* and medium at from 3.80 to 4.15 *yen*.

Tokai-mura, Chiba Ken.—Choicest are sold at present for 4 *yen*, but prices are expected to fall to something over 3 *yen* in a few days.

THE MAKING OF ARSENIC.

Engineering has an interesting article on the arsenic industry, *apropos* of the opening of a new mine in Cornwall, the district whence comes our supply of this product. The Devon Great Consols Mine, for instance, turns out, in addition to an insignificant quantity of copper ore, an amount of arsenic approximated to 2500 tons; while from 5000 to 8000 tons are annually produced by British mines. In the seventies the substance was produced and sold at a profit for 7*l.* per ton, and the present market price of 20*l.* per ton would indicate that there is demand for the supply, and *Engineering* very much doubts if calico-printers, potter manufacturers, and the makers of green pigments not to mention sundry other consumers (in a technical sense) of this chemical, will have the benefit of any substantial reduction in price. The ore, which is variously called arsenical pyrites, mispichel, or mundic—the last being its common designation in Cornwall—is composed of arsenic, sulphur, and iron, and contains, when pure, 46 per cent. of arsenic. The process of obtaining the arsenic is a very simple one, consisting merely in calcining the ore and collecting the volatilised oxide in long flues. The furnace is kept going night and day, and on Sundays, until a sufficient quantity of arsenic has collected in the flue, when it is cooled down, or in some cases connected with another flue. From 300 to 500 yards is a common length for these flues, though it is said that they have been made as much as a mile long. From the chimney at the end nothing should exude but sulphurous acid, and tests which have been made show that this is practically the case. The deposit in the flues from the calciner is commonly known as arsenic soot, though its colour approximates more closely to that of flour than to the tint of coal soot. But for market it must be quite white, and therefore it undergoes treatment in the refining furnace. The arsenic soot is here mixed with coke, and the volatilised product, which is now quite white—or should be so—is collected in flues similar to those of the first process. After this there only remains the grinding and packing into small casks, holding generally about 3 cwt., and the stuff is ready for market. Our readers, says *Engineering*, may naturally wonder what effect this well-known poison has upon the workpeople who have to deal with it, and it is reassuring to be able to say that the strict Government regulations which are now in force have done very much to lessen an evil which in earlier times was certainly one of some prominence. Where every precaution is taken in the way of preventing the inhalation of the dust, and where the change of clothes and bath are rigidly adhered to, the men do not seem to suffer to any material degree, though, as may be noticed in most industries where unpleasant, if not dangerous, processes have to be worked, the constitution of the individual workman is an important factor in the situation. It is in the periodical removal of the arsenic soot from the flues, and in the subsequent grinding and

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packing, that the danger lies, and those engaged in these operations protect themselves by covering the face with fuller's earth, putting a cloth in their mouths, and by generally taking every precaution to prevent the irritant dust from settling on the skin, where, if allowed to lodge, it causes a peculiar eruption. The teeth, as in the case of the salt-cake furnacemen in the alkali districts, are peculiarly liable to attack, and it is said that dental troubles are very common in the populous town of Camborne, where there are generally traces of arsenic vapour in the air derived from the roasting of the arsenical tin ores. However, taking into consideration the poisonous nature of the substance, it must be a matter for congratulation that the industry is carried on with such comparative immunity to those engaged in it; and it is to be hoped that by strict enforcement of the Government regulations we shall hear no more of men in the prime of life "rotting away" as the result of their occupation.

COMMERCIAL PROGRESS OF GERMANY.

Some idea of the rapid progress of Germany in commerce and shipbuilding may be derived from figures that recently have been made public. Germany is now exporting products to the amount of $1,000,000,000 a year. In the 70's says the Chicago *Record*, the exports of the empire did not amount to much more than half this sum. The increase is due to an enlarged traffic in manufactured articles. The value of the products exported is due almost entirely to the handicraft of German artisans. At this time the exports of the United States amount to about $1,200,000,000 and consist mostly of unmanufactured agricultural products. Some of the exports of Germany are made from raw materials imported from the United States into Germany, manufactured there by German workmen and exported sometimes to the United States.

In shipbuilding and in the carrying trade of the seas Germany has made even more remarkable progress than in manufacturing pursuits. The empire has not much more than 1,000 miles of sea-coast, nearly all of which is unfavourably situated for general commerce with the world. But since 1871 it has risen from fifth place on the list of maritime nations, and is rapidly pushing to the front as a rival of England. In September of last year the merchant marine of the four great nations was as follows:

Country.	Net tons.	Country.	Net tons.
Great Britain	9,420,000	United States	1,963,000
Germany	1,714,000	France	825,900

In comparing the tonnage of the United States it must be taken into consideration that much of the American tonnage is engaged in traffic on the great lakes and in the coastwise trade. The American tonnage engaged in international trade on the high seas is much smaller than that of Germany. A comparison of shipbuilding statistics disclose that Germany has been steadily gaining upon England in the last four years. Here is a comparison made by a German authority:

Years.	Gross tons constructed Great Britain.	Germany.
1896	391,000	105,078
1897	316,000	115,369
1898	432,000	147,878
1899	335,000	187,575

It must be said in explanation of Germany's progress, however, that it is almost wholly due to a subsidy system for ships and a protection system for manufacturing. It might be claimed that Germany's progress in shipbuilding is an argument in favour of ship subsidies. This is not the fact. On the other hand, Germany's progress is detracted from by the fact that it is the result of stimulation. To the extent, therefore, to which Germany's ships rely on subsidies their business is unsound. This subsidized growth must be taken into consideration when a comparison of the growth of German shipping is made with that of other countries that have no ship subsidy system. During the last decade, without the aid of subsidies, American shipyards and shipbuilding have greatly increased, and with free materials for ship construction for American shipbuilders will undoubtedly continue to increase.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

HIS LIKES AND DISLIKES.

A weekly paper has secured some extracts from an album in which the Duchess of Fife has kept the personal opinions, personal tastes, and impressions of nearly every member of the English Royal Family. The Prince of Wales's likes and dislikes are thus recorded:—"I am happiest when I can smoke a really good cigar and read (must I confess it?) a good novel on the quiet; when I can, like plain Mr. Jones, go to a race meeting without it being chronicled in the papers next day that 'His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has taken to gambling very seriously, and yesterday lost more money than even he can afford to pay'; when I can shake hands with, and talk to Sir Edward Clarke, without it being rumoured that 'The Prince of Wales is violently opposed to the present war'; when I can spend a quiet evening at home with the Princess and my family. I am unhappiest when I have a raging toothache, and have to attend some social function, where I must smile as pleasantly as though I never had a pain in my life.'"

A TRADE DISPUTE.

The public hearing of a case instituted against Messrs. Kelley Raeburn and E. M. Angelo, No. 18, Maye Machi, Kobe, by Mr. Ed. Carlson, Acting Manager of the Russo-Chinese Bank, No. 26, Naniwa Machi, claiming a deposit of documentary credit amounting to yen 24,000, took place before Judge Kamada, Hiyama and Shimoyama at the Kobe Chiho Saibansho on Saturday last. The plaintiff was represented by Messrs. Masujima and Hirata and the defendants by Mr. Kusaka. At the opening of the court Mr. Masujima made a formal statement of his case and applied for an order against defendants for immediate payment of yen 24,000.

Mr. Masujima said that the defendants made a contract to draw a draft against 2,300 bales of cotton forwarded to them by Messrs. Marugesan & Co., Bombay, valued at *yen* 160,000, at their agency in British India, by paying *yen* 16,000 for the deposit of documentary credit, which was to be increased when the market quotation of the cotton went down. Since then the price of cotton had gone down steadily, and the present quotation, as compared with that ruling at the time the above agreement was made, represents a decline of some *yen* 24,000. The plaintiff requested the defendants to increase the deposit according to the first agreement; but they refused to do so. Hence the action.

Consul for the defence stated that the plaintiff was not entitled to sue the defendants directly in this case, as the defendants were not the parties directly concerned in the affair. The defendants would not admit that a loss of *yen* 24,000 had been sustained by the plaintiff if the goods arrived in this country to-day. The plaintiff did not suffer any loss till delivery of the goods was refused.

The case was adjourned.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

SOUTH AFRICA.

Shanghai, June 8.

Telegrams from South Africa are delayed, the cable being broken. Nothing is yet known as to the release of the British prisoners or the whereabouts of Botha's force.

The Times foreshadows the appointment of Roberts to be military governor of the new territories, Milner being subsequently their administrator.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN AN UNHEALTHY SPOT.

Later.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Lourenzo Marquez under date of the 7th that the Boers are moving prisoners to Nooitgedacht, a most unhealthy spot. A thousand are already there. The Boers in the meanwhile are making a stand at Hatherley, in order to gain time.

CHINA.

A later telegram from Reuter says that it is learned that there is no question at present of any political action on the part of the Powers in China. The Ministers, Admirals, and Consuls are consulting relative to measures to protect life and property. There is no question of any one Power acting independently of the others.

RUSSIANS FOR THE FAR EAST.

Two thousand Russians with stores have left Odessa during May for the Orient, and six more transports are preparing.

PRINCE KOTOHITO.

Shanghai, June 9.

H.I.H. Prince Kotohito has arrived at Vienna, where he was met by Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Este and escorted to the Palace. The Emperor received him, and a banquet was given in his honour.

PRESIDENT KRUGER.

President Kruger has been interviewed by the *Daily Express* correspondent at Machadadorp. He says that the Burghers will never surrender as long as 500 armed men remain in the country. He declares that the Government is still effective, that he will not leave the country, and that the real struggle has only now begun.

COLONEL PLUMER.

Colonel Plumer has occupied Zeerust unopposed. General Baden-Powell is administering the Malmani-Zeerust districts.

THE YEOMANRY.

The casualties of the Thirteenth Battalion of Yeomanry at Lindley on the 1st of June were, killed, Captain Keith and Sir John Power and sixteen troopers; wounded, the Earl of Longford, three officers, and twenty-five troopers.

BANNERMAN ON SOUTH-AFRICA.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, speaking at Glasgow, said that the conquered States in South Africa must belong to the Empire, and that, after securing the imperial power, we must aim at conciliation, and take the earliest possible opportunity to grant the rights of autonomy which content other colonists.

BULLER AT LAING'S NEK.

Shanghai, June 10.

General Buller has captured positions which he thinks will render the tenure of the Boers' positions impracticable at Laing's Nek.

H.M.S. "GOLIATH."

Her Majesty's ship *Goliath* has sailed from Gibralter for China.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

A despatch from Washington says that the diplomats in Peking have decided to jointly call on the Empress Dowager to suppress the Boxers, otherwise the Powers will act.

CANADA AND JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS.

Sir H. Laurier, speaking in the Dominion Parliament, deprecated the adoption of the British Columbian law for preventing the influx of Japanese. He referred to possible complications with China, and said that it would be unwise to do anything to jeopardize British friendship with Japan.

PRINCE KANIN.

Prince Kotohito was present at the Emperor's review of troops in Vienna.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from St. Petersburg that Russia has decided to take immediate military action to repress the anti-foreign movement in China, but without dissociating herself from the joint action of the Powers.

AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

General Kelly-Kenny telegraphs from Bloemfontein that the telegraph-wires have been cut at Roodeval, to the north of Kronstad, by the Boers. Their force is estimated at 2,000 strong, with 6 guns. Kelly-Kenny is sending strong reinforcements.

BOERS REFUSING TO SURRENDER.

Shanghai, June 11.

Gen. Forestier Walker telegraphs from Cape Town, under date of the 10th, that the natives report that the Boers were in three columns early on the 9th, near Honningspruit, and that the railway between America and Roodeval stations has been almost completely destroyed.

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The Boers curtly refused General Buller's proposal that they should surrender.

THE GRAND PRIX.

The result of the Grand Prix, run at Longchamps, near Paris, is as follows:—

Semandria	1
Lovegrass	2
Iago	3

BULLER.

Shanghai, June 12.

Buller's force is encamped close to the boundary of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. He was opposed after marching eight miles. The Boers retreated when the heavy ordnance came into action. The enemy are making another stand on a ridge ahead of Gansolei.

THE ROODEVAL FIGHT.

Later.

An official despatch says that in the fighting at Roodeval on the 7th instant, 17 of the Fourth Derbyshires were killed, 96 wounded and the remainder taken prisoners. There is no explanation. Among the killed were Colonel David Douglas and Lieutenant Horley, and among the wounded Colonel Wilkinson and 4 officers. Methuen with the bulk of his Division was fighting early on the 8th ten miles south of Heilbron. The despatch leaves everything unexplained.

THE WAR.

The Boers have cut the railway at several places to the north of Kroonstad.

PRETORIA PRISONERS.

Shanghai, June 13.

One hundred and fifty officers and 3,000 men have been released at Pretoria.

The Boers removed 900.

BULLER'S ADVANCE.

Buller cables under date of the 11th that on that day he forced the Almond Nek, the last defile on the way to Charleston Flats. The enemy were in considerable force, with several guns of position. Gen. Hildyard directed the whole attack, and his dispositions were extremely good.

BOERS SURRENDER.

Fifteen hundred Boers have surrendered to Col. Brabant at Vicksburg.

BULLER'S POSITION.

Buller has encamped 4 miles north of Volksrust, the Boers having completely evacuated Laing's Nek and Majuba.

THE GERMAN NAVY BILL.

The Reichstag has finally passed the Navy Bill.

THE STRAITS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. Frizell has been gazetted a member of the Straits Executive Council.

PRINCE KANIN.

The Emperor of Austria-Hungary has conferred on Prince Kotohito the Grand Cross of St. Stephen, ranking with the Iron Crown (?).

LORD METHUEN.

Gen. Kelly-Kenny, telegraphing from Bloemfontein on the 11th, says that there has been no communication from Lord Methuen since the 7th. He was fighting on the 6th to the north of Vechtkop.

HONNINGSPRUIT.

Our troops from the north have reached Honningspruit, having defeated the enemy.

REPORTED DEFEAT OF A BOER COMMANDO.

Shanghai, May 14.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent telegraphs from Bloemfontein that Gen. Hunter, after a brilliant march from the north-west, severely defeated a large Boer commando on the north of Kroonstad.

BOERS SURROUNDED.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Maseru that the Boers occupy a very extensive position, but that Gens. Methuen, Rundle, and Brabant, with nearly 50 guns, completely surround them.

THE WEST COAST TROUBLE.

The Coomassie reliefs, after severe fighting, were compelled to retire, and await reinforcements.

COMPLETE VICTORY ON THE RHENOSTRE.

Later.

Field-Marshal Roberts telegraphs from Pretoria under date of the 12th that Lord Methuen gained a complete victory over the Boers on the Rhenostre river on the 11th inst. He captured the enemy's camp and scattered them in all directions.

The despatch adds that Lord Kitchener was sent to join Methuen, whom he met at Vredefort on the evening of the 10th. Lords Kitchener and Methuen marched towards Kroonstad on the 12th.

ATTACKING BOTHA.

Lord Roberts, on the 11th inst., ordered an attack on Botha, who held a strong position with an unassailable front, 15 miles to the east of Pretoria, on the Middleburg road. Generals French, Hamilton and Pole-Carew were engaged.

THE KILLED.

The Earl of Airlie, Major Fortescue, and Lieut. the Hon. F. Cavendish, of the Lancers, were killed.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

THE WAR.

Saigon, June 8.

On the 31st May the Boers captured near Lindley a battalion of Yeomanry.

CHINA.

A telegram from Tientsin says that the situation continues disquieting. Two hundred more foreign marines have been landed. Numbers of European ships-of-war are at Taku. The Tsung-li Yamên has refused the offer of Russia to cooperate in the repression of the troubles. It has given orders to the Chinese Generalissimo to suppress the Boxers.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

The President of the French Republic has visited all the Colonial Sections of the Exhibition.

THE FRENCH BUDGET.

Saigon, May 9.

The Bureaux of the Chamber of Deputies have nominated the Budget Commission. The great majority of those elected are favourable to the project of the Government. Among the commissioners are M.M. Le Myre de Vilers, Rouvier, Cochery, and Pelletan.

THE KING OF SWEDEN.

The King of Sweden has arrived at Paris to visit the Exhibition. The President of the Republic received his Majesty at the station. There was much cheering.

THE POWERS IN CHINA.

It is affirmed that the Powers are acting in accord in China for the protection of their nationals.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Saigon, June 10.

The Chinese Government has been warned that France will hold it responsible throughout the entire extent of China for the security of French citizens, and that France herself will provide for that safety if necessary.

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE.

M. Cochery has been elected President of the Budget Committee. M. Guilloin is Reporter General, and M. Le Myre de Vilers is Reporter for the Colonies.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Saigon, June 11.

The Minister of France at Peking telegraphs that the situation continues grave. The Chinese Government refuses to take strong measures against the rebels.

THE PRESIDENT.

Saigon, June 12.

The President of the Republic was present at the race for the Grand Prix. He was much cheered. The crowd was enormous.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

It is telegraphed from Tientsin that 1,500 additional foreign soldiers have started for Peking.

Four thousand Russians have landed at Tientsin.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Saigon, June 13.

M. Delcassé, Minister of Foreign Affairs, declared, amid the applause of the Chamber, that the Representatives of the Powers in Peking will warn China that unless she re-establishes order, the Powers will see to it. He adds that troops will be sent to meet the French citizens in Yunnan if the Consul asks for them. "We have not," says M. Delcassé, "any idea of conquest; we only desire to protect our economical interests."

THE DERBYSHIRES.

A telegram from London says that the Boers on the north of Kroonstad captured a battalion of the Derbyshires, of whom the Colonel and 16 men were killed and 77 wounded.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Saigon, June 14.

China has declared to the Representatives of the Powers in Peking that she will not oppose the entry of foreign detachments into the capital.

LORD METH UEN.

Methuen has beaten and dispersed the Boers on the Rhenoster River.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Shanghai, June 11.

A telegram from Tientsin, dated the 10th June, says that 1700 marines of all nationalities have left by rail for Peking. Reinforcements are arriving.

REPORTED LANDING OF 4,000 RUSSIANS.

It is reported that 4,000 Russians have landed at Peitaiho and are marching to Peking.

THE EMPRESS AND RUSSIA.

It is reported that the Empress Dowager has fled to the Russian Legation.

CHINESE AFFAIRS: MARINES RE-OPEN THE RAILWAY.

Shanghai, June 12.

A message from Tientsin, dated the 11th, says that the marines opened the line to Langfang to-day. They expect to reach Peking on the 12th.

A conflict is possible.

RUSSIAN ACTIVITY.

Four hundred Russian troops have joined the marines and more are landing.

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EXODUS OF NATIVES.

The exodus of natives continues.

DROUGHT.

The drought is persistent.

THE CHINESE ANTI-FOREIGN OUTBREAK.

Shanghai, June 13.

The Marines marching to Peking found beyond Lang-fang that the Boxers were destroying the railway line and the bridges.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE BOXERS.

There was a slight engagement and about 50 Boxers were killed. There were no foreign casualties. The damage to the line is so serious that the marines' further advance is delayed.

THE BOXERS' OUTBREAK.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL MURDERED.

Shanghai, May 14.

The Japanese Consul at Tientsin yesterday received news that a Secretary of the Japanese Legation at Peking had been killed by soldiers.

THE MARINES.

The marines' progress towards Peking is slow.

BOXERS MOVEMENT SPREADING.

The Boxers' movement is spreading.

(By Special Arrangement wilh the "Jiji Shimpo.")

THE TROUBLES IN CHINA.

Tientsin, June 14.

A force of from 2,200 to 2,300 Russians are now actually landing at Tientsin.

All trade and enterprise at Tientsin as well as throughout the north of China are interrupted in consequence of the insurrection.

The allied forces *en route* for Peking came into collision with the insurgents at Poh-tah.

Later.

There is no sign of the insurrection being quelled. The Foreign Representatives appear to be about to make a complete change of policy. The situation is growing more and more grave.

(From the "North China Daily News.")

THE BOXERS AND THEIR WORK.

Tientsin, June 2.

The Paotingfu refugees are coming to the river, having fought their way through, with a loss of four killed and four wounded.

The party is composed of British and American missionaries and Belgian engineers.

Many armed volunteers are starting from Tientsin to meet them.

(From "Der Ostasiatische Lloyd.")

Peking, June 3.

Some of the Belgian Engineers who were attacked by the Boxers near Paotingfu the other day reached Peking yesterday afternoon; they are in great distress. Four Belgians have been killed, several are wounded. Six are missing.

(From the "Manila Times.")

"CORINTHIA" LOST ON HAYTI.

New York, May 25.

News has been received here of the wreck of steamer *Corinthia* on the coast of Hayti. She was on a voyage to South Africa with a consignment of 1,450 American mules for the British army in the Transvaal. The mules were successfully got off the vessel and swam ashore; all the animals and the rest of the ship's cargo being saved.

WELLAND CANAL DYNAMITERS.

SENTENCED.

New York, May 29.

The three dynamiters arrested in connection with the blowing up of the Welland Canal locks, are alleged to be Fenians. They have each been sentenced to imprisonment for life.

(From the "China Mail.")

THE ENTRY INTO JOHANNESBURG.

London, June 1.

Particulars have been received of the capture of Johannesburg.

It appears that the force under Lord Roberts met with greater opposition than was anticipated, and the Commander-in-chief was unable to carry out his intention of formally entering the town at noon on Wednesday.

General Ian Hamilton's Mounted Division and the Gordon Highlanders and Yeomanry, in their advance on the Boer defences, met with a stiff resistance.

The Gordons, with the Yeomanry co-operating, charged up the kopjes under a withering fire and carried the positions in a most heroic manner. The Gordon Highlanders sustained considerable loss.

Lord Roberts entered at the head of the victorious army on Thursday.

A report by the *Daily Mail* correspondent, that the Boers have abandoned the forts at Pretoria, is unconfirmed, but it is officially believed to be correct.

(From the "Asahi Shimbun.")

THE FOREIGN GUARDS.

Tientsin, June 12.

Seventy-one marines were landed here from the Japanese cruiser *Suma*.

RUSSIAN ACTIVITY.

The Russian landed 1,746 troops; 277 horses, and 24 guns.

Two Russian war-ships, with 1,000 troops, have arrived at Taku.

BRITISH TROOPS.

A British force of 1,000 troops is said to have arrived at Taku from Hongkong.

FIGHTING THE BOXERS.

A collision occurred yesterday between the Boxers and the foreign marines at Lang-fang. Several Boxers were killed and ten were taken captive. The foreigners lost nothing.

ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING IN CHINA.

Peking, June 13.

In the Chinese Ministry the anti-foreign party is in the ascendant.

Four Chinese prisoners have arrived from Lang-fang to day.

LATEST FROM PEKING.

All the Foreign Legations are anxiously waiting the arrival of the troops.

The Tsung-li Yamên has asked that the Legation guards be camped outside the city, fearing a disturbance if they enter.

THE LATE MR. SUGIYAMA.

Tientsin, June 13.

Mr. Sugiyama's body was taken to the Japanese Legation from the Tsung-li Yamên, after the inquest.

COSSACK TROOPS.

Five hundred Cossacks have landed here and they proceed to Peking at once.

JAPANESE TORPEDO-BOAT DESTROYER.

The Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer *Kagero* has not yet arrived.

FOREIGN TROOPS.

The foreign troops are bivouacked near Lang-fang, repairing the damage to the railway line. It is not yet known when they will reach Peking.

(From the "Jiji Shimpo.")

FATAL MINE EXPLOSION.

Fukuoka, June 11.

An explosion of fire-damp occurred at the Kawamiya coal mine, Tagawa district, on the 8th inst. One coolie was killed and five severely injured.

BIG FIRES.

Niigata, June 11.

A big fire broke out at Tokamachi, in this prefecture, at one o'clock this morning, and continued until four. The police stations, post office, and about one hundred houses were destroyed. The telegraph being interruptul no details are known.

Utsumomiya, June 12.

Fire broke out at a kerosene oil godown belonging to the Ashio copper mine at 8 a.m. yesterday. Three godowns, and one office were burnt. The loss is estimated at about 60,000 *yen*.

Niigata, June 12.

Details of the loss by the fire at Tokamachi are as follows:—827 houses, 71 godowns, and 123 store houses. The total value of property distroyed is estimated at 700,000 *yen*.

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

PROBLEM 475.

We received a correct solution of this Problem from "W.H.S." too late for insertion in its proper place last week.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 476.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—B to Kt 6	1—P takes B
2—K to R 7	2—Any move
3—Q to R 8 mate	
	1—B takes B
2—Q to B 1	2—K to Q 4
3—Q to Q B 4 mate	
	2—Kt to K 1
3—Q to Kt 2 mate	
	2—Any other move
3—B to B 6 mate	
	1—K to Q 4
2—Q to Q B 8	2—Any move
3—Q to Q B 6 mate	
	1—P to Q Kt 7
2—P to Q 3 ch	2—K to Q 4
3—P to Q B 4 mate	
	2—B takes P
3—B to B 6 mate	
	1—B to R 7 or any other
2—P to Q 3 ch	2—K to Q 4
3—P to Q B 4 mate	
	1—B to Q 6
2—B to Q B 6 mate	

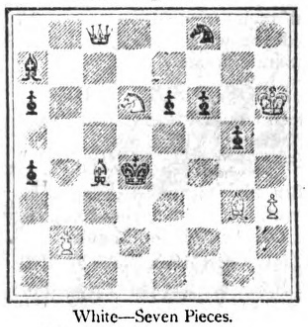
Correct solutions received from "P.A.H." and "W.H.S."

PROBLEM No. 478.

By Valentin Marin.

A Prize-Taker.

Black—Eight Pieces.



White—Seven Pieces.

White mates in three moves.

Game 590.

The Australian Opening.

The following is another specimen of the new colonial opening played recently in the Kolisch Tournament at Vienna. The winner, the well-known veteran Austrian expert, Herr Albin, is partial to this form of the defence, and by his clever conduct of this game he shared in the brilliancy prize offered by Baron Rothschild. The notes at the foot are by Herr Hoffer in the *Westminster Budget*:

THE CHARLICK COUNTER-GAMBIT.

White—A. Schwarz.	Black—A. Albin.
1—P to Q4	1—P to Q4
2—P to Q B4	
(To avoid the new counter-Gambit the first player must resort to the Zukertort Opening White—1. Kt to K B 3, or now play 2. Kt to K B 3.)	
	2—P to K 4!
3—Q P takes P	3—P to Q 5
4—P to K Kt 3	4—Kt to Q B 3
5—P to B 4	5—B to K B 4
6—P to Q R 3	6—P to K R 4
7—B to Kt 2	7—P to R 5
8—Kt to K B 3	8—P to R 6
9—B to B	9—R to R 4

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10—P to Kt 3	10—B to B 4
11—B to Kt 2	11—Kt to R 3
12—P to K 3	12—Kt to K Kt 5
13—P takes P	13—Kt to K 6
14—Q to B	14—Kt to B 7 (ch)
15—K to Q	15—Q Kt takes Q P
16—Kt takes Kt	16—B takes Kt
17—Kt to Q 2	17—B to B 7
18—Q takes Kt	18—B takes Q (ch)
19—K takes B	19—B to Q 5
20—Kt to B 3	20—B takes B
21—K takes B	21—P to R 5
22—P to Q Kt 4	22—Q to Q 2
23—B to K 2	23—Q to B 3
24—Q R to Q B	24—Q to K 5
25—K R to K	25—Q to K 6
26—R to B 3	26—Q to B 7
27—R to B 2	27—Castles Q R
28—B to Q	28—Q takes R
29—Kt takes Q	29—R takes B
30—Kt to B 3	30—R to Q 6
31—Kt to Kt 5	31—P to K B 3
32—P takes P	32—P takes P
33—Kt to K 4	33—K R to Q
34—Kt to B 5	34—R to Q 7
35—Kt takes R P	35—R takes R (ch)
36—K takes R	36—R to Kt
37—Kt to B 5	37—R takes P

White resigns, for if P takes R the R P marches to promotion.

2—P to K 4 is a favourite variation of Albin. It cannot be recommended. White may continue with 3—P to K 3, which places him in the position of the French Defence with a move ahead, or he may continue as in the text up to White's 8—Kt to K B 3, which is a bad move. the correct continuation being being 8—P to K 4, B to K 3 (8—P takes P, e.p. is inferior); 9—Q to Q 3, P takes P; 10—P takes P, R takes R, 11—B takes R, P to K Kt 4; 12—Kt to K B 3 with a Pawn ahead and a good position. Obviously, after permitting 8—P to R 6, driving back the Bishop, he had the inferior game, which he could have somewhat improved with 10—P to K 3 (in fact, the latter move was imperative). Black's splendid final attack commenced with 11—Kt to R 3 and Kt to Kt 5, and the beautiful 17—B to B 7, which compelled White to sacrifice the Queen, for Black threatened 18—Kt to K 6 (ch); 19—K to K 3—Q to Q 6 (ch); 20—K takes B, Kt to Kt 5 (ch); 21—K to K, Q to K 6 (ch); 22—B to K 2, Q to B 7 (ch); 23—K to Q Kt to K 6 mate. Of course, after the sacrifice of the Queen, he might have resigned. Black, eventually giving back the Queen, remained with the Exhange ahead—more than sufficient to win. This is really a fine and brilliant game, deserving the whole of the brilliancy prize instead of having to share it with another.

GAME 599.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE'S VICTORY.

THE STORY OF ENGLAND'S GREEEEST DANGER.

"Attend, all ye who list to hear our noble England's praise,
I tell of the thrice famous deeds she wrought in ancient days;
When that great fleet Invincible against her bore in vain
The richest spoils of Mexico, the stoutest hearts of Spain."

MACAULAY.

Long and dark was that memorable night in 1588 at Turnchapel where were assembled Sir Francis Drake, Admiral Lord Charles Howard, Hawkins, Frobisher, and a number of distinguished naval officers, who were impatiently awaiting the dawn of day to drive from England's shores the invader from Spain. Undaunted in courage and resolute of will, these men of war passed the time with their favourite amusement, chess. 'Twas little thought they gave to the carnage of to-morrow, and it was little they thought how complete would be their victory over the Spanish Armada, or how the fame of old England would, through their exertions, spread like wild fire throughout the world. On them, and on them alone, rested the honour, the glory, and the pride of their country, and that that confidence was not misplaced history to-day records. So they played on throughout that night. Sir Francis Drake and Lord Charles Howard sat at one table. Sir Francis played an ingenious game, and won in splendid style. On rising from the table Sir Francis exclaimed—"If we beat the Spaniards like that I will call the gambit after Plymouth." The condition was fulfilled; and "The Plymouth Gambit" became immortal.

THE PLYMOUTH GAMBIT.

White—Sir Francis Drake.	Black—Lord Charles Howard.
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—B to B 4	2—B to B 4
3—P to B 4	3—P takes P
4—Kt to K B 3.	4—P to K Kt 4
5—P to Q 4	5—B to Kt 3
6—R to B.	6—P to K R 3

Here if Black defended with 6—P to Kt 5, as usually played in some openings, White would win easily, e.g., 6—P to Kt 5; 7.—Q B takes P, P takes Kt; 8 Q takes P B takes P; 9—B to K 5, K Kt to R 3; 10—K B takes P (ch) and mates in a few moves. The opening had been very ably worked out by Mr. E. J. Winter Wood, of Plymouth, to whom is due its reintroduction.

7—P to K R 4	7—P to K B 3
8—P takes P	8—B P takes P
9—Kt to K 5	9—Q to B 3
10—Q to R 5 (ch)	10—K to B
11—Kt to Kt 6 (ch)	11—K to Kt 2
12—Kt takes R	12—K takes Kt
13—Q to K 8	

Threatening mate next move.

	13—Q to Kt 2
14—R to R	14—K to R 2
15—B takes Kt (ch)	15—Q takes B

If Black played 15. K to R mate could follow in four moves two different ways, one way commencing 16. B to K 6 (dis ch, and 17. B to B 5 (ch); the other by 16. R takes P (ch), and 17. B to B 7 (dis ch).

16—R takes P (ch)	16—K takes R

Black could not avoid the loss of his Queen.

17—Q takes Q	17—Kt to Q B 3
18—Kt to Q B 3	18—B takes P
19—Kt to Q 5	19—P to Q 3
20—Kt takes K B P	

A bold dash for victory.

	20—P takes Kt

White mates in two moves.

21—B takes P (ch)	21—K to R 4
22—Q to Kt 5 (ch) mate.	

As Sir Francis Drake arose from his seat there was heard a hissing sound in the air followed by a loud thunder clap—it was a shot fired as a signal that the enemy was in sight. Lord Howard put to sea in the *Ark Royal*, Drake in the *Revenge*, Hawkins in the *Victory*, and Frobisher in the *Triumph*. The huge vessels of the enemy were speedily seen ploughing the waves, drawn up in the form of a crescent, extending about seven miles from extremity to extremity. Their great dimensions gave confidence to the mariners of England in their own gallant craft, as being lighter and more manageable, and less exposed. Throughout the struggle the fire of the Spaniards proved comparatively harmless, owing to the height at which the guns were mounted, while that of their opponents told with destructive effect upon the colossal squadron, which turned and fled. Thus Drake's condition was fulfilled; and thus "The Plymouth Gambit" became immortal.—The *Dublin Mail*.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking 1	Su. June 17
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla 2	M. June 18
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro 3	M. June 18
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern 4	Sa. June 23
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 5	M. June 25
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Sydney 6	W. June 27
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Th. June 28
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. July 2
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	Tu. July 3
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Th. July 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. July 5

1 Left San Francisco on the 29th ult.
2 Left Nagasaki on the 13th inst.
3 Left Shanghai on the 13th inst.
4 Left Hongkong on the 12th inst.
5 Left San Francisco on the 6th inst.
6 Left Saigon on the 13th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of China	F. June 15
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Oldenburg	Sa. June 16
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	M. June 18
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Saikio Maru	W. June 20
America	P. M. Co.	Rio de Janeiro	W. June 20
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Laos	F. June 22
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. June 26
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. June 27
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. June 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. July 2
Hkongong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	W. July 4
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	Sa. July 7

TO THE DEAF—A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noises in the Head by Dr. Nicholson's Artificial Ear Drums, gave £5,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Address, No. 1,072-D, the NICHOLSON INSTITUTE, Longcott, Gunnersbury, London, W.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,797, H. Petersorl, 7th June,—London via ports, and Kobe, 6th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 7th June,—Yokkaichi, 6th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Nishimura, 8th June,—Shanghai via ports, 2nd June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 8th June,—Fushiki, 4th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Nakajima, 9th June,—Yokkaichi, 8th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oldenburg, German steamer, 3,167, H. Prager, 9th June,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, and Kobe, 8th June, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,958, C. K. McIntosh, 10th June,—London via ports, and Kobe, 9th June, General.—Cornes & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 10th June,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 9th June, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 10th June,—Kobe, 8th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K, Nakajima, 19th June,—Yokkaichi, 9th June, Geueral.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P, Marshall, 11th June,—Vancouver, B.C., 28th May. Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Fuji, 11th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 11th June,—Yokkaichi, 10th June, General. —Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 11th June,—Kobe, 9th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Toyei Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,696, K. Yamamoto, 11th June,—Kobe, 9th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Eltrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, J. R. Stewart, 11th June,—Otaru, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 12th June,—Kobe, 12th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thyra, Norwegian steamer, 2,419, Edwardsen, 12th June,—Potland, Oregon, 21st May, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W.W. Greene, 12th June,—Otaru via ports, 7th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Laos, French steamer, 2,331, Flaudin, 13th June,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 12th June, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, Y. Oda, 13th June,—Yokkachi, 12th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 13th June,—Yokkaichi, 12th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 14th June.—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 13th June, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, Thompson, 14th June,—Portland, Oregon, 27th May, Mails and General. —Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

America Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,256, P. H. Going, 8th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Indus, French steamer, 2,331, G. Duchateau, 8th June,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Strathgyle, British steamer, 3,284, Gordon, 8th June, —Honolulu, San Diego, and San Francisco, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 8th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 8th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, Y. Kishi, 8th June, — Yokkaichi, General. — Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tartar, British steamer, 2,768, H. Pybus, 8th June,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Peacock (6), British gunboat, 750, Lieut.-Com. P. S. St. John, 8th June.—Wei-hai-wei.

Konoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, K. Shima, 8th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,907, T. Sakái, 9th

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9th June,—Kobe, 9th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,031, S. Yoshizawa, 9th June,—Bombay via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pascal (14), French cruiser, 3,990, Capt. Mattet, 9th June,—Taku.

Yamashiro Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, S. Nishimura, 10th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,567, J. Campbell, 10th June,—Kushiro via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, O. P. Marshall, 11th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 12th June,—Nagahama Qarantine Station, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 12th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,072, J. F. Allen, 12th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Antenor, British steamer, 3.327, M. H. T. Jackson, 12th June,—London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,433, S. Muramatsu, 12th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Royalist, British steamer, 2,024, S. Tierney, 13th June,—Kushiro, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 840, K. Nakajima, 13th June,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ettrickdale, British steamer, 2,468, J. R, Stewart, 13th June,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, M, Nishimura, 13th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Thyra, Norwegian steamer, 2,419, Edwardsen, 14th June,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hokkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 437, S. Watanabe, 14th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, T. Murai, 14th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, K. Nakajima, 14th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kamakura Maru*, from London via ports:—Mr. W. H. Elmenhorst, Mr. E. Banker, Mr. J. G. Doering, Mr. Kiyomichi, Mr. J. Tornöe, and Mr. Keinosuke Kodama, in cabin; Mr. R. Midzuno, in second class; 15 Japanese, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamashiro Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Com. T. Yamada, Rev. W. E. Hoy, Rev. T. Cromer, Mr. Kepling, Miss Moore, Miss Crouse, Mr. Collier, Rev. F. Cromer, Mr. and Mrs. Crouse, Mr. A. S. Ellam, Mrs. Moore, Mr. A. Stephenson, and Mr. W. M. Treglan, in cabin; Mr. Y. Yamada, Mr. K. Yamada, Mr. Y. Kawaguchi, and Mr. T. Doi, in second class; 44 Japanese, in steerage.

Per German steamer *Oldenburg*, from Bremen via ports:—Capt. C. Olsen, Mr. Ad. Hohnholz, Miss Dawbarn, Mr. Hasse, Mr. Paul Rickmers, Ritter von Lommer, Mr. Ant. Pandrab, Mrs. Starck, Mr. M. F. Bengen, Mr. J. H. de Reuss, Mr. J. Hall, Mr. Charlesworth, and Mr. Paine, in cabin; Mr. Ah Kiz, and Mr. G. E. Cardoso, in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. F. R. Southern, Mrs. B. C. Howard, Misses Howard and servant, Mr. C. B. Harris and servant, Capt. J. Faihney, Mrs. O. W. Andrews, 2 children and maid, Mr. J. Hughson, Mr. B. C. Howard, Mr. S. P. Grolly, Mrs. S. P. Grolly, Mr. M. Baggaley, Mr. A. J. Hughes, Mr. S. Togo, Mrs. Fuller and child, Lieut. G. Rowland Fortescue, and Mr. J. Strauss, in cabin. In Transit:—Major Duerr, Rev. Ekroll, Mrs. Ekroll and child, Mrs. Wong Yu, Mrs. Yuen Moi, Mr. W. O. Rowe, Mr. G. A. Bicknell, Mrs. G. A. Bicknell, Mr. B. V. H. Vingnt, Mr. Lan See, Miss Lan Mee, and Miss Fong Soo, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. D. E. Brown, Miss H. Batcheler, Mr. J. C. Carbonell, Miss Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Ching Ling Foo and child, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. H. De Marcilly, Mrs. Ellan, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Foutain, Mr. and Mrs. D. Gilmour, Miss J. M. Gilmour, Miss J. V. Gilmour, Miss M. E. Gilmour, Miss A. K. Gilmour, Mr. John Hammond, Miss Inkman, Mr. T. Lenton, Mrs. C. W. O'Neill, Mr. L. E. Phipps, Mr. A. S. Williamson, Mr. W. Brewster Wood, Miss Constance Wood, Miss Sadie Lea Weidner, and Mr. and Mrs. Woodhead, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Laos*, from Marseilles via ports:—Comte de Poter, Mr. R. Andie and family, Mr. Forot, Sister Wilfrid, Mrs. Couperus, Mrs. Hataika Fuku, Mr. Jamir, Mr. Finch, Mr. P. Boell, Dr. Roberts, Mr. Barfoot and Japanese boy, Mr. and Mrs. Buckley. Mr. Kremer, Mr. Tuska, Mr. and Mrs. Wassibeg and amah, Mr. H. J. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Chausson, Mr. Rubattel, Mr. and Mrs. Yoneya, and Mr. Ah Kho, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. J. Hamilton Smythe, Miss A. E. Pope, Miss E. Duensing, Mrs. Ohly and 2 children, Mrs. Matsumo, Mr. W. S. Gibson, Mrs. and Miss Lysaught, Miss M. Bond, Major and Mrs. Jefferies, Mr. G. H. Dann, Prof. E. H. Sharpe, Mr. J. C. Peters, Lieut. and Mrs. Bagnall Wild, Major S. G. Everitt, Mr. R. N. Hatrick, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Keswick and child, Miss Mainguy, Mrs. and Miss Warner, Mr. H. Lyman, Mr. F. da Roza, Mr. Schlesinger, Mrs. E. M. Elliott, Lieut. E. T. Batch, Dr. C. D. Lloyd, Mr. W. C. Falliott, Mr. W. K. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Boun and infant, Miss Maybrook, Mr. E. C. Bungher, Mr. and Mrs. Holliday, Rev. R. A. Thompson, Rev. C. K. Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Cawthra, Mr. W. G. Peters, and Mr. R. Masujima, in cabin. For Vancouver:—Mr. W. F. Donaldson, Mr. W. C. Michell, Mr. A. J. Basto, Mrs. Basto, Hon. H. Smith, Mrs. H. M. Bevis, Miss Alice Chimmo, Mr. W. S. Orr, Miss L. F. Wilden, Mr. R. Platt, Mrs. J. M. Taber, Mr. S. Mart, Mr. A. H. Ellis, Rev. and Mrs. Endicott and 3 children, Mr. Huntingham Wickham, Mr. F. L. Garrison, Mr. Kroehl, Mr. P. Waterhouse, Mr. Oxley Cumming, Capt. and Mrs. Mackenzie and son, Mr. H. Say and valet, Mr. S. Echiele, Mr. and Mrs. Ewing and 2 children, Mr. A. J. H. Carlill, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Patterson and 2 children, Mr. C. E. Seaman, Mr. A. K. Bourne, and Mr. W. H. Pullan, in cabin; 23 in intermediate, and 204 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *America Maru*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. Blackman, Mrs. A. Blackman, Mrs. P. H. Going, Mrs. M. Hands and child, Mrs. J. W. Heard and 5 children, Miss K. McIsaac, Mrs. H. L. Nason, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Mrs. A. Tormey, Miss M. Tormey, Miss J. Tormey, Miss R. Townsend, Mr. Chang Yin Tung, and Mrs. Chang Yin Tung, in cabin.

Per French steamer *Indus*, for Marseilles via ports:—Madame Maxwell, Mr. E. Achilles, Mr. K. Hoffner, Mr. Vass Plieff, Mr. H. J. Sharp, Mr. Hashimoto, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bull, Miss Kathiakazloff, Mr. F. Akermann, Mr. K. Uchida, Mr. F. Miyasaki, Mr. K. Kiyofuji, Mr. H. Young, Mr. J. A. Ailion, Mr. Chang On, Mr. Chan Cheng, Dr. Nakayama, Mr. Na Yat Seng, Mr. Simbreta, Mr. Y. Takikuchi, Miss M. Yamane, Mr. Sarazin, Mr. B. Akermann, Mr. Tank, Mr. Krassnoff, Mr. and Mrs. Tillier, and Mr. Shimazo Hata, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India*, for Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Wrightson, Capt. A. W. Bewley, Mr. C. H. W. Kew, Mr. G. H. Howarth, Mr. and Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Hoff, Miss Cooley, Mr. L. M. F. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Robertson, Mr. W. Schaider, Mr. and Mrs. Weinburg and child, Mr. R. P. Tuthill, Mr. J. P. Crowther, and Capt. Bancroft, in cabin.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The Chinese complications have had a direful effect on the spinning industries, and extensive failures are not improbable. American middling cotton is quoted as low as 23 *yen*, and Bengal has been sold at 19 *yen*. The Japanese have entirely retired from the market, and in all lines quotations are nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼ lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches ...	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	23 *yen*
Indian Broach	19 *yen*
Chinese	Nominal

METALS.

Nothing doing.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward ...	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 to 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅜ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

Market weak.

American	$2.28
Russian	2.75
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	8.00 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is between the seasons and prices are not reliable. The new crop is going well, and the market is likely to be opened in a few days.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse...	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	
Filatures—Nc. 1, Coarse...	
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine...	
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse...	
Common—Coarse	
Re-reels—Extra	
Re-reels—No. 1	
Re-reels—No. 1½	
Re-reels—No. 2	
Re-reels—No. 3	
Kakedas—Extra	
Kakedas—No. 1	
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

There is nothing doing, and quotations are nominal.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	135 to 140
Noshi—Filatures, Good...	145 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium...	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	85 to 90
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filatures, Best...	125 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	115 to 120
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	

TEA.

The first crop is proving a short one, and country holders, believing prices will advance still further are holding back supplies. For some grades prices have advanced 3 *yen* per picul, and parcels of light liquoring teas are extremely scarce. Settlements for the whole of Japan are 30,000 piculs less than last year; for Yokohama they are 90,000 against 114,000.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	} 35 upwards
Choice	
Finest	33 to 34
Fine...	31 to 32
Good Medium...	29 to 30
Medium	26 to 27
Good Common	24 to 25
Common	—

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EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 14.

No changes from abroad to affect rates, which continue steady, and close for the mail per *Empress of China* as under.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 9/16
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4 @ 11/16
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 7/8 @ 13/16
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	260 @ 59½
— — 6 months' sight	261½ @ 61
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50 3/4 @ ½
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74⅛
— Private 10 days' sight	74⅞
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London) 2nd	27 1/16

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, June 14.

Breweries were sold last night and again to-day at *yen* 160 for cash. Oriental Hotels—old shares can be had at *yen* 150. New shares are steady at *yen* 40. Club Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 82.50 per end of July. Langfeldts have sellers at *yen* 105. Helms are obtainable at par. Laundries have sellers at par. A few Bretts can be placed at *yen* 9.

Y. U. Club debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	220 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	160 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	82.50 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	150 S.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	500 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	825 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	40 St.
Oriental Hotel, preference shares, ¥25	40 St.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, June 14.

Club Hotels have sellers at *yen* 90. Offers are wanted for Langfeldts. Helms can be had at par. Oriental Hotel Founders shares changed hands at *yen* 500.

By Wire from Singapore Kechan Gold Mines have declared a dividend at the rate of $2 per share. Shares are quoted at $32 cum the dividend.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	220 Steady.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	150 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	160 Sales.

Tokyo, June 15.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	*... 91.40
War Loan Bonds	*... 91.40
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	*... 94.20
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	117.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	65.50
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	177.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	65.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	65.00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	109.00
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	27.50
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	73.20
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	63.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 10.50	22.30
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	103.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	68.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	52.50
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	38.60
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	51.90
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	40.30
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	85.00
Hokkaido Colliery R'way 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	67.80
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	80.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	37.00
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	20.20
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	54.50
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	17.00

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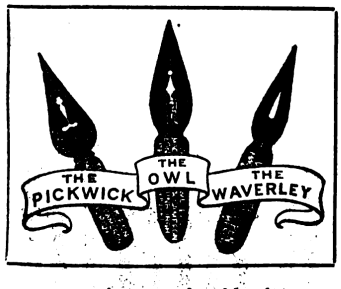

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD, 1900.

BIRTH.

On June 16th, at No. 249, Bluff, Yokohama, the wife of HUBERT J. OWEN, of a Son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE war in South Africa continues, the Boers since the occupation of Pretoria having begun guerilla tactics.

LIEUT.-COL. JOHN S. MALLORY, U.S.A., has been ordered to Peking as Military Attaché at the American Legation.

KANSAS farmers, according to reports, have in sight the greatest wheat crop in its history, exceeding that of 1892, when they harvested 71,000,000 bushels of wheat.

THE total eclipse of the sun on May 28th was observed under most favourable conditions in the United States. In Europe and North Africa the conditions were equally fair.

IN a recent speech Lord Salisbury compared the Liberal-Imperial party suggested by Lord Rosebery, to a seidlitz powder, the constituents of the mixture being intended to neutralise each other.

IT is stated that the Carnegie Steel Company Limited, has secured a contract to furnish 75 per cent. of all the structural steel used by the new American bridge-builders' combine. It is said that the reported contract calls for supplies to the amount of $30,000,000 yearly, an unusually high figure to be sure.

THE condition of affairs in China is very critical. The most alarming intelligence has been sent to Japan by wire during the week, but the greater portion has to be rejected as untrustworthy.

IT is stated that the premises of the former Swiss Consulate, Yokohama, will be acquired by the Post Office at an early date, and a new building constructed on the site for the foreign mail and telegraph department.

SIR FRANK. A. SWETTENHAM, K.C.M.G., the Resident General of the Federated Malay States, was in Yokohama on Tuesday. He left for London *via* San Francisco, by the steamer *Rio de Janeiro*, on Wednesday.

IN the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Friday Sato Kanekichi and 8 others, ringleaders of the Honmoku disturbance which occurred a few months ago, were sentenced to imprisonment for terms ranging from 5 months to 11 days, in addition to a fine of 5 *yen*.

THE first six-master and largest schooner in the world is being built at Camden, Me., for a Taunton, Mass., firm. The vessel is built of wood and will be ready to be launched on the 1st of August. Her dimensions are 300 feet in length, 48 feet in beam, and 22 feet depth of hold. She is designed for service on the Atlantic coast.

THE Imperial Customs at Yokohama inform us that an explanation of the import tariff which will go into effect on and after 1st July has been issued by the Finance Department. As some alterations are made in the classification of goods, parties who desire to see the book can do so at the Appraiser's office in the Customs.

SIR HENRY IRVING, Miss Ellen Terry, and members of their company sailed for Europe on May 19, on the Atlantic transport liner *Menominee*. Their American tour was a very great success and a conservative estimate places the net earnings at $200,000, after a liberal allowance is made for the pay of the joint stars. It is doubtful if Miss Terry will ever appear in America again.

THE *Fiji* says the various spinning companies made large profits in connection with raw cotton purchased last year, but the fall in price seems to have involved no small loss. Below is a forecast as to dividends:—Kanegafuchi, 8 per cent.; Kanakin, 12 per cent.; Osaka, none; *Meiji*, 10; Union, 6; Settsu, 15; Amagasaki, 12; Fukuoka, 6; Kishiwada, 10. Sixteen other companies are not in a position to declare a dividend.

DR. NANSEN states that his voyage this summer will not be a Polar trip. His sole aim is the exact physical and biological examination of the Norwegian Sea, as deep as possible, between Norway, Iceland, and Spitzbergen. He will take out new and excellent instruments, especially for the accurate determination of the temperature and specific weight of the sea water. Dr. Nansen hopes that the results of his next voyage will complete and explain his former researches on board the *Fram*.

THE recent riots in Spain were of a serious character. The rioting was particularly severe in Barcelona, where a crowd threw up barricades in the streets and exchanged musketry fire with a body of gendarmes. Shots were also fired from verandas and balconies of a number of houses. Several gendarmes were hit. A number of rioters were arrested. At Seville a mob threw stones at the building of the military club, shattering the windows and the lamps. The gendarmes only succeeded in dispersing the rioters after a hard fight, during which several citizens, two gendarmes, a police inspector, and two members of the municipal guard were wounded. The object of the riots was to protest against the Government's taxation proposals.

VESUVIUS has been in eruption. No new crater has been formed, but the rumblings have been terrible. The lava flowed so near to Torre Delgreco that the population became terrified, and passed the night in the open air, praying that they might be saved from a catastrophe. Astronomers, however, declare that for the present there is no danger. Four Englishmen who ascended Vesuvius went beyond the limit indicated as dangerous by the guides and gendarmes. They had not gone far when they were struck by a mass of incandescent stone, and received most serious injuries.

THE general opinion on the Royal Academy seems to be that it is the best academy for years. There are at least two pictures of the highest order, a dozen others press them close, and the sculpture gallery contains one work which must appeal to every sympathetic visitor to the Academy—Mr. Brock's "Tomb of Lord Leighton." The two chief pictures are Mr. Orchardson's immense canvas, with its simple title, "Windsor Castle, 1890; portraits;" and Mr. Sargent's "Lady Elcho, Mrs. Adeane, and Mrs. Tennant." The former includes portraits of the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Edward of York.

SIR M. HICKS-BEACH in a recent speech referred to the enormous rate at which the public expenditure is growing in England. "The expenditure of the country," said Sir Michael, "is growing at an enormous, a dangerous, rate. I have always put a strong Navy as a primary necessity of the country, and it may be that assent will have to be given to a further expenditure in view of the hostile feeling toward England in some European countries. But I regard the country's increasing expenditure as the real danger. If we go on as we are going there may be very hard times in store for the country, particularly of the working classes."

THE N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen* arrived at Shanghai from Japan on the 8th. Soon after leaving Nagasaki, reports the *Shanghai Mercury*, as she was in the vicinity of the Goto Islands at about half-past-eight in the evening, fire broke out in the bunkers. At one time there was a considerable quantity of smoke in the alleyway. Other means failing to put out the fire the steamer slowed down and gradually stopped for a time, when holes were cut through the deck and a large volume of water pumped into the bunkers. This soon put the fire out and the ship proceeded on its voyage. Perfect discipline was observed by the crew and the passengers were quite collected throughout the anxious time.

"THEY ALL LOVE JACK," as the song very justly observes, says the *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 8th ult., referring to the reception of the *Powerfuls* in London. They all loved him so well that they went nigh to having some very serious accidents as he went by, particularly in the vicinity of Ludgate-circus. Fortunately the authorities had had the good sense to send the gallant defenders of Ladysmith along the Embankment instead of down the Strand, or the banks of the Thames might have been almost as fatal to human life as those of the Tugela. Never before has the value of a baby's head, used as a battering ram, been more triumphantly demonstrated than it was yesterday. British infantry will go through anything—and they did. It was a great demonstration. But what will it be when "Bobs" comes home, and the Guards, and the C.I.V.'s, and the rest of the gentlemen in khaki? Jubilees will be jokes to that. The L.C.C. had better hurry up and get the streets widened,

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DISTURBED CHINA.

The Murder of Mr. Sugiyama.

Saturday, June 16.

The assassination of Mr. Sugiyama, the Chancellor of the Japanese Legation in Peking, has evidently created a profound impression in Japan. Had the murder been perpetrated by the insurgents, comparatively little importance would attach to it: a Japanese subject would then have suffered the fate that had befallen other foreigners in China, and another count would have been added to the charges against the Iho rioters, but the Government's culpability would not have been seriously increased. It appears to be beyond question, however, that Mr. Sugiyama was assassinated by the soldiers of General Tung. These troops, it was confidently believed, had been posted outside the Yung-ting gate of the city, not so much to guard against an irruption on the part of the Boxers, as to oppose the entry of foreign marines. We cannot tell how far that belief may have been correct, but certainly a general impression prevailed that if the foreign marines pushed on, their first serious collision would be with Tung's troops. A word of explanation is here necessary. Our readers doubtless remember that, several days ago, the Tsung-li Yamên, in deference to the representations of the Foreign Ministers, agreed that detachments of marines might enter Peking to guard the Legations, provided that their number did not exceed the force summoned thither for the same purpose at the time of the Kang *coup d'etât*. Immediate advantage was taken of that consent, and small bodies of marines marched into the city. But in proportion as the complication grew more serious, the necessity of increasing this meagre force presented itself more vividly. The Chinese Authorities, however, appear to have adhered to their original condition as to numbers, and thus a very menacing situation arose; namely, a considerable force of foreign marines actually *en route* from Tientsin, and the Peking Government declining to sanction their entry into the capital. We know now that the difficulty has been solved by the Tsung-li Yamên's agreeing to the proposed increase, but pending that expression of assent, it was natural that Tung's troops should be regarded as prepared to oppose the entry of foreign reinforcements. Mr. Sugiyama went by the Yung-ting gate towards the railway to receive the marines from the *Suma*, who were expected to arrive in the course of the day. It is not known, as yet, exactly how he got into trouble, but the sequel seems to be clear; namely, that the soldiers seized him, stripped him naked, hacked him with their swords, and then buried him, head downwards. His corpse is said to have been recovered. The affair is aggravated by the fact that these troops under General Tung's command were known to be bitterly anti-foreign. It was upon them that the Empress-Dowager chiefly relied at the time of her resumption of administrative power. The mere fact of having employed such soldiers nominally to quell the insurrection is sufficient to throw grave doubt upon the *bona fides* of the Peking authorities. At all events, the Chinese Government has now to answer a very grave accusation. Japanese newspapers are almost unanimous in demanding recourse to resolute measures. The *Nichi Nichi*, the *Jimmin*, the *Kokumin* and the *Hochi*, all write in more or less uncompromising terms, and the *Jiji* urges that the *Genro* (old statesmen) should come forward and assist the Cabinet in this difficult crisis. But no journal recommends independent action on Japan's part. The most determined in tone does not ask for anything more than that this country should exact just reparation, and should take care that the means employed by it to secure that end do not fall below those employed by any other Power. The *Nichi Nichi* thinks that unless the Chinese Government can give some pledges against the recurrence of anti-foreign outbreaks like the present, Japan should herself take measures to provide security.

The vernacular press does not comment upon the Imperial Decree issued in Peking on the 6th instant. We are curious to know what impression the language of the Decree conveys to Japanese scholars reading it in the original and having a clear knowledge of Chinese ways. If the *North China Daily News*' translation be correct—which we have no reason to doubt—the Decree not only declares that many evil characters are enrolled in the ranks of the native Christians, but also shows considerable hesitation in exonerating the foreign missionaries from connivance with the crimes and violences perpetrated by these people. Nevertheless, while thus attempting to palliate the excesses of the so-called Boxers, the Decree is sufficiently explicit in declaring that unless they refrain from disturbing the peace, strong measures will be adopted against them. Such a menace, to be sure, sounds somewhat belated on the 6th of June, when all sorts of outrages, including wholesale murders, had already been committed, and when Foreign Powers had considered it necessary to summon troops for the protection of their nationals. Nevertheless, if, even at this eleventh hour, the Peking Government acts up to the declarations made in the Decree, the most dangerous features of the situation will be removed. Japan's position is now the most difficult of all, for she will have to insist on the condign punishment of General Tung's force.

British Troops Ordered.

The British Government has ordered six companies of infantry and a battery of artillery to proceed from Hongkong to Tientsin. That means a force of about 800 men. France, also, is sending 600 from Saigon, but nothing is yet known definitely about the intentions of Germany and Italy, nor can we tell what force Japan proposes to despatch. Russia's two thousand men have landed without accident at Tong-ku. The latest news is that the numbers of the Boxers are swelling rapidly, and that the Government's troops continue to refrain from any active measures of repression. The additions just made to the Tsung-li Yamên have undoubtedly confirmed that body's conservatism. There is no longer any doubt that the Boxers have burned the summer bungalows of the British Minister and other foreigners in the hills near Peking.

The Out-look at Tientsin.

Monday, June 18.

The situation created by the isolation of Tientsin is very serious. The force of marines assembled there could scarcely suffice to protect the Foreign Settlement against the irruption of a Chinese mob from the north, south and west simultaneously, unless the officers in command have adopted vigorous and timely measures by throwing up entrenchments and converting some of the buildings into forts. On the east, or river side, there is comparative safety, but on the west the settlement gives on a wide plain very favourable to the operations of a crowd. Nevertheless, we do not think that much is to be apprehended from the Boxers alone. The danger lies in possible hostility on the Government's side. As to that, the most conflicting accounts reach Tokyo. Some correspondents allege confidently that the Empress-Dowager has issued positive orders that the northward advance of foreign troops shall be resisted, and that she has directed such movements of troops as may be necessary for that purpose. There appear to be at present five columns of Imperial troops in Chihli. They are, the Central Army of twelve thousand under the command of General Yung, having its headquarters in Peking; the Right Army of eight thousand, under Yuan Shikai, at Siau-chau (about 10 miles south-east of Peking); the Left Army of twelve thousand, under General Ma, at Shan-hai-kwan; the Advance Army, of twelve thousand under General Nieh at Lu-tai; and the Rear Army of about ten thousand under General Tung at Tung-chow—that is to say, a total force of about fifty-four thousand. Rumour says that the Empress Dowager's order is for Nieh to move down to Tong-ku—near the mouth of the Peiho on the east bank—, while General Tung moves to Tientsin; and that both Generals have secret instructions to prevent the northward march of foreign troops. The most serious phase of such proceedings would be that hostility on the part of the Government would bring the guns of the Taku forts into operation and the entry to the Peiho would then be effectually closed. Under such circumstances the situation would be extremely precarious for the foreign communities in Tientsin and Shanghai, for the marines and troops that have been landed and for the ships in the river. Japan has already at Taku one torpedo destroyer, the *Kagero*, and another, the *Murakumo*, started for the same place on the 17th inst. These craft will be invaluable for establishing communications between Tientsin and Taku, independently of the railway. But if the forts are employed against foreigners, no ship could venture to pass up or down the river: she would be assuredly blown out of the water. It is there that the Chinese have their strong card. If they are so minded, they can precipitate a terrible catastrophe and create a situation which could not be remedied without the employment of an army. The Japanese Consul at Tientsin took a wise step when he telegraphed to Chefoo to order that the *Higo Maru* should turn about and steam back to Tientsin as quick as possible for the purposes of taking off the women and children. The *Higo Maru* can cross the Taku Bar and go right up the Peiho. But she can not have reached Tientsin before Sunday night or Monday morning at soonest, and in the meanwhile events may have culminated.

It has to be remembered that though a strong fleet of foreign men-of-war is assembled at Taku, the great majority of the vessels have to lie five miles off the mouth of the River, and Tong-ku, the point where the railway communicates with the Peiho, would not even be visible from their decks. In fact, only gunboats and torpedo craft could get into the River, and they dare not make the attempt if the forts were hostile, for these are splendidly armed and of immense strength. It is therefore in the power of the Chinese to completely isolate Peking and Tientsin.

Meanwhile, some detachments of foreign marines are endeavouring to push on to Peking. They are instructed to repair the railway as they proceed. But their force is insufficient to guard the line behind them, and apparently the Boxers have got between

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them and Tientsin, so that provisions and ammunition can not be conveyed to the column by rail. We do not regard that as a serious matter, so far as the troops are concerned, for the river route is always open. Indeed, it would have been an obviously prudent precaution to employ the river as an alternative line of communications, and we shall probably find that such a step has been taken. But if the column can not reach Peking, the foreign community in the latter city will be in great jeopardy. The legations in Peking are very strong buildings, standing in solidly walled enclosures and tolerably secure against incendiarism. The British Legation, especially, is capable of easy defence against everything except artillery. Nevertheless it is not agreeable to think of the contingencies involved in the isolation of Peking and the besieging of the whole Corps Diplomatique.

Direct telegraphic communication with Tientsin having been severed, it has become necessary to establish steam communication from Taku to Chefoo in order to tap a wire connected with the outside world, and even by that route news can not arrive with any celerity. As to the severing of the line between Tientsin and Taku, it is easy to understand. On Friday last news reached Tokyo that the insurgents threatened to destroy the railway station at Tientsin. They have probably carried out their design. The station lies on the opposite side of the Peiho from the Foreign Settlement and the Chinese town. It must have been entirely at the mercy of the Boxers. The same remark applies to the whole railway from Tientsin to Tong-ku; it runs along the eastern bank of the River through a country where not a soldier is to be seen until the Taku forts are reached. The Boxers evidently regard railways and telegraphs as the most palpable evidences of the civilization to which they object. Besides, they have doubtless discovered that if these means of rapid transit and communication are destroyed, the efficiency of foreign troops is enormously impaired.

On Saturday the Japanese Consul in Tientsin asked the Agent of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at that port to provide steamers for carrying away the women and children from the settlement. The Agent wired to Tokyo, and an order was immediately issued for the *Higo Maru* to arrest her homeward voyage at Chefoo and return at once to Tientsin, whither she will be quickly followed by the *Genkai Maru*.

Li Hung-chang, Chang Chi-tung, Liu Kun-yi and Wang Chi-chun have memorialized the Empress-Dowager, urging that immediate steps be taken to suppress the insurrection. A memorial from these four magnates ought to influence her Majesty, but it is to be feared that she is completely under the control of the conservatives.

The firing of Tientsin by the Boxers will probably prove to have been a terrible catastrophe. The city resembles a bee-hive. Its seven hundred thousand inhabitants are packed together so closely that one marvels how they manage to exist, and the streets are so narrow that two wheel-barrows can scarcely pass each other. A conflagration in such a place could not possibly be checked and must cost a number of lives. It is possible, however, that the fire occurred outside the walled city, in which case the results were probably much less serious.

Mr. Sugiyama left a wife and five children in Tokyo. He has been absent in China for nearly four years, and one of his children was born after his departure. The Chinese appear to have hacked him to death.

It is urged by the *Jiji Shimpo* that a company of Japanese field engineers should be despatched to China for the purpose of laying an independent line of telegraph between Peking and Tientsin.

Six hundred troops left Hongkong for Taku on the 14th instant, and four hundred were to follow by the *Terrible* on the 16th.

It appears that three places of Christian worship, not one as originally stated, were wrecked and burned by the Boxers during the night of the 14th, the local officials making no effort whatever to restrain them.

Seven hundred American troops are to proceed from Manila to Taku at an early date.

The report that Liu Kun-yi had received orders to prevent the entry of British ships into the Yangtsze is contradicted.

There is a rumour that all the residences of foreigners in Yunnan have been burned. The French citizens with their Consul have taken refuge in a chapel and the other foreigners are in the Taotai's *Yamên*. This outrage is said to have been perpetrated by a mob hostile to railway construction.

Broadly speaking, the Japanese press is divided into two sections; one of which, headed by the *Jiji Shimpo*, advocates the immediate dispatch of a strong body of troops and the adoption of resolutely offensive measures; the other, headed, strange to say, by the *Nippon*, thinks that a defensive attitude will meet all the requirements of the case. The *Jimmin* attacks Viscount Aoki fiercely, but we fail to discover what accusation it has to bring against him.

The Progressists, after due deliberation, have passed a resolution to the effect that Japan should devote her efforts to securing complete cooperation among the Powers for the settlement of the Chinese complication. They hold that the very existence of China as an independent Power depends upon the outcome of this crisis and that it may also affect the safety of Japan. They also maintain that the procedure of the Japanese Government has been too tardy, and that no time should be lost in despatching such a force as shall suffice to preserve the balance between Japan and other Powers.

The cotton market is greatly disturbed by events in China. Indeed, as the *Kokumin Shimbun* points out, Japan's trade will suffer severely unless the commotion is soon quelled. Last year, this country's total trade with China was 68 million *yen*, of which 40 millions represented exports, and 28 millions imports. Of the exports no less than 23 millions stood to the credit of cotton yarns and fabrics. It will be a serious matter if such an important branch of the country's commerce is interrupted for any length of time.

Japan is evidently sending a regiment of troops,—that is to say, 2,000 men of all arms—under the command of Major-General Fukushima, the hero of the celebrated ride across Siberia. The Hiroshima garrison is to supply them, and five steamers appear to have been chartered for conveying them, the *Sakura Maru* and the *Kumamoto Maru* of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and the *Ikai Maru*, *Kamogawa Maru* and *Tatsutagawa Maru* of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha. It is not impossible that Japan may be called on to make a much greater effort. Indeed, if the rumours about the hostile intentions of the Chinese Government prove well founded, Japan must act the part of the *deus ex machinâ*. She alone will be in a position to repair the situation rapidly.

Count Itagaki is credited with having expressed an opinion which commends itself to thoughtful persons. He says that whatever measures of a defensive character may be taken by the Foreign Powers in China, they should refrain, as far as possible, from assuming the offensive against the Iho rioters. That, we can not doubt, is precisely the conviction upon which the *Chefs de Mission* in Peking are basing their action. If once the task of quelling the insurrection be removed from the hands of the Chinese Authorities and transferred to those of the Treaty Powers, there is no apparent limit to the operations that will have to be undertaken; and further the work will have to be done in the face of Chinese official and military opposition. It is quite plain that from the moment when foreigners step in between China and the exercise of her Sovereign rights; from the moment that they thrust her aside and saddle themselves with the discharge of duties properly devolving on her, she becomes antagonized, and her opposition rather than her co-operation has thenceforth to be reckoned with. One can not easily estimate the limits of such a situation. It could scarcely fail to involve the downfall of the Manchu dynasty and even the dismemberment of China. The crushing of the Iho in Chihli is not the only question. They would have to be attacked in Shantung, Yunnan, and many other parts of China. By whom would the business be performed, and is it conceivable that the Chinese Government could stand by idly while its provinces were being over-run by foreign troops? China has a wonderful faculty of passive endurance, but it can not possibly extend to all the contingencies arising out her extrusion from the management of her own affairs under the circumstances we are considering. It may be taken for granted that the Foreign Powers—and we include Japan in the term—will exhaust every resource before taking the law into their own hands.

We take the following from the *North China Daily News* of June 11th:—

Peking, June 9.

The Iho-Ch'uan crisis has come so acute and the Government is at such a loss to find a man able to deal with the society-men that, at a meeting of the Grand Council early this morning, Jung Lu suggested that Li Hung-chang be sent for to take over the Chihli Viceroyalty, the present Viceroy, Yü Lu, having yesterday tendered his resignation. Yü Lu has declared that he is forced to do this because all his measures for the suppression of the Iho-Ch'uan had been checkmated by Wang Pei-yu, Governor of the Imperial Prefecture (Peking and dependencies), who is a well-known chief of the Iho-Ch'uan himself and who was, the other day, promoted from a Censor to his present post by the Empress Dowager on that very account, in order to get the society moulded for the Empress Dowager's own future purposes. In opposition to Jung Lu's recommendation, Kang Yi strongly suggested the appointment of his friend, the notorious Li Ping-hêng, to take Yü Lu's place in Tientsin, the upshot of the council being that the question is in abeyance and Yü Lu's resignation is not accepted.

The whole country is ablaze now and there seems to be no present means of restoring order. The Iho-Ch'uan now hold Shênchou, Chochou, and several other cities near Peking, whilst their emissaries are spreading the incendiarist torch wherever they can get the chance. A great rebellion is at hand, for the Iho-Ch'uans have all the troops as allies, which would not have been the case had the Government more decision.

Peking, June 9.

The Decree of 6th inst., censuring the Chihli troops for attacking the people, had reference to a battle between General Nieh's corps and a large Iho-Ch'uan army on the 4th inst., in which the society men were defeated with a loss of 480 men, several of whom

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were leaders from Shan-tung. Kang Yi complained to the Empress Dowager of this on the strength of a petition he had received, and the result has been a special censure strongly reprimanding General Nieh and ordering him to go back to Lutai headquarters near Kaiping colliery. This has greatly encouraged the society-men and no General cares now to act against the rioters for fear of bringing down punishment on himself and his officers. Three of General Nieh's officers are under arrest for having fought the Iho-Ch'uans and may have to suffer decapitation. General Tung Fuhsiang volunteered this morning to stop all further entrance of foreign troops into Peking with his own corps (Kansu) alone. It is nearly 35,000 strong, one half of whom are well provided with magazine rifles and machine guns and the other with two-men gingals, lances, swords, and bucklers. Jung Lu is disgusted with the turn of affairs and has asked for sick-leave, as his advice is never taken. Prince Ching, Prince Tuan, Kang Yi, and Chao Shu-ch'iao rule the Em-Dowager now and control her policy. The Heir-Apparent has now two Iho-Chuan "Masters" instructing him in their arts and system of fighting. He has four other young Princes to keep him company. Chao Shu-chiao, who was appointed by the Decree of 6th inst. to scatter the society-men and exhort them to return to their homes, returned to Peking yesterday reporting that he could not get in touch with any responsible leaders of the Iho-Ch'uan, and his only alternative was to cause copies of the Decree in question to be posted in every town and city of the Peking Prefecture and to distribute them to any one who would take them. Li Ping-hêng telegraphed to the Grand Council to-day asking to be allowed to return to Peking to fight the foreigners. This is supposed to be Kang Yi's doing. The ost ensible chief leader of the Iho-Ch'uans is a man named Han, but the real head is the Heir-apparent's father, Prince Tuan, who controls their movements from Peking.

Mr. Pelham Warren, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, received on Saturday the following important telegram from Sir C. Macdonald:—"The movement against foreigners has been allowed to grow to such an extent that it has resulted in the burning of railway stations, and interruption of railway communication for five days. Two British missionaries and several foreigners have been murdered in the district near Peking; in the country round, numbers of converts have been murdered and pillaged and the chapels destroyed, while in the capital itself British missionaries have been compelled to leave their houses and take refuge in the Legation, which is defended by 75 marines.

"The Chinese Government has been affected by these events so far as to send high officials to parley with the Boxers, but it does not show any intention to summarily suppress them. Probably it still has power to do so, but the Throne is strongly influenced by sympathy with the movement, and the spirit of the troops is doubtful. All well up to the present."

The Action of Japan.

Tuesday, June 19.

It appears that Japan is sending about 2,000 troops to China. Unless we assume that no credit attaches to the reports reaching Tokyo almost every hour about the dimensions that the disturbance has already attained, about its rapidly growing importance, and about the extremely perilous situation of the foreign communities, Japan's two thousand men must be regarded us quite insufficient. We have already stated our conviction, and we now repeat it, that Japan is the one and only Power competent to deal effectively with this complication. From no other source can troops be obtained in sufficient force to crush the insurrection without much loss of time. Great Britain, who generally acts the part of international constable, is not in a position to strike a blow immediately. Her inability is only partially due to the South-African war. Even had this complication occurred when her hands were otherwise entirely free, it is to India that she would have gone for troops, and she can go there still. Fifteen or twenty thousand men could be supplied by India without any special difficulty, since the South-African war has not made any demand upon the native army. But for obvious reasons England would not wish to draw largely on her Indian army at present, and, under any circumstances, two months at least would be required to mobilize and transport to China a force of efficient dimensions. Indeed, questions of transport might present a serious difficulty, and would at any rate entail much delay, for all the best ships are engaged in connexion with the South-African war. Hongkong can send a thousand men, and Admiral Seymour could organise a naval brigade of, perhaps, six or seven hundred. But that is about the limit. Germany might supply seven or eight hundred from Kiao-chou—she is said to be doing so,—and France, as many more from Saigon. All that, however, is quite inadequate for the purpose. Russia, perhaps, could do the most. We presume that she could send five thousand from Port Arthur, and ten thousand from Vladivostock if transports were available. Unfortunately, however, transports are not available. That is where Russia is palpably weak. She has gradually massed armies in Vladivostock and Liaotung, but since they are intended solely for service in those localities, there are no facilities for carrying them over sea. Thus, by a process of exhaustion, we arrive at Japan. This country can easily despatch thirty thousand men to Chili, and if the Peking Government really intends to throw in its lot with the *Iho* insurgents, thirty thousand foreign troops will certainly be required to deal with the emergency. We fully apprehend the embarrassments that the situation offers for Japan. She knows the suspicions to which she may expose herself by taking a vigorous initiative. But it is quite possible for her to employ her forces in accordance with a plan subscribed by all the Treaty Powers, or, at any rate, by a majority of them. She alone is within easy striking distance and can act speedily and effectually. We need scarcely dwell upon the increase of prestige she would win by stepping into the breach, nor need we point out that by espousing the cause of the Occidental communities in China at this juncture, she would effectually complete her differentiation from the Orient, and dispel any doubts that linger as to her sentiment towards the Occident. The opportunity presents to our eyes a very imposing aspect.

Count Okuma's Opinion.

Count Okuma finds the prime cause of the present *émeute* in the *coup d'état* of 1898, which raised conservative influence to a supreme position in China, and temporarily crushed the forces making for enlightened progress. He also thinks that Germany's action at Kiao-chou had a powerful effect in intensifying the anti-foreign feeling of the people. His apprehension is that unless the trouble is quickly quelled, China may be thrown into a state of anarchy; for the authority of the Central Government being, at all times, loose and ineffective, the disorderly elements among the population are barely kept in restraint and would break out into activity so soon as ever the hands of the Authorities were tied. The Count's views are being published by the *Hochi*. Doubtless the next installment will contain the course he recommends. His forecast of an anarchical condition is already receiving confirmation, for reports come that troubles have broken out in Anhui and elsewhere.

Japanese exporters of sleepers and cotton yarns to China are in a state of panic through the outbreak of the Boxer disturbance. Business is nearly at a standstill and there is a daily depreciation of shares.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has decided to suspend its service on the Tientsin line, no cargo being obtainable at present owing to the disturbances.

The Fight at Taku.

Wednesday, June 20.

It appears that China has been really visited by an access of the madness which precedes destruction. She has deliberately declared war against the world. There is something that commands our admiration in such an act. It is splendidly courageous. We no longer recognise the China that tamely allowed an important portion of her territories to be seized by a few hundreds of Germans; the China that has for years been helplessly submitting to every exaction on the part of Western Powers; the China that failed to raise a finger in self-defence when Russia practically annexed the whole of Manchuria. It may be that when the history of this great crisis comes to be written, the annalists will conclude that China's patience was overtaxed; that the accumulated weight of the exactions she has had to suffer became at last unendurable, and that even the most long-suffering and probably the most peace-loving people in the world could not endure the taunts perpetually levelled at their courage and patriotism. The exercise of a little intellectual sympathy should be possible to Europeans, Americans, and Japanese at this stage of the world's civilization. They should be able to see that what China has suffered, whether owing to her faults or her misfortunes, would long ago have roused any self-respecting Occidental nation to violent resistance; and they should also feel that, whatever may be her folly in throwing her gauntlet into the world's face, it is at all events a brave act which re-establishes her title of manhood.

As to the folly of the thing, it has been demonstrated at the very outset. The Taku forts are immensely strong. When they were built and armed, military experts unanimously agreed that they effectually closed the Peiho route to Peking, and that any foreign Power seeking to strike at the Chinese capital, must find some other road. Even after Japan had captured Port Arthur and Wei-hai-wei, she would have hesitated to make any direct assault on the Taku forts. But this nominally impregnable fortress has fallen at the first attack. Of course no such attack would have been planned had the naval and military authorities been in a position to make a choice. They would have proceeded by some much less hazardous method. They had no room for choice, however. The Chinese suddenly assumed the aggressive under circumstance which rendered the immediate capture of the forts an absolute necessity. To leave them in Chinese possession would have meant the complete isolation of Tientsin and Peking. Even now the situation is terrible for the foreign communities in those two cities. Gunboats and torpedo-destroyers can communicate with Tientsin direct, and we may take it for granted that every available craft was hurried up the river by the Admiral after the capture of the Taku forts. But the ascent of the river is a matter of 5 hours at least, and in the meanwhile an irruption of Chinese soldiers and Boxers may have taken place into the Concession at Tientsin. Possibly something of the kind occurred simultaneously with the commencement of hostilities at Taku. Tientsin, however, has some facilities for defence. Above all, the Concession is not in immediate contact with the Chinese town, and a concerted stand by the foreign residents is thus possible. But Peking's position is shockingly perilous. Not one of the Foreign Representatives has been

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able to withdraw from the capital. The outbreak of war found them all with their flags flying and without any expectation of seeing themselves besieged and cut off from all communication with the outer world. They can not attempt to leave Peking. Every yard of the 80 miles between the capital and Tientsin would be fraught with danger. On the other hand, to remain shut up in their Legations in the midst of a hostile city until succour can reach them from the coast, is an alternative not to be contemplated without the gravest apprehensions. Naturally the whole of the Corps Diplomatique as well as the members of the Customs Service and the other foreign residents will assemble in one place. It will probably be the British Legation, which is at once the most spacious and the strongest of all. The buildings, standing in a large enclosure surrounded by high walls, are virtually safe against incendiarism, and the place could be held by a few hundreds of resolute men against an army of Chinese. But if the latter use artillery, they can of course crush any defensive resources available to the garrison. There is no parallel case in history; no instance of the Representatives of all the great Powers being shut up in an enemy's capital, imprisoned in their Legations and threatened at every moment with assassination and incendiarism.

What will Japan do?

The great question now is, how can the rescue of the Peking community be effected? Japan must strain every nerve to achieve the task. She has no longer any choice. We sincerely wish that she had risen to the occasion sooner, but up to the present there has been room for discretion, whereas now the duty devolves on her of endeavouring to prevent a terrible calamity. We doubt whether the allied Powers will feel justified in awaiting the arrival of her troops. They will consider it imperative to attempt the immediate relief of Peking even with the paltry and wholly inadequate force at their disposal. None of us doubts that four or five thousand European and American troops could hold their own against a Chinese army. But there is a vast difference between fighting a single battle and marching 80 miles through a hostile country, where constant touch must be kept with the base of operations. A conspicuously weak column moving out of Tientsin might merely become an addition to the beleaguered garrison of Peking. Russia will come to the rescue with all her strength, but, as we have already pointed out, Japan alone is capable of effectually saving the situation.

It will be observed that there are two versions of the origin of the fighting at Taku. One represents the Allies as having commenced the bombardment in consequence of their ultimatum having been rejected; the other alleges that the Chinese opened fire unexpectedly at 2 a.m. on Sunday. The latter account seems to us to be necessarily correct. Had the allied squadron deliberately commenced the bombardment, no gunboats would have been lying inside the bar. The *Algerine*, the *Iltis*, the *Atago*, the *Yorktown* and the *Mandjour* must have been within 2,000 yards of the forts which command the mouth of the Peiho from each side. They may have been nearer. They may have been at the very entrance of the River in order to have easy access to the railway station at Tong-ku. At all events they would never have been inside the bar had there been any idea of assuming hostilities. The evident inference is that the Chinese took the initiative. It would seem that the gunboats had not steam up, or they would have been able to slip their cables and run out before the Chinese gunners got their exact range. With regard to the troops that were on shore at the time of the bombardment, we now know that the *Toyohashi* landed 329 men on the 16th—the day before the fight—and that they were immediately followed by 180 Russians and 130 Germans. This force of 639 men was entrusted with the duty of guarding the station at Tong-ku, and doubtless it took part in the assault on the forts on the 17th.

The troubles in China will undoubtedly seriously affect trade in Japan. The greatest sufferers at the present conjuncture will be the spinners in Osaka, remarks the *Niroku*. Between the 4th and 16th instant the quotations for yarn had fallen by 15 *yen*. Below are detailed figures:—

	Price on the 4th instant.	Same on the 16th.	Fall.
	yen.	*yen.*	*yen.*
For June delivery.....	92.35 ...	85.95 ...	6.40
For July delivery	92.90 ...	77.55 ...	15.35
For August delivery...	93.55 ...	78.45 ...	15.10

Trade in raw cotton remains also in an unsettled condition. On the 1st instant American middling was quoted at 26.50 *yen* per picul; on the 15th the rate had fallen to 24.25. The figures for Indian cotton at the respective dates stood at 25.80 and 22, showing a falling off to the extent of 3.80, whereas a more serious depreciation was reported from Kobe on the 16th instant. The stocks accumulated in Kobe at present are:—Chinese cotton, 34,043 bales; Indian, 92,571; American, 35,359; Miscellaneous, 1,553; a total of 163,526. Cotton will probably still further depreciate.

The Storming of the Taku Forts.

It appears certain that Japanese marines took a principal part in the storming of the forts on one side of the Peiho last Sunday. As stated elsewhere in our columns, 329 Japanese marines—not blue-jackets but marines—landed from the *Toyohashi* on Saturday, and were told off to guard the Tong-ku station, together with 180 Russians and 130 Germans. This force of 639 men had only just taken the position assigned to it when the forts opened fire on the gunboats of the allied squadron, and there can be no doubt that the escalade of the square fort on the Tong-ku side was undertaken by the mixed column, while parties were landed from the ships to storm the fort on the Taku side. It is the first time in the history of Japan that her troops have fought side by side with those of Europeans nations, and we are glad to think that they found an occasion to distinguish themselves so signally.

Japanese Troops for China.

A battalion of Japanese infantry, together with a force of cavalry and engineers embarked yesterday at Hiroshima for China, and another battalion, with a battery of artillery, will embark on the 22nd. These forces, aggregating about 3,000 of all arms, were under orders before the receipt of the news that a collision had taken place between the allied squadron and the Taku Forts. Doubtless the number of troops will now be materially increased.

The Issue.

The general opinion in Japan seems to be that the Chinese Government will disavow the act of its troops at Taku, and will avoid anything like open war with the Foreign Powers. That, of course, is the only sensible course presenting itself. But it would be rash to predict at present that the Chinese Government will take a sensible course about anything.

Thursday, June 21.

There are various statements about the number of killed and wounded in the Taku engagement on the 17th instant, but the most trustworthy accounts are that 6 officers and 40 men were killed. As to the wounded, however, it is tolerably certain that the number was 35. The Japanese casualties seem to have been entirely among the detachment of 329 men who landed on the 16th instant and were engaged guarding the Tong-ku station. They were under the orders of Commander Hattori of the Imperial Navy, and that officer, together with three marines, were killed and five wounded in the assault on the square fort. The Russian losses were far heavier than those of any other force. The *Higo Maru*, with 35 wounded men of various nationalities, is *en route* for Saseho.

The Japanese Government has chartered nine steamers for transport service—the *Mukogawa Maru*, the *Ikai Maru*, the *Sakura Maru*, the *Kumamoto Maru*, the *Tosa Maru*, the *Asagao Maru*, and three others. The *Sakura* and the *Kumamoto* were both employed for a similar purpose in the war of 1894-5. They have large carrying capacities. The *Tosa Maru* is the biggest steamer in the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's fleet. She could easily accommodate two thousand men. It is plain that these vessels mean the probable despatch of a force much larger than the three thousand men already under orders. Rumour says that orders have been sent to the Sendai Division to hold itself in readiness for immediate service abroad, but that the Government has resolved not to despatch any more troops until the situation defines itself more clearly.

Several newspapers have affirmed, with much appearance of confidence, that Japan is entirely without money for warlike operations. They forget, it would seem, that the Treasury still holds a sum of 50 million *yen*, which was set aside for special purposes; namely, 30 millions as a naval maintenance fund; 10 millions as an education fund, and 10 millions as a famine relief fund. The whole of the money is available at a moment's notice. Further, there is a sum of 25 millions in the Deposit Department, and there is a considerable amount standing over from works not executed. Altogether the Treasury would have no difficulty in putting its hand upon about 100 million *yen* for immediate use. Money is not an obstacle.

The *Shogyo Shimpo* reproduces a rumour that the Foreign Powers have asked Japan to undertake the quelling of the disturbance in China; that she has assented, and that two Divisions, or about 40,000 men, will be employed for the purpose. We can not place credence in this rumour. No such step would be taken until the Chinese Government had definitely refused to assume the responsibility. But the Chinese Government has not refused. On the contrary, everything seems to indicate that it intends to act resolutely at last.

The war-ships *Takasago* and *Akitsushima* left Saseho three days ago *en route* for Taku.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, wrote on the 3rd inst:—A party of thirty of the Lu-Han Railway engineers (including six ladies and one child) left Paoting in twelve boats under the escort of Director Chêng and a military force. They travelled for 150 li without disturbance, but in passing through a lake missed the proper channel out and got inveigled into a small creek, where they were

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surrounded by Boxers and fired on—one of the guns being a preposterous wooden cannon, which however, wounded and hurt, if it did not kill. Just before fire was opened, the Chinese with them advised closing the windows, etc., and trying to sail past quickly, but the boats ran aground and the Boxers opened fire, led by men in coloured coats. The engineers at once lowered their windows and returned the fire with great effect, many men dropping at their guns and one man being clubbed to death as he tried to scale the boat. The foreigners jumped out and shoved the boats afloat and over to the other side, where the whole party landed. Mons. Ossent, their leader (Swiss), and his sister Madame Astier with two others J. Pezzaro (Italian) and Cadeis (Turkish) here got separated from the crowd. It is supposed that they acted on the advice of the interpreter and elected to try and return to Paotingfu. They have not been heard of by Europeans since (Wednesday, 31st May) and the very worst fears are entertained of their fate. The Chinese authorities both here and in Peking have telegrams saying Mons. Ossent was shot and his sister killed and mutilated dast all description. So much of the so-called news of the last week has been proved to be false that we hope this may be also, but the smallness of the party justifies fears. Their two companions are by the Chinese also reported to have been killed.

The twenty-six formed a square with the women inside and made due east towards Tientsin with all the speed they could, but ill-clad, ill-shod, and foodless. Water of sorts they got from pools and streams. They travelled as best they could, avoiding villages, towns, etc., for 3½ days and fighting all the way. They expended more than 2,000 cartridges and are confident they killed one hundred men. As they could speak no Chinese and their interpreter had by this time bolted in fear—he is now under arrest in Tientsin—they were utterly helpless, and unable to distinguish friends from enemies. The men all behaved like heroes and carried the women and child when the latter broke down, one lady being very close on maternity.

On Saturday when thirty or forty li from Tientsin five of them appear to have lost all control from suffering and excitement. They got separated from the rest and disappeared. Two, M. Papasse (Greek) and Albertazzi (Italian), turned up at our Bund at 1 this morning (Sunday). One was badly wounded on the head by a sword cut and both were utterly unable to account for themselves. The three others, Messrs. Devinoux, Bouillon, Dillon (French), are unaccounted for, making seven in all missing.

News of the awful plight of the refugees was wired by the Chinese yesterday, and an expedition of 25 mounted volunteers, and 10 men on foot with food and restoratives set out at 11 a.m. yesterday. The mounted men went round the city and so missed the fugitives. The others met them, and Dr. Dapasse at once got them into 'ricshas and brought them, in a deplorable state, into the Settlement.

Mr. Lipman is shot in the leg and has seven wounds in the shoulder and head; one of the ladies is shot through the shoulder, and several others have shot and other wounds. Their escape is really wonderful, and shows what determination and courage can do in adverse circumstances against men like the Boxers. The blackguards soon discovered the superiority of the foreign arms and kept a respectful distance, though they tried to snipe the party at night.

To-day most of the sufferers have recovered equanimity and strength, and an exact and coherent account of their experiences will be forthcoming. The relief mounted party came back at midnight, but the French and Belgian Consuls on hearing the exact localities where the five and four left the refugees rapidly arranged with the authorities that the thirty Cossacks, here as part of the Russian guard, should at once set out to search for them. It is understood that the Chinese have protested against this step, but they were told the time had passed for such protests. I need not point out the very grave political complication that may follow if the Cossacks are fired at, as they probably will be, by Boxers if not by the regular soldiery. We may be confident that there will be no half measures in the reprisals.

This is not all. The native Christians at the Church of England Mission at Langfang, halfway up the line between Tientsin and Peking, have been in grave danger from the Boxers. Messrs. Norman and Robinson refused to leave them, thinking that their departure would mean the massacre of their people. A telegram is in to-night stating that a native (Christian) has brought the news to Yangtsun that Mr. Robinson has been done to death, and Mr. Norman has been taken to the yamen at Yungching for safety. Mr. Robinson came out two years ago with the late Mr. Brooks, who was so barbarously murdered in Shantung in the winter.

Japanese Troops for China.

Friday, June 22.

It is a most singular fact that the public remains ignorant as to the actual force of troops that Japan is despatching to China. From the very outset secrecy has been observed in this matter. We only know that one battalion of infantry with a contingent of cavalry and engineers left Ujina on the 19th, and that another battalion with a battery of artillery is to leave to-day (22nd). That means a force of from two thousand to three thousand of all arms, and apparently they are to be under the command of Major General Fukushima, though that point is still obscure. On the other hand, it is confidently affirmed that the Authorities have chartered 15 steamers, the *Ikai Maru*, the *Kumamoto Maru*, the *Kamogawa Maru*, the *Tatsutagawa Maru*, the *Tairen Maru*, the *Asagao Maru*, the *Tosa Maru*, the *Sakura Maru*, the *Mukogawa Maru*, the *Kelung Maru*, the *Tainan*, the *Taichiu*, the *Taikoku*, the *Daito Maru* and one other. Fifteen steamers are not required to transport two or three thousand men. The *Tosa Maru* and the *Sakura Maru* would amply suffice for that purpose. It is obvious, therefore, either that the Government has decided to send a very much larger force, or that exceptional preparations are being made to meet any emergency. We can not but express surprise that any secrecy should be observed in such a matter. Every company of soldiers sent by the Japanese will be welcomed by the world, and the sooner the nature of her efforts are known, the better will the public be reassured. The British Government is perfectly open in such matters. A distinct statement has been made in Parliament as to the regiments, batteries and squadrons placed under orders. Why does Japan hide her candle under a bushel?

That a large number of Japanese men-of-war are proceeding to Taku is plain, if the statements appearing in Japanese journals be credible. There are already several ships at Taku, and we now hear of their being joined by the *Tokiwa* (9,855 tons), the *Takasago* (4,220 tons), the *Akitsushima* (3,117 tons), the *Yaeyama* (1,600 tons), the *Akashi* (2,800 tons) and the *Chitose* (4,836 tons). This formidable squadron will be under the command of Rear-Admiral Arima, whose flag-ship is the first-class cruiser *Tokiwa*. Evidently the Japanese ships would have no difficulty in landing a brigade of a thousand men.

A field-post for service between Taku, Tientsin and Peking is being organized in Japan. Each of the first-class post-offices throughout the empire is to furnish two clerks, making a band of over thirty, who will proceed to Taku at once.

The Sinews of War.

Somebody evidently well versed in Japanese finance has furnished to the *Kokumin Shimbun* a statement of the resources immediately available to Japan in the event of war. We have already laid before our readers a general idea on this subject, but it is of such importance, and there seems to be so much misunderstanding, that we make no apology for recurring to the matter. When the war with China broke out in 1894, the Treasury had in its possession accumulations of surplus revenue aggregating some 27 million *yen*, and it could also lay its hands on about the same amount which existed in the form of continuing funds appropriated for, but not yet spent on, public works. Altogether, some 55 millions were available, and the country has often been congratulated upon having such a store of money within reach. Now, on the contrary, the public has been repeatedly informed that impecuniosity would be a fatal obstacle to Japan's drawing the sword. Yet how does the case really stand? In the first place, the Treasury holds a sum of 50 million *yen* which was appropriated from the Indemnity to form three special funds; namely, a naval maintenance fund of 30 millions, a famine relief fund of 10 millions, and an education-assistance fund of 10 millions. Only 35 millions of this money is in coin, but the remainder is in securities available at short notice. The Government also holds other funds which could be realized quickly, so that a total of some 80 millions is forthcoming under these two headings. Then there are the sums appropriated but not yet required for public works. Even if these be put at the same figure as in 1894—which is considerably below the mark—we have an aggregate of 107 or 108 million *yen* ready for any emergency. The war of 1894-5 cost altogether 210 millions, but no such outlay would be needed for a campaign of the kind likely to be required in China at present. It may further be noted that the specie reserve held by the Treasury against its note issues represents 41 per cent. of the volume of the paper currency, whereas economists are agreed that 33 per cent. is sufficient. Here, therefore, another resource presents itself. The volume of the note issues might be increased by 50 or 60 million *yen* without seriously impairing the stability of the monetary system. These facts are a formidable answer to persons who imagine that Japan could not find money for warlike purposes. She would not experience any difficulty on that account.

The Wounded.

The fact that the wounded of all nationalities have been sent to Sasebo for treatment in a Japanese hospital, evidently appeals strongly to the sentiment of this nation as well as to its instincts of hospitality. Several of the leading Tokyo journals allude to the incident in warm language, heartily approving the action of the Powers, and promising that nothing shall be spared to make the wounded comfortable and to provide for their skilful treatment. It is wisely suggested that the hospital ships of the Red Cross Society, the *Hakuai Maru* and the *Kosei Maru*, should be despatched at once to Taku, so as to take off any invalids of the allied forces. There will certainly be many, apart from the wounded, in need of medical assistance, and even if suitable accommodation were available at Taku, which is not the case, the climate there at this season renders the place quite unfit for hospital purposes.

This incidents constitutes one illustration of the great value that Japan would possess as an ally in all Far-Eastern disturbances. People generally think of her dock-yards, her coal-mines, her troops and her ships when they estimate the assistance she could give, but they forget her hospitals, though these are a very important feature.

The Chinese Students.

The Chinese that have been studying military science in Japan are leaving the country rapidly. A party of twenty-four went away on the 20th in the *Saikyo Maru* for Shanghai, and the large establishment in Hirakawa-cho (Tokyo), which, by means of a conspicuous sign-board, proclaimed itself the *Kōhoku no Yureki-kwan*, has closed its doors, its inmates having resolved to return to their country at once. These gentlemen

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may be assured that they have the full sympathy of thoughtful men of all nationalities. The present is a very bitter time for them; and we sincerely trust that a brighter day will soon dawn. The individual Chinese deserves at the hands of fate treatment very different from that received by his race collectively.

CAPTAIN HATTORI.

Captain Hattori has become a historic figure. It seems certain that he led his detachment of marines in the van of the assault on the Taku Forts, and that he was the first officer to fall in the first engagement where Japanese and British soldiers fought side by side. He and his men distinguished themselves conspicuously, and his fate derives a picturesque element from the fact that the Rising Sun and the Union Jack soon floated over the place where he met his death.

CONCERT OF THE MEIJI ONGAKU-KWAI.

On the afternoon of Sunday, June 24th, beginning at two o'clock, the Meiji Ongaku-kwai will give a concert at the Uyeno Hall, in Tokyo. Only the first half of the programme will, on this occasion, consist of foreign music, the native patrons of the Society having expressed a wish to hear a series of performances in the popular Japanese style, in addtition to the customary orchestral pieces. The foreign selections are mostly of a light and lively order, including a French overture, a concert polka, one of Lumbye's best waltzes, the dance episode from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" music, and the Turkish March written by Beethoven for Kotzebue's "Ruins of Athens." It is of this last-named production that a story is told which, though possibly of the *ben trovato* class, has been accepted as a satisfactory legend. A Turkish ambassador, hearing it at Vienna, is said to have signified his desire to thank and reward the composer for giving him the pleasure of listening to one of the true melodies of his own land, which had been his (the ambassador's) favourite tune since boyhood. Whether the anecdote be authentic or not nothing is more common than the imaginary identification of music written to illustrate national characteristics with the actual music of the country represented. Spaniards are firm in the belief that Auber borrowed certain airs of the "Domino Noir" from their native minstrelsy; and Neapolitans will swear that the same composer took the finest themes of "Masaniello" from Italian sources; while to a patriotic Swiss the claim that Rossini invented the peasant episodes in "William Tell" is almost as damnable a heresy as the intimation of a doubt concerning the historical existence of the champion bowman himself. In a somewhat similar spirit, Americans are disposed to resent the perfectly accurate statement that the "Star-Spangled Banner" is a song from an old English opera. They consider that it typifies their national humour, and consequently must be a home production. Still more amusing is their recent appropriation of "God Save the King," which, by formal decree of the War Department, has been proclaimed the anthem of the United States to which all soldiers are required to show reverence by a ceremonious salutation whenever it is officially played. "God Save the King" is worthy of all the honour that can be bestowed upon it, either by soldiers or civilians; but to take possession of it as the national hymn, with no better warrant than the circumstance that an American clergyman once wrote a set of patriotic verses to the immortal air, is one of the most extraordinary instances of forcible annexation on record. What people wish to believe, however, they generally will believe, sooner or later; and it is quite possible that, in course of time, the American citizen will be as resolutely convinced that "God Save the King" sprang from Columbian soil as the Turkish diplomat was that, as a child, he had paraded the streets of Stamboul to the strains of Beethoven's march. Perhaps the vexed question as to the authorship of the noble melody may be definitely settled by a supplementary Government order to the effect that "America," as the embodiment of the highest republican principles, could never have existed before the Declaration of Independence, that the idea of its creation by an humble man of letters in the reign of George the Second is a mere delusion; and that the credit of its authorship will be duly assigned to some deserving son or daughter of the West by a future promulgation of executive authority. Thus endeth the lesson of the Turkish March,—acquaintance with which, as a spirited and ingenious composition of one of the greatest of modern musicians, may be made by all who attend the concert of the Meiji Ongaku-kwai, next Sunday afternoon.

LINGUISTIC CAPABILITIES.

The following note appears in the *Shanghai Recorder* and is re-produced by the *N.-C. Daily News*:—

When the student of Chinese comes to a particularly difficult phrase or word, either in his own language or in Chinese, it is a good plan to give it no rest until some way has been found of transferring the idea. One of the toughest of the many knots perpetually presenting themselves to those who have occasion accurately to render English terms into Chinese, is the group of words "condition," "on condition that," "conditionally," etc. When we meet them are generally look them squarely in the face and then "go around them," rightly judging that they simply cannot be transferred into Chinese (although they can be).

This was the experience of an officer in the British Consular service: Having to conduct some delicate negotiations, in the course of which it was found (or imagined) that the High Chinese official concerned was likely to be influenced by the almost unceasing stream of telegrams detailing the successes of the Boers, on receipt of an important message giving a different turn to South African events it seemed desirable to let the Chinese know that General Cronje had "surrendered unconditionally." In order to avoid the embarrassment of turning this into Chinese, the telegram was shown to the official interpreter (a graduate of the Tung Wen Kuan in Peking) with a request to pass it on in Chinese, which he did. The next day he was asked how he had rendered the word "unconditionally," and the British officer was greatly edified to learn that the Great Man had been told that General Cronje has surrendered "wu yuan wu ku ti!—in other words, "for no reason whatever!" This is certainly a remarkable statement. The Chinese must have learned long ago what is meant by unconditional surrender, and, for the rest, we have yet to discover an idea that can not be rendered with perfect accuracy into the Chinese language. It is by drawing upon Chinese that the Japanese have been able to find equivalents for all the terms of Occidental science, philosophy, and religion. This very word, unconditionally (*mujôken* 無條件) is now in the commonest of every day use. Did it not occur to the writer of the note in the *Shanghai Recorder* that the Chinese have had to consider the "conditions" of every treaty or convention concluded by them with foreign States? The plain truth is that the difficulty of rendering English terms into Chinese arises, not from the poverty of the Chinese language, but from the ignorance of the translator. It may safely be affirmed that no other language in the world has capabilities equal to that of the Chinese language.

KOREAN AFFAIRS.

The Tokyo press regards the Korean incident as closed.

The Korean Authorities have refused an application made by some enterprising Japanese to undertake at Fusan works of reclamation which would produce some 70 acres of building land.

News from Sōul is to the effect that the enemies of the Li have abandoned their attempt to procure the transportation of the Tai-wŏn-kun's son and the recall of his grandson from Japan.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* alleges that Mr. Pablov, in an audience with the Emperor of Korea, has urged upon his Majesty the advisability of leaning on a great Power like Russia instead of on an upstart like Japan, and the danger of seeking advice about foreign affairs from an American youth (Mr. Sands), or a Japanese commercial speculator (Mr. Omiwa). A likely story!

On Thursday afternoon the Emperor of Korea gave audience to the Japanese Representative in Sōul. His Majesty expressed regret for the torturing and execution of Messrs. An and Kwŏn, and explained that it took place without his knowledge. He added that the responsible officials had been punished. We may assume that the incident is now closed.

Mr. Miura Chobei is said to have rendered material aid in bringing about a satisfactory settlement of the An-Kwŏn affair. We suppose that there is no choice save to call the settlement satisfactory, but the horror of the judicial murders has not been at all mitigated, and the only grain of consolation is that the incident may help to put an end to the use of torture in Korea. It is to be observed that the Russian Chargé d'Affairs has banquetted the Representatives of the United States and Japan in Sōul, so that the relations of the three diplomatists are evidently cordial, despite many rumours circulated to the contrary.

A very sad story is told by the *Yomiuri Shimbun*. It is that when the news of An's death reached his wife, she committed suicide, at the same time administering poison to her little daughter of seven. Our contemporary says that An sent from his prison a letter to his wife, in which, after lamenting that for nearly three years he had been separated from his family, he wrote that he was quite reconciled to die; that he felt it to be his fate, and that he begged his wife to lay his corpse in his study and summon all his relatives and friends to say farewell to it, for even though dead, his heart would respond to their affection. If he had been guilty of any crime, it was the crime of loving his country too much, and he did not doubt that when his spirit joined those of his ancestors they would pardon him for such an offence. He ended by entreating his wife to educate their little daughter carefully, and marry her to a man who would do honour to the family name. The *Yomiuri* adds particulars as to how the afflicted lady, after telling the child that she was going to join her husband and obtaining the little girl's consent to accompany her, shared a dose of poison with the child. It is a most painful tale, nor does the tragedy lose anything by the *Yomiuri's* manner of relating it.

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NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

It is stated that the Emperor has summoned Marquis Ito to advise with regard to the complications in China.

The *Jiji Shimpo* urges that a Naval Council should be formed after the British model, with the Prince Imperial at its head.

Three fresh cases of the pest were reported on the 16th instant. Two occurred in Osaka and one in Hamamatsu. All ended fatally.

The *Yashima* has been ordered to Taku. She will be the flag-ship of the squadron assembled there, and will fly the pennant of Rear-Admiral Dewa.

The Emperor and Empress have contributed a sum of a thousand *yen* for the relief of the sufferers by the recent conflagration at Toka-machi in Yechigo.

The editor and publisher of the *Shin Nippon* have been sentenced by the Tokyo Local Court to pay a fine of 200 *yen* each for publishing matter detrimental to public morality.

His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong and Lady Blake were received in audience by the Emperor and Empress on the 14th instant. Her Britannic Majesty's *Chargé d'Affaires* introduced them.

The Liberal leaders have adopted with regard to Chinese affairs two resolutions couched in very general terms. The first is to the effect that the national prestige must be preserved in Korea; the second, that Japan must work in cō-operation with the Foreign Powers in China.

Mr. Takahira, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, is to proceed as Japanese Representative to Washington. He will be succeeded at the Foreign Office by Mr. Asada, Governor of Kanagawa, whose successor in the governorship will be Mr. Sufu Kohei.

It is stated that the Governor of Hawaii, ex-President Dole, has applied to the Courts to order the expulsion of 31 Japanese subjects, whose presence he declares to be detrimental to the preservation of good order. The Japanese residents have subscribed forty thousand dollars to defend their countrymen.

The Progressist leaders do not appear to have adopted any definite attitude, but they are understood to insist, first, that Japan must despatch to China a force equal to that employed by any other State; and secondly, that it should be her part to bring the Foreign Powers into line if they show any disposition to act independently.

Lieutenant-General Otsuki, after a painful illness of many years, has committed suicide. His mentally disordered condition was long ago recognised, and his physician ordered that all weapons should be kept beyond his reach, but on the 13th he succeeded in getting possession of a dagger with which he stabbed himself.

It has been found that 2,580 forged shares of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha have been put upon the market. Four banks—the Teikoku Shogyo Ginko, the Osaka Shogyo Ginko, the Inouye Ginko and the Omi Ginko—and the Osaka Stock Exchange hold the bulk of the forged paper. The utterer has been arrested.

The Department of Communications publishes an announcement that, as telegraphic communication between Chefoo and Tientsin is interrupted, all telegrams intended for Tientsin or Peking have to be sent by messenger from Chefoo, and it is therefore necessary that the address of the recipient should be clearly and accurately given.

Japanese consumers of kerosene are looking forward to a fine time when the competition between the oils of Yechigo, of Russia, and of America becomes keen. While Russia and America alone were in the field they joined forces at the expense of the consumer, but Yechigo well-owners contemplate competition, and the foreign companies will not be backward. That is the forecast mentioned in Japanese journals, but we are inclined to question its fulfillment.

It is stated that Baron Shibusawa has been actively interesting himself in the endeavour to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the dispute between Mr. J. R Morse and the Mayor of Kobe, and that, as the latter has been advised by influential persons to arrange the matter before it is carried to the Court of Appeal, there is now a strong probability of an understanding being arrived at. We sincerely trust that the rumour may prove well founded.

The slump in the share market continues. The following quotations show the prices quoted on the 14th and 15th respectively :—

	14th inst.	15th inst.	Fall.
Nihon Railway.....	68.10	66.50	1.60
Sanyô „	49.80	49.00	0.80
Kwansei „	36.40	35.50	0.90
Kiûshiû „	49.60	48.90	0.70
Tankô „	80.10	78.30	1.40
Sôbu „	74.50	72.30	2.20
Kyoto „	16.70	16.30	0.40
Nippon Yûsen Kaisha	58.80	57.60	1.20
Tôyô Kisen Kaisha...	24.10	23.50	0.60
Kanegafuchi-bôseki...	49.00	35.20	13.80

The *Asahi Shimbun* publishes a telegram to the effect that the Russian Representative in Sōul has protested personally to the Emperor against the language used by Mr. Sands in a recent memorandnm relating to the An-Kwŏn affair. It is impossible to attach any credence to this story. Recently we were told by one of the Japanese correspondents in Sōul that Mr. Sands had laid down the extraordinary proposition that a declaration made by the Sovereign of a country in his personal capacity to a Foreign Representative, has no nationally binding force. That was obviously untrue, and we think that the same may be assumed of the latest story.

Vernacular journals state that the authorities, having fully tested the beverage of which 3,000 casks were recently imported by a foreign firm in Yokohama, acting in cōoperation with three Japanese, and having concluded that it is not whiskey, as represented by the importers, but alcohol and water, decided to levy the alcohol-rate of import duty, namely, 250 per cent. *ad valorem*, instead of the whiskey-rate of 40 per cent. This decision, which involves a question of many thousands of *yen*, has caused consternation to the importers. They have in vain endeavoured to have the matter taken up officially, and nothing now remains except to send the stuff back to the place of shipment. Considering the name of the firm mentioned in connexion with this affair, we are inclined to receive the story with reserve.

Marquis Mayeda died on the 14th instant at the early age of 42. The deceased nobleman represented the great Kaga Daimiate, one of the wealthiest in Japan. He never took any active part in politics, but he distinguished himself more than once by the munificence of his contributions to public purposes. Thus, in 1876, he presented to the Government his beautiful park in the Hongo suburb of Tokyo, which thenceforth became the site of the Imperial University. In 1887, he contributed 50,000 *yen* for purposes of coast defence; in 1886, on the occasion of the failure of the Hokuriku Bank, he gave 80,000 *yen* to assist the persons who had suffered by the catastrophe; and he also subscribed 78,023 *yen* for the maintenance and establishment of the Fourth High School in Kanazawa. He was a Peer of the Musk Chamber, held the Third Class Order of the Rising Sun, and had received decorations from the Governments of Belgium, Austria, Germany and Italy.

From a report submitted by Baron Suyematsu at a recent meeting of the Liberal Party's Council, we gather that, contrary to our own information, Mr. Kwŏn did actually call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo to say farewell before leaving for Korea. It appears, further, that in reply to a suggestion as to the risk he would incur, Kwŏn avowed himself indifferent and implied that he considered his death likely to inure to the benefit of his country. In fact he asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to advise the Korean Government to cut off his, Kwŏn's, head. It is difficult to judge how much of all this was genuine, but the facts seem authentic. The Japanese Government did not interfere in any way in Kwŏn's case, but according to Baron Suyematsu's account, the Emperor of Korea distinctly assured Mr. Hayashi, with regard to Mr. An, that he should be treated leniently, and that, as torture had been abolished in Korea, there need not be any uneasiness on that score.

The uncertainty of the political situation has affected the share market, as the following quotations show :—

Stock.	Market Price on June 13th. Yen.	Price on June 14th. Yen.
Sanyo Railway	51.90	48.80
Kwansei Railway	37.60	36.40
Kiushiu Railway	50.90	49.60
Tanko Railway	71.00	69.00
Sôbu Railway	75.80	74.50
Horse Tram (new shares)...	149.50	128.50
Horse Tram (old shares) ...	180.00	162.00
Yusen Kaisha	60.00	58.80
Tôyô Kisen Kaisha	24.70	24.10

The extraordinary fluctuation in the price of the Tokyo Tram Company's shares is chiefly attributable, of course, to its failure to obtain a satisfactory charter for changing its motive power. The other shares quoted, however, have suffered in consequence of the Chinese complication, the news of Mr. Sugiyama's murder being, doubtless, the proximate cause of their decline. Japanese journals speak of something like a panic in financial circles, and say that the banks have called upon borrowers to make up their margins, but the table given above does not furnish grounds for any special alarm.

Japanese securities seem to have been much more severely influenced in the London market. The five per cent. war bonds fell to £100 11s. ½d. on the 14th, a drop of £2 0s. 10d., and the four per cent. new loan fell to £79 15s., a drop of £1 5s. These sharp fluctuations may be assumed to have been caused by the news of Mr. Sugiyama's assassination, for to people in England the murder of a member of a Legation's Staff by the Chinese Government's troops must have appeared to be a complication of the most serious kind.

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DISTURBED CHINA.

THE news that the Viceroy of Chili has been degraded and handed over to the Board of Punishments, and that General TUNG has been cashiered and sent as a convict to work on the post roads in consequence of the murder of the Japanese Chancellor of Legation, seems to establish the correctness of our first forecast that the Chinese Government will disavow the anti-foreign acts of all its agents and seek to amicably satisfy claims arising out of the Iho troubles. In that event, the issue will depend on a question of guarantees. The Foreign Powers can not possibly consent to expose their nationals to dangers such as those by which they have just been threatened, and as the guarantees hitherto obtained from China have proved quite ineffectual, it will be necessary to make a radically new departure. It is there that the difficulties of the Foreign Powers will become really acute. If they approach the settlement with an unique desire to secure its ostensible aims, a consensus will not be hard to reach. But such disinterestedness can scarcely be expected in the face of such opportunities. Nothing less will have to be considered than the fate of the Manchu dynasty. It has shown itself incapable of preserving peace and good order within the Chinese borders and of providing security for foreign life and property. The Boxers are not the only insurgents in the field. We hear of twenty thousand "Big Swords" having risen in Szechuan and of the burning of all Japanese residences by another mob of secret party men at Wu-hu. Moreover, LI HUNG-CHANG, LIU KUN-YI, and CHANG CHI-TUNG declare their inability to proceed to Peking since the peace of the districts they govern would certainly be disturbed in their absence. It is evident, in short, that unless some entirely new machinery of administration can be devised, the foreign residents in China must continue to hold their lives and properties at the mercy of insurgent mobs. Can such machinery be devised under Manchu control? The majority of observers will be disposed to answer in the negative. They will conclude that things have gone from bad to worse under the Manchus, that the Chinese nation has got completely out of hand, and that its discontent can not be allayed without a change of rulers. But the validity of that view evidently depends on the ultimate attitude of the Manchu Government towards the Boxers. The Peking Authorities have hitherto temporized to such an extent as to render themselves plainly responsible for conjunctures which resolute action could easily have averted. But they have not thrown in their lot definitely with the insurgents, and their recent actions seem to show that they intend to dissociate themselves from the Boxers and to maintain, if possible, an amicable attitude towards Foreign Powers. Under those circumstances it is unlikely that the latter will be found in agreement as to the necessity of removing the Manchus. The friends of the ruling dynasty will discover a specious argument in the plea that to depose the Manchus on account of an anti-foreign insurrection which, although not until the eleventh hour, they frankly employed all their strength to quell, would be to add another strong element to the section that favours national isolation. These politicians will argue that nothing is needed except to re-cast the administration, by recalling to power men whose competence has been proved, and whose sentiments towards foreigners and Occidental civilization are beyond suspicion. LI HUNG-CHANG is eminently such a man. Already it is understood that LI has been summoned to Peking, but that he has declined to go so long as Prince TUAN and KUNG YI are in office. Prince TUAN, father of the newly adopted heir-apparent, is believed to be the head of the Boxers, and KANG YI is said to have steadily opposed all the Government's inclinations to suppress them. The removal of these men and the restoration of LI to power would undoubtedly be one of the best guarantees of future peace. It is evident that any Foreign Powers advocating such an arrangement would secure the friendship of the Manchus and of their trusted statesmen—at whose head stands LI HUNG-CHANG—, and would establish a title to substantial marks of gratitude. The programme is enticing, nor should we be justified in attributing purely selfish motives to its advocates. But there is no difficulty in foreseeing how the Foreign Powers would group themselves towards such a proposition. Russia and France would certainly support it, whereas England, America and Germany would oppose it. As for Japan, many of her statesmen are convinced that the removal of the Manchus must precede any genuinely progressive departure in China; but others, and these by no means the least influential, believe firmly in LI HUNG-CHANG, and would accept his resumption of power in Peking as the best solution of the problem. That some compromise will be effected we do not doubt, but the preliminaries leading up to it will differentiate the Powers very sharply, and will probably have the effect of temporarily impairing England's influence. Much will depend on Japan's attitude. The situation is virtually in her hands. She will surely manipulate it cautiously, but we do not feel equal confidence about her resolution.

FREE-MASONRY.

WITH reference to the comments and correspondence recently published in these columns on the subject of Free-masonry, a correspondent has sent us a brochure of which the object is to expose that institution and prove it to be a devilish and most abominable system of immorality. Our correspondent considers the arguments "quite convincing." For our own part, after reading the pamphlet carefully, we are compelled to say that a weaker and more unsubstantial indictment we have never read. It is chiefly a report of addresses delivered by the Rev. ALEX. DOWIE in the Zion Tabernacle, Chicago. Mr. DOWIE firmly believes—we refrain from saying "pretends to believe"—in his own God-given power of working miracles. He thinks that he can cure the sick by the laying-on of hands. It will be plain, therefore, that he is not wanting in credulity. His accusations against Free-masonry may be very briefly summarized. They are that it encourages drunkenness and debauchery, and that it pledges its members to perform horrible crimes if required to do so. The latter charge is based on the fact that a Free-mason invokes dire penalties on himself if he violates his promises, and Mr. DOWIE contends that a society which calls upon its members to give such pledges, must have the power to enforce them in case of need. It would be equally rational to assert that when a man says, "may I be struck dead if I ever touch another glass of whisky," he confers the right to strike him dead on the person he addresses, or recognises that the latter is invested with such a right. It has been customary in all ages to administer oaths which derive something of their binding force from the appalling nature of the pains and penalties invoked on his own head by the person taking the oath. Whatever may be said, and justly said, against such formulæ, it remained for Mr. ALEX. DOWIE to propound the curious theory that the person who administers the oath arrogates to himself the function of inflicting the pains and penalties. In the "tabernacle" where Mr. ALEX. DOWIE lectured, and on the platform by his side, were several ex-masons who had deliberately violated their solemn pledges and exposed the secrets of the Order. Not one of them had suffered any physical punishment for his breach of faith. Yet this miracle-working Mr. ALEX. DOWIE asked his audience to believe that Free-masons arrogated the right to tear out these backsliders' hearts and cast their corpses into desolate places. It did not occur to him, apparently, that the absolute immunity enjoyed by the perjured individuals might be regarded as a pretty fair practical proof that Free-masonry places no reliance on any restraining force beyond the dictates of a man's conscience. As to the question of wine-bibbing and debauchery, Mr. DOWIE's only concrete evidence was the case of a man—a blasphemous, dissipated ruffian, according to the account given of him by the miracle-working pastor—who pretended that a long debauch which ultimately caused his death, was due to a glass of drugged liquor given to him at a Masonic Lodge, the object of his brother-masons being to involve him again in the paths of vice which he was vainly endeavouring to shun. Mr. ALEX. DOWIE knows his audience. He knows that if they believe in his miracles, they are pretty sure to credit any story he may lay before them, provided that he accompanies it with a sufficiently solemn prologue and apologue. He manufactures that kind of pudding with remark-

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able fertility. His tiny shreds of evidence or tangible accusation are buried under mountains of asseveration about his own qualifications to be believed, the soaring height of his purposes, and the immaculate purity of his motives. The brochure is a mass of the shallowest cant from beginning to end. It pains us to think that Christianity should be so debased and degraded. As for Free-masonry, to defend it against such assaults would be to insult it, but for the sake of our own correspondent, who finds the arguments "convincing," we may go so far as to say—and we speak with knowledge—that Free-masonry's first object is charity, and that if the system of morality it inculcates were universally practised, the world would be a happy place, nor would any section of humanity be subject to accesses of hysteria such as render possible the exercise of a profession like that of the Rev. ALEX. DOWIE.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

There is unquestionably an active propaganda the object of which is either to create ill-feeling between Japan and Russia by persistently declaring that each Power distrusts and dislikes the other, or to injure Japan's credit by representing her in a truculent, aggressive light. Here, for example, is a paragraph taken from a contemporary's columns :—

The Odessa correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed last month :—It is abundantly evident that the extraordinary activity lately observable in the Japanese arsenals and dockyards, and in the chief military centres, is causing not a little anxiety at St. Petersburg. In addition to the daily dispatches received by the Government from its own political agents in Japan every scrap of information reaching London from the Far East is collated and transmitted to the Asiatic section of the Russian Foreign Office. The grand naval manœuvres, fixed by the Tokyo Government to take place next week, are viewed with suspicious interest from the bank of the Neva, and are presumptively spoken of as being covertly intended to constitute a demonstration against Russia and Russian's lesser maritime power in the Far East. Orders have been telegraphed to the Admiral commanding the Russian squadron to keep a close observation upon the Japanese fleet in the waters lying between the Island of Tsushima and the Korean coast. It is not improbable, however, that the Japanese Admiral may, at the last moment, disappoint the Russians by suddenly changing the site of his evolutionary operations. It is significant that this possibility is taken into due consideration at St. Petersburg. It is no longer denied that Russian diplomacy has for some time past been outmatched by the astute Japanese, and the result is that this country now entertains the most lively distrust of its increasingly powerful Far Eastern neighbour, the further development of whose ulterior designs still remains an uncertain quantity. The Japanese learned a lesson at Shimonoseki which they are not likely to forget.

And here are two other paragraphs from recent American exchange :—

New York, May 25.

A special to the *Sun* from Washington says : In view of the reports that Japan is preparing for possible conflict with Russia a bit of news that has been received here is regarded as important. It is to the effect that live torpedoes are being placed in all the Japanese harbours. This is a measure adopted by nations only when war is imminent or hostilities are in progress. The only explanation offered for Japan's action here is that the Japanese expect that they will soon havo a condict on their hands.

Victoria (B.C.), May 25.

The steamer *Victoria*, which arrived this morning from the Orient, brings news that following on the recent naval manœuvres of Japan, which many regarded as a demonstration, military manœuvres are to be held on a large scale by the Japanese. Discussing the recent manœuvres and the contemplated military gathering of Japanese troops, the *Kobe Chronicle* says :—The Japanese War Office undoubtedly regarded the recent naval operations to some extent as a demonstration and an indication that the renewed activity of Russia in Korea was disapproved and could and would be resisted by force if Japanese interests were in any way threatened.

They are to be followed by military manœuvres, also on a scale unprecedented in Japan, and also having the very good excuse of being held with a view to test the efficiency of the new brigades and divisions organized within the last few years. Nevertheless, we do not think the Japanese Government is anxious to move or anxious to find a pretext for any aggressive action.

Call Headquarters, Wellington Hotel,
Washington, May 28.

Information has been received here from reliable sources which shows that Japan has taken rather peculiar action in connection with the naval manœuvres in which her fleet is now engaged. It is customary to place "dummy" torpedoes at mouths of harbours which are included in the plan of defense, but information given me to-day shows that live torpedoes instead have been planted. This fact has aroused considerable comment in naval circles, and has been accepted as an indication of preparations for war.

In diplomatic circles, however, a different impression prevails. A well known diplomat, who has justs eturned from Japan, said to-day that financially ther apanese Government was not in a condition to go toJ war although he stated that it undoubtedly was true that the Japanese people were willing and anxious to go to war with Russia, giving as an indication of their eagerness the effect of the report circulated for stock jobbing purposes, the announcement that a Russian man-of-war had fired upon a Japanese merchant steamer, as a result of which Japan was immediately in arms, the excitement disappearing only when the alleged occurrence was officially denied.

The Russian Government is said to be pursuing a very correct attitude in the East at this time. It does not wan twar with Japan, and its representatives in Japan and Korea are under instructions to pursue a most pacific policy. The Masampho dispute has been amicably arranged, and it is ruterated that there are at present no controversies between the two governments.

Whence do the compilers of such paragraphs obtain their materials? The *Standard's* Odessa correspondent avowedly records the feeling in Russia ; a feeling of uneasiness and even apprehension, and the writers in the American journals get their information apparently from a passenger travelling in the steamer *Victoria*. But these are only the proximate sources : there is evidently a deliberate attempt on the part of some intriguers to create an impression which can not fail to injure Japan's financial credit in Europe. Doubtless to these doings may be attributed the fact that Japan's securities have fallen sharply in the London market, precisely the result that the persons responsible for these rumours desire to bring about. It is scarcely necessary to say that no tangible basis whatever exists for such stories. The relations between Japan and Russia are excellent, and nothing likely to disturb the *entente* is apparent.

THE PEST.

The Pest seems to have again been subdued in Osaka. Since the 6th instant there has not been a fresh case in the Western Ward of the city where the disease had established its head-quarters, and during that interval only two seizures were reported elsewhere. Neither are there any patients suffering from doubtful symptoms. This record warrants a hope that the worst is over. The returns show that whereas out of 44 persons attacked during the pest's previous invasion, not one recovered, four are still living out of 41 attacked on this occasion.

FORMOSA.

The troubles in China seem to have affected Formosa. News is published about a junk smuggling a large quantity of arms and ammunition to a place on the coast in the neighbourhood of Takow, and about symptoms of renewed disturbance in the neighbourhood of Kagi. The Authorities appear to be dealing vigorously with this disquiet.

THE SILK CROP.

The returns published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce indicate that the silk crop this year will be exceptionally good. At the *haki-tate* time, as the sweeping of the eggs off the cards is called, the number of cards was found to be greater than that of last season by 192,172, and now that the worms have entered their third sleep, their quantity is estimated at 118,354 *koku* in excess of last year's figure. In Saga and Ishikawa the supply of mulberry leaves has been deficient, but elsewhere the yield was good, so that, on the whole, the sericultural prospects are counted very bright.

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF DEALERS IN NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

The following regulations have recently been published in the *Official Gazette* :—

Art. I.—The term "non-alcoholic beverages" includes lemonades of all descriptions (including fruit, peppermint, and quassia bark waters), soda water, and other carbonated liquids. By "dealers in non-alcoholic beverages" are to be understood manufacturers, sellers, or retailers of these beverages.

Art. II.—Any person desiring to undertake the manufacture of these beverages must receive the sanction of the local authorities. The local authorities shall, after giving such sanction, despatch sanitary experts to inspect the manufactory and the water to be used.

Art. III.—Dealers in refreshing beverages are not allowed to employ vessels or measures made of copper, lead, or lead alloy, which will come in contact with drinking water. This provision, however, does not apply to vessels or utensils coated with tin or rendered harmless to health by other means.

Art. IV.—Dealers are likewise forbidden to use any colouring compounds of tin, or saccharine, or injurious aromatics or antiseptics, in the manufacture of beverages.

Art. V.—No dealer is allowed to sell, or expose, or preserve, for purposes of sale, any of the liquids enumerated below :—

1. Turbid or spoiled liquids.
2. Liquids showing a sediment.
3. Liquids containing chloric, nitric, or sulphuric acid, or other injurious mineral acid.
4. Liquids mixed with arsenic, antimony, lead, zinc, copper, or tin.
5. Liquids coloured with constituents of tar.
6. Liquids containing saccharine, or injurious aromatics, or antiseptics.

Art. VI.—Manufacturers are required to seal the vessels containing beverages for sale, with labels indicating their name, the name of the company, and the place where business is carried on, as well as the date of manufacture.

The local authorities, however, are empowered to establish special rules in regard to vessels as well as processes of manufacture, in the case of beverages for which sealing is considered unnecessary.

Art. VII.—Dealers in beverages are required to keep clean the place of manufacture and utensils of all descriptions.

Art. VIII.—Dealers shall in no case allow persons suffering from consumption, leprosy, syphilis, or other contagious diseases, to engage in the manufacture or packing of beverages, or to enter the place of manufacture. This provision applies equally to dealers themselves.

Art. IX.—With regard to utensils specified in Article III. and to beverages prescribed in Article V., the local Governor may adopt measures as provided for in Article I. of Law No. 15 issued in February of the 33rd year of *Meiji* (1900). Similar measures may be taken with respect to dealers who have violated the present regulations.

Art. X.—The local Governor may exercise his authority for the enforcement of these regulations, in accordance with Article II. of the Law above referred to.

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Art. XI.—Dealers who have used, or caused others to use, sealing paper containing fraudulent statements, or who have altered, or caused others to alter, such paper in a fraudulent way, shall be liable to major imprisonment for a term not exceeding 25 days.

Art. XIII.—Persons guilty of offences specified below shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 25 *yen*:—

1. Persons engaging in occupations specified in Article II, without receiving official sanction.

2. Persons acting in contravenation to Articles III. and V.

Art. XIII.—Persons contravening Articles VI. or VIII. shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 10 *yen*.

Art. XIV.—These regulations shall come into operation from the 1st of September, 1900, except with reference to lemonades of all descriptions. In this case they are applicable from the 1st of July.

Art. XV.—The local Governor is empowered to establish special rules necessary for construction, furnishing, or superintendence of factories designed for the manufacture of beverages.

Art. XVI.—In Tokyo the functions of the local Governor in connection with the aforesaid matters shall be discharged by the Superintendent General of the Metropolitan Board of Police.

HARBOUR INVESTIGATION COUNCIL.

The following Regulations in regard to the Harbour Investigation Council have been published in the *Official Gazette*:—

Art. I.—The Council shall be under the direct control of the Home Minister and shall carry out the duty of supervision of all matters connected with ports and harbours. It shall also present its views to the Ministers concerned, on all the important topics relating to harbours.

Art. II.—The Council is empowered to forward memorials or representations to the Ministers of State concerned, in regard to all matters connected with harbours.

Art. III.—The Rules for meetings, as well as for the adjustment of affairs relating to the aforesaid Council, shall be issued by the Home Minister.

Art. IX.—The Council shall consist of a President and 16 members. The number of members however may be increased in cases of necessity.

Art. X.—The President shall be of *chokunin* rank. The members shall be composed as follows:—Three high officials from the Home Department; two each from the Commercial and Agricultural and Communications Departments; one each from the War Department, Foreign Department, Naval Commandants Office, Hydrographical Bureau, and Professors of the Engineering Department of Tokyo Imperial University. The Director of the Civil Engineering Superintendence Office may undertake necessary investigations as a commissioner, or attend the council and assist in decisions,

Art. VI.—The members of the Council shall be appointed by the cabinet upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Art. VII.—The President shall supervise the affairs of the Council and report decisions to the Ministers concerned.

Art. VIII.—A director (Kanji) shall be appointed in the Council from among the high officials of the Home Department.

LAW OF CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

An Ordinance for the enforcement of the Law of Civil Administration has recently been published in the *Official Gazette* as follows:—

Art. I.—The local Governor is required to make suitable arrangements in connection with medical inspection as specified in Article III. of the Law of Civil Administration.

The expenses shall be defrayed out of the local police funds.

Art. II.—In case it is deemed that danger to life or property is imminent, or means of communication by land or sea are endangered, necessary measures may be taken by the administrative authorities concerned, in accordance with Article IV. of the Law of Civil Administration.

Similar measures may be adopted in regard to land or property as specified below, whenever it is found that the laws and ordinances have been so violated as to create danger or produce results detrimental to the public health:

1. Any place or excavation with respect to which there are apprehension of collapse or of injury to employes.

2. Houses and buildings of all descriptions.

3. Ships, carriages, and appliances for communication.

4. Steam engines and machines as well as fittings thereof.

5. Land and property as specified by the Minister of State concerned, besides those mentioned above.

Art. III.—With regard to articles the inspection of which is deemed necessary for the prevention of danger or for sanitary purposes, any quantity of the same sufficient for purposes of examination may be taken by the authorities as specified by the Minister of State concerned.

Art. IV.—With regard to fines specified in Article V. of the Law of Civil Administration, the administrative authorities by whom such fines are to be inflicted shall not exceed the following limits:—

1. In the case of Department Minister, 25 *yen*.

2. In the case of Local Governor, 10 *yen*.

3. In the case of other administrative authorities, 2 *yen*.

Art. V.—The warning to be given in accordance with Article V. of the Law of Civil Administration must be accompanied by an intimation of the period fixed, together with a notice in writing.

Art. VI.—The collection of expenses specified in Article V. of the aforesaid law must be effected after the settlement of the account actually incurred. In no case shall measures to that effect be taken before the delivery of the official decision to the persons liable. The same procedure is necessary in regard to the infliction of fines.

Art. VII.—The expenses specified in Article V. of the Law of Civil Administration shall be defrayed from the Treasury or out of the local funds, according to the office by which they were instituted. All the receipts, as well as fines, shall, in the same way, be transferred to the Treasury or to local funds. The foregoing provision applies also to expenses specified in Article III. of the main regulations, except when the persons concerned or their agent are required to pay hospital fees.

Art. VIII.—In cases where warnings are given in regard to compulsory enforcement of measures on the part of the administrative authorities in accordance with the provisions of other laws and ordinances; or where the work is undertaken on behalf of the persons liable, or where orders are given for its performance by a third party, necessary expenses being collected from them; or where fines are imposed in regard to the compulsory execution of administrative measures; the provisions of Articles V., VI., and VII., shall apply.

TOKYO ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

The electric railways to be constructed in Tokyo in accordance with the charter recently granted to Mr. Amenomiya and others are as follows:—

No. 1.—The line starts at Honshiba Shichome, and passing over the two bridges, Shinsaiwai-bashi and Kanda-bashi, turns the corner of Mitoshiro-cho, Kanda, to the right, and proceeds along Awaji-cho and over the new bridge, the terminus being at Hongo Shichome.

No. 2.—Starts at Saeki-cho, Kanda, and passing along Yanagiwara, crosses the Ryogoku bridge, the terminus being at the Kinshibori station Honjo.

No. 3.—Starts at Nishiki-cho Itchome, Kanda, turns to the right at the 3rd ward of the same street, crosses the Suido-bashi, and proceeds to the rural and urban boundaries in Naka-cho, Sugamo, via Hakusan.

No. 4.—Starts at Minami Jinbocho, Kanda, proceeds by way of Kudan Hill and Ichigaya Gate, and runs as far as Katamachi, Ichigaya.

No. 5.—Covers the distance from Yurakucho Itchome to Fujimicho Itchome along the castle moat.

No. 6.—The starting point is the foot of the Kudan Hill; thence the line crosses Iida-bashi, and, proceeding along the left side of the Edokawa turns to the left at Edobashi, and then passing through Kaguraka-dori with the corner of Tenjinmachi, Ushigome, on the left, enters the Ushigome Gate, the terminus being at Iidamachi Sanchome.

No. 7.—Starts at the Shinanomachi Station, on the Kobu Railway, and passing along Sugacho, Demmacho, and Arakicho, Yotsuya, turns at Kata-machi, Ichigaya, and proceeds along the right side of Yanagi-machi, Ichigaya, as far as Sakana-machi in Ushigome district.

No. 8.—The starting point is in front of the Hanzo Gate. Hence the road runs towards the Yotsuya Gate along Kojimachi, and traversing the main streets of Yotsuya, proceeds to the rural and urban boundaries of Okido.

No. 9.—The line runs from Nagata-cho Itchome to Minami-machi Rokuchome, Aoyama, passing through the Akasaka Gate and along the main streets of Aoyama.

No. 10.—Starts within the precincts of Shiba Park, passes the cross road of Higura, and proceeds to Minami-machi Itchome, Aoyama, by way of Roppongi-machi, Azaba.

No. 11.—The corner of Shinsaiwai-cho, Shiba, is the starting point. Thence the line runs along Kubocho as far as the boundaries of Kasumi-cho and Kogai-cho in Azabu, via Tameike and Enokizaka-machi.

No. 12.—Starts at Honshiba Shichome, runs to the right of Mita Kimizuke-machi, through Daimachi, and reaches the rural and urban boundaries of Shirokane Daimachi Nichome.

No. 13.—Starts at Yurakucho Itchome, passes over the Sukiya, Mihara, and Manner bridges, and, turning to the left at Tsukiji Nichome, and crossing the Yoroi and Okawa bridges, runs to the right at Adaka-machi, Fukagawa, and then to the left at the corner of Nishi Moto-machi, terminating at New Takabashi, a turn to the right being made at Nishi-machi, Fukagawa.

No. 14.—Starts at Tatsunokuchi, turns to the left at the corner of Eirakucho Nichome, passes over the Gofuku bridge to the right of Dosan-bashi, and then, running over Kaiun-bashi and another newly-built bridge on the right of Reigan-bashi, passes over the Eitai-bridge, emerging in front of the Fukagawa Park.

No. 15.—Commences at Kuroyecho, Fukagawa, and proceeds as far as Azuma bridge, passing over the Tomioka-bashi, Taka-bashi, and Ninohashi.

No. 16.—Runs from Kakigaracho, Nihonbashi-ku, as far as Uyeno Station, passing over Izumi-bashi bridge.

No. 17.—Starts at Omagari Edokawa turns to the left at Yamato-cho, Koishikawa and then, winding to the right in front of Dentsu, descends Tomizaka Hill in Koishikawa, passes along Yushima Kiridoshi, by way of Masagocho, Hongo, and, proceeding through Okachimachi in Shitaya and Shichikencho in Asakusa, crosses over the Umaya bridge and terminates at Sototemachi, Honjo.

No. 18.—Begins in front of Kaminarimon (Thunder Gate), Asakusa, and, passing over the Azuma bridge, proceeds along Takecho, and Motomachi in Nakanogo, Honjo, turning to the right at Hachikencho, and crossing over the Sannohashi bridge, reaches Nishimachi in Fukagawa Ku.

No. 19.—Starts at Hanakawado-machi, Asakusa, and, proceeding along Shoten-machi, reaches the rural and urban boundaries of Asakusa-machi.

No. 20.—Covers a distance from Gojomachi, Uyeno, to Minowa, via Sakamotocho, Shitaya.

No. 21.—Runs from Eiraku-cho Nichome to Yuraku-cho Nichome.

No. 22.—Starts at Edokawa bridge, Koishikawa and terminates at Otowa-cho Itchome.

No. 23.—Starts at Yokkaichi, Nihonbashi-ku, and passing over the Edobashi bridge, runs through Sumiyoshi-cho and Hama-cho, as far as the Ryogoku bridge, along the Okawabata road.

No. 24.—Starts at Sakura gate and passing through the Toranomon gate, proceeds through Higura in Nishikubo to Tamachi Shichome, Shiba, along the Mita route.

No. 25.—Starts in front of the Sammon, Shiba, and terminates at Hamamatsu-cho Itchome.

No. 26.—Starts at the corner of Kobiki-cho Nichome, Kyobashi-ku, and passing along Kobiki-cho to Mizuya-cho in Kyobashi-ku, and proceeding through the Naka-dori and Yokkaichi, eventually passes ever the Sujikai bridge, reaching Matsuzumi cho, Kanda.

No. 27.—Starts at Hatago-cho, Kanda, and proceeds to Mihashi, Uyeno, through Tenjin-machi, Yushima, and along Ikenohata.

The development of the tea-trade in Annam has been rapid during the last few years, though the quantity is of course still very small. The exportation to France, which amounted to 3,400 kilogrammes in 1894, reached 20,000 kilogrammes in 1898 and is estimated at 60,000 in 1899, the total consumption of tea in France being 800,000 kilogrammes. It is claimed for the Annamese tea that it is in no way inferior in quality to the best Chinese teas.

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YOKOHAMA HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

IMPROVED CUSTOMS ACCOMMODATION.

The proposed improvements in the Harbour accommodation of this Port, as published herewith, have been placed before us by the Foreign Chamber of Commerce by permission of the Director of the Customs. We are informed that the scheme is favourably considered by the Finance Department and that an Office under control of that Department has already been established in connection with the proposal. If carried out it would take from four to five years to complete and should provide adequate facilities for the trade of the Port even if it increased greatly over its present dimensions, as it would practically quadruple the space at present at the disposal of the Customs. The general scheme will be seen to be an island, directly communicating by rail with the present Railway Station, and with the present Pier and Customs Compound, and by bridges with Basha Michi and present Customs compound, with quays long enough and with sufficient depth of water to enable 10 large steamers to discharge at one time, each steamer being provided with its own landing shed, and other large three-storied godowns, with requisite offices, &c., being also built on the reclaimed land, whilst the whole of the quays and sheds will be lighted by electricity, thus facilitating discharge by night as well as by day. If the scheme is carried out, and we trust it will be, it should make Yokohama one of the best ports for handling cargo in the East and do away with the great complaints at present heard from shipowners and consignees alike. The proposed form of the island adapts itself to the formation of the bed of the harbour, it being comparatively shallow on the proposed site with deeper water round it, and such an island would doubtless be largely formed by dredging the other parts of the Harbour, which is much needed and would be quicker and more effective than as at present discharging the dredgings outside the harbour limits. Maps showing the proposed reclamation and buildings, &c., to be erected, can be seen on application to the Secretary of the Foreign Chamber of Commerce at No. 14, Bund.

DETAILS.

The outline on the Map shows a proposed extension of the Yokohama Custom House.

The basis of the extension is a work of reclamation with projecting quay, covering a surface measuring 48 5/32 acres, (more than 3 times as large as the present Customs Compound), which is to be isolated from the foreshore of the present Custom House in the form of an island, directly connected by means of bridges. —One, a fixed iron bridge to Basha Michi; the other, a swing bridge, moved easily by hydraulic power, to permit the free passage of barges, steam-launches, &c., to the present customs compound.

The height of the reclaimed land will be 13 feet above mean water level of ordinary spring tides.

Quay.—The frontage of the reclaimed land will be 5,460 feet, and of this 4,800 feet will be allotted to the mooring of 10 steamers alongside of the quays; the wharf No. 1 and the head of the quay will be specially prepared for the accommodation of passenger-boats. The height of quay walls will be 41 feet, except wharf No. 5, where the height is reduced to 37 ft., their foundations being 28 ft. and 24 ft. respectively below water level of ordinary spring tide. The walls below M. L. W. of O.S.T. will be built up by concrete blocks laid one upon another on the rock, which consists of sandy tufa; above that level they will be mass concrete faced with granite blocks.

Landing place and sheltering harbour for small boats:—On the shoreward side of the reclaimed land, a water surface of 8,169 acres will be available as a sheltering harbour for small vessels, and the side is utilized as a wharf for the loading and unloading of cargo from lighters, barges, &c.

Roadway:—The main roadway from the head of the pier to Shinhatoba (sheltering harbour), and a branch extending to the present Customs compound, will be paved with square blocks of granite and provided with brick side-walks.

The space along the quays, also the main branch roads passing in front of the warehouses or sheds, will be paved with the same, the rest being macadam roads.

The total length of roadways will be about 3½ miles.

Railways:—The trunk line extended on a causeway from the Yokohama Railway Station compound will be connected with all the lines of rails constructed on the reclaimed land, and the line will be further extended over the swing bridge, to be connected with the lines on the iron pier in the foreshore of the present Custom House Compound. These are to communicate with each other chiefly by means of turn-outs and crossovers, but traversers and turntables are also used to facilitate the transition of wagons where space is too limited to permit a curve to be laid. The length of railway on reclaimed land will be about 7 miles.

On the seaward side of the sheds, a broadgauge track will be specially provided for the travelling cranes, facilitating the loading and unloading of cargo.

Cranes:—Stationary steam cranes, ranging in capacity from 10 to 30 tons, will be distributed along the quays,—one of the latter at the head of the quay will have a capacity of 30 tons; the one on wharf No. 2, 20 tons; that on Wharf No. 5, 10 tons. Hydraulic cranes of from 1½ to 5 tons travelling on rails with a collective lifting power of about 82 tons will be placed along the quays at suitable intervals.

Besides cranes, hydraulic capstans will be placed, at intervals, along the quays arranged with several mooring posts and rings.

Warehouses:—Five fireproof bonded warehouses, altogether 99,000 sq. ft. in extent, will be built at the places marked on the map,—each being 72 ft. in width; and the lengths varying from 240 to 300 ft.

These buildings are to be of iron muscled brick of three stories, each block to be divided into compartments by intermediate brick walls built across the warehouse, and carried up through the roof; the largest area of a compartment does not exceed 3,600 sq. ft.

Access is to be provided to the various floors by iron staircases and by fixed hydraulic lifts inside, and cranes over the tiers of doors, outside, whereby the goods can be raised direct to any floor or lowered into wagons or shifted from one floor to another.

Sheds:—A long line of ten cargo sheds, altogether covering an area of 287,280 sq. ft., will be built along the quays, each being 84 ft. in width; the lengths varying from 300 to 420 ft. according to the length of the wharf; the height 18 ft. under eaves, and each steamer will discharge its cargo into the shed where it is moored.

The sheds are to be entirely of fireproof iron construction, enclosed by corrugated iron, and to be closed with a long series of iron doors sliding on rollers, both facing the wharf and on the opposite side, so that there may be no impediment to the conveyance of goods.

The floor of the sheds on both sides of the pier will be raised 2½ ft. above the quay, being chiefly used for the direct delivery of the goods in transit to Yokokama Railway Station, and that of the others, level with the quay.

An end of each shed will be partitioned off for keeping merchandise in custody; and for the convenience of incoming passengers, a space for the inspection of baggage is to be temporarily arranged, at the time of vessels' arrival, by means of movable iron fences.

Examiner's and Inspector's office:—Four iron muscled brick buildings of one story will be built at convenient places, in order to facilitate the superintendence and transaction of all business matters connected with the Custom House.

Electric lighting and sanitary arrangement.—The inside of the sheds, the quays and roadways will be lighted at night by electricity, while the sanitary arrangements on the reclaimed land will include all necessary appliances to be provided in accordance with a most complete system of modern improvements.

The above being a general scheme may be varied according to circumstances.

The map issued by the Director of Customs in connection with the harbour reclamation scheme also shows in faint lines other reclamation schemes which have been applied for, and in several instances granted, by various Japanese Companies, to an extent that foreigners generally are little aware of. They extend from Honmoku to the creek bordering the Settlement, from the present docks to the northern arm of the breakwater; on the other side of the northern arm of the breakwater the whole of the shallow water to the beach is included and again for more than a mile on the other side of the Kanagawa Forts. The present water frontage rights are preserved by canals, and the proposed reclamations are intersected by canals at intervals. It has been evident for years past that the trade of the port was outgrowing the land available, and these extensive reclamations will enormously increase the space available for building land, manufacturing premises, &c., and ought to further increase the volume of trade of Yokohama.

CORRESPONDENCE.

L'ABBE LIGNEUL ON FREEMASONRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—A propos de l'article intitulé: L'Abbé François Ligneul on Free-Masonry: permettez-moi de vous adresser non pas une réponse, mais quelques remarques.

L'auteur m'a donné dans cet article beaucoup plus d'éloges que je n'en mérite; cependant il y en a un dont je lui sais gré, c'est d'avoir reconnu mon amour sincère de la vérité et la droiture de mes intentions. Tel est bien en effet, autant que je puis me connaître, le fond de mon âme.

Quant aux idées que j'ai exprimées relativement à la Franc-Maçonnerie, je suis si éloigné de vouloir m'obstiner à les défendre que pour tout au monde, au contraire, je voudrais m'être trompé sur tous les points, autant que l'auteur me le reproche.

Malheureusement l'histoire de l'Europe depuis un siècle est trop claire (pour parler de l'Amérique, il faut encore attendre) et l'action de la Franc-Maçonneric, avec les societés qui s'y rattachent comme des branches à leur tronc, est trop évidente pour qu'il soit possible de ne pas la voir. Si quelqu' un était capable de s'y n'éprendre, c'est celui-là qui mériterait le titre "d'aveugle" dont l'auteur de l'article me gratifie.

Qu'il y ait d'honnêtes gens dans la Franc-Maconnerie, je ne le sais que trop. Qu'il s'y practique des œuvres de bienfaïsance et d'humanité, c'est incontestable. Tout cela est reconnu et exprimé à plusieurs reprises dans mon livre.

Ce que j'y déplore et ne puis m'empêcher de déplorer, c'est que le même nom de Franc-Maçonnerie désigne une chose si différente d'elle-même selon la notion que chacun en a. C'est de voir tant d'hommes généreux trompés, et leurs personnes et leurs œuvres servir de moyen pour couvrir un plan si loin de leur pensée, et concourir, sans même qu'ils s'en doutent, à l'exécuter.

Parmi les faits sans nombre que j'aurais pu citer, j'ai pris ceux que les Japonais connaissaient mieux ou qu'ils pouvaient plus aisément comprendre; parmi les volumes de témoignages que j'avais sous la main, j'ai choisi de préférence ceux qui exprimaient plus nettement les idées les plus répandues au Japon depuis dix ans, et les principes appliqués depuis le même temps, à la politique et à l'enseignement dans ce pays.

Si j'ai traité ce sujet avec plus de soin et avec plus de zéle qu'aucun autre, c'est parce que de ce côté je croyais et je crois encore le danger plus grand.

Il est possible que je me trompe et que mon honorable Adversaire ait raison; encore un coup je le voudrais, et je le désire autant que lui-même.

Par malheur, en présence de faits si éloquents, et de documents si lumineux, je ne puis pas réussir à me convaincre. Que le lecteur qui connaît l'état de l'Europe et celui du Japon, prenne le livre en main, qu'il examine par lui-même et qu'il juge.

Avoir raison est chose fort secondaire; l'important est de chercher à diminuer le mal qui existe, et de prévenir celui beaucoup plus grand qui se prépare.

Veuillez recevoir, MONSIEUR LE REDACTEUR,

l'expression de mes sentiments respectueux,

F. LIGNEUL.

Tokyo, 14 July, 1900.

"VERY RABID."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have neither time nor patience to make anything like a comment on such a rabid and extremely flagrant article as "A Coast-port View" reproduced in your to-day's issue. The name of the *China Mail*, in which it originally appeared, is enough to dissuade me from making the attempt. But, as the writer bases his conclusions almost exclusively on the foreign relations in Formosa, or more accurately, as his real object seems to attack the Japanese Authorities in the new territory for a certain reason of his own, I, as one who had been in the Civil Service in the island for many years and had frequent opportunities to post myself, both officially and privately, a good

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deal on affairs affecting the foreign residents there, may perhaps drop a line for the benefit of some innocent readers.

That Japan "runs rough-shod over every article of her treaty with the foreign powers" in Formosa is a lie beyond expression. Foreigners fully enjoy the rights they acquired under the Chinese regime. Their leased lands which are rather vaguely marked out in reference to the old title deeds are most liberally recognized as valid. At all treaty ports except Kelung, every water frontage offering landing facilities is allowed to be monopolized by them. Previous to the new treaties' coming into operation, they were granted privileges to invest capital for camphor, sugar and tea, and even to establish depots or factories for these staples in the interior. These practices were of course against the Chinese treaty, still, for the sheer reason of their having been exercised for many years, they were countenanced by our Government. Far inland in the semi-savage district, the Spanish still remain in the ownership of a large tract of land. Jetties were permitted to be built. Lands were leased to the missionaries, or merchants, for their health or advantage; concessions absolutely withdrawn from the Japanese. Even coasting trade was granted to be carried on between the ports in Taiwan. In short, every consideration and courtesy were shown to the foreigners so far as they were not in direct violence with the spirit of the old treaty. It is rather hard to guess at what the correspondent intends to mean by "a gang of corrupt officials who are allowed to place differential duties, &c." He will oblige me if he can recite some concrete cases. That Chinamen are being squeezed if they do not travel by the Government subsidized line is simply nonsense. Besides, such a question, along with the one about the tea-trade channel, is too foolish to be raised by people whose motto is "fair field and no favour." The statement that "justice for Britishers in the Japanese Courts is un-obtainable" is one I should like him no prove; to prove which he will have to give some particular cases. I understand no noticeable suits have been instituted by foreigners in the Formosan Courts. Chinese servants employed by foreigners, contrary to what he asserts, have been treated as if they were as privileged as their masters. It has been the practice of these fellows, therefore, to enlist themselves as nominal employés and thus enjoy the immunities. Some of them were criminal enough under these advantages to secretly refine opium or to import the same, ammunition and guns for supply to the robbers.

British cemeteries, as well as those belonging to the French at Kelung and the Pescadores, have been and are, I understand, under the care of the Government to be kept clean and safe. As for the protection of foreign lives and properties, it will be superfluous for me to explain how they have been effected. The writer will probably not forget that the only damage done to foreign property at Takow during the war was more than compensated. I am not aware of any reasonable complaint raised by the foreigners during my long service there. Although the British Communities in that distant island are ridiculously small, there are some typical English gentlemen, whether merchant or missionary, well entitled to social positions in larger circles. Japanese relations with them are, I believe, smooth and cordial on the whole. But there are exceptions as usual. I extremely regret to observe among your compatriots a gentlemen who has not the courage to sign his own letter, or who is a *fin de siècle* example of that old and homely proverb "circumstances alter cases."

Apologising for encroaching so much upon your valuable space.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Yokohama, June 15th, 1900.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The Hongking and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Yokohama, send us the following list of names of additional subscribers to the above Fund :—

Amount already acknowledged	4.184.87
J. E. Beale	50.00
A. H.	10.00
Frazar & Co.	100.00
H. W. L.	25.00
J. M. James	100.00
Japanese Christians, C. M. S. Hakodate	25.00
Otto Reimers & Co.	100.00
Total	4,594.87

A SWEET SINGER IN JAIL.

The "patriotard," as well as the patriot, has been in rather tiresome prominence since the war commenced, and his effusions in prose and verse have generally been execrable. The latest achievement in the line of patriotic poetry comes from British Columbia. It was written by a jail-bird, who, despite the depressing effects of Her Majesty's temperance hotel, sings melodiously in his cage. His effusion was sung with great fervour on the Queen's Birthday. It runs as follows :—

Be proud to-day that Britain's flag is waving, in its pride,
O'er rocky mounts, over fertile plains, and oceans' boundless tide.
Though we are held as bonded slaves, and pine in captive thrall;
Still we can honour Britain's flag, within the prison wall.

The flag that proudly floats above the noble and the brave,
That makes its prestige felt on land, and holds it on the wave;
That always spreads its folds abroad at truth's or honour's call,
May yet in triumph wave o'er us, without the prison wall.

Breathes there a man who ne'er has felt his pulses wildly thrill,
When gazing on the noble flag, that owns our homage still?
Then join as Britons should to-day, and let us, one and all,
Pay honour to our gallant flag, within the prison wall.

Though dark the future now may loom, and sad the past has been,
We yet are loyal to our flag, and love our gracious Queen.
Then banish thoughts that swathe the hearts with sorrow's gloomy pall,
We yet may stand beneath that flag, without the prison wall.

NOTES FROM CHINA.

Mr. W. J. Solly, for ten years chief clerk in the Hongkong Post Office, has been appointed British Postmaster at Shanghai.

The Hongkong Post Office, notwithstanding the penny rate to Great Britain and her colonies, made a profit last year of $80,006.60.

According to a Shanghai native paper, there has been a great amount of kidnapping at Hankow recently; in fact it has been a daily occurrence. A kidnapper was caught lately and sent to the Hsia-kow magistrate, who, however, inflicted no punishment. The next two caught, therefore, on the 30th ult., were promptly beaten to death by the inhabitants of Hankow.

Recently in the Mixed Court at Shanghai, before Mr. Wêng (magistrate), and Mr. M. Odagiri (Acting Consul for Japan), Messrs. Murai Bros., the well-known tobacco dealers of Kyoto, sued the sureties of their compradore for a defalcation of $26,000. It appeared in the agreement with the compradore that they were not to furnish him goods in excess of Tls. 6,000 at any time. Mr. T. R. Jernigan defended the sureties and argued that as Murai Bros. had violated the agreement they were not entitled to recover, or that, if they were entitled to recover, it could only be Tls. 6,000 less the credits due the compradore. The magistrate took the latter view and decided that the credits due the compradore amounted to Tls. 3,000, which he deducted and then gave judgment for Tls. 3,000, which he divided between the two sureties, and which Mr. Jernigan accepted for his clients. It appeared during the trial that after the compradore had run away the Japanese, without authority, went into the house of one of the sureties, searched it, and affixed their seals to the boxes and trunks.

Leading members of the Reform Party residing in Shanghai, representing no less than fourteen of the eighteen provinces of China, have drawn up a petition, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, addressed to the Chief Secretaries of State of Great Britain, the United States, and Japan, praying that the three Powers will unite and oppose any action of the other Treaty Powers pointing towards any division of the Empire; that efforts be made to rescue His Majesty Kuang Hsü from the hands of the Empress Dowager and her reactionary advisers through whose conduct the present troubles are alone due; and that His Majesty may be assisted in selecting a new capital of the empire where a Reform Government may be inaugurated. This, the petitioners claim, is the only means of restoring order and peace throughout China, which, so long as the Empress Dowager and her advisers are in power, will never happen. Finally the loyalty and patriotism of the people of China had been much strengthened by the Reform decrees enacted in 1898, hence the masses are most anxious to see the Emperor restored to power and independence.

Viceroy Liu of Nanking, says a Shanghai contemporary, has sent instructions to the various yamêns under his jurisdiction in the Liangkiang provinces to keep careful watch on the conduct of the members of the Tatao Hui or "Big Knife Society," who are known to abound in the vicinity of Kiangyin, Chinkiang, and up the Grand Canal, including Tsingkiangpu and Hsüchoufu, which is the home of the society. As soon as a suspicious character is arrested and found to be a "Big Knife man" he is to be summarily decapitated without first referring to Nanking for permission. It would be well here to inform readers that the Iho Ch'uan Society is merely an off-shoot of the Tatao Hui, the name of Iho Ch'uan having been adopted by Shantung and northern members as a cover, the Big Knives being too well known as a revolutionary society. The Iho Ch'uan first called themselves "Iho Ch'uan Hui," but owing to the character "Hui"—a secret society—being obnoxious to the Government and moreover prohibited by law, they dropped the designation "Hui," at the Empress Dowager's own suggestion, and assumed the character "T'uan"—militia body—as their suffix to "Iho Ch'uan." It will be remembered that the Imperial decree of the 6th inst. confirms this by saying that the Society men "simply trained themselves for self-defence," that is say, were changed from "Hui" to "T'uan," and therefore innocent of any intention to rebel against the Government.

The *North China Daily News* prints the following horrible tale without comment :—

Some time ago Detective-Inspector Armstrong made a clever capture of the chief of the ruffians who have made the name of Pootung notorious. The prisoner in question, besides being a well-known black-mailer and kidnapper, was guilty of the horrible atrocity of cutting two men's eyes out. He was found guilty at the Mixed Court and sent into the Chinese City for punishment. It was expected that he would be decapitated, but yesterday news came into the Settlement that he was to suffer death by slow strangulation. The process is one of a really barbarous nature, the prisoner standing, with a close fitting cangue round his neck, in a cage of wooden bars some 6ft. 10in. in height. On the bottom of the cage are flat slabs of stone on which his feet rest and from day to day these stones are removed until he is left hanging in the cangue. Yesterday the culprit, who was placed in a squalid evil smelling courtyard just inside the new North Gate, was visited by thousands of men, women, and children. A few runners, armed with canes, were the only visible guards, and they thrashed the yelling crowd right lustily as they pressed on the condemned man. On the walls and housetops about were large crowds. The principal actor appeared to be the least concerned of all. He was eating some rice cake and chatting cheerfully with some women close by, but directly he saw a couple of foreigners training their kodaks on him, he faced about and pulled his hat down over his eyes. A bribe of 50 cents induced him to let one photograph be taken of his features, but one only. Heavy irons encircle the prisoner's ankles, but with the guard on duty yesterday it did not look as if it would be a hard matter for a few desperate and armed men to effect a rescue. To-day the prisoner will be moved to the East Gate. It is estimated that the wretched creature will be strangled in about four days, after severe suffering.

The *North-China Daily News* says that the following telegraphic news was received by members of the Reform Party in Shanghai on June 15 :—"Prince Ching, and Liao Shou-hêng, President of the Board of Rites, have been dismissed

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from the Tsungli Yamên as 'too timid,' and although Prince Tuan, father of the Heir-Apparent, was appointed the same day (10th inst.) to succeed Prince Ching as President of the Yamên, he strongly declined to take the post. The Empress Dowager, however, stood firm and further appointed Prince Na Yen-tu, Ch'i Hsiu, and P'u Hsing members of the Tsungli Yamên 'in order to assist Prince Tuan in inaugurating the new policy.'" If what the telegram above-noted says is true, and we have no reason to doubt its accuracy, we can easily imagine what this "new policy" of the Empress Dowager's Government will be, namely, that it will be more reactionist and more anti-foreign than any hitherto attempted by any Chinese government, even in its most conservative days. We have already given a slight, but nevertheless quite a sufficient sketch of the new President of the Tsungli Yamên in our issue of yesterday morning, and it is, therefore, only necessary to state that his "assistant," Na Yen-tu, is a Mongol Prince of the Alatsin Tribe, who has always been patronised by Prince Ching and others of the Empress Dowager's advisers, who lately got him promoted to the rank of a Minister of the Presence, in order to get as many of their own people as possible around the present usurper of the Throne. Ch'i Hsin, President of the Board of Rites, and P'u Hsing, the other two "assistants in the new policy," are Imperial Clausmen who are great friends of Kang Yi and who have lately come into greater prominence owing to their also being reactionists and violent anti-foreigners. P'u Hsing is a Vice President of one of the Six Boards who. it will be remembered, was sent to Shantung last year to investigate charges made against Chang Ju-mei, then Governor of Shantung, for bribing Li Hung-chang when the latter went to that province to investigate the Yellow River. Chang Ju-mei was dismissed but Li Hung-chang escaped through the friendship of the Empress Dowager.

THE MITA SYSTEM OF ETHICS AND ITS DETRACTORS.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

It is well-known that for over twenty years the Japanese have been searching for a new basis of ethics. Opinion on this subject may now be said to have settled down to three distinct lines of thought. (1) There are those who maintain that religion is the proper and the only sure basis for ethics. (2) There are those who believe that philosophy alone furnishes a satisfactory basis. (3) There is the practical school, which contends that morality, like all other things in the world, can only be judged by the benefits it confers on those who observe it, that the only ethical basis that has a chance of being understood and appreciated is one that appeals to the faculty that judges of moral facts, the internal consciousness.

(1). In reference to the first of these views it is necessary to observe that by religion we mean a creed based on a belief in miracles or a supernatural interference with the working of nature's laws. Speaking of the Japanese as a nation, after more than a quarter of a century's study of them we have no hesitation in saying that there is not the shadow of a chance of their accepting this basis for any system of national ethics that they may construct. From what we wrote more than twelve years ago on this subject we beg leave to make a short extract. The words represented the ideas of leading Japanese on the subject of the religious basis for ethics at the time they were written, but we venture to think that they have been strongly emphasized by the tendency of Japanese thought during the past four or five years. "The idea that morality, to be taught effectually, must be based entirely on religion has been for years in every part of the world the source of incalculable mischief. Religion, we use the term in its ordinary sense as applied to a system of faith and ceremony claiming to be based on some kind of supernatural revelation, has to do with things far off, mystic, incomprehensible—such as rewards and punishments in a future life, the need of semi-miraculous spiritual influences, the nature, attributes, and self-revelations of Gods and divinities. Morality, or Ethics, on the other hand, deals with what is near, lucid, practical, intelligible—such as rewards and punishments in this life, mental and physical; the grand practical reforms to be effected by a thorough application of admitted ethical principles; our duties as human beings, as members of society, and as citizens. To maintain that to induce a man to act rightly in matters which *immediately* concern him, the only plan is to direct him to something that *remotely* concerns him; that in order to persuade him to act in the best manner possible for this world, you must induce him to fear the punishments and expect the rewards of another world, appears to ordinary common sense illogical. With the old system a certain amount of progress was made. Men have in the past in certain countries and for a certain time been moral because they were superstitious, but that the Japanese, who in all other matters take delight in being abreast of the age, should, in their eagerness to attain a certain end, confine themselves to a set of means that, as Professor Huxley and others have shown, are being more and more discarded in the west, is too much to expect. . . . Instead of morality deriving strength from being based on religion, in as far as it rests on this basis it is weak and open to attack. About so-called religious doctrines very few people agree. But whether the man who speaks the truth or the man who lies is the man to be esteemed; whether kindly feeling is not preferable to malice; whether the honest, plain-speaking man is not to be chosen as a friend rather than the smooth-tongued, flattering, and double-faced; whether the man who maintains his family, helps his relations, and is always ready to serve his country is not better than the man who skulks out of all such duties, and the like—these are matters about which all civilised people are agreed." *

(2). Religion, divested of its supernaturalism, as Christianity, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism have been divested by certain sects and schools of thought, becomes a system of philosophy. As such we grant that it may form a basis for ethics to a select few. The trouble is that ethics founded on philosophy are quite unintelligible to the majority of those persons who most need guidance in morals. We know of no system of philosophic ethics that does not require very special talents and technical training in the student who aspires to understand and act upon it. We are then confronted with the fact that, though morality is of vital importance to the whole world, only a very small section of human society takes any interest in philosophic questions. Does not this fact put ethics founded on philosophy out of court in an inquiry such as we are conducting? It is not a basis of ethics that may suit a few highly cultured men that the Japanese are in search of, but a basis that can be understood and appreciated even by that very typical personage the "man in the street."

(3). Realising all the above-named difficulties and many more which we have not deemed it necessary to state, Mr. Fukuzawa has for a great many years been an earnest preacher of practical utilitarian ethics as the only system that possesses the two essential attributes of thorough intelligibility and great effectiveness. Until acts are considered right or wrong because of their proved consequences in this world, says Mr. Fukuzawa, there can be no universally satisfactory basis for morals. Many hard things have been said about utilitarianism as an ethical creed, but we have no hesitation in saying that in every case those who have represented utilitarianism as an ignoble belief have misunderstood the meaning of the word utility in some way or other. As Mill has observed, "questions of ultimate ends do not admit of proof in the ordinary acceptation of the term. To be incapable of proof by reason is common to all first principles; to the first premises of our knowledge, as well as to those of our conduct." Questions about ends resolve themselves into questions as to what things are desirable. Now the whole human race is agreed in thinking happiness to be desirable, and that is sufficient proof that it is desirable. Happiness may be said to have made out its title to be one of the ends of conduct and therefore one of the criteria of morality. This is held by all utilitarians, but no well-informed utilitarian will assert that happiness is the sole criterion of morality. He will admit that virtue also is desirable for itself and also as a means of happiness. Speaking broadly, the view of the utilitarian is that the welfare of the community and the welfare of individuals in every respect is the final object of all morality, as it is of all other existing enlightening agencies. He does not hold that morality is one and the same in all times and for all persons. He realises that in the different stages of progress through which individuals and nations pass different moral principles need to be enunciated. Certain general principles may be said to be fixed, but the application of these must depend on circumstances. Briefly stated, these are Mr. Fukuzawa's views. The Mita system of ethics, as it is now known in Japan, did not wholly originate with Mr. Fukuzawa, though doubtless it is in the main an embodiment of his views. The *Shûshin Yôryô*, in which the system is unfolded and explained, was compiled by certain teachers in the Keiôgijiku and afterwards received the sanction of Mr. Fukuzawa. A full outline of the contents of the *Shûshin Yôryô* was given in the March Monthly Summary of the Religious Press (March 9th). Owing to the way in which the Mita doctrines have been distorted by certain Christian writers on the one hand and by conservative writers like Dr. Inoue Tetsujirô on the other, a few days ago* a concise account of the sense in which the terms "Independence and Self-respect," the basis of the Mita ethics, are used in the *Shûshin Yôryô* was published in the *Jiji Shimpô*; which we translate below.

"Though it is not easy to convey in a few words all the breadth of meaning contained in the terms independence and self-respect, which form the basis of the system of morality propounded in the *Shûshin Yôryô*, the following explanation of the term, furnished to one or two of the students of the Keiôgijiku in response to inquiries on the subject, suffices to give some idea of their import.

(1.) A man of independence and self-respect mixes freely with his fellow-men and has no small regard for them, but on this account he does not in the slightest degree alter his own convictions.

(2.) A man of independence and self-respect exercises self-control and self-discipline.

(3.) A man of independence and self-respect holds truth and integrity in high esteem and neither deceives himself nor deceives others.

(4.) A man of independence and self-respect is anxious to help others to develop to the full their independence and self-respect.

(5.) Although a man may by his personal efforts make a living for himself and his family, if he does not fulfil his duties to society at large, he cannot be called a man of independence and self-respect.

(6.) A man of independence and self-respect observes all obligatory rules without waiting to be told to do so by others.

(7.) It goes without saying that a man of independence and self-respect should fulfil his duties to himself, his family, and his country, but he must also fulfil his duty to all mankind and to the lower animals.

(8.) He who is a slave to his own lusts and who has no control over himself, can neither be said to be independent nor to possess self-respect.

(9.) He who, instead of being controlled by the forces of nature, uses them as a means of making his life refined, useful, and happy is a man of independence and self-respect.

(10.) He who is so ill-acquainted with truth as to be swayed to and fro by the wind of superstition is not a man of independence and self-respect.

(11.) He who is so affected by the good or ill that may befall him as to lose his equanimity is not a man of independence and self-respect.

(12.) He who knows how to accumulate money, but knows not how to spend it, is not a man of independence and self-respect.

(13.) Arrogance is the result of a very despicable disposition of mind and is not entertained by a man who has self-respect.

* *Vide Japan Mail*, March 17, 1888, "The Japanese in search of a Basis for Ethics."

* *Vide* the issue of June 1st.

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(14.) He who respects himself respects others; and he who despises himself despises others.

These explanations undoutedly clear the Mita system of ethics from the charges formulated by Dr. Inoue Tetsujirô, and some Christian writers, to the effect that the "self" which is held up for esteem is an ignoble "self." We cannot understand how any careful reader of the *Shûshin Yôryô* could accuse its compilers of making an inferior type of human nature the basis of an ethical system. Throughout the 29 sections of which the work is composed a very lofty type of man is held up for imitation. The ideal man of the Mita school of ethics is a man who has cultivated to the full his moral nature (sec. 12), a man who respects the rights of others (sec. 14), a man who is averse to harbouring jealousy and hatred (sec. 15), a man who has a high sense of responsibility and who acts honestly and straightforwardly towards those to whom he is responsible (sec. 16), a man who trusts others and gives them good reason to trust him (sec. 17), a man who carefully observes the etiquette of life (sec. 18), a man who knows how to make allowance for the feelings of others (sec. 19), a man whose kindness of heart extends even to animals (sec. 20), a man who has been subjected to the refining and elevating influences of art and literature, a man who serves his country well, pays his taxes, and obeys the law (sec. 22, 23, 24 and 25), a man who treats foreigners as his equals (sec. 26), a man of progressive spirit who aims at transmitting to posterity the civilization he has inherited in an improved form (sec. 27).

Two distinct classes of objectors to Mr. Fukuzawa's ethics have come forward. One of these, led by Dr. Inoue, objects to it on philosophic grounds, the other repudiates it on religious grounds. The sentiments expressed in Dr. Inoue's Sendai speech, reported fully in these columns, have, we observe, been restated in Tôkyô, and have attracted a good deal of attention throughout the country. It seems to us that the objections to the Mita ethics stated in that speech will not bear examination. Let us take them in order. "A standard of morality," says Dr. Inoue, "ought to be universally applicable, and nothing can be plainer than the fact that Mr. Fukuzawa's standard is not universally applicable." Now in the first place it is only fair to state that the compilers of the *Shûshin Yôryô* make no pretensions to supply the country with a new standard of morality. All they do is to lay stress on the importance of certain moral principles. But is it true to say that the various standards of morality in use to-day are universally applicable? Does not every nation possess its own standard? And is not the standard constantly undergoing change? Is the standard the same in England to-day that it was fifty years ago? We are not now speaking of general abstract principles, but of that standard which each normal man and each normal woman has in his or her mind when considering actions, their own or those of others. Dr. Inouye has not given us his own standard and so we are not in a position to judge of it, but from many remarks that he has made we infer that it will be prove to be absolute, and therefore practically unusable. Mr. Fukuzawa's doctrine, says Dr. Inoue, is a reaction from the subjection taught in this country for so many centuries and therefore is not to be relied on. Have not all important doctrines on religious and moral subjects been reactions? Were not the doctrines of Shaka Muni and Christ reactions against the thraldom of prevailing ideas in India and Judæa respectively? Has not the world's progress been marked by perpetual reactious? "Could morality exist at all if the doctrine of subjection to lawful authority were abolished?" asks Dr. Inoue. Where in the *Shûshin Yôryô* is this course recommended? Does not the Mita system of ethics lay stress on the importance of obeying all lawful authority (*vide* secs. 11, 24 and 25)? Dr. Inoue proceeds to set up another dummy, absolute independence, and to demolish it to his own satisfaction. "Where in actual life," he asks, "is absolute independence possible?" From Mr. Fukuzawa's writings scores of passages could be quoted which would all give the answer "nowhere." Dr. Inoue next proceeds to argue that the Mita system of ethics is Rousseauism dished up afresh. We confess that we fail to see the resemblance. Mr. Fukuzawa is far too shrewd a man not to see that the doctrine of the equality of all men as it was understood in France at the time of the Revolution, even if proclaimed here, which as yet it has not been, would make no headway. The fault we have to find with Dr. Inoue's attack on the Mita ethics is that it entirely fails to represent them in their true light. The system is of course, imperfect and intended to fill a gap. But it is quite untrue to say that there is anything ignoble or demoralising in it. It is quite unfair to say that it is an ignominious "Self" that Mr. Fukuzawa exalts to the throne in his new kingdom. We have strong suspicions that Dr. Inoue's chief grudge against Mr. Fukuzawa is connected with what Dr. Inoue would call the pro-foreign bias of the Mita Sage. This stalwart apostle of western methods and western thought is an eyesore to men of conservative instincts like Dr. Inoue. Dr. Inoue holds Mr. Fukuzawa responsible for prevailing money-worship. We ourselves, after very careful scrutiny, have come to the conclusion that there is very little money-worship anywhere in Japan. If money-worship consists of spending money almost as fast as it is made, if not a little faster, as Count Matsukata has lately told us is the custom with the majority of the Japanese, then the nation is composed of money-worshippers. Most sensible people will see that Mr. Fukuzawa's views on the value of money are those of advanced western nations and that the premium put on poverty by Dr. Inoue is but the echo of a past state of thought that is in a fair way of being eradicated from the mind of the nation.

The chief objection brought against the Mita system of ethics by Christian writers has already been partly answered. But another objection demands consideration. A very shrewd writer in the *Koye* a short time ago maintained that human nature can not be considered noble if what Mr. Fukuzawa writes about it is true. Mr. Fuzukawa is a materialist, says this writer. "From the point of view of materialism there is very little difference between human beings and ordinary animals. Whence then comes the reason for man's self-esteem? Is not his life utterly insignificant? Dust he is and to dust he shall return. What is there in him that is worthy of honour? The view of human nature adopted by Mr. Fukuzawa ill accords with the elevation of self-esteem into a basis of morality. If the immortality of the soul be denied, man ceases to occupy a prominent place in the Universe. The Christian can appreciate all Mr. Fukuzawa says about self-esteem, because his view of the origin and of the destination of man ennobles human nature. But in the absence of Christian belief self-esteem is meaningless and ineffective as a motive power. Mr. Fukuzawa has adopted the conclusion to which Christians have come, namely, that human nature is noble and worthy of high honour, but he denies the premises on which that conclusion rests. Hence his system of morality is illogical and can never effect much good." This is certainly a very powerful argument and an argument that to a certain extent is irrefutable. As was pointed out in these columns some time ago, Mr. Fukuzawa's system of moral philosophy reveals serious inconsistencies. But the question is, do not the two views of human nature given by Mr. Fukuzawa represent the true condition of man? Is not his existence here regarded from one point of view utterly insignificant, while differently regarded it assumes great importance? Can it be truthfully said that the importance attached to life by the majority of people even in so called Christian countries to-day is dependent on belief in the immortality of the soul? We think that if a census of opinion could be taken on this point, the answer would be an emphatic, no. Men value life for what it yields of happiness, and invariably wish it to end when all hope of happiness is gone. Most of us are thoroughly convinced of the fact that the world can get on without us; that it is only those who depend on our work or our counsel that will really miss us. If we think it important to lengthen out our lives as much as possible, it is because we realise our responsibilities in one or other of life's many relationships to persons dependent on us. The importance of man on account of his high destiny or his divine origin may be said to be an exploded theory, that served a good purpose when man knew less about the universe and its laws than he does now. Now that we have discovered other planets and have pictured to ourselves the millions of beings that have inhabited or may in the future inhabit those distant regions, the old notion that the countless trillions of personal units that have appeared on this planet will have their separate individual existence perpetuated to all time, though it did good service in firing the imagination of a Dante or a Milton, is regarded by us as more serious but not more true than what Gulliver has written about Brobdignag, Laputa, and other places. Yet the fact remains, on which Mr. Fukuzawa lays stress, that man's life is, in all civilised countries, considered important. The argument of the defenders of religion, that you can have no satisfactory morality without religion, then falls to the ground; for while belief in a supernatural religion is daily on the wane, there is not a single community of any importance in the world but acknowledges the necessity of morality and possesses it own special standard.

Utilitarianism as a system of philosophy may be unintelligible to the masses, but Mr. Fukuzawa's adaptation of the leading principles of this system may be understood even by a man who has enjoyed few educational advantages. Of what does and what does not conduce to the welfare of society most people are very fair judges. What stamp of man and what stamp of woman Japan does need to possess in the Twentieth Century, when her competition with Western nations will yearly become keener? This is the question which the compilers of the *Shûshin Yôryô* have sought to answer. They have no doubt left many things unsaid and in our opinion have said some things that need not have been said. Among the latter insistence on independence of spirit, a quality which seems to us already developed to excess in most young men, must be included. But on the whole they are to be congratulated for having turned the discussion of ethics away from barren theories about abstract standards and centred it on practical life. They have appealed to common-sense and will not appeal in vain. As for their being any authority for moral teaching beyond that which the consensus of an ever changing opinion gives to it, the notion is antiquated in the extreme and has been dismissed by the Mita moralists as unworthy of a moment's consideration. The Mita, system is founded on the bed rock of bare fact and hence has a stability not possessed by the aerial structures that pose as its rivals. Mr. Fukuzawa knows well what are the conscientions feelings of his fellow-country-men. To these he has appealed, and in doing so has adopted the course which moral reformers of all times and all countries have followed with success.

AMERICAN NOTES.

According to United States Assayer Braden, the copper taken from the mine of Montana last year, was worth no less than $40,000,000. That is the largest amount of that metal ever produced in any State in a single year, and it takes no account of the revenue from other mineral resources.

The Methodist General Conference at Chicago on May 25 made the following appointments:—Chicago, Bishop Merrill; Philadelphia, Bishop Foss; Washington, Bishop Hurst; Denver, Bishop Warren; Minneapolis, Bishop Joyce: New York, Bishop Andrews; Boston, Bishop Mallilieu; Zurich, Bishop Vincent; Cincinnati, Bishop Fowler; Shanghai, Bishop Moore; San Francisco or Los Angeles, Bishop Hamilton; Portland, Or., Bishop Cranston; Detroit, Bishop Ninde; Chattanooga, Bishop Goodsell; St. Louis, Bishop Fitzgerald; Topeka, Bishop McCabe.

The agents of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha have given notice that the *Hongkong Maru*, which was due at Honolulu on May 29th, would be the last of that line of steamers that will carry

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freight and passengers between Honolulu and the Pacific Coast, on account of the provisions of the Hawaiian bill extending the U.S. navigation laws to the islands. The *Doric*, due on June 12th, was the last of the Occidental and Oriental steamers which will carry freight or passengers between Honolulu and San Francisco.

By a decision of the Hawaiian Supreme Court the Queen's museum in Honolulu, founded by the late Queen Emma, loses practically all its endowment. The case turned on the meaning of issue. Queen Emma's father, an Englishman, left her a large fortune, with the condition that if she died without issue the estate should revert to his nephew in England. Queen Emma had a son, but the child died years before the mother. Yet this was regarded as fulfilling the provisions of the will. Now the Court holds that the testator meant living issue at the time of Queen Emma's death and it awards the estate to the English heir.

Miss Catherine Stauffer Clark, daughter of Mr. William A. Clark, the multi-millionaire of Montana, was married to Dr. L. R. Mouris at St. Thomas, New York, on May 28th. It was an expensive wedding for the bride's father, as the following figures show :—

	Yen.
Senator Clark's wedding gift.....	85,000
Trousseau	15,000
Wedding decorations and church fees...	6,000
Caterer's and engraver's charges.....	5,000
Honeymoon yacht for four months.....	10,000
Bride's gift to her attendants	150
Total cost	121,150

The cost of operating Columbia University, New York, from June, 1900, to June, 1901, will exceed $1,000,000. The trustees of the university at their last meeting appropriated $946,837 for prospective educational and administrative purposes during the coming year, $111,181.80 for interest on bonds and other indebtedness of the corporation, and $52,245.25 for the payment of interest, taxes and other charges on other property of the university. Other small additional appropriations were made, and it is estimated that about $1,200,000 will be used by the university during the next academic year. This sum is considerably larger than has ever been required before, and it is feared that the usual annual deficit may become exaggerated.

Price, McCormick & Co., one of the largest brokerage houses in New York, failed on May 24, with liabilities estimated at $13,000,000. The firm is a member of the Stock, Cotton and Produce Exchanges and of the Chicago Stock Exchange, and has branch offices in about thirty cities throughout the United States. The failure is ascribed to the fact that the firm was "long of cotton" in the face of a fast falling market. The firm is composed of Messrs. Theodore H. Price, William G. McCormick, R. G. M. Stewart-Wortley and Walter W. Price, with George Crocker of San Francisco a special partner on an investment of $500,000. Mr. McCormick is of the well-known Chicago family of agricultural implement fame, and Mr. Stewart-Wortley is a son-in-law of Rear Admiral Schley. The firm was organized on January 2, 1897. Of the partners, Mr. Crocker is now in Europe, and Mr. Stewart-Wortley is on his way back from Europe.

The following message from Honolulu, bearing date of May 13, appears in American papers :—The Parkhurst campaign against the Japanese procurers came to a sudden termination yesterday. In a test case made against one of sixteen who had been arrested, Justice Frear, sitting as an examining magistrate, decided that the evidence did not bring the defendant with the statute invoked. All the defendants were then discharged, and sixteen warrants in similar cases which had not yet been served were recalled. Theodore Richards, who was at the head of the movement, sought to have a large number of Japanese men who control the business of prostitution among the Japanese women declared vagrants and deported under a Hawaiian treaty with Japan authorizing deportation on conviction of vagrancy. The evidence adduced showed a species of slavery to exist, the women being slaves of this class of men. But Justice Frear held that it failed to show vagrancy. Much fear is entertained that violence may be done to some of the witnesses who appeared against the defendants.

The statue of General Grant, presented by the Grand Army of the Republic to the nation, was unveiled in the great rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, on May 19, and elaborate ceremonies commemorative of the event were held in the Hall of Representatives in the presence of a vast concourse of people, including the widow, daughter, and descendants of the hero of Appomattox, hundreds of his comrades in arms, the officers and committee of the Grand Army of the Republic, and many distinguished persons in military, political and social circles. The statue of the pre-eminent chief of the Union forces in the civil war represents the contributions of thousands of his comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, none of whom was allowed to subscribe more than 15 cents, and is the result of a movement started shortly after General Grant's death, in July, 1885. It is the work of Mr. Franklin Simmons, an American sculptor. Of marble, of heroic size, it stands on a granite pedestal emblazoned with a bronze seal of the Grand Army of the Republic, representing the grim old hero in the full uniform of a general, equipped for the field with top boots and gauntlets, his cloak over his arm and his right hand resting on the hilt of his sword.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Information from Hongkong says that during the second week of June new cases of pest numbered 81 and deaths 75. The total number of cases from January were 457, and of deaths 389.

A fire broke out on Wednesday afternoon shortly after three o'clock at the residence of Mr. A. L. Bagnall, 45B Bluff. Part of the upper floor was damaged, and the roof suffered slightly. The dropping of an alcohol lamp was the cause of the fire.

The Russian flagship *Rurik* arrived at Yokohama on Tuesday morning, and exchanged the usual salutes. She is under the command of Captain Haupt, and has a displacement of 13,500 tons, with 48 guns and 18 knots speed. She had on board the new Minister to Japan, M. Iswolsky, who was met by Baron Rosen and the staff of the Russian Legation.

The American soldier costs his country no less than $1,502 a year. Great Britain, which has the smallest Army of all the great European Powers, expends, roughly, £65 a year on each of her soldiers. Austria, with an Army of over a million men, expends £45 a year for each soldier. Germany and France are equal, with an individual outlay of £43. Italy with the second smallest Army, spend £38 a year on each soldier; and the cost of the Russian soldier is estimated at £37.

It is only a few years since the Government railway workshops at Kobe put together the first locomotives built in Japan, and now comes news that the Tetsudo Sharyo Kaisha, of Atsuta, Owari, a private company, having set up a completely equipped shop, have turned out their first locomotive. The order is for three locomotives, and was given by the Tokushima Railway Company. The engine in its trials answered all expectations. It was built from the designs of Mr. J. McDonald, M. I. Mech. E., who also supplied all the working drawings.

The work of piercing the Simplon Tunnel, which was begun in the autumn of 1898, has proceeded uninterruptedly, and very satisfactory progress has been made, according to Mr. Consul Armstrong, in his report on Lombardy. At the end of 1899 the work done amounted to 1,748 yards on the south and 2,523 yards on the north side, making a total of 4,271 yards, which is 1,208 in excess of what the contractors had engaged to do in the time. The length of the tunnel will be 12 miles, 463 yards. No unforeseen difficulties have been encountered so far, and now it is very unlikely that any such should be met with. The system of ventilating the workings appears to be as perfect as could be desired.

The French fleet is to be provided with a new quick-firing gun, and an order has been given to the Ruelle Works, Charente, for the supply of 100 to the fleet before the end of the year. The gun, says the *Navy League Journal*, is of 6.3in. calibre, throws a projectile of 114lb., has a muzzle velocity of 2,952ft.-secs., and can be fired five times per minute. The projectile will pierce steel armour-plate 12.6in. in thickness. It is claimed that the English 6in. gun is much inferior to this, the comparative figures showing the British naval gun as of 6in., projectile 100lb., muzzle velocity 2,800ft.-secs.

The demand for kerosene is rapidly increasing. Government statistics show that in the 1st year of *Meiji* the import amounted to only 7,236 *yen*, but by the 20th year the figure had risen to 1,871,428, *yen*, and by the 30th year to 7,667,350 *yen*. At present the annual import does not fall short of 10 millions of *yen*. Comparative figures for the past three years are as follows :—1897, 7,552,880 *yen*; 1898, 7,667,350; 1899, 6,331,036. The import from Russia does not exceed 22 per cent of that from America, the figures for 1898 being, 1,133,807 *yen* and 5,910,774 *yen* respectively. In view of the increasing demand the *Nippon* urges that kerosene enterprises in Japan should be encouraged to the utmost.

The Imperial Geographical Society of Russia has just received a written report from M. Kosloff, the leader of the expedition which was dispatched across Central Asia to explore the Great Desert of Gobi or Shamo, in Eastern Turkestan and Mongolia. From east to west, this desert extends 1,500 miles, with a breadth from north to south varying from 500 to 700 miles. This practically unknown region lying between Andijan, the terminus for the present of the Central Asian Railway, and Peking is destined to become the sphere of Russian railway activity in the course of time. During the expedition M. Kosloff and his followers were obliged to traverse regions in which the winter temperature varied from 38° of cold to 17° of heat, Reaumur. Several hitherto unknown lakes have been discovered, and the members of the survey were the first Europeans to explore many districts. Foxes, wolves, and hares were met with at various points.

The past twelvemonth has been a period of literary surprises in the field of fiction. At least three novels by American authors have had within a period of a few months sales unprecedented in recent years, "Richard Carvel," "David Harum," and "Janice Meredith." And now comes a new and remarkably promising aspirant to popularity, Miss Mary Johnstone's "To Have and to Hold," a historical novel dealing with the settlement of Jamestown. Within two weeks and a half the sales, it is announced, reached 111,000 copies, and it has now touched 200,000. Even "Uncle Tom's Cabin" can not show such figures, for it took two months to reach a sale of 100,000 copies, and a year to reach 200,000. All these remarkable sales are believed to indicate a vast growth of recent years in the American reading public. At no time has so tempting a field been presented to the successful novelist.

The *Mainichi* publishes a report of the Finance Department with regard to the foreign trade of Japan for the past five years :—Below are the comparative figures :—

Merchandise.	1900.	1899.
Exports.....	79,846,861	75,285,932
Imports.....	141,758,172	73,292,549
Excess in imports	61,911,311	—
Specie.		
Exports.....	28,770,751	11,176,846
Imports.....	6,796,453	12,761,598
Excess of imports	—	11,584,752
Excess of exports.....	21,974,298	—

The export trade for this year shows an increase of only 4½ millions, *yen* or 6 per cent., in comparison with last year, whereas the import trade has nearly doubled, and in place of an excess of about 2 millions in exports last year, there is this year an excess of over 62 millions in imports. As to specie, the excess of exports exceeded 22 millions.

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The future diminution of the exodus of gold depends chiefly, if not entirely, upon the revival of trade in raw silk, silk piece-goods and cotton fabrics.

The Gentlemen's Single Handicap Final was played off on the Tennis Ground, Kobe, on Tuesday afternoon, the result being as follows:—E. Buxton Forman (owes 40) beat S. Millward (owes 15) by 3 sets to 1, the sets being (6—3) (6—3) (5—7) (6—4).

Three Prussian officers have made a quick trip from Berlin to Prague in a balloon. They left at 2'clock in the afternoon, and came down at 5 o'clock the same afternoon, having risen to an altitude of 10,000 feet during a part of the journey. The distance between the two cities is covered by an express train in seven hours.

In the 30th year of *Meiji* the Formosa Government Office issued Opium Regulations by which the trade was virtually placed in the hands of officials. According to latest statistics, published in the *Keizai Zasshi*, the sales for last year amounted to 470,520lbs., valued at 4,219,604 *yen* approximately. Deducting various expenses, a profit of 1,120,000 *yen* was secured. At the end of February last statistics as to opium smokers and dealers, were as follows:—

Population	2,648,450
Opium smokers	140,139
Opium dealers	3,372
Percentage of smokers	5.29

The number of smokers shows an increase of 3,820 as compared with the previous month. That there are still many secret smokers, however, is beyond question.

Dr. W. S. Chaplin, formerly of the Imperial University, Tokyo, and now President of the Washington University of St. Louis, Mo., announces that on May 29, Messrs. Samuel S. Cupples and Robert S. Brookings transferred stock valued at $5,000,000 to the University, which will make it one of the best endowed educational institutions in the world. It already has an endowment of $2,000,000, and $2,000,000 more is in prospect now that something big has been done in this line. The benefactors are multi-millionaires who have built up their vast fortunes in wholesale business in St. Louis. Both started in moderate circumstances and rose to wealth through their own exertions. The stock transferred consists of 30,000 shares in the Cupples station, the largest private shipping station in the world. Through it passes most of the wholesale business of St. Louis, and centred about the station are the principal houses of the city, which occupy six blocks of the property belonging to the terminal association.

The *Keizai Zasshi* has an interesting article on Japanese agriculture. It shows that investments in land are far from being profitable at present. Banking money affords a higher return; 7 per cent. at least is allowed on fixed deposits, and the depositor is entirely free from trouble and anxiety. It is only in Kazusa, Shimosa and Iwaki, where population is scanty and a *tan* of wet fields can be bought for 100 *yen*, that the land yields a substantial profit to the landlords. As to the tenants or actual cultivators, their outlays consist only of their personal labour, fertilizers, domestic animals, and a few implements for husbandry. According to modern calculations, it is estimated that from seedtime to harvest 360 cultivators are required for every 10 *tan* of land. Putting the wages of each at 30 *sen*, a sum of 108 *yen* has to be paid, while board at 10 *sen* a day absorbs 36 *yen*, the total expenses being thus 144 *yen*. In these circumstances agriculture can never be carried on with any prospect of success, and a different system is being adopted according to which cultivators are hired for the whole year at comparatively low wages, although the number needed for each ten *tan* of fields remains the same as indicated above. A stout youth can be procured at 93.80 *yen*, 50 *yen* wages and 43.80 *yen* for clothing and board, while the price of seed and fertilizers is 5.52 and 40 *yen* respectively, thus making a total of 139.32 *yen*. The farmer, under these arrangements, receives ten *koku* of rice valued at 115 *yen*, which is much less than the capital invested. The only gain he can secure is by the labour of himself and his family. Agriculture in Japan is the least encouraging of all enterprises.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, says the *Shogyo*, recently passed a resolution to the effect that, as the abnormal expansion of Government enterprises has brought about a general depression in commerce, a representation should be made urging the advisability of redeeming domestic loans to the extent of 100 millions of *yen* within three years. In order to accomplish this object one of two courses is recommended, either to curtail administrative expenditures and lengthen the period of the armament expansion programme and other enterprises, or to raise a foreign loan. Our contemporary, however, condemns both. Whatever steps are taken in the former direction the Government would be unable to set aside so large an amount as 30 or 40 millions of *yen* a year.

As to raising a foreign loan of 100 millions, the difficulty may be incalculably greater. This is clearly shown by the nature of the conditions imposed upon Count Matsukata, Minister of Finance, when he endeavoured to float a loan of 30 or 40 millions on the foreign market the year before last. Another illustration is furnished by the loan raised last year. Any further attempt to secure a loan would not only be attended with signal failure, but also would lead to great damage to Japan's credit. The resolution of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce does not, our contemporary remarks, reflect much credit on its insight into practical affairs.

P. & O. S.N. Co. S.S. *Socotra*,
Shanghai, 6th June.

Dear Sir.—I beg to report that on our passage from Moji to Shanghai at 9.40 p.m. on 5th June we experienced two severe shocks as if the ship had struck ground. Our position at the time was Lat. 32.9 N. Long. 125.7 E. (from stellar observation at 7.53 p.m.) wind N.E. force 3.4, bright moonlight night with a moderate south-easterly swell, causing ship to rise and fall slightly and roll a few degrees either way. We sounded the ship's wells immediately, but found everything normal. I deemed it imprudent to turn round and sound as it was night time and discoloured water would of course not be visible. The depth on our chart Admiralty, No. 2412 (January 97) shows 23 fathoms at that position and is 7 miles north of Shanghai patch (9 fathoms 1896). It is quite possible the shocks may have been due to an earthquake, but the sensation was similar to grounding or a heavy collision. Will you kindly submit a copy of my letter to the Harbour Master who might ask a vessel passing in the vicinity of that position in daytime to take a few casts of the lead and verify the soundings on chart? It is possible that the Shanghai patch may be of greater extent than shown on the chart.

The soundings of the ship's well continue normal and I can detect no signs of any strain in the ship.

I beg to remain, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) THOMAS H. HIDE,
Commander.

The Agent P. & O. S. N. Co., Shanghai.

The draught of the *Socotra* at the time was 19 and 20 feet.—*N. C. D. N.*

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the Spanish naval force at the battle of Manila was not superior to Admiral Dewey's squadron, and hence his officers and sailors only get one-half as much prize money as they otherwise would. Under the law, if a naval victory is won from an inferior force the prize money is $100 per man in the enemy's fleet, if it is a superior force $200 per man, and in order to double their prize money Admiral Dewey and his officers claim that they were fighting both the land and naval forces of Spain at Manila, which is true; but the Supreme Court holds that the land forces did not count, and therefore Dewey's officers and sailors only get $100 for every man they captured. The Admiral is entitled to 20 per cent. of the amount, and, after deducting his share, the remainder of the prize money, which in this case is about $200,000, is divided among the vessels of the fleet in proportion to their fighting strength. The commander of each vessel receives one-tenth, and the residue is distributed among the officers and sailors in proportion to their pay.

In a recent number of *Punch*, three novelists who of late have come in for a good many hard knocks from the critics are made to give their own views of their literary output. The following letters (presumably autograph) are printed for the first time:—

"The principal impression produced upon me by the perusal of my own works is a splitting headache, especially acute in the case of my poems. I have a strong suspicion, amounting at times to a conviction, that I generally have meaning if only it can be found. In my more recent works, however, this feeling is less marked.

"A subsidiary impression is amazement at the number of people who read my works and profess to understand them. "G-RGE M-R-D-TH."

"A glow of satisfaction thrills me as I gaze upon the book-shelves which contain my works. There is really some very good stuff among them. I don't profess to know what I meant when I wrote some of them, *e.g.*, the 'Jungle Book'; but plain tales of Ortheris, Mulvaney & Co., were played out, and one had to strike out a different line somehow. I confess, when I read 'The Day's Work' I have an uncomfortable misgiving that I am running to seed, which, however, is instantly dispelled when I hear the barrel-organ outside my door discoursing the classic and familiar strains of that undoubted work of genius. 'The Absent-Minded Beggar.' R-DY-RD K-PL-NG."

"When I read some of the awful rot that I have undoubtedly written, I find myself wondering if I am quite responsible for my literary actions. Can it be that I am as mad as my last creation, 'The Worshipper of the Image'?

"R-CH-RD LE G-LL-NNE."

CRICKET.

BORN IN JAPAN v. BORN ELSEWHERE.

A match between sides as above was played on Saturday afternoon. The "outlanders" went first to the wicket, and compiled 72, Duff's 19 being the highest score. In fact they were quite outclassed both in batting and bowling by the "native-born," who put together 157. P. B. Clarke took six wickets for 24 runs. Score:—

BORN ELSEWHERE.

Mr. J. H. Cocksedge, c. H. Kilby, b. G. Braess...	1
Mr. F. H. Bugbird, c. Wheeler, b. P. B. Clarke...	3
Mr. A. S. Anton, c. Allcock. b. P. B. Clarke	7
Mr. E. B. S. Edwards, c. Wheeler, b. P. B. Clarke	10
Mr. K. F. Crawford, c. Braess, b. P. B. Clarke...	11
Mr. E. W. Maitland, c. and b. P. B. Clarke	2
Mr. E. G. Fradgeley, c. Strome, b. Clarke.....	2
Mr. H. A. Stewart, c. Kingdon, b. Braess	1
Mr. C. M. Duff, c. E. B. Clarke, b. E. W. Kilby..	19
Mr. L. S. Hudson, not out	6
Mr. G. G. Brady, run out.....	0
Extras.....	10
	72

BORN IN JAPAN.

Mr. S. Wheeler, b. Bugbird.....	17
Mr. H. W. Kilby, run out	12
Mr. J. White, c. Anton, b. Bugbird.....	0
Mr. E. B. Clarke, c. Anton, b. Maitland	9
Mr. E. W. Kilby, not out.....	44
Mr. G. C. Allcock, c. Maitland, b. Anton	21
Mr. G. Braess, b. G. G. Brady	4
Mr. O. Strome, run out.....	0
Mr. H. S. Goddard, run out.....	8
Mr. A. Kingdon, b. Edwards	15
Mr. P. B. Clarke, c. Hudson, b. Bugbird	16
Extras.....	11
	157

SAILING RACES.

The 21, 17 and 12 raters of the Yokohama Yacht Club turned out in good force on Saturday afternoon. The 21 raters sailed over the No. 2 course, 9 miles, for the Vice-Commodore's Cup and a second prize; the 17 raters sailed No. 6 course, 5½ miles, for the Swiss Residents' Cup and a second prize; and the small craft over course No. 9, for two prizes. A fresh north-easterly wind blew during the afternoon and proved quite enough for the smaller craft. Times were as follow:—

21 RATERS.

	Rating.	Start.	Finish.	Cor. Time.
Yugao	20	2.15.3	4.36.46	4.36.46
Vixen	19½	2.15.5	4.26.18	4.24.42
Sodeska	19½	2.13.10	4.34.20	4.32.44
Abunai.....	19½	2.15.06	4.36.30	4.34.54

Vixen took first prize and two record points, and *Sodeska* second prize and one point.

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17 RATERS.

Wettinge	17	2.30.20	3.40.27	3.40.27
Daisy May	17	2.30.10	3.47.14	3.47.14
Coogee	17	2.30.05	3.47.14	3.47.14
Bonito	16½	2.30.00	3.47.11	3.45.54
Devonia	16½	2.30.02	3.48.43	3.47.26

Wettinge took first prize and two record points and *Bonito* second prize and one point.

12 RATERS.

	Start.	Finish.
Madelaine	2.45.12	3.38.15
Titania	2.45.10	3.35.40
Dora	2.45.08	3.38.47
Lorna Doone	2.45.10	3.38.13

Titania took first prize and two record points, and *Dora* second prize and one point.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

Shanghai, June 15.

Mr. Schreiner has resigned and his resignation has been accepted. Sir Alfred Milner has summoned Sir Gordon Sprigg.

Buller's casualties on the 10th and 11th were 26 killed and 126 wounded. Methuen's loss at the Rhenoster was one killed and 18 wounded. The Derbyshires on the 7th had 36 killed and 104 wounded.

News from Coomassie dated the 4th says that all are on half rations; that the ammunition suffices only for purposes of defence, and that the rebels are in great force.

Mr. Brodrick made a long statement in the House of Commons with regard to events in China. He emphasised the complete accord between the Powers, and added that arrangements had been made to supplement the force in the Yang-tsze River.

Mrs. Gladstone is dead.

After a determined resistance General Botha evacuated his position, retiring eastward.

Methuen is now at Rhenoster.

Wakkerstroom has submitted to Buller.

Shanghai, June 16.

A telegram from Ottawa says that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has introduced a bill restricting Chinese immigration, by doubling the poll-tax. With regard to Japanese immigration he said that, in view of Imperial considerations, he was unprepared to impose restrictions, but that a royal commission would be appointed to inquire into the subject of immigration.

Klerksdorp has surrendered to General Hunter.

Baden-Powell reports on the 12th that, at about 30 miles south of Rustenberg, he arrested a hundred rebels who had entered the Transvaal with 800 Boers. He is now systematically restoring order, and collecting arms and supplies. 600 Boers have surrendered, and 23 prisoners were captured.

Shanghai, June 17.

Mr. Chamberlain has telegraphed to Jamaica asking the militia to volunteer for Ashantee with the West India Regiment. The response was enthuasistic.

Baden-Powell has been appointed Lieut.-General onthe Staff.

Baden-Powell has occupied Rustemberg. He reports that the districts traversed are settling down. Over 1,000 stand of arms have been surrendered.

Heidelberg will shortly be occupied, when the Orange Colony will be completely cut off from the Transvaal.

Shanghai, June 18.

The Boers attacked Ficksburg on the 14th, but were repulsed by the British artillery.

Buller is disbanding the Natal Volunteers.

Shanghai, June 19.

The Seventh Bengal Infantry have been ordered to Hongkong.

A Cabinet has been formed in the Cape Colony, Sir Gordon Sprigg becoming Premier and Treasurer, and Mr. Roseiches Attorney General.

President Kruger has removed his headquarters to Alumaar near Helspruit.

Shanghai, June 19.

Field Marshal Roberts wires from Pretoria, under date of the 16th inst., that 800 Boers attacked a post on the Zand river on the 14th inst. but were driven off by Gen. Knox, who marched for the purpose from Kroonstad.

The casualties include Major Seymour, of the Pioneers, and two men killed; one officer and eight men wounded.

Shanghai, June 20.

A force from India has been ordered to China consisting of the following:—1st Bengal Lancers; 1st Madras Pioneers; 22nd Bombay Infantry; 24th Punjab Infantry; 1st Sihks; 7th Bengal Infantry; 1st Field Battery; and 1 Company Madras Sappers. Two of these Regiments will do garrison duty.

The French press urges the dispatch of a strong expedition to China, in consequence of the capture of Consul François.

The *New York Tribune* publishes a telegram from Washington stating that President McKinley has ordered Gen. McArthur, the Governor-General of the Philippines, to send three regiments of Regulars from Manila to Tientsin, making 5,000 men altogether.

Admiral Reamey, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Fleet in Asiatic Waters, has been ordered to dispatch the *Oregon* to Taku.

Shanghai, June 20.

H.M.S. *Diadem* and *Furious*, now at Portland, have been ordered to China.

Mr. St. John Brodrick, speaking in the House of Commons, said that the latest information received at the Admiralty does not confirm the news of the return of Admiral Seymour to Tientsin.

Mr. G. J. Goschen, Secretary for the Navy, has arranged that additional forces be stationed at the chief ports of the Yangtze.

Two British torpedo-boat-destroyers have captured four Chinese destroyers in the Yalu river.

Shanghai, June 21.

France has ordered three men-of-war to China and also two battalions of marines and two batteries of artillery. Germany sends two battalions of marines.

A large force of Free-Staters is concentrating in front of Rundle with the intention of breaking through southward. The Transvaalers retiring before Buller are joining the Free-Staters.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

Saigon, June 15.

The French Chamber has commenced the discussion of a project of law relating to the defence of the Colonies.

Lord Roberts, after a sharp combat, dislodged the Boer Army from an entrenched position 15 miles east of Pretoria.

According to English news 30,000 Chinese soldiers will be ready to prevent the entry of foreign detachments into Peking.

Saigon, June 16.

The Senate has adopted the project of law for a colonial army, with modifications of little importance.

The Chamber of Deputies has voted the Government's project of law relating to the defence of the colonies. The measure opens a credit of 60 millions of francs.

It is telegraphed from Tientsin that the European soldiers and marines, being obliged to repair the railway before them as they proceed, have not yet arrived at Peking.

Saigon, June 17.

The European detachments, being obliged to repair the railway, have not yet arrived in Peking. English journals say that many Chinese converts and servants of Europeans were massacred on Thursday last by the Boers. The eastern quarter of Peking, in which are situated the Catholic Cathedral and the European residences, has been burned. Three churches and numerous foreign residences have also been burned in Tientsin.

Saigon, June 18.

The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the project of law for the defence of the Colonies.

The King of Sweden has left Paris. The President of the Republic bade him farewell at the station.

The Prince de Joinville has died.

The Legations in Peking have been attacked. The attack was repulsed.

Saigon, June 19.

France is sending additional vessels to China.

Intelligence from Tientsin says that the Legations in Peking have been captured.

The international squadron has bombarded and captured the Taku Forts.

Saigon, June 21.

On the demand of M. Delcassé, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese Minister in Paris, Mr. Yü K'heng, has telegraphed to the Viceroy of Yunnan that his, Mr. Yü's, life will answer for that of the French held prisoners at Yunnan-sen.

The capture of the Legations in Peking is not confirmed.

It was the Taku Forts that commenced to bombard the foreign men-of-war. The marines, by a magnificent bayonet-charge, killed or wounded the majority of the Chinese garrison. The losses of the allies were slight.

All the Powers are sending re-inforcements to China.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, June 15.

News from Peking, dated the 13th, says that Christian refugees are flocking into the City.

The attitude of the Government towards foreigners is uncertain, but rather defiant.

The Legations, the Customs buildings, and the Cathedral are barricaded, and other buildings are placed in the charge of the Government.

A telegram from Tientsin, dated the 14th, says the Chinese troops are concentrated at Feng-tai.

There are 7,000 Russians at Tientsin.

Shanghai, June 17.

On the night of the 13th there was a Boxer uprising at Peking.

The Boxers destroyed the foreign buildings in the east of the city, the old Catholic Cathedral, the London and American Board of Missions, and the Customs mess, and massacred hundreds of native Christians and foreigners' servants.

Further rioting is feared.

Telegraphic communication with Tientsin is interrupted.

Shanghai, June 18.

The Taku Forts opened fire on the allied gunboats at one o'clock on Sunday morning.

The firing continued six hours.

The allies blew up two forts after landing and taking them by assault.

The casualties are unknown.

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There is no news of the relief column.

Shanghai, June 19.

Chinese official news, received in Shanghai under date of the 17th, says that in Peking on that day the situation was very serious.

[The state of affairs in Peking on the 17th could not have been known in Shanghai on the 19th. —ED. *J.M.*]

The telegraph station at Kalgan (Kirin) has been burnt and the staff have fled to Mongolia.

(FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

Tientsin, June 14.

A party of Boxers entered Tientsin city last night. A Roman Catholic chapel and two houses were demolished. The Boxers numbered between 500 and 600 men.

The villa of the British Minister and some other summer houses belonging to foreigners, which are situated in the hills at a little distance from Peking, have been burnt by the Boxers.

A large number of Boxers have appeared in the vicinity of Tientsin railway station, which they declare they will burn.

The Japanese cruiser *Suma Kan* arrived at Taku on the 11th inst. Five officers and 75 blue-jackets were landed and arrived in Tientsin the following day.

Great numbers of Boxers have entered Tientsin. They passed near the Taotai's Yamên and then moved off in the direction of the country. They were apparelled like those seen elsewhere—red cap, white belt, scanty vest, and foreign-cut trousers. All carried naked swords which they swung as they walked. They moved about in parties of 20 or 30, and as they passed through the streets not a single Chinese official did anything to disperse, much less arrest, them.

Hongkong, June 14.

The British authorities are prepared to send a force of seven companies of Infantry and a company of Artillery to the north.

The battleship *Terrible* will leave Hongkong for the north in a few days.

Shanghai, June 14.

The Russian Volunteer steamer *Orel*, with 1,000 Cossacks, left Woosung on the 12th inst.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

Shanghai, June 16.

The mixed force of 1,400 men under Admiral Seymour have a strong force of Chinese regulars in front and the Boxers in rear, and are isolated. They are short of provisions, the water is bad, and they have no place to sleep. The Chinese troops are excellently armed, and are likely to prove very troublesome.

Shanghai, June 17.

The *China Gazette* has a telegram saying that Baron Heyking, the German Minister in Peking, has been assassinated by the Boxers, and the German Legation burned.

There is a report that the foreign troops have attacked the Taku forts, and that they are actually fighting with the Chinese soldiers.

It is said that 7,000 additional Russians, with 26 pieces of artillery and 800 horses, have landed at Taku and proceeded direct towards Peking.

[Note.—We consider the announcement regarding the German Minister should be received with scepticism.—ED. *J.M.*]

Chefoo, June 18.

The Chinese having sunk torpedoes at the mouth of the Peiho and taken measures to prevent the entry of foreign ships, the Russian Admiral, who was the senior naval officer present, sent an ultimatum, requiring that the torpedoes should be removed by a given hour. The Chinese having failed to reply, all the ships assembled at Taku, with the exception of the American, and began to bombard the forts at 2 a.m. on the 17th and continued the bombardment until 8 a.m. The forts replied. Firing ceased at 8 a.m.

The torpedo depot ship *Toyohashi* has proceeded direct to Taku.

It is reported that the Empress-Dowager has fled to Jehol.

Shanghai, June 18.

At a meeting of the Foreign Consuls in Shanghai, it was resolved to take measures for the protection of the place.

The Taotai has despatched a force of troops to protect the French College at Siccaivei.

Shanghai, June 18, 4.25 p.m.

At one o'clock on Sunday morning, while the allied fleet were quietly anchored, without warning, China declared war against the world by opening fire from the forts at Taku upon the gunboats inshore—the British *Algerine*; German *Iltis*; Japanese *Atago*; American *Yorktown*; Russian *Maudjour*. The first shells were harmless, but afterwards many struck the *Algerine* and *Iltis*. The Fleet opened a terrible fire, blowing the forts to pieces. The Russians troops on the land side are reported to have cooperated.

Afterwards, at daylight, the forts were occupied by strong landing parties who drove the Chinese outside at the point of the bayonet, killing hundreds as they fled northward. It is reported that the *Algerine* and *Iltis* are damaged. There are many casualties but no list is available.

These particulars were brought by the *Kagero* (Japanese torpedo-destroyer) to Chefoo.

The Messrs. Mitsui have received a cable from Chefoo that a British gunboat was sunk.

The foreign men-of-war are flying their flags half-mast, in consideration, it is conjectured, of the loss of life caused by the attack on Taku.

[A strange supposition.—ED. *J.M.*]

There is a report that a foreign man-of-war was sunk at Taku.

Shanghai, June 18.

Li Hung-chang has been ordered to proceed to Peking with all despatch.

It is not true that the *Algerine* was sunk during the attack on Taku, but she suffered very severely.

According to a London telegram published by the *China Gazette*, France is organizing a battalion for service in China by taking drafts from her men-of-war.

The rumour that the German Minister has been killed is not believed in Berlin.

England is sending two regiments from India to Hongkong.

H.M.S. *Daphne* has left Shanghai for the north.

Li Hung-chang is said to have purchased 700 stand of arms in Macao.

(TELEGRAMS PUBLISHED IN TOKYO.)

Shanghai, June 18.

At a meeting of the Foreign Consuls it was decided that the Volunteers should be organised to oppose any attack by the Chinese, and various measures were arranged for the protection of foreign life and property. It was further decided that these steps should be communicated to the commanders of men-of-war in the river, and that they should be requested to land marines in case of an emergency.

Chefoo, June 18.

At the attack on the Taku Forts, the Japanese marines seem to have stormed the Square fort, which offered the most stubborn resistance.

The Mitsui Firm has received a telegram to the effect that a part of the Taku Forts was captured by the Russian soldiers.

A telegram from London says that the British Government has decided to undertake the task of protecting life and property at all the Yangtsze parts.

It is stated in London that, until some final decision is arrived at by the Powers in conference, Germany will continue to adopt the policy of endeavouring to restore order in China.

The Boxers are behaving with extreme violence in Tientsin, wrecking churches, cutting telegraph lines, and pulling down telegraph posts.

Telegraphic communication with Pao-ting has been interrupted.

There is a report in Chinese official circles that the Empress Dowager is dead, but nothing is said about the condition of the Emperor.

Shanghai, June 18.

The casualties at the attack on the Taku Forts are said to have been:—

	Killed.	Wounded.
British	1	4
French	1	1
Germans	3	7
Russians	16	45

A Chinese torpedo-boat has been captured.

General Tung has been told off for court martial in consequence of his troops having killed Mr. Sugiyama.

The Taotai of Tientsin has fled towards Peking.

Chefoo, June 19.

A mixed force of some 1,200 men, including 360 or 370 Japanese marines, assembled at the Tong-ku railway station and attacked the Taku Forts. The Japanese troops assaulted the strongest fort on the northern side of the River, and raised the Japanese flag over it. Commander Hattori and 3 men were killed and 5 were wounded, one severely, the others slightly. The heaviest casualties, aggregating 70, were among the Russians.

Russian troops numbering 3,000, English numbering 1,000, and German numbering 1,300 were to arrive at Taku on the 18th, and to be followed by a force of Cossacks on the 19th.

The bodies of those killed in the assault of the Taku Forts and the wounded, numbering 35, were placed in the *Higo Maru*, and sent to Saseho.

[There is a good naval hospital at Saseho, and full preparations have been made to accommodate the wounded. A band of surgeons and nurses have been sent from the Red Cross Hospital in Tokyo.—ED. *J.M.*]

Hiroshima, June 19.

The troops starting for China have had a farewell entertainment, and were escorted to Ujina by enthusiastic crowds.

Shanghai, June 20.

Intelligence received from a thoroughly trustworthy source is to the effect that 10 of the Foreign Representatives have been assassinated in Peking.

[No official news of this nature has been received, and it is obvious that, if the rumour presented any appearance of credibility, the Japanese Consul at Shanghai or at Chefoo would have wired it to Tokyo. Moreover, unless the Chinese troops joined the Boxers, the Legations could scarcely be captured. We regard the report as quite untrustworthy.—ED. *J.M.*]

Li Hung-chang has been charged with the duty of effecting an amicable arrangement with the Foreign Powers.

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Yuan Shi-kai, Governor of Shan-tung, has been ordered to proceed to Peking with his troops.

[Yuan Shi-kai was for many years Chinese Resident in Söul. He is an able man, and there can be no question as to the direction of his sympathies in this crisis.—ED. *J.M.*]

The Taotai of Chefoo has been made prisoner by the English.

[This seems highly improbable. There has not been any disturbance at Chefoo.—ED. *J.M.*]

A telegram received by Mr. Pritchard Morgan's office in Shanghai says that an insurrection has broken out in Szechuan and that Ching-tu has been burned.

[Ching-tu is a big city. Its destruction by fire is most improbable.—ED. *J.M.*]

A telegram received by the Mitsui firm says that the casualties at the attack on the Taku Forts were five foreign naval officers and forty men killed; and thirty-five wounded.

It is generally believed in Shanghai that a member of the Legation staff has been murdered in Peking.

M. Delcassé declares that the Governor of Yunnan has accepted full responsibility for the protection of French life and property and the peaceful prosecution of trade.

The French Consul in Yunnan has been taken prisoner by the insurgents.

The Chinese Representative in London has been seized by the British Authorities.

[That is nonsense.—ED. *J.M.*]

The Chinese Representative in Paris has been seized and will be held as a hostage for the safety of the French Consul in Yunnan.

[That is nonsense.—ED. *J.M.*]

There is considerable disturbance in the neighbourhood of Newchwang. Two villages have been burned. At Chefoo all is quiet.

The English and Japanese Marines captured the forts on the north side of the Peiho; the French, the Russians, and the Germans assaulted those on the south bank.

The Taotai of Shanghai has declared to the British Consul-General that he assumes full responsibility for the security of foreign life and property.

Mr. Brodrick has stated in the Commons that no official news has been received of any attack upon the Legations, and that full authority has been given to the British Admiral to deal with the emergency.

Mr. Balfour has stated in the Commons that troops from India are under orders to garrison Hongkong.

The Tientsin merchants have held a meeting, and decided to defer all transactions for three months. They have also absolved the Insurance Companies from responsibility for the safety of goods in store.

The mixed force of foreign troops under Admiral Seymour is now entering Peking.

[This is obviously a mere invention. No such news can have been received.—ED. *J.M.*]

Chefoo, June 19.

The mixed brigade of foreign troops organized at Taku is now on its way to Tientsin.

It is alleged that a portion of the Foreign Settlement at Tientsin was burned down on the night of the 18th, but no particulars have been received.

The mixed brigade of marines under the command of Vice-Admiral Seymour is believed to have entered Peking on the evening of the 17th instant, and it is stated that all the Legations were found safe, but no certain news has been received.

The London Mission Church about a hundred miles from Tien-mun was burned by the insurgents on the night of the 14th, and all the property of the missionaries destroyed. A missionary doctor attached to the mission escaped to Tien-mun on the 17th. The Viceroy Chang has despatched a force of soldiers to the place.

Shanghai, June 20.

A telegram from Chunking says that there are no signs of any disturbance in Szechuan, but that, as trouble may occur at any moment, the British Consul has applied to the Admiral to have a man-of-war sent.

An official telegram from the Russian Admiral says that 3 Russian ships and 1 English, 1 French, 1 German, and 1 Austrian took part in the bombardment of Taku, but the Japanese and Americans were not engaged. Five Russian officers were wounded and 20 men were killed or wounded. The bombardment lasted 7 hours.

Although Li Hung-chang refused at first to proceed north so long as Prince Tuan and Kung Yi were in office, urgent representations have induced him to agree to go as far as Tientsin, where he will decide on his future course. He has set out in a Canadian Pacific steamer.

In consideration of the number of Russians among the wounded coming to Saseho, the naval authorities at that place have asked the Governor of Nagasaki to send a Russian interpreter. He has complied, sending also policemen and gendarmes who speak Russian.

(FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.")

Chungking, June 13.

There has been a riot in Yunnanfu. The China Inland Mission is partly destroyed, and the Bible Christian Mission utterly. All the missionaries are in the yamên. There are French troops in Mêngtze. The riots are alleged to be due to opposition to French influence.

Later.

The Catholic mission in Yunnanfu is destroyed. Nothing is being done.

Tientsin, June 14, 10.5 a.m.

An imperial edict dated the 10th inst. appoints Prince Tuan head of the Tsungli Yamên.

Hongkong, June 14, 4.20 p.m.

Contingents of the Asiatic Artillery and the Hongkong Regiment are leaving for Taku to-day in the *Hinsang*.

The Fusiliers are leaving in H.M.S. *Terrible* on Saturday, Major Morris commanding.

The total strength is 970.

BANK OF JAPAN.

BANKING ACCOUNT.

On Saturday, June 16th:—

DR.	Yen.
Share capital fully paid up	30,000,000
Reserve fund and other liabilities to shareholders	17,944,585
Amount of convertible notes issued	201,533,444
Government deposits	61,183,799
General deposits	6,302,377
Exchange liability	8,742
Total	317,039,949

CR.	
Discount notes	70,730,273
Foreign discount notes	12,671,538
Loan to Government	22,000,000
General loans	68,502,110
Exchange liability	2,192,737
Government bonds	54,037,836
Property	2,077,542
Bullion and Specie	84,857,911
Total	317,039,949

ISSUE ACCOUNT.

Daily average during past week:—

Amount of convertible notes	196,866,547
Bullion and Specie:—	
Gold	79,339,080
Silver	4,000,000
Total	83,339,080
Securities:—	
Government bonds	15,814,588
Government certificates	22,000,000
Government bills	11,489,148
Commercial notes	64,223,434
Total	113,427,467

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the previous week, show:—

Specie Reserve:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
Gold	—	373,349
Silver	—	—
General loans	108,145	—
Government deposits	—	1,529,326
General deposits	334,373	—

CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 477.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Kt to Q 5	1—R takes Kt
2—Q to Kt 4 mate	
	1—Kt takes Kt
2—Q to R 7 mate	
	1—K takes Kt
2—Kt takes Kt, dis. mate	
	1—B takes Kt
2—Q to K 6 mate	
	1—R to Kt 3
2—Kt to B 5 mate	
	1—P to K 7
2—Kt to B 2 mate	
	1—R to B 4 ch
2—Kt takes R mate	
	1—Any other move
2—Kt to B 6 mate	

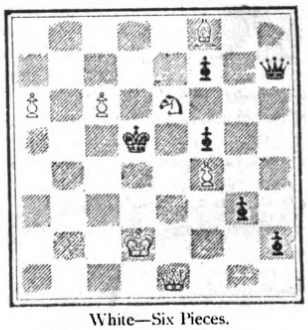
Correct solutions received from "W.H.S." and "P.A.H."

"W.H.S." inquires about his solution of Problem 475. Its receipt was acknowledged in our last issue. Owing to some accident, it failed to reach us in time for earlier publication.

PROBLEM No. 479.

By DR. TH. SCHAAD.

Black—Six Pieces.



White—Six Pieces.

White mates in three moves.

CHESS PLOBLEM SOLUTION COMPETITION.

The following is the result of our problem solution competition for the prize offered by Mr. W. H. Stone. It will be seen that "East Anglia" (Mr. W. B. Mason, of Tokyo) solved all the problems published in these columns during the year. The prize—a handsome silver cigarette case—has been presented to the winner.

East Anglia	54	Vii	4
Marco	23	Mariner	3
L.M.A.	17	Miss S.	2
W.D.C.	14	G.W.G.	1
Voila	10	F.G.	1
O.B.	6	Barbier	1
Veritas	4	Dr. Max Lehmann	1

GAME 600.

THE AUSTRALIAN OPENING.

Appended is another game played recently at this "debut" in the Old World. It is taken from the February number of the *British Chess Magazine* and the winner has been for several years the champion of the City of London Chess Club. The annotator, Mr. R. Teichmann, like Mr. Jas. Mason, condemns P to K 4, but proof is better than assertion, and our answer is that the new defence nearly always wins!

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Played in the tournament at the City of London Chess Club.

(THE CHARLICK COUNTER GAMBIT.)

White—Mr. Curnock.	Black—Mr. Lawrence.
1—P to Q 4	1—P to Q 4
2—P to Q B 4	2—P to K 4!

This counter gambit is not good and should lead to a lost game.

3—P takes K P

3—P to K 3 gives White at least an even game, e.g., 3—P takes B P; 4—B takes P, P takes P; 5—P takes P, and the isolated Pawn is no weakness.

3—P to Q 5

4—P to Q R 3

A good move. White may also play P to K4 with advantage. P to K 3 is not good on account of B to Kt5 (ch), 5—B to Q2, P takes P, &c.

4—Kt to Q B 3

5—Kt to K B 3 5—P to K B 3

Black gives up the Pawn, but it would seem that B to K Kt5, in order to recover the Pawn, might have been played; if then 5. B to K Kt 5; 6. P to K 3, Kt takes P; 7. P takes P, B takes Kt; 8. P takes B, Q takes P with advantage; and if 6. B to B4, Kt to K2, followed by Kt to Kt 4.

6—P takes P	6—Kt takes P
7—P to K 3	7—B to K Kt5
8—B to K 2	8—B to Q 3

Black must either submit to the exchange of Queens, or lose a second Pawn. He chooses the latter alternative, and fortune favours his venture; but it is manifest that his attacking chances do not in any way compensate for the loss of two Pawns.

9—Kt takes P	9—B to Q 2
10—Kt to Q B 3	10—Castles
11—P to Q Kt4	

White's first mistake. He had a good development, and should simply have castled, after which it seems difficult to see how Black could have attacked with any prospect of success.

11—P to Q R 4

12—P to B 5	12—P takes P
13—P takes B	13—P takes Kt
14—P take P	14—Q takes P
15—Q to Kt 3 (ch	

A bad blunder. 15—Castles would still have left him with a very good game, since Black could not have saved his Pawn at Q B 6 in the long run.

15—K to R

16—Q takes Q B P	16—Kt to K 5
17—Q to B 2	17—Kt takes B P
18—R to B	

White seems to have overlooked at his 14th move that he could not play now 18—Castles on account of the rather amusing finish. 18—Kt takes Kt!: 19—Q takes Q, Kt takes B, mate.

18—Kt to Kt 5

19—R takes R (ch)	19—R takes R
20—Q to Q B 5	20—Q to Q
21—B takes Kt	

Here Kt takes Kt, P takes Kt; 22—B takes Kt, B takes B; 23—B to Kt 2 seems to have given fair chances of drawing, as Black could not have played the strong move Q to B 3.

21—B takes B

22—B to Kt 2	22—Q to R 5 (ch)
23—P to Kt 3	23—Q to B 3
24—K to Q 2	14—Kt takes Kt
25—B takes Kt	25—Q to B 7 (ch)
26—K to Q 3	26—Q to K 7 (ch)
27—K to K 4	27—Q to Kt 7 (ch)
28—K to Q 3	28—Q to Q 7
29—K to K 4	29—Q to B 6 (ch)
30—K to Q 3	30—B to B4
31—K to B 3	31—R to B

Black won.

GAME 601.

A REMARKABLE GAME.

In Pillsbury's recent exhibition of blindfold play against twenty opponents, his game with S. W. Bampton is a magnificent specimen of masterful Chess, and, Emil Kemeny says, "will go on record as one of the finest games played without sight of board or men."

BOARD NO. 1.

Rup Lopez.

White—Pillsbury.		Black—Bampton.	
WHITE.	BLACK.	WHIEE.	BLACK.
1 P K4	P K4	22 RxPch	Kt(B2) R3(e)
2 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	23 QxQch	RxQ
3 B Kt5	Kt B3	24 B K5	K Kt2
4 Castles	KtxP	25 R KKt4(f)	KtxP
5 P Q4	Kt Q3	26 R KKt5ch	K R3
6 B R4(a)	P K5	27 BxR	KtxB
7 R Ksq	B K2	28 RxKt	K Kt3
8 Kt K5	Castles	29 R K5(g)	P Q3
9 Kt QB3	B B3	30 R K7	B R6
10 B B4	R Ksq	31 K Rsq	R KBsq
11 Kt Kt4(b)	BxP	32 R Ktsq ch	Kt Kt5
12 Kt Q5	B K4	33 RxKP	K B4(h)
13 KtxB	Kt x Kt	34 R K2	R Ksq(i)
14 Q R5	P KB3	35 R(Ktsq) Ksq	Kt K4
15 B QKt3	K Rsq	36 P KB4	KxP
16 R K3	P KKt3	37 R B2ch	K Kt4
17 Q R4	R to K3(c)	38 B Q5	P B3
18 R K R3	P K R4	39 R Kt sq ch	Kt Kt5
19 KtxK BP(d)	Kt B4	40 B B3	R K6
20 Q Kt5	Kt B2	41 BxKt	BxB
21 QxKt P	QxKt	42 R(B2) Kt2	Resigns.

Notes by Emil Kemeny, in The Ledger, Philadelphia.

(a) The usual play is B takes Kt, followed by P takes P. The text move leads to more lively continuations, bnt involves the sacrifice of a Pawn.

(b) Brilliantly played. The sacrifice of the Q P strengthens the attack. White has the Kt to Q 5 and Kt takes Q B P continuation in view.

(c) P to K Kt 4 could not well be played. White answers B takes Kt, followed by B takes P ch or Q to K 6 according to Black's P takes Q or R takes reply.

(d) Another brilliant move, and quite deep, too. Black can not capture the Kt with Q or R, for White ultimately wins the Kt and the exchange.

(e) This enables White to continue Q takes Q ch; B K 5 and P to K Kt 4, etc., eventually winning the exchange. Better, perhaps, was Kt (B 4) to R 3.

(f) Which wins a Rook and White comes out the exchange ahead. Black can not well move his Kt from B4, for B takes R ch, and R takes Kt would follow.

(g) R to B4 would have been answered with K to Kt4, Black retaining the exchange.

(h) Guards the Kt takes B P mate.

(i) A neat trap. If White captures the Rook then Kt takes B P mate follows. White answers cleverly R (Kt sq). Black can not reply Kt takes B P mate and R takes R ch, for White captures the Kt with check.

THE PARIS TOURNAMENT.

The great International Tournament of 1900 began in Paris on Wednesday, May 16. Eight countries are represented: America—Pillsbury, Showalter, Marshall; Austria—Marco, Schlechter; Cuba—Sterling; France—Janowski, Didier, Rosen; Germany—Lasker, Mieses; Great Britain—Burn, Mortimer, Mason; Hungary—Brody, Maroczy; Russia—Tschigorin. This list composes the greatest exponent of Chess in the world. Three masters are conspicuous by their absence: The veteran Steinitz, who has played in every tournament of any importance, for many years; the renowned amateur, Tarrasch, one of the most profound and scientific players in the world, and the brilliant Blackburne, who has been for so long a time champion of England. Apropos of the great Englishman, it is noticeable that in the recent tourney of resident English players, Mr. Blackburne stood sixth in the list of thirteen. Reichelm, in *The Times*, Philadelphia, calls attention to this fact, and says: "Mr. Blackburne's low position is another evidence that he does not do well in a prolonged struggle, altho in single games he has downed such men as Lasker, Pillsbury, and Tarrasch. The reason for this irregularity is that players like those mentioned have a more thorough mastery of Chess-development in all its branches, whereas, Mr. Blackburne shows only in positions where a combination is perceptible. In situations of a dead calm, Lasker and Pillsbury will outwit him. In combinations he is almost a Morphy." These words of the witty Philadelphian should be taken *cum grano salis*. We believe that Mr. Blackburne has as thorough a knowledge of development as any man living, but he is an old man, and those who "outwit" him are in the flush and vigour of youth. Probably Mr. Blackburne's special weakness in tournament play is his predilection for combinations leading to brilliant continuations; while these other players rely chiefly upon a conservative, slow, pawn-winning game.

"THE ANTIQUITY OF CHESS.

A writer in *The Evening Post*, New York, finds a "curious notice on the game of Chess" in the Babylonian Talmud, compiled about the year 484 A.D. In it there is a report of discussions which took place as far back as 227 A.D. The question referred to is that concerning marriage contracts, and especially on the right of a wife to be free from all household work and "to sit in a chair." In the Talmud it is said she might play with little pups or at "Nadrshir." The writer of the article says that the word "nadrshir" is evidently a corrupt reading for Ardeshir and indicates a game in which a King plays the foremost part, and adds: "Rashi, the great commentator on the Talmud, a rabbi living at Troyes in central France, who died in 1102, and whose comment on this subject we may place about the year 1090, leaves no doubt on the question. He says *ad locum*, 'Nadrshir is what we call *escaques*,' the Old-French form of *échecs*, the German *Schach*, far *Shah*."

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
America	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic 1	M. June 25
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Sydney 2	W. June 27
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Coptic 3	Th. June 28
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. July 2
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 4	Tu. July 3
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Th. July 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. July 5
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Stuttgart	Sa. July 7
America	P. M. Co.	China	W. July 11
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Sa. July 14

1 Left San Francisco on the 6th inst.
2 Left Shanghai on the 21st inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 19th inst.
4 Left San Francisco on the 14th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	Tu. June 26
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rohilla	W. June 27
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kobe Maru	W. June 27
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. June 30
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. June 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. July 2
Hkongong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	W. July 4
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Sydney	F. July 6
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. July 6
America	T. K. K.	America Maru	Sa. July 7
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th. July 12
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Tu. July 17

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Wm. Frakes, 15th June,—Tacoma, Wash., and Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, H. Fraser, 15th June,—Seattle, Wash., via Kobe, 13th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 15th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sambria, German steamer, 3,500, G. Schmidt, 14th June,—Tsintau, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

Satkio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 15th June,—Shanghai via ports, 9th June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 15th June,—Yokkaichi, 14th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 15th June,—Otaru via ports, 10th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 17th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 29th May, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 17th June,—Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe, 16th June, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 17th June,—Otaru via ports, 11th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hingo Maru, Japanese steamer, 881, Y. Oda, 17th June,—Yokkachi, 16th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 17th June,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 16th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 18th June,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 17th June, Mails & General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, T. Tibballs, 19th June,—Otaru via ports, 14th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rurik (26), Russian Flagship, 10,960, Capt. Paupt, 19th June,—Vladivostock.

Kolik, Russian steamer, 299, A. Scherbinin, 19th June,—Petropaulovski, Ballast.—Walsh Hall & Co.

Konowa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, K. Shima, 19th June,—Otaru via ports, 14th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Nakajima, 19th June,—Yokkaichi, 18th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,312, F. W. Horton, 19th June,—Seattle, Washington, 4th June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Afghanistan, British steamer, 2,190, Williamson, 20th June,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 19th June, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, T. G. Steeves, 20th June,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 19th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pakling, British steamer, 2,925, E. Warrall, 20th June,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 19th June, General.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, K. Nakajima, 20th June,—Kobe, 18th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Toyei Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,696, K. Yamamoto, 21st June,—Kobe, 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Silesia, German steamer, 3,138, S. Behrens, 21st June,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 14th June, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hitachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,827, G. Anderson, 21st June,—London via ports, and Kobe, 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bayern, German steamer, 3,128, H. Bleeker, 21st June,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, and Kobe 20th June, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

DEPARTURES.

Joseph B. Thomas, American ship, 1,807, W. B. Brown, 15th June,—Port Townsend, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Argyll, British steamer, 1,886, Thompson, 15th June,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Empress of China, British steamer, 3,003, R. Archibald, 15th June,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Futami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,181, James Thorn, 15th June,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oldenburg, German steamer, 3,167, H. Prager, 16th June,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,958, C. K. McIntosh, 16th June,—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Nakajima, 16th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,709, Wm. Bainbridge, 16th June,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenogle, British steamer, 2,398, Wm. Frakes, 16th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sambria, German steamer, 3,500, G. Schmidt, 16th June,—Havre, Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Asagao Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,525, S. Muramatsu, 17th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 17th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,894, De La Lande, 17th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumamoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,236, K. Iwanaga, 17th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,128, J. T. Smith, 18th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Sakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,827, W. W. Greene, 18th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer. 1,507, C. Christiansen, 19th June,—Kobe General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tosa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,589, H. Fraser, 19th June,—Ujina, Ballast,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

City of Rio de Janeiro, American steamer, 2,275, Wm. Ward, 20th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Saikio Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,652, C. Young, 20th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,010, J. W. Ekstrand, 20th June,—Seattle, Wash., via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Nakajima, 20th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kinshiu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,459, F. W. Horton, 21st June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Konoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, K. Shima, 21st June,—Kobe via Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rurik (26), Russian Flagship, 10,960, Capt. Paupt, 21st June,—Vladivostock.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Glenogle*, from Tacoma, Wash.:—Mrs. Griffin, and Miss Griffin, in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. English, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Mullins, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Capt. McNab, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Saikio Maru*, from Shanghai viâ ports:—Mr. and Mrs. A. de Grubissich-Koresztur, Mrs. M. Murakami, Miss T. Oyama, Dr. W. Vander Heyden, Capt. Bruhn, Mr. T. Wakashima, Mr. S. Futatsubashi, Mr. S. Murakami, Mr. N. Kimura, Mr. T. Niwa, Mr. K. Nakahara, Mr. S. Terada, Mr. A. G. Sutherland, and Mr. S. Terada, in cabin; Mrs. T. Sakaki, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Tsukamoto and daughter, Mr. I. Tsuji, Mr. Lung, Mr. K. Nonaka, and Mr. Soshiun Sei, in second class: 61 in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. A. L. Coombs, and Mrs. A. L. Coombs, in cabin. For Nagasaki:—Mr. M. Elliott, in cabin. For Shanghai:—Mrs. Frank Reid, Miss Jone Reid, and Miss Ruby Fabris, in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mrs. R. L. Bullard, Mr. Lee Bullard, Mr. Clary Bullard, Miss Rose Bullard, Mrs. P. G. Wales, Mr. Victor Wales, and Mr. Phillip Wales, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. E. Leopold, Mr. Stewart Harrison, Mrs. Oyasu, Mrs. Okiku, Mr. and Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Kerr, amah and infant, Capt. Thomson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Mess, Mr. Cheong Ming, Mr. Chan Kin, Mr. Honda, Mr. Chan, Mrs. Hong Fat Sing, Mrs. Low Lee, and Mrs. Tai Tuck Sing, in cabin; 25 Chinese, in deck.

Per Japanese steamer *Riojun Maru*, from Hongkong via ports:—In Transit: Mr. J. D. Clark, Miss Algar, and Mr. and Mrs. T. Ohtsuka, in cabin; Mrs. Tohn Hook, Mrs. Chan Tough, Mrs. Li Tai, Mr. I. Kawara, and Mrs. Aoki, in second class; 327 Japanese, and 106 Chinese, in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. W. T. Gracey. Mr. R. Wildman, Mr. C. Abdulla and servant, Mrs. R. Wildman, infant and 2 maids, Miss Florence Woodall, Mr. Matsuda, Mr. R. Wildman, Jr., Mr. Nohara, Mr. G. Hare and servant, Mrs. G. S. Mackinnon, Mrs. Scherbinin, child and servant, and Mr. P. Wagstaff, in cabin. For San Francisco:—Mr. Sorabzee E. Vatcha, Capt. Sperry, Rev. W. P. Chalfont and wife, Master C. E. Chalfont, Mr. Stanley Oakes, Sir Frank Swettenham, Master W. B. Chalfont, Master G. A. Chalfont, and Mr. MacLindsay, in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kinshiu Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. Jackson, and Mr. William J. Hail, in second class; 21 Japanese, and 2 Chinese, in steerage.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

The effect of the Chinese complications is being felt in every line of the import trade. Japanese buyers are in such an embarassed state that they have retired wholly from the market, and in all directions quotations are nominal.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
	PER YARD.
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	23 *yen*
Indian Broach	19 *yen*
Chinese	Nominal

METALS.

The market is quite inactive.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 to 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12.50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅝ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

The market exhibits the usual summer weakness.

American	$2.28
Russian	2.75
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The trade is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	8.00 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Market for new silk has opened by the purchase of a few small lots to No. 1½ Filatures 11-12 11-13 deniers at quotations. Further parcels of 13-15 deniers will be on the market next week, but the price has not yet been fixed. At closing all is quiet and holders will, we think, have difficulty in maintaining present values.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	960 to 970
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	None
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	
Common—Coarse	
Re-reels—Extra	
Re-reels—No. 1	
Re-reels—No. 1½	
Re-reels—No. 2	
Re-reels—No. 3	
Kakedas—Extra	
Kakedas—No. 1	
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

Season closed, and nothing will now be done till new fibre appears on the market next month.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Filatures, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	

TEA.

The settlements in Kobe up to the evening of the 19th were 52,566 piculs, and 5,666 piculs were in stock; the figures for the corresponding date of 1899 being 61,840 and 11,323 respectively. For Yokohama the returns up to the evening of the 21st were:—Settlements 100,887 piculs; stock 3,307 piculs. Last year the figures up to the same date were: Settlements, 123,569 piculs; stock 7,527 piculs. The principal buyers have been Smith, Baker and Co. with 17,556 piculs; Hunt & Co. 12,314 piculs; Hellyer & Co. 11,507 piculs; and G. H. Macey & Co. 11,047 piculs. From the comparative figures given it will be seen that buying has been on a small scale. Prices are fully maintained, and the quality of the teas is worse. Leaf is poorer, and cup has gone off. The second crop as seen up to date is very poor in cup and leaf, and mixed with inferior leaf. With a few days' rain, which is much wanted, it may improve. The New York market is stagnant, many buyers there wanting to see samples as they are in the Yokohama godowns before operating.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	43 & upwards
Choice	32 to 33
Finest	30 to 31
Fine	28 to 29
Good Medium	26 to 27
Medium	24 to 25
Good Common	22 to 23
Common	—

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, June 21.

Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9.25. Oriental Hotel old shares can be had at *yen* 150. Helms can be had at par.

	YEN.
Yokohama E. & I. Works	220 Steady.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	150 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co	100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	160 Sales.

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TELEGRAPHIC QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong, June 19.

BANKS.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation .....$312 % prem. S.
National Bank of China, Limited 27 Sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.

China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited ..... 54 Buyers.
North China Insurance Company, Limited .....Tls. 165 Buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited .....$295 Sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited ..... 80 Sellers.

SHIPPING.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited 31¼ Sellers.
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited ..... 47½ Sellers.

MINING.

Pnnjom Mining Company, Limited 6¼ Sellers.
Raub A'lian Gold Mining Company, Limited ..... 60 Sellers.

DOCKS, WHARFS AND GODOWNS.

Hongkong & W'poa Dock Company, Limited ..... 490 % prem. B.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ld..... 86 Sales.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited... 139 Sales.
H'phrey's Estate & Finance Company, Limited ..... 10¾ Sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited ..... 126 Sales.
Green Island Cement Co., Limited 21½ Sales.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS,
Stock and Share Broker,
75, Main Street.

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, June 21.

Breweries are steady at *yen* 160. Oriental Hotels—old shares are obtainable at *yen* 150. Offers for new shares are wanted. Club Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 80. Langfeldts have sellers at *yen* 105. Helms are obtainable at par.

Y. U. Club debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Yebisus—Old shares were sold to-day at *yen* 108.50. New shares changed hands to-day at *yen* 42.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50	220 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50	160 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	240 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	80 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	150 S.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	500 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	40 St.
Oriental Hotel. preference shares, ¥25	40 St.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 21.

London silver ¼ higher and discount 2⅝ to 3 per cent. for 3 and 6 months paper, but no change locally, rates all keeping firm.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0⅜
— — Bills on demand	2/0¼
— — 4 months' sight	2/0⅜
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0¾
— — 6 months' sight	2/0⅞
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254½
— Private 4 months' sight	260@59½
— — 6 months' sight	261½@61
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾ @5⅝
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212
Hongkong—Bank sight	3% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	4% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	74⅛
— Private 10 days' sight	74⅞
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153⅛
Bar Silver (London) 2nd	27 7/16

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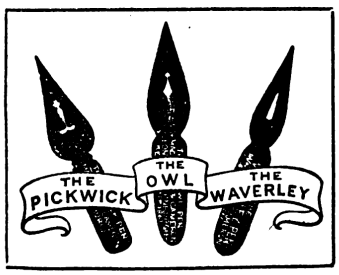

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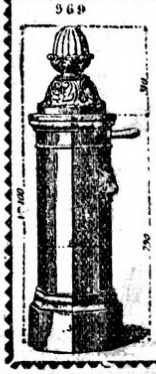

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The Japan Weekly Mail:

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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The Japan Weekly Mail.

"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. What is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 30TH, 1900.

MARRIAGE.

On Tuesday, June 26th, at the residence of the bride, Birmingham, Huntington County, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., GERTRUDE GRIER to FRD. TAYLOR GAUSE, of Yokohama, Japan.

DEATH.

On June 15th at Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, MRS. MARGARET KIRBY, aged 83 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Japan Red Cross Society sent fourteen nurses and doctors to Saseho, on the 21st inst.

GOVERNOR ASADA left Yokohama on Thursday, and Governor Sufu took over the seals the same day.

IN South Africa the war continues, various Boer commandos endeavouring to break through the British lines.

THE Formosan Trading Company of Yokohama, which has been principally engaged in the tea trade, has decided to dissolve.

A BASEBALL match between students of the Keiogijuku and the Yokohama school was played on Wednesday afternoon, Tokyo winning by 18 against 11.

THE mediation of Baron Shibusawa and Mr. Otani in the Water Works Loan case was a failure, says the *Kobe Herald*, and the Kobe City Sanjikai and the Water Works Committee will hold a conference to discuss what steps are to be taken in the future.

THE Chinese maintain that two foreigners, a man and a woman, lost their lives when the British Legation buildings at the Western Hills were burnt by the Boxers.

AN extraordinary number of earthquakes, more or less severe, have been felt in Yokohama the last week. There were at least seven well-defined shocks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

ACCORDING to the *Naval and Military Record*, H.R.H. Prince Abhakara of Siam has gone back to Siam with £27,000, paid by the British Admiralty for a submerged torpedo tube he recently invented.

THE baseball game on Saturday was very amusing, "The Boxers" defeating "The Allies" easily. It is rumoured in diplomatic circles that "The Allies" were handicapped by the inclusion of too many green-hands.

H.M.S. *Daphne*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 22nd inst., brought 400 Lee Mitford carbines and 60,000 rounds of ammunition for the local Volunteer force from Hongkong. Some of the weapons are to be distributed to the Police.

THE Queen has intimated to the Emperor William that she will confer the Order of the Garter upon the German Crown Prince when he pays his promised visit to England, as Her Majesty wishes herself to invest her great-grandson with the ribbon and insignia.

COLOSSAL sums have recently been collected in England by the Lord Mayor of London. On May 12, three Mansion House Funds stood at these figures:—Ottawa Fire Relief Fund, £46,000; Indian Famine Relief Fund, £229,600; South African War Fund, £902,400.

THE *Morning Post* learns from Ladysmith of an interesting incident which took place the other day. Both battalions of the Devons, who were camped within a mile of one another, paraded and were photographed together. This is their first meeting since the regiment was raised two hundred years ago.

THE post of first Governor-General to the Commonwealth of Australia has been offered to the new Duke of Argyll. It is, however, regarded as very improbable that he will accept, as the Princess Louise has objections to taking up residence in the Antipodes, and the Duke's own relatives are urging him to remain in England.

ON June 14th Honolulu was formally admitted into the American Union as a Territory. The American Consulate, which has been in existence for sixty years, closed on that date for ever. The records of the office, some of which have a very high historical value, will be sent to the State Department at Washington.

AFFAIRS in Northern China are still greatly disturbed and the most astonishing stories are reaching Japan anent the situation at Tientsin, Peking, and the adjacent country. The whereabouts of the Foreign Ministers is still unknown, but it is believed that they, as well as Admiral Seymour, are near Tientsin, but surrounded by rebels.

THE cricket match, Ladies v. Gentlemen, at Kobe ended in a win for the ladies, who made 27 and 189, against 50 and 68 by the inferior sex. Mrs. Lightfoot made the highest score, 14. The Ladies' bowling was very good, Mrs. Crombie being the best hand in this branch of the game. The gentlemen played under the usual handicap.

A BIG fire occurred at Nishi Kubiki-gori, Yechigo, Niigata prefecture, on the morning of the 29th inst.: 98 houses were destroyed, 7 badly damaged, one storehouse destroyed and one partly damaged, and 7 telegraph posts damaged or destroyed.

THE *Daily Express* publishes the following from Vienna:—A correspondent at Warsaw sends by mail an account of the rebellion of peasants in the Russian provinces of Kief, Pondolein and Charkov. The rising is supposed to have been organized by Nihilists. Martial law was proclaimed and large bodies of troops quickly suppressed the insurgents, killing many hundreds.

THE *Kobe Herald* reports that two cases of plague were reported from Osaka on Tuesday. The daughter of a dustman was taken ill on the 20th and died on the 23rd. The son of an ice dealer was affected on the 19th and died on Sunday evening. Both were certified as genuine cases of plague. Another case of plague is reported from Sakai near Osaka (on the Nankai Railway).

AT a meeting of the Committee of the International Association of Yokohama held on Saturday last it was unanimously resolved that a list should be circulated inviting members of the association to support a movement having for its object a farewell dinner to Mr. Asada Yasunori, Governor of Kanagawa Ken, who has recently been appointed to the Foreign Office.

THE Japanese battleship *Asahi* was surveyed in dock at Portsmouth on 14th May, when it was found that her keel had been buckled in for about 40ft. on the starboard and 20ft. on the port side under the fore barbette when she went ashore at Southsea Beach. It was also ascertained that the force of grounding was sufficient to bend the keel plates and to break the frames inside the ship. The damage was local and had no effect upon the structure of the vessel.

A BIG fire broke out on the 27th inst. at 2 p.m. at Nibancho, Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture. Altogether 5,000 houses were burnt, and 70 streets, with police station, post office, schools, town hall, tax office, two Shinto shrines, two newspaper offices, the Stock Exchange, &c., destroyed. The secretary of the Prefecture and the police are attending to relief works. The insurance is estimated at about 600,000 *yen*. About nine-tenths of the city was destroyed.

A MEETING of Chinese residents of Yokohama was held on Friday evening with the object of preparing a petition to the Japanese Government to use its best endeavours to replace the Emperor on the throne, remove the capital to the southward, and secure the inauguration of reforms. The promoters were Cantonese, and the meeting received no countenance from the Chinese officials. Kobe and Nagasaki co-operated in the movement, and Marquis Yamagata received the memorial.

THE British Ambassador filed on June 2nd in the American State Department a request from his Government for the extradition to England of Julian Biddulph Arnold, son of Sir Edwin Arnold, under arrest in San Francisco on a charge of embezzlement in London. The department also received a transcript of the testimony taken at the hearing in the case before the United States Commissioner in San Francisco, who committed Arnold for extradition. It is contended in behalf of the accused man that the alleged offence is not extraditable, but both embezzlement and breach of trust are made extraditable offences in the British-American treaty.

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DISTURBED CHINA.

THE TRUE CAUSES OF THE TROUBLE IN CHINA.

Saturday, June 23.

"Miyaki Setsurei" is always interesting when he undertakes to discuss international politics, though very often his ideas tend to startle rather than to convince. He is both entertaining and sensational in his comments about the present complications in China. We entirely agree with him that an uprising of the Chinese nation against foreigners is not at all to be wondered at. The fashion at present is to abuse the Chinese, and to talk of treating them as though they had been guilty of some unpardonable crime against the civilized world. But when we sit down quietly and review the events of the past three or four years, we can not fail to remember that what we have all chiefly wondered at was China's long-suffering, and what we have all habitually sneered at was her apparent pusillanimity and want of patriotism. She has been undergoing a kind of vivisection. Her territories have been seized on ridiculously flimsy pretexts; her ports have been "rented" virtually by force; concessions for building railways and working mines have been wrested from her whether she would or not; she has been divided up into spheres of influence by Western States just as though she were a jelly or a cheese; she has been compelled to open her doors wide to foreigners of all complexions, while foreign nations, on their side, close their doors in the face of her people for reasons which are as insulting as the fact is irksome. We have watched her suffering all this tamely, and timidly, and we have flouted her for cowardice and ridiculed her for helplessness. If, then, her people have at length been goaded to desperation; have at length risen to assert their manhood and their patriotism, have we whose custom is to ridicule their submissiveness any right now to censure their wrath?

We understand that these thoughts were passing through the mind of "Miyaki Setsurei" when he wrote his last article in the *Nippon*, and we share his sentiments. But we are puzzled to trace the chain of reasoning which leads him to conclude that Germany has stirred up the *émeute* in China, and that England's efforts have been employed in the same direction. Let it be granted that Germany is anxious to divert the tide of international strife to Far-Eastern shores and to find fresh fields for colonization. Let it also be granted that England discovers in Chinese disturbances some means of relieving the pressure on India—though what that pressure is and how it could thus be relieved we do not pretend to understand—; let it be granted that Russia's comparative unreadiness constitutes an opportunity which the two European Powers are unwilling to forfeit, and let it be granted that the successful result of the South-African war has induced a mood of ambition on England's part. Let all these things be granted, and yet we still fail to see how either England or Germany could have stirred up the Boxers and promoted the disturbances in the Middle Kingdom. In fact, the idea appears to us quite comical, and we are sorry that such suspicions should warp Mr. Miyaki's generally robust judgment. So far from having willingly contributed to create this situation, England is not unlikely to be the chief sufferer by it, and so far from Russia's unreadiness having been exploited in German or English interests, the probability is that Russia will come out at the head of the poll, with the Manchu Government under a profound obligation to her, and Li Hung-chang, her great partisan, restored to paramount influence in the administration.

RUMOURS FROM CHINA.

Monday, June 25.

Nothing could be more perplexing and less trustworthy than the rumours that reach us at present from China. The chief cause of the confusion is that the lines of telegraph are interrupted and we are thus obliged to rely on that most unreliable source of information, hearsay. The telegraph between Chefoo and Tientsin, the telegraph between Taku and Tientsin, the telegraph between Tientsin and Peking, the telegraph between Tientsin and Shan-hai-kwan, the telegraph between Newchang and Shan-hai-kwan—all seem to have been cut. This wholesale isolation of the centres of disturbance furnishes an index of the wide-spread character of the *emeute*, and leaves the public completely at the mercy of every news-monger and sensationalist who has a mind to create excitement and consternation. At this moment of writing (Saturday morning) we are confronted by a positive statement that from the 17th inst. Tientsin was invested by the insurgents; that heavy artillery was employed against it, thus showing that the troops had thrown in their lot with the insurgents; that the place was finally captured; that 150 foreigners were killed, and that the settlement was reduced to ashes. The 17th instant was the day of the attack on the Taku Forts. When that news reached us, we saw very plainly, and pointed out, that Tientsin's position had become terribly perilous, and that "an irruption of Chinese soldiers and Boxers might have taken place into the Concession simultaneously with the commencement of hostilities at Taku." That danger must have been patent to every one, and thus, whether the apprehension was realized or not, it was pretty certain that rumours of an attack upon Tientsin would be circulated. We can scarcely doubt that there has been some attack, but should we be justified in assuming that its results have been truly stated? Let us see how the facts stand. The telegram announcing the investment of Tientsin is said to have been sent by Admiral Dewa, and to have reached Chefoo on the 22nd. Therefore it was despatched from Taku on the 20th. Thus, at the moment of sending it, Admiral Dewa is supposed to have known that Tientsin had been invested for three days. Now Tientsin is only 5 hours from Taku by river, and the Forts being in the hands of the allies, there is nothing to prevent gunboats and torpedo-destroyers from steaming a great ~~part of the~~ way to Tientsin. The river is not navigable by vessels of deep draught but a gunboat or torpedo-destroyer would have no difficulty in getting up. Now in the Japanese Squadron at Taku there are four gun-boats and three torpedo-destroyers—the gun-boats *Atago* (622 tons), the *Chinto*, *Chimpen* and *Chinchiu* (each 447 tons, namely, the alphabetical gun-boats built on the Tyne to China's order precisely for the purpose of navigating inland waters, and captured from China by Japan), and the torpedo-destroyers *Kagero*, *Usugumo* and *Shiranui*. In the British Squadron there are at least one gun-boat and two torpedo-destroyers, and in the German squadron, one gun-boat. We omit the Russian gun-boats as they seem to have been seriously damaged in the bombardment on the 17th. Thus there were at Taku on the 20th, six gun-boats and five torpedo-destroyers all capable of running up to Tientsin in half a day. Can we suppose that with such a force available the naval commanders left Tientsin unaided for three days after its investment? Apart from these considerations we have an official telegram dated Chefoo 21st, saying that Admiral Seymour had returned to Tientsin. Previous telegrams said that he had entered Peking on Sunday, the 16th. The statements are not irreconcilable. It is evident that Peking is not the place for Admiral Seymour. He would not remain there one moment longer than was absolutely necessary, but would hasten back at once to Tientsin and thence to Taku, leaving the mixed brigade of marines in charge of the Senior military officer. If he set out from Peking on the morning of the 17th, he must have reached Tientsin on the 18th, and if the fact of his return were conveyed from Taku on the 19th, it would have been known in Chefoo on the 21st. That is all consistent enough, but how are we to reconcile it with the report that Tientsin was invested from the 17th instant? In order to return to Tientsin from Peking Admiral Seymour would have had to pass through some four miles of Chinese city and through the lines of the investing force. It is not likely that he would have attempted anything of the kind if Tientsin were beseiged by the insurgents and the Imperial forces. Rumour appears to be playing with us. The most reasonable assumption seems to be that Tientsin has been bombarded by the Chinese troops, but that they have not made any attempt to carry it by assault, and that the casualties are by no means as great as rumour would have us believe. We do not think that the Settlement has been burned down, or that there has been any wholesale destruction of foreign life. A calamity of that magnitude would certainly have been telegraphed to London and would have been communicated thence to other places. We do not suggest, however, that the bombardment has been altogether ineffectual. The United States Consulate appears to have been burned, and some other buildings may have shared the same fate. But there is no reason to doubt that the foreign troops are still guarding the Settlement; a fact incompatible with the report that 500, or even 150, foreigners had been killed. A telegram received yesterday in Tokyo said that a column of 3,000 men had left Taku to attempt the relief of Tientsin, and there is every reason to hope that the expedition will be successful. Meanwhile, it is somewhat puzzling to understand what has become of the Russian troops concerning whose landing at Taku so much has been said. At least four thousand of them must have landed, and more than one half ~~of that number ought~~ to be in Tientsin. They have artillery, of course, ~~and one~~ imagines that they should be able to silence the Chinese guns, which, considering the nature of the country about Tientsin, must be almost as much exposed as the houses they are bombarding. Nothing need he said about the brutality of using artillery against a town inhabited by a purely commercial community. The Chinese do not take any account of such things, and really considering how often their own towns have been bombarded by foreign ships, we can not greatly blame their want of humanity.

M. DELCASSÉ AND THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS.

Tuesday, June 26.

Careful examination of the telegram published on Friday last with reference to action taken by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs suggests that the expanded interpretation given in these columns was incorrect. The original telegram ran thus:—*Sur demande Delcassé Ministre Chine Paris tele-*

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graphia Vice Roi Yunnan sa vie répondrait celle Français prisonniers Yunnan-sen. This is somewhat vague, but it is obviously open to the construction that "his life" means the life of the Viceroy of Yunnan, not the life of the Chinese Representative in Paris. That construction is plainly more consistent with what might have been expected of M. Delcassé. It would have been natural that he should threaten to exact the severest reparation from the Viceroy of Yunnan in the event of the lives of French citizens being lost through his, the Viceroy's, failure to protect them as required by treaty. We can not question that detailed information will confirm this subsequent interpretation of the telegram.

General Gaselee, who is to command the British Forces in Northern China, served with the 93rd Highlanders in the Umbeyla campaign of 1863 (Medal with Clasp). Served as Staff Officer to the Director of Transports on the Highlands throughout the Abyssinian campaign in 1868, and was present at the capture of Magdala (mentioned in despatches, Medal). Served with the Hazara Field Force in 1868. Served with the 4th Punjaub Infantry at the surprise of the Bezotee village of Gara on the 25th Feb. 1869 (mentioned in despatches, and thanked by the Governor General). Served with the 4th Punjaub Infantry throughout the Jowaki Afridi expedition of 1877-78 (mentioned in despatches, Clasp). Served throughout the Afghan war of 1878-80 in the Quarter Master General's Department, and was present at the affair at Shahjui and in the engagements at Ahmed Kheyl and Oorzoo near Ghuzni (mentioned in despatches); accompanied Sir Frederick Roberts in the march to Candahar, and was present at the reconnaissance on 31st August and at the battle of Candahar, (mentioned in despatches, Brevet of Major, Medal with two Clasps, and Bronze Decoration). Served with the Zhob Valley Expedition in 1884 (mentioned in despatches). Served with the Hazara Expedition in 1891 in command of the 4th Sikh Infantry (mentioned in despatches, C.B. and Clasp); with the Isazai Expedition in 1892; and with the Waziristan Field Force under Sir William Lockhart in 1894-95 in command of the 5th Goorkhas, and during the latter part of the operations in command of the divisional troops (mentioned in despatches, Clasp).

An Edict.

The following edict, bearing the date 8th June, is translated by the *Shanghai Mercury*:—

1.—As the Boxers have created trouble not long ago near the vicinity of Peking which caused the people some excitement we have repeatedly issued orders to investigate. Recently, crowds of loafers armed with knives, etc., are gathering and loafing here and there in the streets and markets in the city of Peking and their appearances are uncertain as to whereabouts. If this is not put a stop to, the condition of affairs will be worse. The General Commanding the Gendarmerie, the Governor of Peking, and the Police Censors of the Five Cities of the Capital are responsible for such policing duties, and they ought not to allow these evil characters to assemble, infest and incite the people near the Imperial Court buildings. Now, we hereby order the Prince and Minister the Heir-apparent's father, (Prince Tuan) in command of the Peking Field Force, etc., to go round with the force to keep a strict watch day and night and to at once arrest and punish those ruffians who are seen to create disturbances. The General Commanding the Gendarmerie, Governor of Peking, and the Police Censors of the Five Cities of the Capital are also ordered to do the same. If met with those who are suspicious in movements, armed in person and inciting the people deserve to be captured and punished without the least leniency in order to suppress the rising, uproot the rebellion, and restore peace in the country.

2.—Appointing several Hanlins to be Special Grand Examiners and Assistants to the Provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Fukien in the celebration of the Emperor's thirtieth birthday this year.

11th June.

Ching Feng is hereby appointed Junior Vice-President of the Board of Punishments and Na Tung is promoted to fill his post as Senior Vice-President of the Mongolian Superintendency.

Forces Engaged in the Attempt to Relieve Tientsin.

Wednesday, June 27.

News has been published in Tokyo which estimates that the allied forces garrisoning Tientsin and Taku or engaged in the attempt to relieve the former place, up to the 23rd instant, aggregated over 5,000 men; namely, 3,000 Russians, 1,000 British, 1,000 Germans, 360 Japanese and an unknown number of French. These figures are difficult to reconcile with those given by the telegrams received at the French Legation in Tokyo, which obviously contains the most trustworthy intelligence hitherto furnished. According to the French telegrams, the detachment by which the first attempt to relieve the place was made, numbered only 500, and another essay by two thousand men was to be made the same evening. If the allies had nearly six thousand men on shore, of whom one thousand are shut up in Tientsin and one thousand told off to garrison the Taku Forts, how did it happen that the duty of attempting to relieve Tientsin was assigned to only 500 men in the first instance? We do not believe that such a force had been landed at the time when the last accounts were despatched. Rumour had probably been more than usually liberal when it represented Russia as landing 3,000 men at first and 5,000 afterwards. Russia has considerable military strength in the Far East, but she has only a small number of transports, and it is highly improbable that she managed to land a brigade of several thousands at Taku within a few days from the first alarm. The only trustworthy accounts hitherto received suggest to us that, on learning the state of affairs in Tientsin, the commanding officers at Taku immediately took steps to organise a strong relieving column. They would have chosen the river route had the railway been quite unavailable. But since the railway could be utilized for at least half the distance, they decided to forward the troops by train and the provisions and munitions by water. Only a small quantity of rolling stock was at hand, and the massing of the troops for active operations could not be effected with much rapidity. But, so soon as the van was assembled, it moved forward at once, and naturally, on getting within range of Tientsin, it lost not a moment in engaging the town's assailants, so as to interrupt their bombardment of the Settlement. That was probably the attack reported by the French Legation telegrams. It may have been followed by similar efforts to divert the besiegers' attention rather than to break through them, and such efforts would naturally be regarded by outsiders as failures, though they really fulfilled their immediate purpose, pending the massing of an efficient column of assault. We know that the first instalment of Japanese troops, fully a thousand strong, reached Taku on the 23rd, and the Hongkong troops must have got there about the same time. Hence the relieving column received an accession of fifteen or sixteen hundred troops by the 25th, to say nothing of the blue-jackets and marines landed by the *Terrible*, the *Chitose*, and the *Yashima* (12,517 tons), which must have been at Taku by the evening of the 25th, and would have been able to undertake the task of garrisoning the Forts, thus freeing the latter's defenders for service at the front. We entertain very little doubt that at this time of writing the assailants of Tientsin have been dispersed and the foreign community is safe.

Since the above was in type, news comes that communication with Tientsin was restored on the 23rd.

The Operations at Taku.

The nature of the operations at Taku on the 17th of June and of the incidents preceding the fight, is made clear by despatches published in the *Official Gazette* from Captain Nagamine and Rear-Admiral Dewa. It appears that on the 15th instant a military council was convened by the senior naval officer, Vice-Admiral Hildebrand, on board the first-class cruiser *Rossia*. The facts which the council had to consider were that the insurgents, numbering about 2,000, showed a disposition to attack the Taku Forts, to destroy the railway, and to lay torpedoes in the Peiho. In view of these dangers, it was resolved that steps must be taken to guard the railway station, and to preserve communications with Tientsin. In carrying out this resolution, the allies determined to adopt a defensive attitude, and to refrain from assuming the offensive unless they were attacked, in which event they were to assault the forts and render them incapable of doing any mischief. It was further decided that a force of 300 Japanese marines should be landed and posted at the Tong-ku station, with orders to guard it until relieved.

On the 16th instant at 11 a.m. another council was held on board the *Rossia*. The facts before this second council were that although the Chinese Government had raised no objection to the Foreign Powers cooperating to preserve good order and secure life and property, and had undertaken to discharge its own duties in those respects, there was now every appearance that the Chinese troops were laying torpedoes to block the River and were advancing to destroy the railway in conjunction with the Boxers. The naval commanders found themselves obliged in consequence to adopt measures for preserving communications with the men already landed from the ships and to prevent Tientsin from being isolated. Therefore, they determined that the Governor of Chili must be called on to hand over the Taku Forts, and, if he declined to do so, they must be assaulted. An intimation inthat sense was forwarded to the Governor, as well as to the officer in command of the Chinese troops, 2 o'clock a.m. on the 17th being named as the hour by which hostilities would commence in the event of the Forts not being handed over. At 3.15 on the afternoon of that day (16th) a force of 180 Russians were landed; and at 4 p.m. they were followed by 250 British and 130 Germans. By 8 p.m. the situation had become very critical, and it was evident that hostilities might commence at any moment.

At 12.50 a.m. the Forts opened fire on the *Atago*, *Iltis*, *Algerine*, *Monocacy*, *Koreetz*, *Bobr*, *Silatch* and other foreign craft lying inside the bar, and a fierce cannonade at once commenced, lasting without intermission until 4.35 a.m., when a terrible explosion occurred, one of the Chinese magazines having been blown up. The Japanese torpedo-destroyer *Kagero* had meanwhile been steaming round and round the Chinese cruiser *Hai-yuen*, but, as the latter showed no sign of taking part in the hostilities, the *Kagero* was despatched at 5.20 a.m., to ascertain how matters were proceeding

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on shore. Owing, however, to the low state of the tide, she could not cross the bar. Fifteen minutes later, namely, at 5.45 a.m., the Japanese flag was seen waving over one of the Forts on the northern bank of the River.

The report of operations on shore shows that at daybreak the forces for the assault of the Forts were marshalled, 200 Russians forming the van, 380 British and Germans the main body, and 300 Japanese the reserve force in the rear. The advance was commenced in echelon of columns, but, owing to the hot fire opened by the Chinese, a command was issued to take skirmishing order. Captain Hattori then perceived that the Russians in the van were making little progress owing to the heavy fire kept up by the Chinese, and that the advance of the British and the Germans was impeded by heavy ground. He himself was marching with two field-pieces at the head of his men, but, observing a short road of access to the Fort, he doubled his marines at each side of the guns and pushed on rapidly, leaving the rest of the allies behind. The Chinese troops still kept up a brisk fire, and Captain Hattori, seeing that a bayonet charge was the only resource, gave the necessary orders. He fell dead himself just as he reached the parapet, but Lieutenant Shiraishi led the men. Their charge was successful, and the rest of the troops followed immediately. Captain Nagamine pays a tribute to the gallant conduct of Lieut. Shiraishi, and adds that the Japanese received numerous congratulations. Their casualties were Captain Hattori and 2 men killed, 2 mortally wounded, 1 severely wounded, and 3 slightly wounded. The Russians had 2 officers and 16 men killed, and 2 officers and 37 men wounded. The casualties among the British and Germans are not clearly known.

With regard to the bombardment of the Forts, it appears that the *Atago* did not take part, being heavily laden with ammunition and provisions for the allies. The *Iltis* was struck by 8 shells. Her commander lost a leg, and her casualties were 1 officer and 6 men killed and 9 wounded. The *Silatch* was struck by 4 shells, one below the water-mark. She had 8 men killed and 2 officers and 46 men wounded. The *Léon* was struck once and set on fire. She had 1 man killed and 46 wounded. The *Korectz* received 5 shells and took fire. She had 5 killed and 21 wounded. The *Bobr* had 1 wounded, and the *Algerine*, though struck by 1 shell, had no casualties.

JAPAN MOBILIZES.

Thursday, June 28.

The Japanese Government is understood to have ordered the mobilization of one Division; which means, approximately, twenty thousand of all arms. The troops, it is said, will not embark immediately, but will hold themselves in readiness to do so at an hour's notice. We rejoice that Japan has taken this action. The occasion is eminently one calling for vigorous measures on her part, not only because China has to be saved from another era of anarchy and retrogression, but also because the issue of the present crisis, unless it is very carefully controlled, may affect the Chinese empire's integrity, a result which Japan, in common with several of the Western Powers, is anxious to avert.

The Fifth Division which has been ordered to mobilize for active service is under the command of Lieut. General Baron Yamaguchi, an officer who gained considerable distinction in the war of 1894-5. The old uncertainty evidently exists as to the strength of a Division. Some of our readers probably remember how numerous were the discussions that took place on this subject during the war with China. Doubtless the uncertainty is chiefly caused by the difference between the peace footing and the war footing of a military unit. In 1894, the Japanese army consisted of six Divisions and the Guards. Its peace strength was 65,000, in round numbers, and its war strength, 240,000. Hence a Division on a peace footing consisted of some 9,000 of all arms, and on a war footing the total became 35,000, approximately. In this latter figure were included the second reserves, who would not be called out except in case of great emergency. Roughly speaking, a Division on a war footing for foreign service aggregated 20,000 men of all ranks and arms, and this was about the ultimate strength of the Divisions sent to Manchuria, Liao-tung, and Shantung. There has not been any noteworthy change in the composition of a Division since that time, but the strength of the Army has been raised to 12 Divisions and the Guards. Thus the order issued on the 26th instant to the Fifth Division may be interpreted to mean that 20,000 troops will be mobilised, and that, if sent abroad, ten thousand will embark at once, the remainder following. Japan has already sent 3,000, so that, in the event of a campaign, she will take the field with 13,000 in her fighting line and 10,000 in her second line. Seventeen transports had been engaged before the decision to mobilise was taken, and nineteen more have now been chartered—thirteen from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and six from the Osaka Shosen Kaisha,—so that thirty-six steamers will be available immediately.

Money for the purposes of this expedition, should its despatch become necessary, will be taken from the reserve of 50 million *yen* held by the Treasury for purposes of naval maintenance, famine relief, and educational assistance. Of that reserve, 15 millions are in specie, now lying in the Treasury; 15 millions are in foreign securities, quickly realizable, and 20 millions are in home securities. The silver still lying in the Treasury vaults will be available for payments in China, and as the provisions and munitions required by the forces can be furnished by Japan herself, there is no reason to anticipate any considerable exodus of money.

There has evidently been a great deal of impatience among the Japanese because the Government did not more quickly adopt vigorous measures with regard to the Chinese complication, and we ourselves have repeatedly urged the advisability of Japan's utilizing her strength and her position to save a very perilous situation. But we have always been fully sensible of a fact which, however, it was not our province to emphasize, namely, that many considerations indicated the wisdom of extreme circumspection on Japan's part. Any indication of precipitancy, any display of a disposition to utilize her preponderating force without the fullest regard to cooperative equilibrium, would assuredly have exposed her to injurious suspicions. Her reserve in the face of strong incentives must be taken as conclusive proof that she attaches paramount importance to preserving unity of action among the Powers, and that she does not wish to differentiate herself in any way. Her statesmen have given many evidences of prudent reticence and far-seeing self-restraint. It will certainly be agreed that their conduct in the present instance has strengthened the record.

The *N.-C. Daily News* learns that on the 14th instant, a telegram came to the railway officials at Tangku from Lutai, ordering engines and trucks to be sent to take 7,000 men and 60 guns to Tientsin. The captain of the German gunboat *Iltis* refused to allow them to go; on which word came back that the rolling stock was not wanted, as the troops would march. These troops, who are under General Nieh, are probably among those who have been bombarding Tientsin.

The *N.-C. Daily News* of the 23rd inst. publishes the following telegrams:—

H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG ON THE CRISIS.

Hongkong, 22nd June.

Mr. A. Cunningham specially interviewed H.E. Li Hung-chang yesterday at Canton on the subject of the crisis.

H.E. Li said he was ordered to Peking by the Empress Dowager to suppress the Boxers and make peace with the Powers. He believed the Boxers were only a fanatical anti-Christian rabble, and he thought the native converts and even the missionaries were to be blamed, the Catholics being very troublesome. He did not think the Boxers had any political motives and thinks the Empress Dowager has been entirely misled and misinformed as to the true state of affairs. It was not her intention that present events should take place. He was officially informed that the Taku forts fired because the Admirals presented an ultimatum demanding the dispersal of the soldiers and the fleet. He had not made preparations for war, because he has not been advised that war has been declared. He thinks it the duty of all Viceroys to protect life and property, foreign and native. His remedy would be to behead the leaders of the Boxers, send the people to their homes, and make peace with the Powers. He is confident he can do the last. He expects no serious rebellion in the Two Kuang during his absence, and is holding the officials responsible for the preservation of order.

The following telegram, dated Manila, 21st June, has been kindly handed to us:—

"One hundred and forty marines for the *Nashville* have sailed in the *Solace*, Waller commanding."

"Colonel Liseum with the Ninth Regiment will probably leave next week."

PRINCE TUAN IN SUPREME COMMAND.

Tientsin, via Chefoo, 21st June.—Just received news from friends who have come from Peking that Prince Tuan holds supreme power in the Capital. He has divided the Iho Chuan into eight corps or Banners after the Manchu style. The Emperor, Empress Dowager, Jung Lu, and several others of moderate policy are completely at Prince Tuan's mercy, so-called Imperial edicts since 18th instant having been issued on his sole initiative. A large body of the Hushêng corps (Manchus, under Prince Tuan) now guard the Palace gates, preventing ingress and egress of those not under Prince Tuan. Hence rumours of Emperor's and Empress Dowager's death.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

Friday, June 29.

The telegram published elsewhere, which reached Tokyo through the French Legation, removes all doubt as to the relief of Tientsin. Little room for doubt existed, indeed, in the face of the iterated messages received through other sources, but the facts that intelligence from Tientsin seemed slow in coming and that no accounts were forwarded about the state of the Settlement and of the Foreign community, were difficult to reconcile with the idea of effectual relief. We can not but think, however, that this is essentially a case of no news being good news. If Tientsin had been the scene of catastrophes anything like those announced again and again by rumour; if the whole Settlement had been burned down; if even half of the Settlement had been burned down; if 500 foreigners had been killed; if even 150 foreigners had been killed, it is scarcely conceivable that some details would not have been telegraphed so soon as ever the allied forces entered the place. Many persons probably found it difficult to imagine that nothing terrible had occurred, and they construed the absence of sensational intelligence as an indication that access to the Settlement had not yet been obtained. We have endeavoured from the first to point out the extreme improbability of the stories circulated as to wholesale in-

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cendiarism and massacre, and it is our conviction that no shocking records are now published because there is nothing shocking to record. Very likely before these words are in type the horrors depicted by rumour will be proved mythical.

But the French telegram contains one startling piece of intelligence, namely, that the Foreign Ministers, returning from Peking —fugitives from Peking would be a correct expression—are guarded by foreign troops and surrounded by Chinese at a point some 20 kilometres from Tientsin. If that be the case, several inferences suggest themselves. The first is that Admiral Seymour's force reached Peking and that it has been serving as escort for the Foreign Ministers who decided to quit the capital. The second is that the Chinese troops have either been unable or unwilling to protect the Ministers effectually *en route*; and the third is that the Chinese Government has been reduced to a condition of administrative impotence. Apparently the route to Peking will have to be opened again at the point of the bayonet, as was done 37 years ago.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is prominent among those that question the truth of the relief of Tientsin. Our contemporary bases its scepticism on the fact that a telegram sent by Major-General Fukushima from Chefoo on the evening of the 25th said that communication with Tientsin was not yet restored, since which time no new intelligence has been received from that officer. Further, our contemporary alleges that in military circles there is great doubt about the possibility of Tientsin's having been so quickly relieved. We do not share these doubts. Before the news of the alleged relief reached Japan, we had indicated the 23rd instant as the day when communication would probably be restored, and we find no difficulty whatever in crediting the feat. The railway was evidently available for fully one half of the journey, and the resistance offered by the Boxers and their allies was not likely to be of such a nature as to seriously impede foreign troops advancing with the object of saving their countrymen and countrywomen from massacre.

With regard to Admiral Seymour's force and the heavy casualties he is said to have suffered—upwards of 60 killed and 200 wounded—, there seems to have been as much exaggeration as there was in the case of Tientsin. The working theory suggesting itself about Admiral Seymour is that he succeeded in reaching Peking without any very protracted delay, and that he had made his way back to within a few miles of Tientsin, escorting the Foreign Ministers and the Peking foreign community, when the relief of Tientsin was effected. One fact has to be carefully noted in estimating the situation. It is that to reach a point 12 or 13 miles from Tientsin *en route* from Peking, and to effect an entry into Tientsin, are two very different things. The last stage of the journey—the entering of Tientsin—would be incomparably the more difficult part of the task, for it would entail a march of some four miles through the middle of the Chinese town—not the walled city, but the huge congeries of habitations lying along both banks of the Peiho to the north of Tientsin. Admiral Seymour might have had strength to make his way to the neighbourhood of Peking, but when it came to safely escorting the Foreign Representatives and a number of women and children through four miles of crowded streets where the insurgents were collected in force, he probably deemed his force insufficient, and concluded that the only plan was to select the best position available, and watch for a favourable opportunity to enter Tientsin. Such an opportunity would be created so soon as communications were restored from the south by a relieving force, and that was doubtless the conjuncture for which Admiral Seymour waited. We can not imagine that having failed to reach Peking he remained "hung up" between that city and Tientsin for nearly three weeks. But it is very easy to imagine that having reached Peking his return journey to Tientsin, when acting as escort for a large number of foreign ladies and gentlemen, may have been interrupted owing to the investment and bombardment of Tientsin by the insurgents. If our theory be correct, it becomes evident either that the troops sent by the Chinese Government to guard the Ministers were virtually helpless, or that they declined to be helpful.

The Fighting at Taku on the 17th.

From a diagram forwarded by Rear-Admiral Dewa and published in the *Official Gazette*, we learn something of the positions occupied by the foreign gun-boats and torpedo-destroyers engaged in the attack on the Forts. Roughly speaking, the Peiho River takes the form of a letter *S* between the mouth and the railway station at Tong-ku. The Forts lie on both sides of the River at the lower extremity of the letter; Taku lies on the convexity of the upper curve; and if we suppose the upper end of the *S* prolonged so as to form the commencement of another similar letter, Tong-ku is situated at the convexity of the prolongation, being thus on the opposite side from Taku. All the foreign gun-boats and torpedo-destroyers had entered the river and anchored up-stream from the Forts before the action commenced. Nearest to the Forts in the lower arm of the *S* were two British torpedo-destroyers with a British gun-boat between them. Higher up, beyond the first convexity of the *S*, were a British gun-boat and a Russian gun-boat. Then, in the curve of the upper arm of the *S*, and therefore immediately opposite Taku, four Chinese torpedo-destroyers were lying, there being also a Chinese destroyer in the dock; and finally, in the immediate neighbourhood of Tong-ku, there were a German gun-boat, a Japanese gun-boat, a French gun-boat and a Russian gun-boat, in that order counting down stream. We can not tell whether the same order was maintained after the firing commenced. Probably not: probably the gun-boats moved about during the bombardment, for below Tong-ku the river is wide enough for manœuvering. At all events, when the Forts opened fire, the order must have been as above stated, and consequently the first group of British vessels, a gun-boat and two torpedo-destroyers, were only 700 yards from the Fort on the north side of the River; the second group, a British gun-boat and a Russian gun-boat, were a little more than 1 mile from the Forts; and the third group, in the neighbourhood of Tong-ku, was 2¼ miles away. It is evident that the British gun-boat and the two torpedo-destroyers lying farthest down-stream, must have contrived to find shelter under the banks, or they could not have long survived at such a range. All the vessels were within easy range of the big guns in the Forts, and they must have suffered even more than they did had the engagement taken place during daylight.

We gather that Colonel Wogack was in command of the troops at the assault of the Forts. The question of leadership in the event of an emergency calling for united action had been discussed at a council held on board the *Centurion* on the 6th instant, and the French seinor naval officer had proposed that the command should be assumed by the Russian Colonel Wogack, as the senior military officer present, and as the one who had most experience in the Far East. Admiral Seymour expressed the opinion that each unit of the forces should act under the orders of its own own officers unless a combined landing had to be effected, in which case a single command would of course be necessary. The point does not appear to have been definitely decided at the council, but it would be taken for granted that the officer senior in rank on any occasion of united action would assume the leadership. We do not doubt that it was Colonel Wogack.

The Russians lost very heavily: they had 18 killed and 39 wounded, or 57 casualties out of a total force of 200. That is 28 per cent. It is evident that they were checked, and no wonder. The British and Germans were impeded by the mud. It is a curious fact that the very same thing happened to a party of the British troops engaged in the assault of the old Taku Forts on the last occasion of their attack. The Japanese probably knew better than any of their allies how paddy-fields ought to be negotiated. They made their rush quickly and thus escaped with comparatively slight losses—only 5 killed and 4 wounded out of a force of 300.

It is remarkable that out of the six gun-boats engaged, five—namely, three Russian, one German and one French—had 21 killed and 125 wounded, whereas the British gun-boat had no casualties. The *Allacrity*, though lying in the River, naturally took no part in the engagement.

We presume that the gunboats managed to effect a breach in the up-stream face of the northern fort. Possibly the explosion of the powder-magazine made a practicable point of entry. As to that, the Japanese despatches are silent. The southern fort does not appear to have been escaladed. The guns of the north fort were trained on it, and its garrison fled.

The list of casualties seems large at first sight, but we have to remember that a fairly resolute detachment of troops defending such a position with modern weapons ought to have been practically invincible, there being no cover whatever for troops advancing to the assault. In fact, no commanding officer would have ventured to essay the operation had the garrison consisted of any troops except Chinese. But the gunners of the Forts showed no mean skill. They managed to get 19 shells home, though they had to lay their guns during the night. That is not a bad record. Altogether the taking of the forts cost the allies 44 killed and 168 wounded.

The Chinese Residents in Japan.

We have read with much pleasure an article in the *Jiji Shimpo* of the 25th instant with reference to the six thousand Chinese subjects that reside in Japan. The *Jiji* assures them that, though this country is necessarily hostile to the insurgents whose arms are directed against the lives of foreigners in China, there is no quarrel with the Chinese nation. On the contrary, there is a feeling of pity. Therefore every Chinese subject residing in Japan may count on the full protection of the Japanese Authorities, and any Chinese that desire to take refuge here from the disturbances in their own country, will meet with a hearty welcome. Our contemporary goes even so far as to advise

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that ships be sent to China to take off refugees, but it is not easy to see how such a proposal could be carried into practise.

The Chinese residents in the four ports—Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki and Hakodate—have addressed to Marquis Yamagata a petition urging that the Emperor be restored to power and that the capital be moved to the south. The petitioners set out by recounting briefly the course of recent events, and avowing their shame and sorrow that such excesses should have been perpetrated. They then go on to assert that the origin of the trouble is to be found in the evil influences permeating official circles, and that no valid hope of restoring peace and good order exists unless these influences be completely removed. They speak in high terms of the Emperor, describing him as a man of enlightenment and genuinely progressive impulses, and they contend that his restoration to administrative power and the removal of the capital to the south are essential to the salvation of the Chinese nation. They also allude to Russia, not by name, but under the thin disguise of the "Great Northern Power," which has already carried its aggressions into the whole Manchurian regions and now seeks to extend them still further westward. Japan is not asked by the memorialists to undertake single-handed the task of restoring the Emperor and removing the capital. What they suggest is that she should use her influence to persuade Foreign Powers of the necessity of that course, and of the advisability of applying their strength to consummate it.

The Chinese residents have also addressed a telegram to the Viceroy Chang Chi-tung. They urge him to put down the Boxers with a strong hand and to protect foreign merchants and missionaries, in the interests of China, and also in the interests of the petitioners' position in Japan, which otherwise will become intolerable.

JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION ON THE CHINESE CRISIS.

Monday, June 25.

The Japanese press is virtually unanimous in urging that resolute action should be immediately taken by this country for the restoration of peace in China. The *Jiji Shimpo* maintains that no reason exists for reserve or hesitation. The occasion is imperative, and no Occidental Power will misconstrue Japan's action if she puts forth her strength, or suspect her of sinister motives. The *Nippon* takes virtually the same line, but is inclined to think that the crisis has been precipitated by the attack on the Taku Forts, which, it alleges, was commenced by the allies, the insurgents not having made any hostile demonstration. Such points, however, need not now be discussed. The absorbing question is the nature of the settlement that must be made. The Chinese Government is in a dilemma closely resembling that which confronted the Tokugawa Administration at the time of the Restoration. It finds itself between the Devil and the deep blue sea: fearful of opposing its own people, but threatened with the consuming wrath of Foreign Powers unless it does so. There is no warrant for supposing that the Chinese Government is in sympathy with the insurgents, or that it approves the action of its own soldiers in defying the world, but it can not control either the rebels or its own troops. The obvious inference is that it has ceased to be a government suited to the times, and that some other administrative machine must be set up. The *Jimmin* recommends immediate and vigorous action, but is much perplexed about the final issue. That the Chinese Governmental system requires to be radically amended, there can be no doubt, but can it be hoped that Foreign Powers will agree as to the form of amendment? They may work together to quell the insurrection, but when it come to exacting pledges for the future, they are pretty sure to fall out, for their interests differ. It is not to be expected that England and Russia will be found in the same camp. The *Kokumin Shimbun* takes a very similar view. It is convinced that the Chinese Government is not a party to the mad doings of its troops, but, since it can not restrain them, it must bear the responsibility. Already, however, there are several indications of serious rivalry between England and Russia. Their spheres of influence are supposed to be different, but, although England has announced her intention of guarding the Yangtze Valley, Russia is reported to have sent troops to Hankow to protect the Liu-han Railway. The two Powers will not be able to preserve unanimity in their treatment of the complicated problem which will soon present itself. The *Yomiuri's* tone is virtually identical with that of the *Jiji*, and the *Shogyo Shimpo* considers that to open a path to Peking and save the beleaguered garrisons in that place and in Tientsin is a duty imposed by heaven on Japan. Finally, the *Asahi*, while persuaded that the Chinese Government does not endorse the action of its troops, says that it has to accept the responsibility, and that complete administrative reconstruction will be necessary. A state of war practically exists now, and will doubtless be seen declared publicly, but it is when the latter step has been taken that the worst complications will ensue. The *Chuo* is chiefly concerned about the probability of a serious insurrection in the south if Li Hung-chang, Chan Chi-tung, and Liu Kun-yi have to go to Peking.

Thursday, June 28.

The *Jiji Shimpo*, the *Yomiuri*, and the *Asahi* unite in urging the Government to lose not a moment in sending a powerful military force to China. The *Jiji* is particularly emphatic. It takes the view that at any moment a terrible catastrophe may be consummated, all the foreigners being assassinated, and the women and children subjected to shocking indignities and cruelty. Japan's duty is to strain every nerve to avert such a calamity. Some people contend that to take strong measures might only exasperate the Chinese and thus precipitate the catastrophe. It is too late, in the *Jiji's* opinion, to think of such things. The *Asahi* goes further. The line recommended by it is directed towards the safeguarding of Japan's special interests. The action of the Powers has already indicated their intention of being guided by such considerations. England is left alone to preserve order in the south of China, and Russia has occupied Peh-ta-ho and Shan-hai-kwan so as to roll back the tide of insurrection from her own sphere of influence. Thus there are finger-posts to indicate the path Japan should tread. The *Asahi* refrains from being explicit, but there is no difficulty in interpreting its meaning.

JOURNALISM IN JAPAN.

In an article published in *The Forum*, Mr. Nakagawa discusses the origin and progress of journalism in Japan. He falls into a curious mistake; a mistake which leads us to doubt whether, having lost his direct touch with his country's newspapers, he may not have been obliged to rely on his memory for his facts. "The first really successful daily newspaper," he writes, "was the *Mainichi Shimbun*, issued at Yokohama in 1871, and later in Tokyo. This is now owned by Baron Miyoji Ito." Mr. Nakagawa confounds the *Mainichi Shimbun* and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, a not uncommon mistake, but one which we do not expect from a Japanese. Under any circumstances the journal he has in his thoughts was not called either *Nichi Nichi* or *Mainichi* but *Nisshin Jisshi*. That is a mere matter of detail, however, whereas on another point Mr. Nakagawa's opinion invites a different kind of criticism. "Japan also has its yellow press," he says, "although the Oriental variety is not so touched with yellow as that of the Occident." If Mr. Nakagawa alludes to unscrupulous lying, we are disposed to agree with him that the yellow journals of Japan are not so degraded as those of the West. But if the nature of the matter published be in question, the palm of immorality belongs to Japan. Of course she can not show anything so hopelessly prurient and indecent as some of the Paris periodicals. But the so-called "revelations" that disfigure the columns of some Japanese newspapers, and the tales they insert, belong to a stratum even below that of ordinary yellow journalism.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

For some days rumours have been circulated that an understanding is at length on the verge of being arrived at between Marquis Ito and the Liberals. These rumours have now become so persistent and have assumed such a form that they seem to deserve a measure of credence. Their gist is that although the Marquis can not be persuaded to accept the leadership of the Liberals as at present constituted, he realizes the importance of party cooperation in constitutional government and will consent to throw in his lot with the Liberals provided that they proceed to re-organise their party, changing its name and admitting to its ranks any element desirous of joining and desirable as associates. The Liberals have agreed and the work of re-casting is already under discussion. Baron Ito is credited with having been chiefly instrumental in bringing about this settlement. Such is the gist of the rumours. We do not vouch for their accuracy. One journal adds that Marquis Ito, while quite willing that numbers of the Progressists should join the Liberals, wishes to avoid anything like a coalition which would entail the troublesome and wearisomely familiar problem of a division of power. He wants a working party, not a party that will dissipate its energies scrambling for office.

Alfred Humes, British subject, aged 45, was arrested on Thursday afternoon by the Kagacho Police, charged with obtaining money under false pretences. He had tiffin and several glasses of whiskey at a saloon, but on the bill being presented refused to pay, saying he was a Chief-of-Police and was therefore absolved. The police were called in, and found on him the sum of two *sen* only. He was accordingly arrested. He had been engaged by some villagers near Kyoto as a teacher of English, but was dismissed. He came to Yokohama on the 14th, and since that date has visited various saloons in and around the Settlement, and has on all occasions represented himself to be a Chief-of-Police.

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CONCERT IN TOKYO.

The Meiji Ongaku-Kwai gave a concert on Sunday, 24th instant, in which the programme was divided into two distinct series. Part I.—Foreign Orchestral Music. Part II.—Japanese Music. The first portion was conducted by Mr. E. H. House, and the performance showed improvement in some respects upon those given earlier in the year. As before the lighter numbers gave the best result, while No. 3 (Mendelssohn) and No. 5 (Beethoven) require more study before they can be considered perfect.

The *timbre* and blending of the different instruments were excellent, and the execution of individual performers was highly satisfactory; but in the *ensemble* there were evident signs of insufficient rehearsal of the band as a whole. Now we are quite sure that this did not arise from any laxity on the part of the conductor or from a lack of opportunity for *ensemble* practice. It must therefore have arisen from the fact that *each* and *every* performer did not regularly and punctiliously attend *each* and *every* rehearsal, or practice, when called. Now, gentlemen of the Ongaku-Kwai, we have applauded, and do applaud, your wonderful success in the domain of Western musical art. But if you think that you are so perfect that you can afford to neglect proper rehearsal, you are wofully mistaken: and with such ideas your present attainments will soon fall to the ground. Go on and prosper, gentlemen!—but do not forget that *work*, *constant* and *intelligent* work, under the guidance of a master who knows his business, is the only road to a permanent and lasting success.

The full programme was as under: we are not competent to analyse and criticise the second part of the concert. That must be left to men who are experts in that particular branch of the noble art of Music:—

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

FOREIGN ORCHESTRAL MUSIC.

1. Overture; "Le Roi d'Yvetot".....A. Adam.
2. Concert Polka; "Les Fauvettes"...N. Bousquet.
3. Dance: from "Midsummer Night's Dream...F. Mendelssohn.
4. Waltz; "Kroll's Ball Klänge".....Lumbye.
5. Turkish March.....Beethoven.

Conductor.....Mr. E. H. House.

PART II.

JAPANESE MUSIC.

6. Koto "Saigo-Zakura"...by S. Sato, and M. Uehara.
7. Itchubushi "Dojioji"...by Miyako Itchu and others.
8. Nagauta "Kanjincho"...by Matsunaga and others.
9. Koto "Inaka-mushiuri"...by S. Sato & M. Uehara.
10. Nagauta "Genroku hanamiodori" by Matsunaga and others.

JAPANESE ACTORS IN LONDON.

The art critic of the *London and China Express* is not fortunate in sharing the generally accurate knowledge possessed by that journal about Japanese matters. He tells us that a certain Mme. Sado Yacco, who is shortly to appear on the London stage in conjunction with Mr. Kawakami Otojiro, "belongs to one of the noblest families in Tokyo," and that "her action in going upon the stage largely aided in revolutionizing theatrical principles in that country, where it had been usual for feminine parts to be interpreted by men." There are some folks who evidently imagine that Japan is a seed-plot of princes, princesses, and nobles of all degrees, for never a Japanese goes abroad courting publicity without a fiction as to his or her aristocratic relations being circulated. Perhaps this is merely an outcome of the snobbism that attaches such paramount importance to questions of lineage in the West; a mood which the Japanese have learned to appreciate and exploit. But we suspect that Mr. Kawakami has been romancing just a little too freely in this instance. For the lady called "Sada Yacco" is his wife and before she had the honour of sharing his lot she had acquired some notoriety—we can not conscientiously say fame—— in the role of a Shimbashi *Geisha*. Miss Yakko was in truth a very well-known little person, pretty, accomplished, and vivacious, but as to her noble birth, it is the purest fiction; and as to her having revolutionized theatrical principles by going on the stage in Japan, we are compelled to say that she has done nothing of the kind, for the prejudice against actresses remains as rooted as ever, and, since the performances of the *Soshi* troupe, headed by Mr. Kawakami, have never been recognised as representing the stage proper in Japan, it is to be apprehended that the acting of the pretty and versatile Miss Yakko, now Mrs. Kawakami, will not exercise any sensible effect.

KOREA.

The *Nichi Nichi* publishes a telegram from Sōul saying that some apprehensions are entertained in Korea lest the example of the Boxers should find imitation there.

It is reported from Korea that the Russian ship *Vladimir Monomak* has been engaged surveying another bay, and has marked out an area of over 800 acres on shore, at the same time extending the survey to an island lying nearly three miles from the coast.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* publishes a strange telegram to the effect that Japan has asked Korea to appoint Japanese subjects to the posts of advisers in the War Office, the Foreign Office, and the Department of Finance. The amusing point is that Russia is similarly represented as seeking to have a protégé of hers nominated adviser to the Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Sands, Adviser to the Korean Foreign Office, has become the subject of various paragraphs in Japanese papers, and many silly rumours are circulated about him. So far as we can perceive, he has merely recommended the Korean Government to avoid complications obviously threatening its independence. That is his duty. Copies of memoranda said to have been submitted by him are published, and it is pointed out that their language lacks discretion. To us it appears that if there is any want of discretion it is on the part of officials who publish documents evidently intended for confidential perusal.

Rumours continue to be circulated about the land purchased by Russia at Masampho. It is now stated that instead of paying the stipulated price for it, she declared that the money must be set off against an indemnity due from Korea in connexion with the detention of a Russian whaling vessel. Korea, exasperated by the declaration, is said to have intimated that she considered the bargain at an end. The price fixed for the land was to be 39,600 *yen*, with a yearly rental of 1,950 *yen*, and it was understood that the land was to be used as a site for a coal depot and a naval hospital. Of course we can not for a moment suppose that Russia will allow the bargain to lapse owing to any question of money, but undoubtedly the conduct attributed to her must be classed as "smart."

Korean statesmen do not appear to have yet become induced to close the An-Kwŏn episode. It is stated that the King's elder brother, Li Chai-nyŏn, who is the son of the late Tai Won-kun, and whose son Li Chung-yong is now in Japan, will be sentenced to banishment; and that Kim Yun-sik, who held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs at the time of the conspiracy to depose the Emperor in favour of the Crown Prince, is to be condemned to death. Another account avers that Li Chai-nyŏn also will be included in the death penalty, and adds that, in view of his impending fate, he has received from the Emperor a packet of poison with a recommendation to commit suicide. These men are understood to have been involved by the confessions extorted from An and Kwŏn.

According to statistics published in the *Official Gazette* the number of Japanese residing in Inchhon, Korea, at the end of last month was 4,258—2,447 males and 1,811 females, or 962 families. These figures show an increase of 42 in population, but a decrease of 4 families, in comparison with the previous month. In Sōul the respective figures were 1,088 and 893, a total of 1,979, the number of families being 546. Compared with the previous month the population had increased by 42 and the number of families by 16. In Chinnampo the figures were 381, 255 males and 125 females, comprised in 100 families. The increase in population was 16 and in families 4, compared with the figure for the previous month. Pyongyang had 88 males and 52 females, a total of 140, the number of families being 52. There were only three families more than in the previous month.

Telegrams from Korea say that the judicial officials and the Chief of Police who were concerned in the trial of the unfortunate An and Kwŏng have been already pardoned. They had been deprived of office and sentenced to transportation, it will be remembered, but now within a few days of the announcement of that punishment, they are pardoned. The Korean Government apparently deems itself strong enough, or is mad enough, to indulge in these farces.

There is a rumour that the notorious Li Il-sik, whose connexion with the murder of Kim Ok-kyun was clearly established six years ago, has been taken into favour by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in Sōul, and is an inmate of the Russian Legation. We do not believe it.

FRACAS AT NAGOYA.

There are some serious inaccuracies in the version originally published of a collision between Methodist Christians and Japanese navvies in Nagoya. It was stated that a foreign missionary had used fire-arms, and had wounded one or two Japanese. That is incorrect. The broad facts seem to be that, as an outcome of the disturbance caused in certain circles of business by missionary endeavours to protect girls against being detained for debt in houses of ill-fame, four or five roughs were employed to proceed to the house of a Japanese pastor and intimidate him into abandoning the crusade. What happened in the early part of this interview we can not clearly discover, but it may be fairly presumed that the discussion was not of an amicable character, and was never intended to be amicable. At all events, a servant of the pastor discharged a pistol. He did not wound any one, but the use of fire-arms so exasperated the roughs that they proceeded to assault the pastor, and, when an American Missionary interfered, they laid violent hands on him also. No one seems to have sustained much injury, owing to the exertions of the police, but there is evidently a strong feeling among brothel-keepers against the reforms for which the missionaries are working. We trust that the Christians will not relax their efforts.

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WAR FUNDS.

Japan possesses war funds to the amount of over 100 million *yen*, but the figure can easily be expanded to 150 million by the addition of other funds now available, asserts the *Niroku*. Below are details :—

		Yen.
Gold coin held in London	8,900,000	
Exchange funds (whether this is already spent is uncertain)	9,760,000	
Deposits in the Bank of Japan.	17,590,000	
Total (excluding Exchange funds)		26,490,000
English bonds (these may have been already sold)	1,410,000	
Chinese bonds.....	1,000,000	
War bonds	1,970,000	
4 per cent bonds.....	34,140,000	
Total		86,000,000
Capital fund for warships	30,000,000	
Reserves in connection with national calamities	10,000,000	
Capital fund for education.....	20,000,000	
Total		60,000,000
Indemnity reserve.....		12,000,000
Grand Total		147,200,000

The people of this country may entertain no anxiety.

TOKYO HARBOUR.

At a meeting of the City Improvement Committee held in the Department of Home Affairs on the 27th, it was decided that the work of constructing the Tokyo harbour should be undertaken. A slight change was made, however, in Mr. Furuichi's plan, in deference to the opinion of a naval officer. It referred to the aspect of the mouth of the advanced harbour, but did not affect the general scheme. A committee was then appointed, under the presidency of Mr. Komatsubara, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, for the purpose of conducting further investigations. It looks as if the harbour were likely to become an accomplished fact after all these years of waiting.

MAIL MATTERS.

According to the *Official Gazette*, the mail matters dealt with at the various Post Offices in the empire during April last totalled 358,457, showing an increase of 7,668,216, or 18 per cent., as compared with the figure for the corresponding period of the previous year. Below are details :—

	April, 19 0.	Corresponding period of last year.
Letters	13,340,141	11,977,527
Post cards.....	24,926,430	21,119,988
Newspapers & magazines.	9,515,769	7,476,276
Books	732,500	549,240
Samples and specimens...	101,282	71,534
Seeds	42,358	37,545
Letters containing money.	5	7
On Government Service...	1,700,012	1,458,164
Total.....	50,358,497	42,690,281

The above table does not include figures concerning the six offices in Ogasawara island, three in the upper regions of Hokkaido, and some in Kumamoto and Kagoshima.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has received news of the burning of its office in Tientsin.

There has been a serious fire in Otaru. It broke out on the 23rd instant, and destroyed sixty-three houses.

Japan is sending a large number of ships to Taku. She had ten there, including 3 torpedo-destroyers, at the time of the bombardment, and four were *en route*. Four more have been ordered to proceed thither, namely, the *Chitose* (4,836 tons,) the *Akashi* (2,800 tons), the *Miyako* (1,800 tons), and the *Yashima* (12,517 tons).

Prince Shimazu Chiusei, of Satsuma, and Prince Tokugawa Keiki—the "last of the *Shoguns*"—have been appointed Peers of the Musk Chamber.

Japanese loan-bonds continue to fall in the London market. The five-per-cent. war bonds are now quoted at £99 0s. 5d., and the four per cent new loan at £78 10s.

The President of the Imperial University and other charitable persons in Tokyo have organised a committee for the purpose of collecting subscriptions to relieve the sufferers by famine in India.

After all, the *Higo Maru* did not bring any wounded foreigners to Saseho for treatment. She was to have done so, but during a delay caused by inclement weather at Taku, other arrangements were made.

Baron Rosen, Russian Representative, was received in audience by the Emperor on the 22nd instant to present his letters of recall, and his successor, Mr. Iswolsky, had audience on the same day to present his credentials.

It is stated that the Government has given orders for the coining of a quantity of silver dollars, in view of the demand for them that is caused by events in China. The receipt of the Chinese indemnity enabled Japan to place her currency on a gold basis, and in Chinese complications she seems likely to find a means of getting rid of her remaining stores of the white metal.

The Japanese Government is making arrangements to establish telegraphic communication with Taku *viâ* Korea. The line would be from Japan to Fusan, thence to Sôul, Wiju, Mukden and Newchwang. From Newchwang to Taku by steamer is only 16 hours, and the sea route might be chosen pending the repair of the wires between Newchwang and Shanhai-kwan.

Count Okuma's opinion about the Chinese complication seems to be that the Manchu conservatives should be driven out of office in Peking, and their places given to Li Hung-chang, Chang Chi-tung, Liu Kun-yi, Kang Yu-wei, and the leading Progressists. Apparently, if that were done, these statesmen would have to be kept in power at first by foreign bayonets.

We learn from the *Shogyo Shimpo* that the loans made by the Bank of Japan now aggregate 101 million *yen*, and that the legal limit of note-issuing power has been exceeded by six or seven hundred thousand *yen*. It has become necessary, therefore, to seek the Finance Minister's authority for a still further issue, and the impression is that the Bank will be required to pay 8 per cent. for the privilege. If that be so we presume that the notes will not find their way into the public hands at a lower rate than 10 or 11 per cent.

Russia has decided to carry her wounded to Inasa, where she has a naval hospital, instead of leaving them to be treated at the hospital in Saseho. In either case she may rely on receiving the fullest assistance from the Japanese, whether in medical aid or in nurses. We believe, however, that the Russian hospital at Inasa is a spacious and well equipped institution, and the wounded will have the advantage there of being able to communicate directly with those about them.

Tokyo residents have a special interest in Washington University, since among its professors are two gentlemen to whom the cause of education in Japan owes a large debt, Mr. J. M. Dixon and Mr. Chaplin. It will be learned, therefore, with considerable satisfaction that a magnificent gift of three million dollars worth of property has just been made to the University, the donor being Mr. Samuel Cupples and Mr. Robert S. Brookings. This benefaction makes the Washington University one of the most powerful educational institutions in the States. It is interesting to note that the property, though having a face value of three millions and an estimated value of four millions, is assessed at only $1,616,510 for purposes of taxation, and that it has been paying a tax of seventeen thousand dollars, or a little over 1 per cent. of the assessed value, and about one-half per cent. of the market value. If urban lands in Japan paid a tax of one-half per cent. of their market value, the State would receive a very substantial access of income.

Professor Mommsen and Professor Max Müller have concluded their controversy about the rights and wrongs of the Boer War. The impression left by the discussion is that there is much to be said on both sides, a fact which might have been admitted without any demonstration. Professor Mommsen says that "Jameson was a criminal of the basest kind," but he regards the Boers as heroes. Thus does the aspect of the same thing differ according to the medium through which it is viewed. Jameson struck for the privileges that free men have learned to regard as their right. He and his friends considered that in an appeal to arms lay their only hope of raising themselves from the position of political inferiority to which they were condemned by the uncivilised bigotry of the Boers. When has a protest of that kind been counted a crime of the basest kind; a protest made at the risk of the protesters' lives? Perhaps Professor Mommsen's charge against Jameson is based on the fact that the raid took place in a time of peace. The modern practice of Germany herself does not lend force to such a principle.

The following figures relating to the four most successful banks in Japan are published by a Tokyo contemporary :—

	Capital. Yen.		Deposits. Yen.
First Bank	4,874,377	.....	6,144,435
Fifteenth Bank...	18,000,000	.....	10,768,770
Yasuda Bank ...	1,000,000	.....	8,845,126
Mitsu Bishi	2,400,000	.....	7,315,713
	Loans. Yen.		Reserve. Yen.
First Bank	7,555,580	.....	718,865
Fifteenth Bank...	14,523,218	.....	811,117
Yasuda Bank ...	—	.....	520,711
Mitsu Bishi	—	.....	508,080

Hitherto the Mitsu Bishi Bank has invariably pursued the policy of declaring only a small dividend and carrying its surplus profits to the reserve fund, but it is expected to declare a dividend of 10 per cent. at its general meeting next month.

The Yasuda Bank has been singularly successful. Its deposits are now greater by 2,200,000 *yen* than they were at the corresponding period last year. From the 1st of next month it becomes a *Gômei Kaisha* instead of a *gôshi-kaisha*, the liability of the shareholders will be unlimited and the capital will be doubled.

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THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER.

BITTER hostility to the EMPRESS-DOWAGER continues to be the key-note of the English journals of Shanghai. It is charged against her that all the present troubles are a direct outcome of her "new policy" and that she insisted on Prince TUAN's assuming the presidency of the Tsung-li Yamên in order to carry out that policy, although the Prince himself was most reluctant. It appears to us that this harsh estimate of her Majesty's disposition can not be reconciled with facts. No one will deny that the EMPRESS-DOWAGER has never wavered in her friendship for LI HUNG-CHANG. There was a time, and that not so many years ago, when the relations between the imperial lady and the Viceroy were constantly referred to in terms highly complimentary to her intelligence. She was then counted an advocate of progress, and LI was regarded as the active exponent of her convictions. A great many vague charges have been preferred against LI since that time, the principal and most tangible of them being that he sold his country to Russia. Those that can credit such accusations on the evidence of pure suspicion must be left to exercise their credulity. But LI remains an incontestible fact. He has not been permanently shaken by all these hostile rumours. He has steered his country through difficulties of the gravest nature. He has again and again been obliged to assume sole responsibility for the conduct of State affairs under circumstances such as would have proved fatal—if precedents may be believed—to any Chinese politician whose intelligence or morality was open to the slightest question. Yet now, in the last years of an exceptionally prolonged career, he occupies one of the highest posts within reach of a Chinese subject, and to him his country turns once again as the only possible saviour of a nearly desperate situation. LI never could have survived such vicissitudes had the EMPRESS-DOWAGER wavered in her fidelity to him. But she never did waver. She befriended him at every crisis with unfaltering staunchness. How are we to reconcile that solid fact with the theory that the EMPRESS-DOWAGER is the head and front of the anti-foreign, anti-progressive policy represented by the present insurrection? Would she not long ago have dropped LI's hand and left him to the tender mercies of his enemies, the conservatives, had not her sympathies been with his principles and his aspirations? It seems to us that there can be only one answer. Historians have never agreed to attribute to a sovereign a political creed wholly different from that uniformly professed and followed by the statesmen that have ceaselessly enjoyed the royal confidence and support. Circumstances may have proved too strong to be moulded by the EMPRESS-DOWAGER. Is it not possible that she has been their victim rather than their director?

THE CHINESE AFFAIR.

June, Tuesday, 26.

GENERAL NIEH, whose head-quarters are at Lu-tai, on the north-east of Tientsin, is the officer who commanded the Chinese troops sent to Korea in 1894, nominally to quell the insurrection in that country. He pitched his camp at Ya-shan, and was there attacked and defeated by a force of Japanese who marched against him from Sōul. That was the first military affair in the China-Japan war. NIEH with a remnant of his force effected a retreat to Pyōng-yang, where he joined the bulk of the Chinese Army, and as it was the fashion in some quarters at that time to extol the Chinese, he was much praised for running away successfully. His subsequent conduct showed that running away was his chief accomplishment, and as he practised it monotonously it ceased to be impressive. However, it has to be confessed that NIEH did as well as the majority of the Chinese commanders. We refer to his record here merely for the sake of the confirmation it lends to a theory that NIEH himself is not a party to the course adopted by a body of the troops nominally under his command. What has happened, we think, is that some of the Chinese "braves" have broken away from control, have thrown in their lot with the Boxers, and are attacking foreigners, while those that have not actually defied the authority of their commanding officers are so disaffected, or, at any rate, in such an uncertain mood, that they can not be safely called on to make any effort for the restoration of order. The situation thus resolves itself into this—that the Peking Government has altogether ceased to be effective. It has no means of quelling the disturbance, and it dreads being obliged to choose between throwing in its lot definitely with the insurgents, or helplessly defying them. Possibly there still remains, in or about Peking, a sufficient force to successfully resist any attack upon the palace itself. The fact—if it be a fact—that the Government was strong enough to punish General TUNG for his soldiers' crime in murdering a Japanese Chancellor of Legation goes to prove that although the Authorities dare not risk their official existence by openly opposing the Powers, they are still competent to maintain an attitude of responsibility and correctness. One of two things must very soon happen, however: either the Boxers will receive at the hands of foreign troops such a lesson as will deprive them of all stomach for further fighting, or they will be able to dictate a policy to the Government in Peking. It seems to us that the former result may fairly be anticipated. The Boxers and their military allies have not effected anything of importance against Tientsin. They have destroyed some property, but they have not caused any appreciable loss of foreign life, and that they have themselves suffered severely is beyond question. We may look at any moment to receive news of the relief of Tientsin. The period of probable success for the insurgents was limited to about a week, from the 17th to the 24th. By the latter date a strong stream of re-inforcements had begun to flow from Taku towards the beleaguered Settlement, and we entertain no doubt that if its relief has not been already effected, its besiegers are at any rate so seriously menaced that they can not devote much attention to aggressive tactics. The Peking Government will consequently see itself saved from being obliged to openly defy the world. But it will have to answer for its incompetence, and the real trouble will begin when the terms of its answer come to be dictated. Evidently no administration can be trusted to govern from Peking without the guardianship of foreign bayonets. Upon whom is the function of armed guardian to devolve? We do not venture to formulate any final opinion. The wisest statesmen of the time are already considering the problem, and, if they can not solve it amicably and satisfactorily, well then an amicable and satisfactory solution is not possible. Meanwhile one striking phase of the situation is becoming more and more prominent, namely, that without any disruptive action on the part of Foreign Powers, the Chinese empire seems to be spontaneously splitting up into two parts. All the southern half, under the three progressive Viceroys, remains in a comparatively orderly condition; all the northern is completely out of hand. The northern Chinese are well known to be more warlike and stouter than their southern compatriots, and, moreover, it is in the northern districts that Foreign States have displayed object lessons of a startling and exceedingly provocative character. We may not assume, therefore, that because LI, CHANG, and LIU succeed in maintaining order in the south, they would be equally successful were the north their sphere of operations. Undoubtedly the north will have to be garrisoned by foreign troops for some years to come. Who is to undertake the task? The answer seems very plain.

SILK.

The *Shōgyō* publishes the Agricultural and Commercial Department's forecast of the output of cocoons for this year. Below are the figures:—

	Number of silk-worm egg-cards taken for rearing.	Estimated amount of cocoons in koku.	Increase in comparison with last year. Koku.
Tokyo	69,616	60,774	3,509
Hyogo	64,929	53,369	6,140
Gumma	299,245	231,168	522
Niigata	70,731	51,800	2,466
Ibaraki	68,295	59,884	4,104
Shiga	57,995	54,171	12,501
Nagano	213,607	216,894	16,066
Miyagi	52,571	216,894	—
Fukushima	—	142,963	—
Yamagata	107,038	88,404	1,988
Akita	15,388	12,450	1,624
Fukui	30,534	25,407	4,019
Hiroshima	9,891	7,913	914
Yamaguchi	6,329	4,634	1,006
Ehime	13,745	12,161	973
Hokkaido	2,594	2,131	—

It is added that the total number of cards taken for rearing in the various cities and prefectures in the empire reached 2,290,981 and the output of cocoons is estimated at 1,935,422 *koku*. The unsettled condition of the weather, however, seems to have created some doubt of the correctness of the above forcast.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

Commenting in the *Gwaikô Jihô*, on the Treaty that Japan has recently made with the Congo Free State, Dr. Ariga says that it was drawn up at the suggestion of Leopold II., but adds that it is difficult to see what advantages are to be reaped by the existence of such a treaty, Japan not being in a position to engage in trade in Central Africa. Dr. Ariga is of opinion that very few Japanese know anything about Africa, and hence his article is largely taken up with the history of exploration and colonization in various parts of the great continent. He thinks that Belgium's connection with Japan is likely to become closer than heretofore owing to the privileges granted to the Belgian railway syndicate in China.

* * *

The *Dai-Nihon*, whose resuscitation has already been noticed in these columns, in get-up, size, and general contents at present takes the first place among Japanese magazines, under the able editorship of Dr. Matsumoto Kumpei. No. 5 has an article on the influence of newspapers on international questions, of which the following is a brief epitome :—It is true to say that the Press has more power than is wielded by the clergy, the nobility, and the people all combined. The Press not only represents public opinion, but it moulds it. No country can afford to treat the Press with indifference. We found this to our cost during our war with China. As a result of the comments of the *New York World* on what were called the Port Arthur atrocities, the American Senate seriously contemplated refusing to sanction the revision of our treaty with the United States, and on this account our Foreign Office was greatly embarrassed for some time. Then the interference of the three Powers with our action in China was foreshadowed in the Press before it occurred, though our authorities failed to observe the fact. In the Anglo-Transvaal war the part played by the European Press has been very significant, and England has taken note of it. So great is the importance that Germany attaches to the influence of the Press that she has gone to the length of appointing as part of her Diplomatic Staff an agent whose special duty it is to keep in touch with the Press and report thereon to his superiors. Germany is the first country that has adopted this measure. It is questionable, however, whether she has gone far enough. A newspaper agent should not, in our opinion, be subject to the Foreign Representative, since if he is going to do any real good he ought to be an abler man than one usually finds at the head of legations. The example set by Germany is likely to be followed by other great Powers of the west and Japan will find out that she cannot afford to be left in the lurch in this respect.

In the *Dai-Nihon* the comments of Mr. Katô Takaaki, the late Minister at the Court of St. James, on the English nation are reproduced. Mr. Katô says that he was very much struck by the calmness of the English people compared with Continentals during the China-Japan war. At that time he had only lately arrived in London and he soon found that the British were a cool-headed race. They watched the conflict in a business-like manner, thinking chiefly of its probable influence on trade. Nothing tempted them into a great display of feeling. When it was known that three European Powers had interfered on China's behalf, they still kept quiet and thought more of England's permanent interests than of gratifying the feelings of the Japanese people. Any kind of offensive and defensive alliance with Japan was repudiated as likely to be fraught with danger. . . . . The English are a very proud people, continues Mr. Katô, and think themselves unequalled by any nation. Though I do not wish to pose as a champion of their cause, yet I cannot but point out that they have much of which to be proud. There is no country in the world that could have managed this Transvaal business as England has done. Even had the required number of troops been ready, the cost of the transport to the seat of war of some 300,000* men, and their maintenance there month after month in the way that England has done would have overtaxed the resources of any other country. Then the fact that England at the present moment, without laying upon her people the burden of conscription, finds herself in possession of as many brave troops as she can possibly require, is certainly very striking.

* * *

In the *Tenchijin* the writer of an article entitled "The Imperial Diet and Modern Society," argues that the members of the Diet have almost everywhere done more harm than good. They are not, according to this authority, men who have the welfare of the country at heart, but adventurers who aim at nothing more than personal advancement. In the provinces a class of agitators known as *Yûshisha* (有志者) has been created, who profess to be ready to undertake almost anything in the political line, but who are as a rule anything but reputable members of society. According to the views of the writer whom we are quoting, the members of the Diet are responsible for an enormous amount of corruption thoughout the country, for extravagance, idle talk, dissension, and various other forms of evil. All local assemblies have been defiled by the introduction of Diet methods and abuses. Certain members of the Diet have already taken the part of capital against labour by receiving bribes from capitalists engaged in industrial enterprises. This will provoke retaliation on the side of labour.

* * *

A new magazine called the 明義, *Meigi*, has made its appearance, edited by two University graduates called Ueno and Iwata. It is opposed to Party Cabinets and has on this account drawn upon itself a storm of abuse from all quarters. Its editors have been pronounced to be "perverters of learning and flatterers." In the pages of the *Tenchijin* a law graduate signing himself K.N. writes partly in their defence and partly condemning them. If the *Meigi* had been anxious to flatter the powers that be, it would have done as so many other students do, taken office under the Government at once instead of spending money in starting a magazine. Then again, how can views that are in direct opposition to popular notions at the present time be pronounced flattery? There is no doubt that the editors are sincere and that they have a good deal to say in favour of their view. Their success, however, is more than doubtful. They have made a mistake in trying to represent themselves as champions of the rights of sovereigns, as by so doing they figure as the defenders of despotism. We are not at one with them, says K.N., as regards the evil likely to result from Party Cabinets, nor do we think that the twentieth century will witness the growth of irresponsible monarchical power.

* * *

The Kinkôdô has recently published 2 volumes entitled *Kinsei Meikabun* (Extracts from Modern Classics), which have been prepared by the Gakushûin and the First Higher School. The get-up of the work is excellent and the extracts made seem to be wisely chosen. With the exception of those cited in the appendix, all the writers quoted belong to the Tokugawa era. These volumes are designed to be a continuation of the Kôtô-kokubun Series, books which have found a good deal of favour as text-books. The style of the Tokugawa classical writers the authors of these volumes desire to see revived, they tell us, it being in their opinion superior to that in general use to-day. The type used is large (No. 4) and the spacing of the characters is done so as to catch the eye. The pieces quoted have been carefully edited. Vol. I. covers 137 pages and Vol. II. 145. The price is 50 *sen* per vol. They may be recommended to students of the Japanese language as good specimens of modern classical Japanese.

* * *

A book called "Capital and Labour adjusted to each other" has been published by the Kwaishinrô, Tôkyô, the author of which is Mr. Toyohara Matao. The work sells at 30 *sen* per copy. In reviewing it the *Taiyô* says that its chief value consists in the account it gives of the manner in which labour is protected by the system followed at the Krupp works and in the history of labour legislation and recent agitation in England. The author does not fulfil the expectations raised by the title of the work. He does not propose nor discuss at any length schemes of adjustment of the claims and rights of both parties concerned.

* * *

The *Jiji Shimpô* is much concerned about the ever-growing deficiency of primary school teachers and in a leading article published in a recent issue discusses the whole question anew. This is the gist of what our contemporary has to say on the subject:—The number of elementary schools is on the increase and the attendance at each school grows more numerous every year. While this is so the teachers not only do not increase but, according to some, are actually growing less. This state of things cannot be allowed to continue, says the *Jiji*. Its cause must be found out and this weakness in our educational system promptly remedied. Among the alleged causes of the present phenomenon, the lowness of the salaries paid and the status of the teachers employed are the chief. According to statistics published in 1898, the average salary of an Elementary School teacher is 10 *yen* 87 *sen* 5 *rin* or 36 *sen* 2 *rin* 5 *mon* per day. The table of statistics for which these figures are quoted informs us that the average pay of carpenters was 43 *sen* 4 *rin* per day and that of masons 43 *sen* 6 *rin*. Now, in view of the position that a school teacher has to keep up, his pay is ridiculously low. But the above average is struck on the salaries of duly authorised teachers in receipt of a full salary. If assistant teachers and what may be called stop-gaps are included the average pay is only about 20 *sen* per day, not half the wages of an artizan. While this is so any proposal to raise the salaries of primary school teachers made in a local assembly is almost sure to be negatived. Thus the mass of the people may be said to attach more importance to house-building than to the training of their children. The supply of teachers has run low on account of the mere pittance offered as remuneration for arduous services, and nothing but the raising of salaries to an adequate figure will save the situation. Another cause for the distaste with which the profession of teaching is regarded is the way in which primary school teachers are treated by ignorant local officials. Although in theory only the head of a Prefecture has the right to dismiss a teacher, in practice the head of a district or a ward effects the business, Governors being content to ratify the decision of subordinate officials. Consequently it frequently happens that a teacher who is thoroughly devoted to his work finds that his position becomes quite untenable owing to the thick-headedness of some local official who persistently interferes with his manner of conducting the school under his charge. To be poorly paid, say these teachers, is bad enough, but to lose all one's independence and self-respect in the bargain is more than human nature can bear. To such men the cause of education is sacred and they naturally resent its vulgarisation by ignorant official upstarts. According to the *Jiji*, then, two things only are needed to supply the country with any number of good teachers, namely, the payment of an adequate salary and the removal of teachers from all local official control and interference.

* * *

In the *Shakai Zasshi*, Mr. Yamagata Tôkon discusses at some length the effects of parliamentary government in Japan. The gist of his remarks can be stated in a few words. The connection of the Government with all important and industrial enterprises is an undesirable state of affairs, and has not been altered by parliamentary interference. The only difference is that the Government is now approached through the Diet instead of directly as formerly. . . . The chief question on which opinion in political circles differs is party government. A very large number of officials are opposed to the idea of party Cabinets and the new magazine the *Meigi*, is likely to receive support from this class of politicians. The *Jiyu-tô* and the *Shimpo-tô* have steadily advocated party government. The *Tei-*

* The numbers are somewhat over-stated; 231,000 was the figure given in London a few weeks ago. (WRITER OF THE SUMMARY.)

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koku-tô is a supporter of whatever Government exists without denouncing proposed changes. Supposing that the opponents of party government win, they will form a party by themselves, and if they are able to defy opposition will grow despotic. It matters little to the country what form of government is established if the administration be effective. But looking back at the years during which the Diet has been in existence, it is very difficult to point to any good which it has accomplished, while the abuses to which it has given rise are in everybody's mind. It is impossible to sum up in a few words all the evils which electioneering has brought in its train. It has divided families on every hand. The custom of settling every question by majorities has led to endless jobbery and corruption. . . . . The class of men chosen to represent boroughs has made it easy for capitalists to lobby bills to any extent. The intelligence of the ordinary member of the Diet is below that of the ordinary official. While this continues it is hard to see what good the Diet can effect. But notwithstanding all this and much more that may be alleged against representative government in Japan, the talk of returning to despotism is absurd, says Mr. Yamagata. There is no way back and the new system must be made to work by the choice of a better class of representatives of the nation.

* * *

Commenting on the progress of historical investigation, the *Teikoku Bungaku* says the *Shigaku Zasshi* and the *Shigakkai* are both connected with the Imperial University. The only independent historical magazine is the *Chiri to Rekishi* (Geography and History). The *Shigaku Zasshi* has of late departed from its usual custom of printing dry material and has given us some interesting matter. The *Shigakkai* makes it its province to publish material to prove certain disputed points, and hence is characterised by a wearisome monotony. A new historical publication called *Denki* (Biography), promises to provide suitable reading for young persons. Text books on history increase at a rapid rate. It is not these that are needed as much as exhaustive critical works on history. The Semmon Gakkô has done good service in recent years in publishing a number of books on diplomacy and international subjects of various kinds. That institution now purposes to treat history in the same way. .

* * *

The last months of Dr. Toyama's life were spent in preparing two works on education. One of these, the *Hambatsu no Shôrai*, was published some weeks before his death, and the other, the *Kyôiku Seidoron*, was, we believe, a posthumous work. The object of the *Hambatsu no Shôrai* (the Future of Clannism) was to show that the power of the Satsuma and Choshû clans is to be traced to the attention they have paid to education. The book is full of statistics showing the amount of money laid out on education by each province, the number of men sent to high class schools, the number of schools established in various parts of Japan, &c. The title of the work is misleading as "The Future of Clannism" is hardly discussed at all. The work is divided into two parts. Part I. has 5 chapters and Part II. 10 chapters, and there is an Appendix. The subjects treated are given in the following headings of chapters :—Part I. Chap. I. The rise of Clannism, its various kinds, and measures for its preservation. Chap. II. The Greek and Roman Eras and Education. Chap. III. The Rise of Universities in Europe and Educational Work in Prussia. Chap. IV. The United States and Education. Chap. V. The Politician and Education in Japan; the Sat-chô clans and the Revolution. Part II. Chap. I. A Comparison of the Yamaguchi-ken Elementary and Middle School pupils with those of other prefectures. Chap. II. The same comparison in respect of High Schools and University Preparatory Schools. Chap. III. The same comparison as regards University students Chap. IV. The University graduate and rank in society. Chap. IV. The students from Yamaguchi compared with those from other Prefectures in other schools than those mentioned above. (The schools referred to are Military and Naval Academies, Industrial and Commercial Schools, &c.) Chap. VI. A comparison of Yamaguchi with other prefectures as regards the production of writers and soldiers. Chap. VII. Money subscribed for Education and the results of the adoption of superior methods of education. Chap. VIII. Other Prefectures and Cities should follow the lead of Yamaguchi in establishing High Schools. Chap. IX. The Proper Function of the Education Department in future. Chap. X. Conclusions reached. Appendix: A table showing the extent to which each Prefecture has been represented at the Imperial University in years past and the extent to which it is represented now; also tables showing the state of education in each province at the present time.

Nothing could exceed the care with which the various tables of statistics have been drawn up. The figures given tend to show that in all matters connected with education the Yamaguchi, Fukuoka and Saga prefectures are a very long way ahead of all other parts of Japan. Dr. Toyama recommends the establishment of a High School in every prefecture. Many of the facts stated by Dr. Toyama are of considerable interest and the book is worthy of being carefully perused by all persons interested in education. The later work deals specially with the necessity of preserving a high standard of learning at the Imperial University. The sentiments expressed in it have been backed by Dr. Inoue Tetsujirô in an article recently published in the *Tôyô Gakugei Zasshi*, entitled "A Perusal of Dr. Toyama's *Kyôiku Seidoron* and the impressions received from it."

* * *

The following comments on current literature are taken from various sources. Writing on newspapers, the *Shakai Zasshi* says that in the matter of general news it is impossible for papers to wait for verification in all cases and therefore the custom of contradicting to-morrow what has been asserted to-day is excusable, but the practice of manufacturing personal items of news of a damaging character connected with the relations of the sexes, giving the names and addresses of the people concerned and then quietly contradicting the whole 4 or 5 days later, which is now so common, is a mean and cowardly device, and something should be done to put a stop to it.

The number of indecent papers published in Osaka is much larger than in Tôkyô. The *Banzai Shimbun* led the way with its supplements containing pictures of nude women, and its popularity brought forward a crowd of imitators. Numbers of improper advertisements are to be seen in the columns of newspapers. The publication of scandal of all kinds is unsurpassed anywhere. One of the chief reasons of these liberties being taken in Osaka, says the writer we are quoting, is the chicken-hearted nature of the inhabitants, who are ready to bribe newspaper agents into silence rather than boldly threaten them with the law. While the *Mainichi Shimbun* is writing up the subject of "Tôkyô Charity," the *Yorodzu Chôhô* is publishing details about Yokohama houses of assignation. The *Tenchijin* is publishing an account of Count Itagaki's scheme of prison reform and discussing labour questions. The *Taiheiyô* is interesting itself greatly in the export of Japanese girls for immoral purposes, which this paper asserts is still carried on under various pretences. The *Mainichi Shimbun* is also writing on this subject under the title of *Shakai-gwai no Shakai* (Society outside Society). The *Kokuryoku* and the *Yorodzu Chôhô* are at daggers' drawn over social questions, which the *Kokuryoku* contends should be treated in quite an opposite manner to that adopted by the *Chôhô*. The latter paper was suspended by the authorities some little time ago on account of the details that it published on the alleged dealings of the daughters of respectable families with actors. This sheet has published so many falsehoods that no reliance can be placed on it.

* * *

The following books have all been recently published.

The 故事大辭典, *Koji-dai-jiten* by Mr. Kondô Gensui is a most useful work covering 1,200 pages and selling at 1 *yen* 20 *sen* per copy. It is a reference book on Japanese and Chinese antiquities. Old customs, proverbial sayings, and the like are explained and traced back to their origin. These sayings are arranged alphabetically under the sectional headings of the work. This dictionary is issued by the Suzandô, Tôri, Itchôme, Nihonbashi, Tôkyô. One of the most gigantic undertakings of modern publishing houses the Hakubun-kan now has in hand. It is no less than the issue of the Chinese dictionary of phrases known as the 佩文韻府 (Treasury of Good Sentences) which title is here pronounced *Haibun-inpan*. This work covers some 12,600 pages and its price will be 40 *yen* per copy later on. It is now offered to subscribers at 30 *yen* per copy. This Chinese thesaurus dates from the Kôki era (1662-1722) during which it was carefully compiled. The Chinese edition of it consists, we are told by Dr. Williams, of no less than 110 volumes. Some years ago the Hôbun-kan, a defunct publishing house, spent 50,000 *yen* in preparing copper plates for the printing of this work. About one hundred copies were struck off, but the Hôbun-kan lost heavily over the venture and shortly after drifted into bankruptcy. The Hakubun-kan having obtained possession of these plates at a nominal figure, is able to embark on its new enterprise with a fair prospect of success. Dr. Mishima, the late Mr. Kurimoto, and Messrs. Oku and Ishikawa have all taken part in the editing of the work.

The Biographical Dictionary published by the *Keizai Zasshi* office, entitled *Dai Nihon Jimmei Jisho*, noticed in a former Summary, has now reached its fourth edition. It sells at 10 *yen* per copy. The same publishers have in hand another bulky work for which they are soliciting subscriptions, called the *Nihon Shakai Ji-i*. Dr. Taguchi is the chief editor and it is said that the work will contain almost everything worth knowing on government, law, economy, commerce, industry, and social customs. It is to consist of two huge volumes, each covering about 1,500 pages, the first of which will be ready next February, the other appearing 5 months later. The subscription price for this work is only 8 *yen*, just half of what it will cost when actually issued.

Justin McCarthy's "History of Our Own Time," 3 vols, which is advertised by Maruya at $8.50 may be purchased in Japanese for 2 *yen* 30 *sen*. The work has been translated by Messrs. Takata Sasai and Yoshida Minosuke and published by the Waseda Semmon Gakkô. The translation covers 1,100 pages. As is known to our readers, Mr. McCarthy's history begins with the accession of Queen Victoria and comes down to the Diamond Jubilee.

The (東邦小鑑) *Tôhô Shôkan* is designed to give a short history of various Oriental countries, and its compilation has been undertaken on account of the ever-growing interest taken in neighbouring foreign countries by Japanese readers. Notwithstanding the modesty displayed in its title, it covers 900 pages. It is issued by the Tôhôkyôkai (Oriental Association) Ginza, 4 chôme, and sells at 80 *sen* per copy.

The *Shinatetsugaku-shi*, History of Chinese Philosophy, is a work which was prepared by Mr. Endô Ryûkichi of the Higher Normal School, and revised by Dr. Inoue Tetsujirô. It is said to give a good account of the development of thought in China subsequent to the death of Confucius. It is published by the Kinkô-dô, Tôkyô, and sells at 1 *yen* 20 *sen* per copy.

The *Shakaigaku*, lately published by the Hakubunkan as one of the Hyakkwazensho series, is a translation of an American work by Mr. Fairbanks on Sociology. It sells at 30 *sen* per copy.

The Waseda Semmon Gakkô publishes translations at a wonderfully rapid rate. Among its recently issued works are the *Kokusaihôron* (International Law), a translation of a modern French treatise, highly recommended by Dr. Ariga, who contributes a preface to the translation; the *Jûku Seiki Oshû Seijishiron* (A History of European politics in the Ninenteenth Century), a translation of an English work by Mr. Sakai Yûzaburô, and the *Doitsu Shôhôron* (German Commercial Law) a translation of the work of a German Professor whose transliterated name we cannot identify, by Messrs. Horiuchi, Furukawa and Nakamura, which covers 1,200 pages and

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has the original of the German Commercial Code printed as an appendix for convenience of reference.

The *Dai Eikoku Manyû Jikki* is an account of Mr. Mizuta Shigeo's three years' sojourn in England and his impression of English life. Its price is 70 *sen*, issued by the Hakubunkan.

The *Sekai Dainenkei* consists of chronological tables and other statistics bearing on the relations of various countries to each other. It contains some 21 different tables. It is issued by a Kyôto bookseller called Murakami Kambei and contains a short history of the chief events of eleven different countries.

The Hakubunkan published last year a very handy little reference book called the *Sakubun Jukugo Jiten*, which contains a preface written by Dr. Inoue Tetsujirô. This work has now reached its second edition. We can recommend it to foreign students of the Japanese language as a very accurate desk or pocket dictionary. It sells at 1 *yen* per copy. The *Jukuji* are arranged alphabetically. Classical passages are quoted, showing the sense in which the combined ideographs were originally used. It covers nearly 900 small pages and the characters are very clearly printed.

NEWSPAPER ETHICS.

The Rev. C.M. Sheldon, whose experiment in editing the *Topeka Capital* recently attracted much attention, writes thus in the *Outlook*:—

"For the last three years a large number of prominent daily newspapers have printed falsehoods about my books, my daily habits, my family life, my church, and my parish in general. I have never, except once, to a reporter from my own home paper, been interviewed for publication in a daily paper, and yet scores of supposed interviews purporting to come from me have been published in daily papers. One large New York daily a few weeks ago published two letters purporting to come from me, and signed my name to them. I never wrote such letters, and never made the statements attributed to me. Yet these letters were reprinted in papers all over the country, and in religious weeklies, and, with two exceptions, none of the editors asked me whether the statements were really mine or not. A prominent religious paper sent a correspondent to Topeka to 'write up' everything connected with the Topeka *Capital* the week I was asked to take the editorship of it. He sent to his paper several pages of matter, including several columns of 'interviews' and accounts of my personal habits and family life, nearly all of which might, without any reservation, be characterized as falsehoods of the most serious character. When the statements made about my church or my daily life or the conduct of the paper were not actual lies, they were so grossly exaggerated as to be absolutely misleading. . . . . .

"Several times during the last three years representatives of large daily papers have said to me in my church study, where they had come to secure 'interviews,' 'If you do not give us anything, if you refuse to talk about yourself, we shall send on something.' And they have sent on 'something,' and I have wondered a good many times lately whether the modern system of newspaper invasion of a man's personal and private life, even the most sacred and holy sanctuaries of his home and his church, has not assumed a tyranny that employs as merciless a method of extortion as the old-time rack or fagot pile. . . . . .

"Is it not time that the people of this country began to demand of the daily press that it tell the truth first of all? As it is now, I believe that no more serious charge can be brought against a certain proportion of the press of this nation than the charge of lying, of gross exaggeration, and of a failure to verify the statements which it is every day printing as 'news.'"

Mr. Sheldon might have generalized his comments by saying that just as there is a special system of international morality which acknowledges no obligation to the principles governing the intercourse of civilized individuals, so there has come to be a system of journalistic morality which, if practised by any man in private life, would lead to his expulsion from society. Yet, it must be assumed that a taste for the outcome of such ethics exists, or it would not find a market.

"THE GERMAN MANUFACTURERS' ADVERTISER FOR EASTERN ASIA."

This attractively bound, beautifully printed, and carefully compiled volume illustrates the activity of German enterprise in the East. The advertisements are in German, but the greater part of the text is in English and German, a combination which is not without its consolations for Englishmen in the face of the keen competition to which they are exposed by their German rivals. The volume contains one paragraph which invites a word of comment:—

In Japan the use of bicycles is still now largely restricted to resident foreigners owing to their cost, though they slowly being adopted by Japanese. Two or three small shops in Japan turn out an inferior imitation of foreign cycles, but the principal supply is obtained from the United States and England. There is a demand for a cheaper machine, and therefore a considerable reduction in price would enable the Japanese to purchase them. It is quite evident that there is a large potential market in the Far East, and it is for the German merchants to meet the conditions required and claim the fair share of Germany in this trade.

Our readers will agree with us that this is a very misleading statement. To say that the use of bicycles is still largely restricted to resident foreigners, and that they are slowly being adopted by the Japanese is to convey an impression quite contrary to facts. We should say that for every bicycle owned by a foreign resident, several thousands are owned by Japanese. Even the post-boys ride bicycles, and there is probably not one town of any importance in Japan that has not two or even three bike stores. Tokyo has at least a hundred.

TRANS-PACIFIC STEAMSHIP CHARGES.

The *Official Gazette* publishes a report from the Japanese Consul in San Francisco, with regard to the revision of freight and passenger fares arrived at at a meeting of representatives of steamboat and railway companies interested in trade between oriental ports and the Pacific coast. The companies represented were the Canadian Pacific R.R. Co., the Great Northern R. R. Co., the Northern Pacific R.R. Co., the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Co., the Union Pacific R.R. Co., the Chicago and Northern R.R. Co., Rio Grande Western R.R. Co., the Denver and Rio Grande R.R. Co., the Rock Island R.R. Co., the Santa Fe R.R. Co., the Southern Pacific R.R. Co., the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co., the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Northern Pacific S.S. Co., the Pacific Mail S.S. Co., the Occidental and Oriental S.S. Co., the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and the California and Oriental S.S. Co.

The conference lasted for about a week, and the following resolutions were passed:—

That freight for tea from the Orient to any part of the Pacific coast shall hereafter be raised to $1.50 American gold currency per 100 lbs., the minimum rate being fixed at $1.25.

That freight for fancy matting shall also be increased to $1.25 per 100 lbs.

That in regard to raw silk the former rate of $6 per 100 lbs. shall be maintained.

That for silk textiles freight shall be $20 a ton, with an additional 1 per cent on the original value.

That the rates for ordinary cargo shall be from $8 to $12 per ton.

That cargo to the Orient from any of the ports on the Pacific coast shall be transported according to former rates of freight.

With regard to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company, a special privilege has been granted of carrying on business at a reduced scale of freight, on the ground that the two companies mentioned are plying under special conditions not applicable to the other companies. The reduction allowed for them is 50 cents per 100lbs. of raw silk, 5 per cent. *ad valorem* for silk textiles, and 10 per cent. in ordinary fares for 3rd class passengers.

The representatives of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Steamship, the Pacific Mail Steamship, the South Pacific Railway, and the Oriental Steamship Companies were elected as a committee, and by them the passenger fares were revised.

Fares for 1st class passengers from the various ports of the Orient to the Pacific coast have hitherto been much lower than those for passengers from the Pacific coast to the Orient (for instance, while the fares from San Francisco to Hongkong are fixed at $225 the same from Hongkong to San Francisco are only $150). In future the same rate will be charged for a passage either way. The fares from the various ports of Japan to San Francisco will be raised accordingly, the rates being fixed at $200 for a passage from Yokohama, $207.50 from Kobe, and $218 from Nagasaki.

At the same time, the passage to London via ports on the Pacific coast will be increased from £57 to £62.

It is recommended that third class fares from Japan to San Francisco and beyond should be raised to 50 *yen* in Japanese gold. As, however, competition by "outside" vessels has to be encountered it may be impossible to strictly enforce a rate of 50 *yen*, and the only course to be taken by the various companies will be to impose such an amount as may seem suitable to them, for the time being. As the Japanese Government is now taking active measures towards the restriction of emigration to America, the competition is likely soon to subside, and then it will become practicable to enforce and maintain the rate of 50 *yen* as determined on by the committee.

CHINESE COMPLICATIONS AND TRADE.

The effect of the present insurrection in China upon the stock market and the spinning industry justifies unusual precautions on the part of bankers, remarks the *Jimmin*. The banks which have issued loans on fixed capital will greatly suffer, and those which have attempted to secure exorbitant interest on accommodation given on the security of stocks will probably also incur serious losses. The leading banks, however, are not so hard hit as the public has imagined. With the exception of the Mitsui and Imamura banks, they have had considerably increased deposits. The 15th Bank in particular has had an increase from 6 million *yen* to 10 millions. Similarly marked progress is noticeable in regard to the Third, the Yasuda, and the Imperial Banks. Below are comparative figures:—

Bank.	Amount of deposits on May 15, 1900. Yen.	Increase of decrease in compprison with the corresponding periods of last year. Yen.
1st	7,567,428	1,194,290
3rd	7,548,624	2,105,842
15th	10,909,913	3,916,197
100th	537,089	96,798
Mitsui	8,059,144	*2,192,790
Mitsubishi	9,085,618	11,167
Yasuda	8,726,468	2,360,877
Imperial Commercial	7,657,711	1,799,721
Meiji Commercial	2,345,430	824,605
Kawasaki	1,621,197	474,481
Tokai	3,010,814	515,908
Imamura	393,839	*1,160,560

* Represents decrease.

It is added that the banks contemplate raising the rate of interest on deposits.

GIFTS TO EDUCATION.

We commend to the observation of Japanese men of wealth the following paragraph relating to gifts made by American citizens for educational purposes, and in reproducing it we note what an enormous advantage in the race of civilized competition the possession of wealth confers:—

Mr. Rossiter Johnson, editor of "Appleton's Annual Cyclopædia," has lately gathered data relating to the public gifts and bequests of 1899. A summary of these statistics from the advance sheets of the Cyclopædia is presented in the New York *Times* (April 7), from which it appears that the contributions for educational and benevolent purposes amounted last year to $62,750,000. This does not include gifts under $5,000, ordinary denominational contributions,

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nor municipal, state, and national appropriations. The following table indicates the increase in private gifts for the past seven years :—

1893	$29,000,000
1894	32,000,000
1895	32,800,000
1896	27,000,000
1897	45,000,000
1898	38,000,000
1899	62,750,000
Total	$266,550,000

Of the private benefactions to purely educational purposes during 1899, the largest are the Carnegie and Rockefeller gifts, each of which run up into the millions, and—greatest of all—Mrs. Leland Stanford's gift to the Leland Stanford Junior University, conveying the bulk of her wealth in stocks and real estate.

"The first transaction, May 31, transferred property of a face value of $38,000,000 and a cash market value of $15,000,000, and the second, June 15, comprised two large tracts of recently purchased grazing land, with valuable water rights, which were incorporated with the famous Vina Ranch, now owned by the University. These gifts swell the endowment of the University to $45,000,000, calculated on the basis of a 5 per cent. return from the properties in which the Stanford fortune was invested. The face value of the securities constituting the bulk of the investments is about $80,000,000, and any increase in their market price will enhance the total endowment, already the largest of any privately established institution in the world."

THE LATE MR. A. J. WILKIN.

Resolutions concerning the death of A. J. Wilkin, Esq., passed by the Board of Elders of the Yokohama Union Church :—

Whereas intelligence has reached us of the death of Mr. A. J. Wilkin at his home in England on May 7th last, the Board of Elders, representing the Yokohama Union Church, desire to place on record some memorial of their esteem for the departed and their gratitude for his protracted and useful service in connection with this church and congregation.

Mr. Wilkin has been long so well and honourably known in the foreign, and especially the mercantile, community here that we do not feel called upon to add our testimony to the tributes to his worth that have already appeared in the public press. The fact that on almost every public occasion he was chosen to voice the sentiments of the community towards distinguished public servants, and the implicit trust placed in his probity and integrity by foreign and native merchants alike show the estimation put upon his character as a representative and reliable man.

But his loss is most keenly felt by those who knew him in his relations with religious interests, such as the Bible Societies' Committee for Japan, and the English, and Union Churches of Yokohama. He had an active and long service in the latter Church as an Elder and Sabbath School Superintendant, and was Treasurer of the Bible Societies' Committee. His constant and unostentatious benevolence to the poor and needy among the Japanese endeared him to them also.

We cannot but feel grateful to the Great Head of the Church for the bestowment of such a model Christian merchant and Christian worker in this far-eastern community. To the Christian community, a large body of missionaries, and to scores of former and present Sunday School scholars, his example and precepts will ever remain as a sweet memory and constant inspiration.

To the bereaved family we extend our heartiest sympathy. We feel thankful that after a lapse of several years we were permitted to renew our acquaintance with his daughters, which privilege makes us feel all the more keenly the sense of their great loss. At the same time we do not forget those of the family whom we have not met for many years. Let us comfort one another with the remembrance that for him to die was unspeakable gain.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family with the assurance of that sympathy which makes their loss ours also.

H. Loomis, Elder.
Jas. H. Ballagh, Elder.
J. C. B. Cambier-Holland, Clerk.
E. S. Booth, Pastor.

June 15th, 1900.

DEPARTURE OF EX-GOVERNOR ASADA.

Mr. Asada, ex-Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, took his official departure from Yokohama on Thursday, leaving by the 10.5 a.m. train for Tokyo to take up his appointment in the Foreign Office. Mr. Asada's popularity was shown by the large attendance at the station both of foreigners and Japanese. The following representatives of the Consular body were present :—Mr. Bonilla, Spanish Consul ; Mr. Steenackers, French Consul ; Mr. Forster, British Acting Consul ; Mr. Hobart-Hampden, British Pro-Consul ; Mr. Klingen, Dutch Acting Consul ; Dr. Coates, German Consul-General ; Mr. Hagen, German Vice-Consul ; Dr. Boye, German Vice-Consul ; Mr. Jelalitschka, Austro-Hungarian Consul ; Mr. Casati, Italian Interpreter ; Mr. McLean, U. S. Acting Consul-General ; Mr. Scidmore, U. S. Deputy Consul-General ; Dr. Parra, Mexican Consul ; Mr. Izquierdo, Chilian Consul-General ; Mr. Gielen, Brazilian Consul ; and the Chinese Vice-Consul. Mr. Holm, chairman of the International Committee, Mr. E. Flint Kilby, President of the Foreign Chamber of Commerce, Mr. James Dodds, Mr. Pors, Mr. Lindsley, Mr. Reiffenger, and Mr. V. R. Bowden were also present, while the employes of the Kencho and representatives of other local bodies, as well as native merchants, made a large muster. On the departure of the train Dr. Coates, the German Vice-Consul, called for cheers for the ex-Governor, which were heartily given. Mr. Holm and the other unofficial gentlemen afterwards proceeded to the Kencho to pay their respects to Mr. Asada's successor, Mr. Suhu Kohei, and congratulated him on his appointment. The Governor in reply expressed the hope that the cordial relations existing between foreigners and Japanese under Mr. Asada would continue during his tenure of office.

The International Committee propose a complimentary dinner to Mr. Asada at an early date.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS.

The *Nippon* continues to discuss the subject of kerosene. It remarks that in the 8th year of *Meiji* (1875), the total output in Japan did not exceed 4,830 *koku*, but in the 10th year the figure had increased to 10,114, and by the 16th year (1883) it had swelled to 21,659. From 1883 till 1888, the annual average stood at 20,000, though occasionally the amount had reached 40,000. From 1889 to 1891 the annual yield varied from 50,000 to 60,000, but has subsequently steadily increased until it reached 140,000 in 1894 and 230,000 in 1898. Below are details :—

RESULT OF INVESTIGATION AT THE END OF 1898.

	Output in *koku*.	Sales in *koku*.
Hokkaido	140	8
Akita	251	108
Niigata	227,735	216,343
Nagano	323	323
Shizuoka	2,758	1,528
Total	231,221	217,640

Of the above total 26,300 *koku* was refined oil, the rest being crude. Since then a rage for kerosene speculation has set in and it is impossible to make an exact estimate of the output without statistics taken at the close of last year. According to investigations completed by the Japan Petroleum Company in December last, the monthly output in Echigo does not fall short of 70,000 *koku*, of which 28,000 are for lamps, 5,000 for machinery, and 30,000 for combustible purposes. If the monthly rate of production is 70,000 *koku*, the annual output will be no less than 840,000, valued at 3,360,000 *yen* at 4 *yen* per *koku*. That is startling progress, as the amount is four times that of 1898. Of the 84,000 *koku* annual output, only 40 per cent., or 336,000 *koku*, is available for lamps, and this does not cover more than 30 per cent., of the imports from abroad. The figure is insignificant when compared with the extent of the American or Russian trade.

According to the *Nippon* the foreign trade of Japan for the first half of this month shows an excess in imports of 2½ millions of *yen* approximately, the total from January being 64½ millions. Below are the details :—

	1st half of June 1900. Yen.	Total from January. Yen.	Increase in comparison with corresponding period last year. Yen.
Exports	8,502,968	88,392,868	5,786,225
Imports	11,051,550	152,943,730	71,391,218
Total	19,554,518	241,336,598	77,177,513

As to specie and bullion, the amount of excess in exports does not fall short of 1 million *yen*, the total from January being 23 millions. Following are the figures :—

Exports	1,324,074	30,094,473	28,796,561
Imports	141,545	6,937,994	—
Excess of exports	1,182,429	23,156,479	—

The figures for the nine principal ports of the empire were as follows :—

	Exports 1st half June, 1900. Yen.	Imports for same. Yen.
Yokohama	3,390,066	4,167,092
Kobe	3,390,066	5,945,664
Osaka	264,804	264,398
Nagasaki	344,954	408,475
Hakodate	199,370	44,813
Niigata	5,131	—
Moji	198,684	53,624
Shimonoseki	194,811	164,487
Kuchinotsu	261,450	2,988

An article in the *Formosan Daily News*, reproduced in the *Keizai Zasshi*, says the gross amount of camphor to be sold to special contractors by the Formosa Government Office this year is from 3 to 5 million catties. The result of investigations carried on by the Formosa Government Office is so discouraging that it is certain the maximum world's supply of camphor cannot exceed 4 millions, while the average demand for five years from 1893 to 1897 was a little over 6 millions a year. Prices therefore must be raised. As to the productive capacity of the island, it is stated that Taichiu prefecture alone is in a position to yield 2,240,000 catties, although it is doubtful whether this enormous amount can be kept up permanently. Taipeh produced about 1,100,000 last year—a figure far below the original estimates. Still it is expected that the average yield in this prefecture will not fall short of 1,750,000. There will be no difficulty in supplying the market with 4 million catties. The camphor oil produced from 4 million catties amounts to 1,400,000 catties, and can be remanufactured into camphor to the same amount, so that the total output will be no less than 5,400,000, which figure shows a deficiency of only 600,000 catties in the world's demand. This deficiency, it is supposed, will be supplied by productions from Sumatra and other countries. The Formosan authorities appear to have now determined to take 4 millions as the limit of production, and to make necessary arrangements accordingly.

The *Keizai Zasshi* publishes statistics showing the amount of cotton yarns exported from Bombay to China and Japan during the past ten years as follows :—

Year.	China.—Bales.	Japan.—Bales.
1890	325,060	37,722
1891	365,038	10,939
1892	385,711	21,445
1893	297,572	14,198
1894	338,703	10,743
1895	374,119	2,515
1896	471,023	2,467
1897	361,221	645
1898	437,645	475
1899	579,619	250

The import of yarns from Bombay to Japan is clearly a thing of the past.

Commenting upon the increased taxation and the revenue realized for the 32nd fiscal year, the *Nichi Nichi* says that the land tax alone proved 700,000 *yen* below the estimate, in consequence of inundations and other natural calamities ; while in business tax there was a falling off of 100,000 *yen*, as the result of conflagrations in Yokohama and Toyama. As to the *saké* tax, the estimate was verified, but in the case of soy there was a shrinkage of 390,000 *yen*. The tonnage dues showed an actual shrinkage of 76,000 *yen*, owing

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to the rates being reduced by half by the Diet. The decrease in duties on alcohol and imported tobacco was no less than 770,000 *yen*. Moreover, the laws in regard to the manufacture of *sake* for domestic use having been rescinded at the 13th session of the Diet, revenue from this source shows a decrease of over 72,000 *yen*, while the revision of the law regarding commerce in spirituous liquors brought about a dimunition in tax to the extent of 36,000 *yen*. In other items, however, there was more or less increase. For instance, there was an excess of 980,000 *yen* in income tax, 210,000 *yen* in imposts upon various Exchanges, and 180,000 *yen* in mining taxes. The greatest increase was in revenue stamps, the figure being 1,870,000. The country ought to be congratulated on these facts.

The *Keizai Zasshi* publishes an official report from Hawaii showing the trade with Japan for 1899. Exports from Japan to Hawaii amounted to $671,410 in value, showing almost 90 per cent increase in comparison with the previous year, and over 130 per cent as compared with the figure for three years ago. This increase has been out of proportion to the increase in the number of Japanese immigrants to the Islands. The rate of increase in respect of the latter did not exceed 67 per cent as compared with 1898, and 111 per cent in comparison with three years ago. A remarkable increase is noticeable in rice, *saké*, soy, and other food stuffs, peculiar to the Japanese, so that it may be assumed that the prosperity of the Japanese settlers has advanced. Among the imports to Hawaii rice showed a sudden and striking increase during last year. This may be owing to the unsettled state of the crop in Hawaii, while the steady growth of the sugar industry has brought about the conversion of rice fields to sugar cultivation. Below are the details of imports from Japan for last year:—

	Amount. Yen.
Rice	73,259
Saké	66,471
(Foods made of wheat flour)	10,888
Other food stuffs	72,318
Soy	5,401
Fish	16,176
Shirtings	12,003
Cotton manufactures	24,577
Yarns	14,484
Silk textiles	17,658
Cotton *chijimi*	12,388

According to the investigations of the Finance Department the number of banks throughout the empire at the end of last month totalled 2,166, with an aggregate capital of 471,274,669 *yen*. Compared with the figures for April last there was an increase of 20 banks and 8,583,000 *yen* in capital. Below are the details:—

Banks.		Capital in yen.
Nippon	1	30,000,000
Specie	1	24,000,000
Industrial	1	10,000,000
Agricultural and Industrial	45	27,970,000
Formosa	1	5,000,000
Colonial	1	3,000,000
Savings { domestic	376	41,953,300
Savings { foreign	1	1,250,000
Joint stck { domestic	1,423	294,317,315
Joint stck { foreign	6	2,964,450
Ordinary partnerships	60	11,270,940
Limited partnerships	137	10,337,184
Limited Joint Stock Companies	1	452,000
Individuals	111	8,547,320

Rice experienced serious fluctuations in the beginning of this month, and some of the licensed brokers in Tokyo and Osaka were obliged to suspend transactions on account of inability to pay the increased amount of security. Various causes may have cooperated to bring about the present depreciation; but the contraction of the currency must certainly be regarded as the chief factor. The convertible notes in circulation towards the close of last year amounted to 250 millions of *yen*, but the figure now stands at 194 millions only, the reduction effected during the half year being 56 millions. This could not fail to affect the prices of commodities. In March symptoms of general depreciation became apparent, and developed themselves to a most alarming extent. The second cause of falling off, however, lies in the bright prospects of the wheat crop for this year, the total output being estimated at 19,317,978 *koku*, showing an increase of 573,157 *koku* as compared with the figure for ordinary years. There seems to be no question as to the success of the crop, and this alone is sufficient to cause rice to fluctuate.

THE BOOKSHELF.

"*Village Life in China, a Study in Sociology*," by the Rev. Arthur H. Smith, D. D., author of "Chinese Characteristics." Edinburgh and London, Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier. Yokohama, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh.

This is an excellent book. It would be interesting reading, alike to the "general" and the ethnological student, at any time, but is particularly so now, when the vast, loosely-jointed, inarticulate monster we call the Chinese Empire is in the throes of a calaclystic struggle. To those who have read "Chinese Characteristics" it is needless to speak in eulogy of the thorough and scholarly methods of Dr. Smith, of the mass of information which he has brought together, or of the lucid and attractive character of his writing. To no foreigner, probably, is it given to thoroughly understand the complexities of Chinese life, but the present author seems to have devoted an immense amount of study to the question, with exceedingly satisfactory results.

The thoughtful reader rises from the perusal of of a volume of this kind with a certain sense of hopelessness. He begins to realise the gulf that divides China from the western world, to recognise the inert weight of conservatism comprehended in those ages of isolated national existence, and to comprehend the difficulty of permeating the huge mass with the leaven of Western civilisation. As Mr. Colquhoun aptly puts it, "the product resulting from duration multiplied by numbers must be immense, and if to this we add a third factor, isolation, we have no right to be surprised either at the complex character of Chinese civilisation, or at its peculiarly conservative form." It is the village life that Dr. Smith describes that is the basis of China; it is in villages that the mass of her enormous population is bestowed; and unless we know something of that village life it is impossible to realise the immense task that has to be undertaken before China can be regenerated. The literary globe-trotter, who passes through Hongkong, sojourns a few weeks in Shanghai, and takes a peep at Peking, living always in comfortable European hotels, airily discusses the question as if it required only twenty years of enlightened Government to transform China into a second Japan. One who, like the present author, knows the country, is rather less sanguine of the advent of a bowler-hatted and tweed-clad millennium for the vast tract of earth which at present nominally obeys the sway of Peking.

A squalid life it is, to European eyes, that is lived in these Chinese villages. In fact, life in China altogether is, except for the few, a grimy struggle, soulless and sordid, with few material pleasures, and apparently none of the higher and more spiritual kind. Well, indeed, might Tennyson esteem twenty years of Europe above a cycle of Cathay. Had he known more of Chinese life his language would probably have been even more emphatic. Take for example the life of the village tradesman, as Dr. Smith describes it. He is up long before daylight, he is at the grindstone all day, even at meals he has to discuss business, he spends his evening untying strings of cash with the view to the discovery of any rare coins which may be sold at a special price, and he retires at an hour so late as to leave him no chance of bestowing any thought on a thing more elevating than the struggle for the meat which perisheth. Most truly does Dr. Smith say:—"If the time should ever come, as come it may, when the far distant west comes into close and practical communication with the patient Chinese for the right to exist, one or the other will be behind-hand in the race, and it is safe to venture the prediction that it will *not* be the Chinese."

The chapter on "The Village Ferry" is an interesting one, not so much for the quaint scenes described, but because it affords a simple instance of the difficulties in the way of any improvement in the slipshod methods of the present day. After dwelling on the dangers and inconveniences of the passage, the author says:—

It is not unnatural for the Occidental whose head is always full of ideas as to how things *ought* to be done in the East, to devise a plan by which all this wild welter should be reduced to order. He would, to begin with, have a fixed tariff, and he would have a wide and gently sloping path to the water's edge. He would have a broad and smooth gang-plank, over which both animals and carts could pass with no delay and no inconvenience. He would have a separate place for human passegers and for beasts, and in general shorten the time, diminish the discomforts and occidentalize the whole proceedings.

Now stop for a moment and reflect *how* any one of these several "reforms" is to be made a fact accomplished. The gently sloping banks will wash with the first rise of the river; who is to repair them? Not the boatman, for "it is not the business of the corncutter to pull off the stockings of his customers." If the ferry is an "official" one, that only means that the local magistrate has a "squeeze" on the receipts, not that there are any corresponding obligations toward facilitating travel. Who is to provide those wide gang-planks over which the passage is to be so easy? Not the boatman. Not the passenger, whose only wish is to get safely over for that single time. Not the swarm of loafers whose interest it is not to have any gang-planks at all, or as nearly as possible none.

And even if the roads were made, and the gang-planks all provided by some benevolent despot, it would not be a week before the planks would be missing, and all things going on as they have been since the foundation of the Chinese world. The appointment of inspectors, police, etc., etc., would do no manner of good, unless it should be to their interest to further the reform, which would obviously never be the case.

No Chinese can for a moment comprehend such a conception as is embodied in the phrase *Pro bono publico*. He never heard of such a thing, and what is more he never wants to hear of it.

We have wasted an undue amount of time in crossing a Chinese river, for it is a typical instance of flagrant abuses which the Chinese themselves do not mind, which would drive Occidentals to the verge of insanity—if not over the brink—and which it seems easy, but is really impossible to remedy. *Mutatis mutandis*, these things are a parable of the empire. The reform must come. It must be done from within. But the impulse can come only from without.

Those sentences might be applied to almost any project of reform in the Chinese Empire.

The chapter on "Village Schools" is an illuminative one. School life is as wearisome as coolie or trade life in this tedious land:—

The scholars in a Chinese school are expected to be on hand at an early hour, and by sunrise they are, perhaps, howling vigorously away. When it is time for the morning meal they return to their homes, and, as soon as it is finished, again return. About noon they are released for dinner, after which they go back as before to school. If the weather is hot, every one else—men, women, and children—is indulging in the afternoon siesta, but the scholars are in their places as usual, although they may be suffered to doze at their desks as well as they can, for half the rest of the day. In this way the discipline of the school is supposed to be maintained, and some allowance made at the same time for poor human nature. Were they allowed to take a regular nap at home, the teacher feirs with excellent reason that he would see no more of them for the day.

If Chinese pupils are to be pitied in the dog-days, the same is even more true of the dead of winter, when the thermometer hovers between the freezing-point and zero. The village school will very likely have either no fire at all, or only such as is made by a pile of kindling or a bundle of stalks lit on the earth floor, modifying the temperature but for a few moments, and filling the room with acrid smoke for an hour. Even should there be a little brazier with a rudimentary charcoal fire, it is next to useless, and is mainly for the behoof of the master. The pupils will be found (if they can afford such luxuries) enveloped in long winter hoods, sitting all day in a state of semi-congelation.

They generally do not leave the schoolhouse until it is too dark to distinguish one character from another. When at length the scholars are released, it is not for a healthful walk, much less for a romp, but to return to their homes in an orderly and becoming manner, like so many grown Confucianists. In some schools the scholars are expected to come back in the evening to their tasks, as if the long and wearisome day were not sufficient for them, and this is, perhaps, universally the case in the advanced schools where composition is studied.

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The nature of the instruction given is elaborately foolish, and calculated, one would imagine, to benumb the faculties even of an intelligent youth. What brains there are in China exist in spite of the educationists. A Chinese scholar, according to Dr. Smith, is the most useless of all beings, especially if he is to opoor to obtain advancement. Labour is beneath him. "He has nothing, he can do nothing, and in more cases he is unwilling to do anything. In short, viewed from the standpoint of political economy, he is good for nothing."

A certain scholar of this description was so poor that he was obliged to send his family back to his wife's mother's house, to save them from starvation. The wife, being a skillful needle-woman, was employed at good wages in a foreign family, but when her husband heard of it he was very angry, not because he was unwilling to have her associate with foreigners, who he was kind enough to say were very respectable, but because it was very unsuitable that she, the wife of a scholar, should work for hire. The wife had the sense and spirit to reply that, if these were his views, it might be well for him to provide his family with something to eat, to which he replied with the characteristic and ultimate argument for refractory wives, namely, a sound beating.

History is little taught, especially that of the reigning dynasty, which is not a "proper object of knowledge," histories generally ending at the close of the Ming Dynasty 250 years ago. Multitudes of Chinese scholars know nothing about matters of which we should consider ignorance positively disgraceful. An old teacher once remarked to Dr. Smith that he had never understood the allusions in the Trimetrical Classic (which stands at the very threshold of Chinese study) until at 60 years of age he read a Universal History written by a Missionary. When, indeed, we consider that most of the scholar's studies consist of an absorption of the dismal platitudes of Confucius and Mencius we can hardly dissent from the description of the whole plan of Chinese pedagogism as intellectual infanticide.

It is marvellous that in a mercantile country like China even arithmetic is not taught in the schools.

There is scarcely a man, woman or child in China, who will not spend a considerable fraction of life in handling brass cash, in larger or smaller quantities. It is a matter of great importance to each individual, to be able to reckon, if not rapidly, at least correctly, so as to save trouble, and what is to them of far more importance, money. It seems almost incredible that for instruction in this most necessary of arts, there is no provision whatever. To add, to subtract, to divide, to multiply, to know what to do with decimal fractions, these are daily necessities of every one in China, and yet these are things that no one teaches. Such processes, like the art of book-keeping in Western lands fifty years ago, must be learned by practical experience in shops and places of business. The village schoolmaster not only does not teach the use of the abacus, or reckoning board, but it is by no means certain that he understands it himself.

The Chinese reckoning board is no doubt a very ingenious contrivance for facilitating computation, but it is nevertheless a very clumsy one. It has the fatal defect of leaving no trace of the processes through which the results have been reached, so that if any mistake occurs, it is necessary to repeat them all, on the reiterative principle of the House that Jack Built, until the answer is, or is supposed to be, correct. That all the complicated accounts of a great commercial people like the Chinese, should be settled only through such a medium, seems indeed singular. An expert arrives at his conclusions with surprising celerity, but even those who are familiar with ordinary reckoning, become puzzled the moment that a problem is presented to them beyond the scope of the ordinary rules. If one adult receives a pound of grain every ten days, and a child half as much, what amount should be allotted to 227 adults and 143 children, for a month and half? Over a problem as simple as this, we have seen a group of Chinese, some of whom had pretensions to classical scholarship, wrestle for half an hour, and after all no two of them reached the same conclusion. Indeed, the greater their learning, the less fitted do the Chinese seem to be, in a mathematical way, to struggle with their environment.

The higher education is merely a more elaborate system of futilities. There was a prospect in 1898 of better things, but the conservative reaction extinguished the faint glimmer of enlightenment, and it is doubtful if China, as an Empire, will have a second chance.

The chapters on religious customs and observances deal with more or less familiar facts. More interesting to the student are those dealing with the capacity of the Chinese for co-operation in business, which contrasts curiously with their absolute indifference to any objects connected with the public good. The sections dealing with family life and the status of women are saddening reading, familiar as the facts are. Dr. Smith hopes much—more probably than the fact justifies—from the influence of Christianity.

It should be added that the book is well illustrated.

Lutherans in Japan, by the Rev. R. B. PEERY, A.M., PH.D.; Newberry, S.C., Lutheran Publication Board of the United Synod.

THIS is a pleasantly written book, telling of the founding of the Lutheran Mission at Saga, Kiushu, early in January, 1893, by the Rev. J. A. B. Scherer and the Rev. R. B. Peery, upon appointment by the United Synod of the South, U.S.A., and its subsequent career. Both men were under thirty years of age when they arrived on these shores and with all the ardour of youth threw themselves into the work of the mission field. After a few years of steady application, the Rev. J. A. B. Scherer's health broke down, and he had to return to America, where he has since been called to a pastorate at Charleston. Mr. Peery has now been joined by the Rev. C. L. and Mrs. Brown, and by the Rev. J. M. T. and Mrs. Winther. Their work is progressing steadily and the future of the Mission appears full of bright promise. In this connexion the following extract from the book should interest our readers:—

Doubtless there are people among the friends of the Lutheran Mission in Japan who think the work ought to grow much more rapidly than it does. It would seem that two missionaries and two native preachers working for seven years ought to have gathered more than seventy-five converts.

Before coming to the mission field I used to think that Christianity was so vastly superior to all other religions, and such a blessed thing in itself, that the only thing necessary to its general acceptance by the ethnic races was a proper presentation of it to them. If they could but hear of the great love of Christ, and the free and perfect salvation He has provided, why, of course, they would at once accept Him. All that was necessary was to carry the message to them, and they would all become Christians. But such is by no means the case. In every land there are many things which hinder non-Christian people from accepting the Gospel. When we come to a full realization of the number and power of these antagonizing influences we cease wondering why the work does not go faster, and come to wonder how it makes any progress at all.

That the church at home may realize what these militating influences are I will set down here in their order the chief hindrances to the more rapid spread of the Gospel in Japan. Our difficulties are not peculiar to us, but are common to this whole field.

(1) Perhaps the most potent influence that opposes Christian work here is the *Extreme Nationalism* that has sprung up within recent years. The Japanese have always been a patriotic people, but recently this patriotism has almost grown into a fanaticism. Modern Japan is young and immature, and she has all the conceit and self-assertion natural to spoiled youth. Contact with foreign nations has made her very sensitive, and strengthened the feeling of *jingoism*. Everything new is looked at from the standpoint of its effect on the nation. When the claims of Christianity are presented the first question is, What will be its effect upon Japan? That question is being asked by thousands of men to-day, and the enemies of the Gospel are careful to circulate the reply that its effect will be bad. They also point to facts that, to a superficial observer, appear to support their claim. Christianity undoubtedly antagonizes many of the time-honoured customs of this country, and its general acceptance would necessarily lead to a complete social revolution. History is also cited in proof of the assertion that Christianity is an enemy of Japan, as three hundred years ago the Catholic Christians rose in rebellion against the government.

Loyalty and filial piety are considered the chief virtues here, and the Gospel is said to be antagonistic to both, for it teaches a common brotherhood of men, and makes obedience to Christ superior to obedience to parents. The Buddhists have recently circulated far and wide the charge that while Christianity has a God, it has no Prince, and no Parent. In this way our work is made to appear hurtful to Japan, and the strong national spirit at once condemns it.

The second hindering influence, says Mr. Peery, is the sceptical character of the education imparted in the Government schools and colleges; the third is the grossly materialistic spirit of the times; the fourth, Buddhism; the fifth, the social ostracism that is visited upon professing Christians; the sixth, the dense ignorance of the lower classes; the seventh, many national customs, which Mr. Peery elaborates in detail.

A suggestive chapter is that entitled "A missionary's life in Saga." It draws away the veil that hides the missionary's life from the perception of the home-staying folk as well as of many of the dwellers in the former foreign Settlements, and helps one to realise the great sacrifices these devoted men and women make in order to spread among the Japanese the message of the Gospel of Peace. After referring to the manner of their daily life in Saga, and the isolation which necessarily exists for missionaries in a remote country town, the entire lack of suitable playfellows for their tiny children, etc., Mr. Peery goes on to observe:—

The environment here is not conducive to intellectual growth and development. In the first place, nearly all the time we can give to study must be spent on the language, and, aside from a little mental discipline, this acquirement does not advance a man's store of knowledge or intellectuality one whit. There is little here to stimulate one to hard and patient research; there is not that intellectual society that is necessary to call out a man's best powers. The contact with thinking men, which is one of the great privileges to be enjoyed at home, is largely wanting here. True, there are some educated Japanese that we occasionally come into contact with, but their interests and studies are generally far different from ours. So our opportunities for mental growth are poor; and our development, in so far as it does proceed, is apt to be one-sided. Certain it is that long residence in the mission fields puts one out of touch with society at home. The missionary returning to America is often surprised to find that he is no longer one of the people. His interests are different; his viewpoint is different; even his language is belated. It is perfectly natural that he should fail to keep up with the forward march of the world, because his life is spent in an intellectual environment unconducive to mental growth and development.

Some people seem to think that a missionary is necessarily a very spiritual man, and that to give up all and go out to work for heathen people is bound to advance him in his own spiritual life. But this is not usually the case. Our opportunities for growth in piety, in spirituality, and in all Christian graces are not so good here as are yours at home. We live in an environment of moral and spiritual deadness, of abject irreligion, which unconsciously but surely exerts its influence upon us. We do not have the helps in the Christian life that you have. There is no sustaining Christian sentiment in the community; no church bells calling to praise and prayer, where we can be encouraged and strengthened by contact with godly men and women. At home we receive spiritual help from our friends and leaders, but here we can get little human help. We must constantly give away from our ever-diminishing stores, and there is no one to help us replenish them.

We are sorry to see that Mr. Peery's experience with household servants has been unfortunate. He condemns the whole class, with one exception, as "impudent and impertinent." "The servants as a body are dishonest, and I have confidence in none of them." Therein perhaps lies the root of the evil. Confidence begets confidence and Japanese servants are only human when they repay in the coinage they receive. Many a foreign resident in Japan could add his or her testimony to ours when we say that we have always found among the servants whom we have had to deal with, rare courtesy, ever-ready willingness, an all pervading cheerfulness, and, in the case of families who have long resided in Japan, devotion and faithfulness to the household's interests that is to be equalled rarely elsewhere.

We can commend "Lutherans in Japan" to all who wish to gather an insight into the work and aspirations of those who labour in the mission-field in the Empire of the Rising Sun.

In the Yokohama Chiho Saibansho on Wednesday afternoon, before Judge Sato, Akiyama Chiyo, a girl of 15, was sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of murdering a baby, the remains of which were discovered at a temple at Kitagata, Bluff. A woman named Takanashi Masa, aged 24, the mother of the baby, was sentenced to modified penal servitude for instigating the minor to commit the crime.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE STORMING OF THE TAKU FORTS."

SIR,—In your to-day's issue under the above heading, you mention that the Japanese took a principal part in storming the forts at the north side of the Peiho—*in conjunction with the European troops.* You compliment the Japanese marines on the fact that they had a chance to distinguish themselves. I appreciate your remark and thank you heartily.

Your version, however, requires a little correction in view of the official telegram published to-day. It is dated 19th inst., Chefoo. According to it, about 1,200 allied forces, including 360-370 Japanese marines, took stand at the Railway Station (Tong-ku) and fired on the forts. The Japanese troops, first of all (*dai ichi ni*), occupied the strongest fort on the north side and hoisted the rising sun flag. From this it appears that the escalade was simply effected by the Japanese *alone*. The incident is, perhaps, trivial in itself, but it is not fair to those noble fellows, who fell in the action, that their brave deed should be obscured by cooperation of others. Apologizing for trespassing on your space.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

A JAPANESE CITIZEN.

Tokyo, June 20th, 1900.

L'ABBÉ LIGNEUL ON FREEMASONRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have read with great interest the review of L'Abbé Ligneul's recent book "Himitsu Kessha," which appeared in your columns on the 11th inst., and his reply to that review which you published on the 16th inst. I regret that the book itself, being in the Japanese language, is a sealed volume to me, so that I cannot ascertain what are the "volumes de témoignage" to which he refers, or what weight they carry. I have, however, at various times read and studied four or five other books written by French ecclesiastics with the same object and aim, all of which reproduce, with remarkable unanimity, the same threadbare and baseless slanders, in support of which I have never seen any evidence adduced which would pass muster in any impartial court of justice.

Your reviewer might have added to his remarks that at the present time (and for a quarter of a century past) H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, under which some 2,500 Lodges hold their warrants; that Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria has been Grand Patroness of the same body for a considerably longer time; that the Prince of Wales is also Patron of the Scotch and Irish Grand Lodges, comprising within their jurisdiction nearly 2,000 Lodges; and also of the various Grand Lodges of Canada, Australia, Tasmania, etc., as to the extent and influence of which I cannot at this moment give full particulars. Add to these the 5,000 American Lodges mentioned by your reviewer, and we obtain an aggregate representing an overwhelming majority of the total Masonic bodies throughout the world.

Now, all these bodies are in constant correspondence and in thorough unison as to the principles on which Freemasonry is based; and if a small minority—not by any means representing even a majority among the remainder—have gone astray from the genuine principles of the Order, while still asserting their claim to belong to it, can that minority be accepted as a fair sample of the whole? Would it be fair to judge of Christianity, including the Roman, the Greek, and the various Protestant Churches, by the doctrines preached by the Latter-day Saints, or some of the ultra-fanatic Russian sects?

M. Ligneul is kind enough to grant that within our order may be found a few honourable and well-meaning men (the proportion being somewhat smaller than the ten righteous men who would have saved Sodom) and he deplores the fact that they have been so misguided as to stray into such perilous company, and unwittingly to give it their countenance and support; but is there not (to put it mildly) the bare possibility that he may be mistaken as to the relative proportions of the two elements, and that it is the preponderance of the good, and the small precentage of the bad (certainly not exceeding the average to be found in any other benevolent or religious association), which have rendered our Order so popular and so deservedly successful in every country where religious and political freedom exist side by side with a genuine and earnest respect for public and private morality? None of his predecessors have yet succeeded in proving, nor, I confidently assert, can M. Ligneul himself prove, that either Freemasonry as a body, or any individual Mason faithful to the traditions of his Order, have ever taught, or even suggested, any one of the atrocious doctrines which he parades in Chapter IV. of his book, and which are quoted by your reviewer. I regret extremely that I cannot ascertain for myself from his book upon what foundation he bases those charges. I should also be extremely interested to ascertain to what extent he has been victimized by the extraordinary series of hoaxes chronicled in "Appleton's Popular Science Monthly" for March and April last, under the appropriate title of "A Survival of Mediæval Credulity." Your readers will find it upon their club tables, and I strongly commend it to them, and to M. Ligneul's notice, if he has not already seen it. He will find it eminently useful for his second edition, apropos of which your reviewer has expressed the hope that before M. Ligneul brings it out, he "should study something beyond the accounts of French Freemasonry run wild that have fallen into his hands." May I suggest that he commences by a study of the "Book of Constitutions" published by the Grand Lodge of England, with which the other Masonic bodies which I have named above are in thorough accord. I shall be very pleased to lend him a copy, if he really cares to study the other side of the question. From it he will be astonished to learn that every Initiate, on his first entrance into Freemasonry, is charged in the following terms:—

"As a citizen of the world, I am to enjoin you to be exemplary in the discharge of your civil duties by never proposing, or at all countenancing, any act that may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society—by paying due obedience to the laws of any State which may for a time become the place of your residence, or afford you its protection; and above all, by never losing sight of the allegiance due to the Sovereign of your native land; ever remembering that Nature has implanted in your breast a sacred and indissoluble attachment towards that country whence you derived your birth and infant nurture."

He will also learn that all topics of political and religious discussion are forbidden in our Lodges; and further, that before any Mason can be installed as Master of his Lodge, (and year by year he, if he is re-elected, or his successor, has to repeat the same solemn pledge in the presence of the assembled Brethren), he has to signify his unqualified assent to the following, among other, obligations, and to promise that he will "support and uphold them, as Masons have done in all ages."

1.—You agree to be a good Man and true, and strictly to obey the Moral Law.

2.—You are to be a peaceable subject, and cheerfully to conform to the Laws of the country in which you reside.

3.—You promise not to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against Government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the Supreme Legislature,

4.—You agree to pay a proper respect to the Civil Magistrates, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honourably by all men.

And so on. I could easily flood your columns with similar pronouncements, all authentic and authoritative, and I trust that M. Ligneul will have the candour to verify these statements for himself, and to admit—unless he can disprove—their correctness.

As regards its aims and objects, Freemasonry is not, in the commonly accepted and very comprehensive sense of the term, a "secret society." It does not attempt to conceal its existence, its aims, or its objects. Its rites and ceremonies are no more immoral or objectionable than those by which a candidate is admitted into the Roman Catholic Church, either as a layman or cleric, and their object is to confine its benefits to worthy and deserving men, and to prevent the intrusion of those who would use its organization for unworthy purposes, subversive of law, order, and morality.

Lastly; M. Ligneul speaks of "societies attached to Freemasonry, as branches to a trunk." There are no such societies, although there are many which have adopted or copied certain details of our organization, and make spurious claims to belong to our Order; but we, the genuine Freemasons, refuse to recognize or own them, to any, even the smallest, extent.

Yours truly, W. SILVER HALL.

9, Tsukiji, Tokyo, June 19th, 1900.

MEIJI ONGAKU-KWAI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your criticism of the Meiji Ongaku-kwai's last concert was fully justified by some of the performances on that occasion. For the first time since I have known anything of this society, signs of carelessness and negligence were visible. It is true that only one or two members were at fault. The majority were, as they always have been, faithful to the work they have undertaken. But the movements of an orchestra must be as accurately regulated as those of a watch. If the smallest wheel goes wrong all the machinery is thrown out of order. Such lapses as those of last Sunday's cannot happen again while the present directing authority is recognized, but it is unfortunate that they should have happened once, for the Meiji Ongaku-kwai is the only body in Japan that can keep alive even a spark of public interest in foreign music, and, if its standing is impaired, this service cannot be effectively performed. It is only a little skeleton of an orchestra, and its capacity is limited by the paucity of its forces; but it is not too small or too weak to interpret a great deal of good music correctly and agreeably, or to give Japanese audiences opportunities of becoming acquainted with an art the importance of which they may dimly imagine, but can never begin to realize except through such gradual processes as these young volunteers are endeavouring to institute. If the Meiji Ongaku-kwai fails in its purpose, no other organization is likely to succeed for a long time to come. No other, indeed, appears ambitious to succeed,—not even the Government establishment which in former years showed praisworthy activity, but the officers of which now take scarcely any pains to diffuse musical intelligence or to stimulate musical progress among their countrymen. All thaf is done in this direction is due to the independent exertions of a self-sustaining association, which has hitherto worked hard and well, and which, it is hoped, will not again deviate from the pledges ot diligent and earnest study by which all its members are bound. E.H.H.

Tokyo, June 27th, 1900.

TIENTSIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Knowing Tientsin and its neighbourhood thoroughly well, and having made a study of the defensive capacities of the native city and settlement during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1894, perhaps the following notes from me may not come amiss to you at this juncture.

The Tientsin Settlement (British and French) lies along the South and West banks of the Peiho. On the North and East banks are a number of large buildings, such as the Railway Station and workshops. There are besides huge mounds of salt belonging to the Chinese Government Salt Intendant, covered by earth to protect it from the inclemency of the weather. All these places are only too likely to be in the hands of the rebels, and from the shelter they could obtain it is probable they would direct their fire upon the Settlement at a range varying from 300 to 1,000 yards—a very deadly range even for such poor marksmen as the Chinese have so often proved themselves to be. On the South and West side of the Settlement, and inland from it and the river, lies a considerable space of fairly open country. The foreign cemetery, gas works, and one or two small hamlets inhabited by the poorest of Chinese dependent upon the foreigners in the Settlement for a living, are situated thereon. Beyond and partly encircling this space, and therefore the Settlement as well, runs the old wall that was erected by the native authorities in order to keep the Taepings from out the City and Settlement in the troublous days of the Taeping rebellion. This wall is of mud, from twelve to twenty feet thick at base and from six to ten feet broad on top, and in extensive stretches some eight or so feet high. Though much out of repair, even to the extent of being breached level in many places, it yet is capable of affording excellent shelter to guns and men from the fire of such artillery as the Naval Brigade is likely to have landed. The distance this wall lies from the settlement varies considerably. Some of the foreign houses situated on what is known as the "Race Course Road" lie within a stone's throw of it. But it must here be noted that such houses are properly speaking outside of the Settlement proper, though for the purpose of defending foreign life and property they would be included in any defensive schemes as belonging to the Settlement. The United States Consulate, which is said to have been burnt, lies about 300 yards from the wall mentioned, and in 1894-95 the space intervening was perfectly open. Beyond the wall and somewhat more than two miles from the Settlement lies the arsenal. The tall chimney if in the possession of the rebels would give them an excellent look-out station, and the arsenal buildings shelter.

The extensive area covered by the wall, the salt mounds, the Railway Station and workships, is as can easily be conceived, entirely in favour of an attacking force. Especially so in the present case where the defenders are so few and with women and children to think of, and where the Chinese rebels and soldiers so outnumber them.

There is another very weak point in the defensive capabilities of the Settlement. I refer to the fort situated to the north of the city and along the banks of the river at a point from whence the guns could be brought to play upon the Bund and Settlement in a most effective manner. Li Hung-chang started building that fort some years prior to the China-Japan war, but because of the representations made by the Foreign Representatives at Peking, he shortly afterwards ceased building operations. However, the fear of a Japanese advance upon Peking via Tientsin gave him an excuse to accomplish his design of having a fort that would command that short stretch of water along which runs the Tientsin bund. By December, 1894, that fort was built and

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guns of a sufficient calibre to cope with such as gunboats usually carry were mounted. I am not quite sure what the calibre of those guns were, but I think it was either 4.7 or 6-inch. In any case, guns in the neighbourhood of such calibres, if properly served, would not only knock the Settlement to pieces, but overpower the fire of such small guns as the Naval Brigade is only too likely to have with it. It was intended to mount three big guns and a number of small ones, but whether they were mounted or not I do not know. I cannot say for certain just what calibre and number of guns it was intended to mount on the fort. On some three or four occasions I went over the fort, examining things as carefully as I could, and I remember being particularly struck by the massiveness of the walls—of mud faced with a plaster not unlike that used by Japanese on their *kura*, and for exactly the same purpose too. I may as well here state that the distances given are approximate, for unfortunately I have not my notes and sketches with me, not caring to carry such valuables about when knocking around the interior, and living in a Japanese hotel as I am now doing.

One more matter before I close this already ~~over long letter~~, for it may be of interest to certain of our American cousins. As a monument to the late General Gordon, and to commemorate the good work done by him in North China during and after the Taeping rebellion, the present Gordon Hall was erected in Tientsin. It is used as a library, and for all such purposes as a Public Hall is generally used. The building is far and away the highest in Tientsin, and from its roof flash light communication can be kept up with ships lying off Taku, provided the weather be fine. The Chinese have no special love for the building, for they say that it interferes with the *Fengshin* of the surrounding country. At any rate, there is no doubt that they would do their best to destroy it. Now should the guns from the fort fire upon it, and miss it, there would be every likelihood of their hitting the American Consulate lying some half-a-mile further on. For that building is in the same line of fire from the port as is the Gordon Hall. This fact was during 1894-95 constantly being made a joke of by the friends of Mr. Reed, the late genial United States Consul at Tientsin.

I remain, yours sincerely, F. J. NORMAN.

Kei-ki-kan, Inage, Chiba-ken, 26th June, 1900.

CHINA NOTES.

Placards were posted up on June 14th at Wuhu calling for all the people to rise up and exterminate all the foreigners and burn their houses.

The *China Gazette* reports that there was some little unpleasantness when the Japanese went to join the other foreign forces at the forts. This paper is generally most unreliable.

The troops and rowdies at Nanking are said to have been growing very menacing towards the few foreigners there, though the Viceroy is well disposed. The wife of the German drill-instructor has come to Shanghai for safety.

This is a sample of the writing on the China side with reference to the present situation :—

If Shen Taotai's telegraph lines from Peking are all "down," as he asserts, he must certainly be congratulated upon the expedition with which he has been able to devise a perfect system of Marconi telegraphing which reaches from Peking to Canton. After the news of the fall of the Taku forts on Sunday morning had reached Peking, (between which and Tientsin we are officially asked to believe all the lines are down) a decree was able to be transmitted to Canton by the usurping Government ordering Li Hung-chang to proceed post haste to the capital to assist in straightening out the terrible mess things have got into, and so rapidly was this command conveyed that Li left Canton last evening (Monday, or within 36 hours after the fight at Taku) for Hongkong *en route* for Peking. Sheng is a smart man, but he would be improved by a short treatment with a strong piece of rope for increasing the length of the neck.

The *N.-C. Daily News* gives the following extract from a private letter from a lady now visiting Peking, dated the 10th instant :—. . . "I have no doubt that you know the condition of affairs, and that I am really a prisoner in Peking. . . There has been no train in or out since last Sunday (3rd June), and the wire is cut, so we only know the fearful rumours of damaged bridges, burning villages, etc., and the situation has beome more serious every day. An overland courier has been sent as far as Tientsin and I am writing that way. . . . Personally I have not felt any fear, but, to satisfy our host, I had to go last night and sleep in the British Legation. Other troops are expected up to-day, and they say by rail, but I have given up expecting. The two poor missionaries, Norman and Robinson, are undoubtedly killed, but they are the only Europeans we know of. . . . The people in the city seem quiet enough."

The northern part of Hupeh is very unlike the southern in its general attitude towards foreigners. It is rare to hear of incivilities offered to missionaries or others, resident or travelling about there. Lately, however, several parties travelling up from Hankow have been attacked at night by robbers. A few days ago a murderous attack was made upon Mr. Masoni of the Norweigian Mission. He was returning to his newly rented house in Yünyangfu. The boat anchored at a lonely spot in the mountains not far below Yunyang when they were attacked by eighteen armed robbers. Mr. Masoni and his servant defended themselves as best they could—a pigtail being lost on each side—and several wounds from knives were inflicted. The robbers carried off money, a gold watch, and other things. Mr. Masoni immediately reported himself at the yamên covered with blood and his clothes all torn. The Hsin at once sent 40 men to arrest the robbers. The ringleader has been caught. There is no reason to believe that the attack indicates any widespread anti-foreign feeling.

A correspondent writes to a Shanghai paper from Tsing-kiangp'u :—

Troops are daily arriving here from the south. Three weeks ago 10,000 men were sent north to Hsuchow-fu and Suchien-hsien, where the officials evidently fear trouble. There are now more than 10,000 men at this place under the command of General Chang of Hupeh. The braves are held in readiness to go wherever there is an uprising, as little trouble is expected here. Tsing-kiang-pu is to be a base of operations, daily receiving large numbers of Hunan and Hupeh men. The temples and public buildings are full of soldiers. The discipline is characteristic. The behaviour of the men has changed for the worse in the last two weeks. There are daily altercations between soldiers and shop-keepers. Foreigners are followed and cursed, missiles thrown and threats freely made to beat and kill the foreign devils. So far it is only words, but the tow is easily set aflame and that exactly describes the rabble of a Chinese city after a word from headquarters. The *I-Ho-Chuan* exists in large numbers in this province, chiefly in the Hsuchow prefectnre, but in this district and to the south they are now found and are said to be drilling. There is no word yet of an outbreak in Kiangsu, but it may be expected any day near the Shantung line. There is much restlessness among the people, who are in expectatiun of great trouble this summer. The masses are losing confidence in the governing classes and nothing but the timidity of the populace and the lack of co-operation prevent a general uprising.

AMERICAN NOTES.

Boston is pluming itself on the fact that the plan for providing poor people with small patches of land on which to raise vegetables to enable them to live has had to be abandoned because there were no applications for allotments.

Mr. Stephen Crane, the famous novelist and war correspondent, who was removed to the Black Forest of Germany in the hope that it would improve his health, died on June 4, aged 30 years. His wife was at his bedside.

The latest official Roman Catholic census, which is very carefully prepared, shows a surprising strength of that church in America. There are altogether 10,129,677 Roman Catholics in the United States. In the archdiocese of New York alone (not the provinces) there are 825,000—more than all the Protestant Episcopalians in the United States, more than all the Congregationalists by 200,000, and much more than any of the Lutheran bodies.

The will of the late Jones G. Clark, the founder of Clark University, who made his fortune in California in 1849, leaves $1,000,000 and the residue of his estate to the institution, providing the people of Worcester raise a fund of $500,000. If they raise only $250,000 he bequeaths $500,000 to the University. He also leaves $100,000 for the University library and $100,000 for the department of art. In case a public fund is not raised within three years the residue of the estate reverts to his heirs at law. In the original will Clark made his gift to Clark University conditional upon the resignation of President G. Stanley Hall within a year of the filing of the will for probate. This condition is revoked in a late codicil.

The first report from Klondike to reach Tacoma is to the effect that the clean-up is well under way and will reach $25,000,000. From all the creeks reports are that the clean-up will be 50 per cent. greater than last year. All creeks are turning out better than expected, except Sulphur creek, from which great returns were looked for, but the rich strike made there was found to be only a pocket. The yield from the Sulphur diggings will not exceed $60,000.

President Jordan and Instructor J. O. Snyder of the zoology department of Stanford University are visiting Japan, where they will make a study of the fish of that country and also collect some specimens for the zoology department. A collection of fresh-water fish will be made at Lake Biwa. The collection will be made in the interests of the university, and part of the expenses will be defrayed by Timothy Hopkins. Dr. Jordan and Mr. Snyder have been making a study of Japanese fish for two years and have several papers on the subject in press now. The expedition will return to America about the first week in September.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Salter Storrs, whose death occurred on June 5, after a wonderfully successful pastorate of fifty-three years, resigned less than a year ago his position as spiritual head of the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn. Dr. Storrs was known wherever the Christian church has carried its name. He was in his prime when Henry Ward Beecher was electrifying the nation with his eloquence. He was a contemporary of Dr. T. L. Cuyler and Dr. T. de Witt Talmage. He worked in hearty co-operation with Dr. Lyman Abbott. Beecher is dead, and Talmage, Abbott, and Cuyler have resigned. Dr. Storrs was, therefore, the last of the famous Brooklyn galaxy of preachers. Dr. Storrs was a very old man, being near his seventy-ninth birthday at the time of death.

The reception accorded the Boer commissioners by President McKinley and Mr. Secretary Hay met with almost unanimous approval from the press of the U. S. It is generally conceded that the policy of strict neutrality definitely announced by the President, and ratified by the Senate in its refusal to extend to the Boer emissaries the privilege of the floor, was the only course that could consistently be pursued. Says the Chicago *Record* (Ind.):—"It is safe to say that there will be little difference of opinion among the people generally concerning the wisdom of the answer made to the Boer envoys. Even the critics of the Administration, if in power themselves, would not undertake to involve the United States in hostile complications with Great Britain. . . . No other answer could reasonably have been expected. It would be an unprecedented course for the United States to take a hand in the settlement of a controversy raging in a distant part of the globe. . . . Such a course on our part would be most unwise, and would be opposed to our traditional policy."

On June 2 Mrs. M. T. Patterson, wife of the chief officer of the ill-fated steamship *Pelican*, which sailed from Port Townsend on October 12, 1897, with a cargo of railroad ties for the Siberian Railroad, received the following message, picked up February 8, 1900, by Augustus Wyman on Ukomk island. The message was forwarded by M. F. Wright, the Alaska Commercial Company's agent at Kodiak :—

"Latitude 50 degrees north, Longitude 175 degrees west, October 24 1897.—To whom it may concern: Steamship *Pelican* is about to sink. We are leaving in frail boats. We realize our fate. God bless my darling wife.

"M. T. Patterson, Chief officer.

"Port Townsend, Wash., is my home."

This is the second message from Mate Patterson received by Mrs. Patterson. The first message was not dated. According to the date on the above message the *Pelican* met her fate twelve days after leaving port, and shipping men say it is strange that no wreckage from the *Pelican* has ever been found.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

An action has been commenced in the Chiho Saibansho by the Eagle Flinching Ink Company of New York, against Mr. John F. Wagen, the claim being 952.53 *yen*, the cost of goods supplied to him by the Company.

The Rev. J. W. Adams, B.A., vicar of Stow Bardolph, Norfolk, who has been appointed honorary chaplain to the Prince of Wales, is the only Anglican clergyman who wears a Victoria Cross. This very unusual decoration for a clerk in Holy Orders he won by the gallant rescue of a

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party of Lancers when serving under Lord Roberts in Afghanistan.

A Japanese named Takahashi Kintaro (43) jumped from a train at Fujisawa at 7.30 a.m. on the 27th inst. His right leg was cut off and he received other severe injuries.

Miss Frederica Elizabeth Perceval, youngest daughter of the late Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, M.P., who has just died, remembered perfectly her father's assassination in the House of Commons by Bellingham in 1812, the victory of Waterloo, the festivities which followed it, the Thames being frozen over, and numberless other events of interest in the early part of the century.

The Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, of Glasgow, successfully launched on 16th May the first-class armoured cruiser *Aboukir* for the British Navy. She is 440 feet long, giving a displacement of 12,000 tons. Her engines develop 21,000 horse-power, the guaranteed speed being 21 knots. Steam is supplied by thirty grouped water-tube Belleville boilers. Her armament is of especially hardened steel. She is strongly armed with the latest pattern guns, and will carry 750 officers and men.

From St. Petersburg comes the news of the death of the veteran Professor W. Wassiljew, many years Professor of Chinese in the University and member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Wassiljew's great work on Buddhism was written as long ago as 1856, but, being founded on original Tibetan and Chinese authorities, it retains its importance. This was translated into French and German. Among the chief of his other works are "History and Antiquities of the Eastern Portion of Central Asia" (1857), "Mahomedan Movement in China" (1867), Manchurian Chrestomathy and Dictionary (1863-66), and "Materials for a History of Chinese Literature" (1187). Wassilijew was born in 1818 at Nijni Novgorod.

For nearly a quarter of a century John Kendo Fudikichi has been verger of St. Bartholomew's, Brighton, of which Mr. Cocks, a relative of the late Lady Salisbury, is the vicar. He was born in Japan in 1828, and was employed in the Emperor's stables at Tokyo. In 1866 he left Japan with the first performing troupe of Japanese which visited Europe, and after performing in many capitals settled in England, and was employed in building a Japanese village at the Alexandra Palace. There he came under the influence of the Rev. W. H. F. Garrett, who was just going on a mission to Japan, and was baptised by the late Rev. Dr. West at St. Mary Magdalene's, Paddington. Soon after he went to Brighton, where he has been an indefatigable official, whose striking figure always arrested the attention of strangers at St. Bartholomew's.

Stephen Crane, the American author and war correspondent, died at Baden-on June 5th, aged 30 years. Stephen Crane four years ago made a great hit with "The Red Badge of Courage." It was cast in the form of a romance and is a detailed study of the development of a raw recruit in the American Civil War under the fire of the enemy. What made it noteworthy was that Crane could have had no real experience of what he described with a masterly force and graphic realism not surpassed by Tolstoi in his sketches of Sebastopol. The great Russian described, from his own experience, the sensations of the man under fire, yet Mr. Crane, without any actual service under arms, produced more vivid sketches of the horror of war and the triumph of courage over fear than anything that Tolstoi has written. The same effects Crane succeeded in producing in verse, though his poetry, being written without rhyme and in peculiar metre, did not meet with the same favor as his prose. The only work that Crane had done in the last four years that approached his best book was "The Open Boat," a short sketch of the wreck of a filibuster on the Florida coast. Crane was in the Cuban war, and before his last illness was writing some sketches of his Army experience before Santiago.

CRICKET.

YOKOHAMA VERSUS THE P. & O.

The very rare occurrence of two P. & O. Mail steamers being in port together at Yokohama was taken occasion of to make up a match with the Y. C. & A. C., and the affair came off in broiling summer weather. The sailors were badly beaten by the home eleven, as the scores below will show :—

Y.C. AND A.C.

Mr. A. Pumfrett, b. Hickey	13
Mr. P. B. Clarke, b. Kaul	52
Mr. W. S. Moss, run out	42
Mr. A. Anton, c. Pollitt, b. Hickley	43
Mr. S. Wheeler, c. Pollitt, b. Hickey	28
Mr. F. Pollard, st. Hudson, b. Hickley	1
Mr. F. H. Bugbird c. Clarke, b. Hickley	10
Mr. H. W. Clarke, b. Kaul	1
Mr. O. Strome, c. Hudson, b. Hickley	5
Mr. H. S. Goddard, c. Hickley, b. Hickey	27
Mr. G. Braess, not out	2
L. b. 1, W. 5, N. B. 1	7
	231

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.	N.B.
Mr. T. G. Hickley	84	75	1	4	—	—
Mr. Kaul	120	72	2	2	—	—
Mr. L. S. Hudson	12	11	—	—	—	1
Mr. G. G. Hickey	36	29	—	3	3	—
Mr. H. C. Pollitt	42	18	2	—	2	—
Mr. Sandberg	18	20	—	—	—	—

P. AND O. FIRST INNINGS.

Mr. L. S. Hudson, l.b.w., b. P. B. Clarke	5
Mr. T. G. Hickley, c. P. B. Clarke, b. Braess	3
Mr. Kaul, b. P. B. Clarke	0
Mr. H. C. Pollitt, c. Bugbird, b. P. B. Clarke	12
Mr. Kay, b. G. Braess	2
Mr. Browning, c. and b. P. B. Clarke	8
Mr. Hickey, c. Anton, b. P. B. Clarke	11
Mr. J. Gibbons, run out	3
Mr. Clarke, c. Pollard, b. P. B. Clarke	3
Mr. Scott, not out	1
Mr. Sandberg, c. Bugbird, b. Wheeler	0
Extras	6
	54

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	B.	R.	M.	W.	W.
Mr. P. B. Clarke	13	29	1	6	1
Mr. G. Braess	54	18	2	2	—
M. S. Wheeler	3	1	—	1	—

P. AND O. SECOND INNINGS.

Mr. Hickley, l.b.w., b. Wheeler	7
Mr. Scott, c. Goddard, b. Wheeler	11
Mr. Hudson, b. P. B. Clarke	33
Mr. Kaul, c. Braess, b. Wheeler	0
Mr. Hickley, b. Goddard	19
Mr. Sandberg, b. Goddard	0
Mr. Pollitt, run out	0
Mr. Gibbons, b. Bugbird	3
Mr. Clarke, c. Braess, b. P. B. Clarke	12
Mr. Kay, b. Braess	1
Mr. Browning, not out	0
b. 4	4
	90

BOWLING ANALYSES.

	B.	R.	M.	W.
Mr. Wheeler	30	19	—	3
Mr. P. B. Clarke	24	56	—	2
Mr. Goddard	36	27	—	2
Mr. Bugbird	24	8	—	1

SAILING RACE.

On Saturday afternoon, the 39-and 32-raters of the Y. Y. C. had a race to Uraga (16 miles) for the Norddeutscher Lloyd Cup, and second and third prizes by the Club. During the afternoon there was a nice light south-easterly breeze. The start was at 2 p.m. and the times at the Lightship and finish were as follows :—

	Rating.	Light-ship.	Finish.	Allowance.
Haidee	39	2.12.53	5.43.26	10 min.
Mary	37½	2.11.19	5.15.28	scratch.
Maid Marion	36½	2.12.02	5.33.24	8 min.
Spray	34	2.12.15	5.45.40	20 ,,
Wanderer	32	2.17.02	not taken	40 ,,
Daimyo	29½	2.16.14	,,	80 ,,
Svanhild	22½	2.17.47	,,	40 ,,

Mary takes first prize, *Maid Marion* second and *Spray* third.

The Mosquito Yacht Club had a race on Saturday afternoon, *Nandeska* won with *Kodesu* second, *Yugao* third, *Sodeska* fourth, and *Abunai* last.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Yokohama send us the following additional names of subscribers to the Indian Famine Relief Fund :—

Amount already acknowledged	¥4,590.87
C. Illies & Co.	100.00
Josiah Conder	25.00
H. Ahrens & Co. Nach	100.00
M. J. M.	4.00
F. M. T.	4.54
A. Woolley	50.00
Surplus S. A. Telegram	30.53
American Trading Co.	100.00
Agreement	82.37
Poirson	10.00
	5,101.31

We have received a cheque for 5 *yen* from "Missionary" toward the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Will you kindly acknowledge the following amounts forwarded to G. S. Eddy, Esq. Y.M.C.A., Madras, for the India Famine Fund?

As the needs continue still more urgent I shall be glad to forward further amounts :—

Previously reported	¥1,356.12
"Thank offering"	50.00
G.B.	21.00
E.D.	15.00
"Friends"	10.00
W. P. Turner	10.00
"Tenth"	10.00
W. B. McIlwaine	25.00
	1,497.12

Sincerely, V. W. HELM.

Tokyo, 3, Mitoshiro-cho, Kanda, June 28th, 1900.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Shanghai, June 21.

General Hunter's advance column occupied Krugersdorp unopposed.

METHUEN DEFEATS DEWET.

Lord Methuen, while escorting a convoy o Heilbron, routed D ewet, who endeavoured o prevent his entry i nto Heilbron.

GUNS CAPTURED.

General Hunter captured two guns between Pretoria and Rustenburg.

COMMUNICATIONS RESTORED.

Railway and telegraphic connections between Capetown and Pretoria have been restored.

THE CHINA COMPLICATION.

Shanghai, June 21.

France has ordered three men-of-war to China, also a battalion of marines and two batteries of artillery.

Germany is sending two battalions of marines.

GUERRILLA TACTICS.

A large force of Free-Staters are concentrating in front of General Rundle with the intention of breaking through southwards. The Transvaalers are retiring before Gen. Buller with the object of joining the Free-Staters.

THE BOER WAR.

A telegram from Sandspruit Station dated the 20th says that Buller's head-quarters are two miles north-west of the railway.

An informal armistice for five days has been made with Botha, at the expiration of which time Lord Roberts will take vigorous action.

THE McKINLEY PLATFORM.

The Republican Convention has been held at Philadelphia. It has declared a platform strongly approving of McKinley's domestic and foreign policy and declaring steadfast adherence to the gold standard.

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DEATH OF COUNT MURAVIEFF.

Shanghai, June 22.

The death is announced of Count Muravieff, the Russian Foreign Minister of State.

STRENGTHENING THE CHINA SQUADRON.

H.M.S. *Isis* and *Dido* (cruisers) have been ordered to China.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY RE-NOMINATED.

The Republican Convention have unanimously hominated President McKinley for President, with Mr. Theodore Roosevelt (Governor of New York State) for Vice-President.

MORE BLUE-JACKETS FOR CHINA.

Shanghai, June 23.

A thousand blue-jackets and a strong force of marines have been ordered to China. General Sir Alfred Gaselee, K.C.B. (late D.A.G. Bengal) commands the India contingent.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

General Buller, telegraphing from Katbosch on the 22nd inst., says that the Infantry have arrived there. The Cavalry have occupied Standerton unopposed. The enemy exploded the railway bridge.

A later telegram says that Gen. Hamilton's column reached Springs Station on the 21st, and is going on to Heidelberg, where it will join Buller, who has reached Paardekop, thus opening communication between Pretoria and Natal.

Gen. Baden-Powell has returned to Rustenburg where he found the leading Boers very pacific.

MOROCCO AND FRANCE.

Shanghai, June 24.

Morocco has formally demanded of France that European arbitration be resorted to for settling the questions in dispute.

DEWET.

Reuter's agent telegraphs from Pretoria under date of the 21st that the net is being gradually drawn around Dewet by Buller, Brabant, Rundle, and Methuen.

BOTHA.

It is stated that Botha is willing to surrender, but that he is prevented by Kruger, who insists upon being allowed to remain in the country.

PRINCE KANIN IN GERMANY.

Later.

Prince Kanin has visited Prince Henry at Kiel and has dined on board the *Hohenzollern*.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Buller telegraphs from Standerton under date of the 24th that 461 Yeomanry and 180 Highlanders who were captured at Lindley and Heilbron arrived at Standerton on the 18th, the majority of them in good health.

AMERICAN WARSHIPS FOR CHINA.

The American warships *Brooklyn* and *Monadnock* have been ordered to China.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS.

Shanghai, June 26.

An order has been issued by the Czar raising the Amur troops to a war footing and calling out the reserves in the Siberian and Amur military districts.

AMERICAN PREPARATIONS.

America is actively preparing to meet every contingency in China.

BRITISH PREPARATIONS.

The Indian force for China has been increased as follows:—Two brigades each of four battalions with divisional troops; one cavalry regiment; one regiment of pioneers; three companies of Sappers and Miners; a field battery and two battalions for the line of communications. (This represents about 10,000 of all arms, and with the troops already under orders makes a total of about 17,000 men).

SOUTH AFRICA.

Shanghai, June 27.

Clements yesterday engaged a body of Boers near Winburg, driving them with loss northward of the Zand River.

The mounted infantry had a successful skirmish with Boer patrols a few miles south-east of Pretoria yesterday.

PRINCE KANIN.

H.I.H. Prince Kotohito attended the unveiling of the monument to William the First at Holtenan and was received in the afternoon by the Emperor on board the *Hohenzollern*.

ASHANTI.

Shanghai, June 28.

London, 27th June—The latest telegram from Prahsu(?) dated the 26th says that heavy rains are delaying the Kumassi relief expedition. The rivers are almost impassable.

THE BOERS AND THE BASUTOS.

A telegram from Maseru dated the 26th of June says that the Boers attacked the Basutos working under the Royal Engineers near Kroonstad, killing and wounding 20 and capturing 200.

OLIVIER.

It is reported that Olivier has broken through the British lines and is advancing south.

A SHARP FIGHT.

Later.

The Boers unsuccessfully attacked the entrenched camp of the Shropshires and the Canadians and intercepted a Pretoria train carrying troops southward. A number of the released Waterval prisoners under the command of Bullock, armed with Mausers, came to the assistance of the train. Bullock refused a demand by the Boers to surrender and resisted for seven hours under a shell and rifle fire. Major Hobbs, of the West Yorkshires, who had been for eight months a prisoner, was killed. Lieuts. Smith and Glovar were wounded. Five men were killed and 14 wounded. Reinforcements arrived from Kroonstad and the Boers fled.

A WINTER CAMPAIGN.

The Government is making extensive preparations to supply winter clothing, including fur caps, for the troops in the event of a winter campaign.

CHINA.

With regard to China Mr. Balfour has stated that the British Government will welcome the despatch of troops by any Power which owing to its proximity is able to act immediately for the suppression of the disturbances.

V.C.

Major Phipps Hornby and three men have been gazetted to the V.C. for gallantry shown on the occasion of the Kroonspruit disaster.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED AT THE LEGATION OF FRANCE.)

CHINA.

Saigon, June 22.

The Paris press calls for vigorous measures to secure respect for French life and property in China.

Two battalions of marine infantry and two batteries of artillery will leave Toulon before the 29th instant.

Saigon, June 23.

The Admirals at Taku await reinforcements to march to the succour of Tientsin.

No official news has been received from Peking or Tientsin for eight days. The most contradictory rumours are circulated.

TIENTSIN.

Saigon, June 24.

Fifteen thousand Chinese have been bombarding the foreign quarter of Tientsin for several days. Considerable damage has been caused, but the casualties among the foreigners are slight.

PEKING.

It is affirmed that the Legations in Peking are intact.

Later.

One hundred American soldiers and 400 Russians have sailed to break through the investment of Tientsin. Two thousand are about to renew the attack.

All is calm in the Yangtsze Valley.

FRENCH SENATORIAL ELECTION.

M. Charles Dupuy has been elected Senator for Haute Loire.

FRENCH PREPARATIONS.

Saigon, June 26.

A third battalion of Marine Infantry has been mobilized at Toulon for service in China.

RELIEF OF TIENTSIN.

Saigon, June 27.

The foreign troops have entered Tientsin after a violent contest. They have set out again from Tientsin to succour the detachment which accompanies the Foreign Ministers who are returning from Peking and are surrounded by the Chinese at a point 20 kilometers from Tientsin.

(TELEGRAMS RECEIVED IN TOKYO.)

DISTURBED CHINA.

Shanghai, June 21.

The Foreign Consuls have held a meeting, and have resolved that inasmuch as several thousands of Chinese troops and persons of doubtful character are in and about Shanghai, constituting a menace to the security of foreign life and property, application must be made to the Admirals for four more vessels to guard the place.

Chefoo, June 21.

There is a rumour that 150 foreigners have been assassinated in Tientsin.

There are now seven thousand foreign troops at Taku; 900 English from Hongkong and 200 Chinese under English officers from Wei-hai-wei are expected in a day or two, and Russia will shortly increase her force.

Hongkong, June 21.

Li Hung-chang has given out publicly that he has been summoned to the north. He will leave Hongkong by the *Empress of India* on the 27th, and change into a Chinese vessel at Chin-kow.

Sascho, June 22.

The *Higo Maru*, having the wounded on board, arrived here at 6 a.m. to-day.

Rear-Admiral Dewa telegraphs that the officers commanding the foreign vessels at Taku have decided to inform the Governors of provinces and the local officials that their sole object is to succour their nationals who are shut up in Peking, and that they will not treat as enemies any persons except soldiers or insurgents who oppose the consummation of that object.

The Japanese standing squadron has arrived at Taku.

[Apparently this refers to the *Tokiwa* (9,855 tons), the *Takasago* (4,278 tons), the *Akitsushima* (3,172 tons), and the *Tatsuta* (864 tons)

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which left Saseho on the 19th instant. The Japanese ships already at Taku were the *Kasagi* (4,978 tons), the *Suma* (2,700 tons), the *Atago* (622 tons), the *Yoshino* (4,225 tons), the *Chinto* (447 tons), the *Chimpen* (447 tons), the *Chinchiu* (447 tons), and the torpedo craft *Toyohashi*, *Kagero*, *Usugumo*, and *Shiranui*.—ED. *J.M.*]

Russian subjects and peaceable Chinese are escaping from Chefoo and Newchwang to Port Arthur, under the protection of Russian men-of-war.

Several Chinese men-of-war have left Chefoo, steering southward.

The Japanese steamer *Kwanko Maru* has been sent up the Yangtsze to take away missionaries whose lives are threatened.

Everything is quiet about Chefoo.

The Chinese troops attacked Tientsin and Taku, and sank a tug-steamer lying in the river.

The officer of the *Iltis* who was wounded in the attack on the Taku Forts has died.

The Viceroys Liu Kun-yi and Chan Chi-tung have applied for British assistance to preserve order in the Yangtsze Valley.

Li Hung-chang has changed his mind and will not proceed to the north.

Orders have been issued to the Second Division to hold itself in readiness to embark at a moment's notice.

The commander of the *Genkai Maru* states that, although the Japanese contingent under Commander Hattori were not nearest to the Forts at Taku when the order to assault was given, they advanced so quickly that they obtained the lead and were the first to enter the Forts.

(FOREIGN OFFICE TELEGRAMS.)

Chefoo, June 22.

An Italian military officer has returned to Taku from Tientsin. It is rumoured that the foreigners' settlement has been set on fire. Some 130 American troops, with 100 Russians, proceeded to Tientsin on the night of the 20th inst.

Shanghai, June 24.

The Chinese Government is reported to have requested the Representatives of the foreign Powers to leave Peking at once. It is not known when this request was made.

According to a telegram from Pao-ting, the guns used by the insurgents for bombarding the foreign settlement in Tientsin were borrowed from the local Government office.

A telegram from Russia received by the Government, under date of the 22nd instant, announces that Count Lamsdorf has been appointed to take charge of his country's foreign affairs temporarily.

Newchwang, June 23, 8.44 p.m.

Intelligence has been received to the effect that the foreign troops now engaged at the defence of Tientsin will be unable to maintain the post for any length of time, the attack is so hot.

The Taku forts are still occupied by the allied troops, but the critical situation in Peking renders it necessary to adopt every precaution for defending the forts, as the Chinese may come to attack them at any moment. The troops garrisoning them seem too insignificant to make any efficient resistance.

A variety of news has been received with regard to the condition of Peking. One account says that foreigners in the city have all been massacred. Although this intelligence is not at all credible it must be admitted that affairs in the city have become highly perilous.

The men-of-war now at Taku are, 7 Russian under Vice-Admiral Korniloff; 8 British; 5 French; 5 German; 1 American; 2 Italian, and 1 Austrian; or 29 in all. There are, further, a number of Japanese warships, together with the Chinese ship *Haiyuen*, and 4 others which have been captured.

Shanghai, June 24, 10 a.m.

The Military School has been occupied and demolished by the allied forces. The beleaguering troops are still holding their ground. The Russians have sustained heavy casualties. They were hard pressed, and the French settlement has been set on fire.

A telegram received by the Naval Department announces the arrival in Taku of the Japanese torpedo-destroyer *Murakumo* at 9 a.m. on the 23rd inst., and of the transport *Ikai Maru* at noon.

Hokchiu, June 27.

Governor-General Min was telegraphed to from Peking on the 26th instant, to the effect that as the insurrection of the Boxers has now assumed such dimensions as to endanger the integrity of the Chinese empire, he should send forward 3,000 troops with a large sum for war expenses.

The General in command at Tswan-chiu arrived here yesterday with 1,000 troops. Hokchiu, however, remains quiet, and the attitude of the inhabitants towards foreigners is as peaceful as ever.

[OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.]

A telegram from Saseho addressed to the Chief of the Naval Department confirms the occupation of the northern fort of Taku by Japanese, English, and American forces proceeding from Tungku, and that of the southern fortress by the Russian, German, and French troops. The capture of 4 Chinese torpedo catchers by the *Algerine*, *Fame*, and *Whiting* is also confirmed.

A telegram addressed to the Minister of the Navy by the Commander of the warship *Toyohashi* states that the *Atago Kan* could not proceed up the river without great difficulty on account of her draught. She was therefore used to store arms and ammunition belonging to the Powers, and refrained from participating in the bombardment. The Japanese troops occupied the western fort on the northern bank of the Pehho, and raised the national flag, and then, utilizing the cannon in the fort, attacked the central fortifications. The various forts on the southern bank were taken by the English, Russian, and German troops. On the 18th instant the Japanese were called upon to garrison the Tungku railway station, leaving the defence of the fort to the English.

Another telegram confirms the casualties sustained by the Russian and German vessels at the time of the bombardment of Taku, and adds that the Japanese warship *Atago* did not take part in the conflict, while the American vessel *Monocacy* took on board women and children. The total land force of English, Russian, and French troops numbered something over 150. These landed at Tungku on the 16th, and attacked the rear of the fortress, in conjunction with Japanese from the *Toyohashi*.

NAVAL DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram has been received from the cruiser *Akitsusu*, which left Taku on the 24th instant and arrived in Chefoo on the forenoon of the 25th:—

The condition of Peking and Tientsin is not yet known with any degree of certainty. Communication between Taku and Tientsin has been possible since the 25th instant, but it might be again interrupted if any large force of Chinese took the field.

The Japanese fleet is assisting in the landing of troops.

The torpedo-boat *Hayafusa*, which arrived in Chefoo from Taku on the night of the 25th instant, gives information to the effect that communication between Taku and Tientsin was opened on the 23rd instant.

Trustworthy news has been received to the effect that the combined forces of the Powers entered Tientsin on the 23rd instant. No details, however, are yet known.

Chefoo, June 26.

The gunboat *Hayafusa* will leave for Taku on the forenoon to-morrow. That large numbers of ruffians and loafers have entered the place appears to be a fact. Additional guns of small calibre have been mounted in the western fort. The people in the city are reported to be in a state of excitement.

Troops under General Sung to the number of 10,000 have been put in motion, but with regard to the object of their operations, as well as their destination, nothing is known with certainty. Rumours of the above kind are circulated in various places. People resembling Boxers are occasionally seen in the neighbourhood of Taku, but nothing in the nature of a disturbance has occurred since the capture of the Forts.

In order to ensure unbroken communication between Taku and Chefoo, it has been resolved that a despatch ship shall be sent in turn by the five Powers, Japan, England, America, Germany, and France.

Chefoo, June 26, 9 p.m.

As information was received from the Commander-in-chief of the American squadron on the night of the 24th instant, to the effect that the combined forces had reached Tientsin, the torpedo-boat destroyer *Hayabusa* was immediately despatched to Chefoo to report the fact by telegraph. But on the forenoon of the 25th the American Commander came on board, and cancelled the above information.

(FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

Shanghai, June 22.

Tientsin is being bombarded, and the foreign settlement has been set on fire. The railway station is occupied by Russians, who, however, are sore pressed by the insurgents. They are anxiously awaiting the arrival of reinforcements. They appear to have suffered a great number of casualties.

The railway is open from Tongku to Chunghang-cheng, about 14 miles from Tientsin.

News from Peking, dated the 14th, announces the destruction by fire of all the Legations except those of England, Austria, and Belgium. The Legation Guards had had frequent encounters with Chinese troops, and the populace was in a state of dangerous excitement.

Russian soldiers to the number of 10,000 have arrived at Taku from Vladivostock, and landed. It is stated that 4,000 more are on their way.

Two English cruisers of 5,600 tons each, drafted from the Mediteranean Squadron, are under orders to proceed to China. An English transport with 800 marines is expected at Shanghai within 48 hours.

Saseho, June 22.

Five Chinese men-of-war have arrived in Shanghai from Chefoo.

The English battleship *Undaunted*, now at anchor at Woosung, is cleared for action.

Saseho, June 22, Noon.

Further telegrams from Taku show that the Tungku fort was attacked by the combined forces of the Powers—consisting of 300 Russians, 200 English, 200 Germans, and 300 Japanese. The troops of the three first-named Powers, however, could not advance,

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and the Japanese, who were at the outset in the rear, came forward and occupied the fortress, besides taking two other positions of less importance. It was in this fight that Capt. Hattori received his death wound. The gallant man exclaimed *"Daijobu"* several times before he died.

The gun-boats in the river opened fire at the fort. In the engagement the commander of the German boat lost a leg.

In another version the events leading up to the fight are described as follows. The Russian Admiral, as Commander-in-Chief of the United Forces, forwarded a representation to the Governor of Chihli on the 16th instant demanding that the Taku forts should be evacuated by 12 midnight. This step was taken in consequence of the receipt of alarming news from Peking of havoc caused by the rioters, and of the nonchalant attitude of the Imperial troops. The Governor declined to evacuate the forts, and the Admiral retired with the resolution of taking such vigorous steps as should be required. He intended, however, to wait till morning to commence operations. The initiative came from the Chinese. They opened fire at 12.50 midnight on the warships as they lay at anchor. The allies replied vigorously, and a terrific cannonade was soon in progress. The flash of the guns could be seen at a distance of six miles. Between 4 and 5 a.m. the gunpowder magazine at the fort exploded, and by 8 a.m. the fighting was over. The Japanese torpedo-destroyer *Kagero*, which was at anchor at Taku, proceeded to the vicinity of the fort, and found the Japanese flag waving above it.

The land attack had been made by 180 men belonging to England, Germany, and Russia, together with 300 Japanese. The Chinese fled in all directions, and the fire was only continued by a few who were in hiding in buildings some 30 *ken* from the fortress. The chief casualties were sustained at this time. The Japanese commander was Captain Shiraishi, of the Saseho naval station.

The American ship *Monocacy* did not take part in the bombardment, as she had on board the foreign ladies and children of the settlement.

The *Atago*, which was at anchor in front of the railway station, also took no part in the firing, as she was serving as a storeship for arms of all kinds.

Two English vessels are reported to have captured four Chinese torpedo boats.

The Japanese warship *Yoshino* arrived at Taku at 5 a.m. on the 22nd.

Telegraphic communication north of Chefoo is interrupted. There is some appearance of unrest in the intermediate district.

Saseho, June 22, 6 p.m.

The Chinese warship *Kaiyo*(?) left Tungku at noon on the 17th. When she had proceeded about a mile she was warned by the Russian admiral not to leave. A Russian officer went on board.

The *Toyohashi*, which arrived here to-day, reports meeting the German *Irene*, with 400 men, off the coast of Chefoo, as well as English and Russian ships.

The vessels which took part in the bombardment of the Taku forts were: English, 1 gunboat and 2 torpedo boats; Russia, three gunboats; France, 1 gunboat; Germany, 1 gunboat. Twenty-six other vessels, belonging to England, Russia, Japan, France, Italy, and Austria, took no part.

Chefoo, June 23.

The troops under General Nieh number 8,000. A part of them went from Lu-tai to Tientsin and have been fighting with 3,000 Foreign troops since the 18th inst.

Information has been received that rioting has been taking place in Peking and that massacres have been perpetrated.

The Taku forts are still in the possession of the foreign troops.

Communication with the district north of Tongku is interrupted and it impossible to ascertain the state of affairs at Tientsin.

The first detachment of Japanese troops from Ujina arrived at Chefoo on the 20th instant.

Shanghai, June 23.

The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has declined to permit the landing of Cossacks at Hankow, stating that he will himself assume the responsibility for the protection of foreign life and property. Women and children are coming to Hankow for shelter.

Japanese and American volunteer companies have been organized for the protection of Shanghai.

The Russian commander states that 4,000 Russians are at present on the way from Tientsin to Peking.

It is notified that Li Hung-chang will remain at Canton at the instance of the British Consul.

No disturbance has as yet occurred at Shanghai but there is much apprehension.

It is rumoured that a small band of Europeans who attempted to return to Tientsin, cutting their way through the rioters at a point 40 miles west of the city, are fighting desperately. It is supposed that this band may be Admiral Seymour and his men.

Many foreign women and children are fleeing to Japan for refuge.

The Japanese cruiser *Akitsushima Kan* has arrived at Chefoo, thus relieving the anxiety that was felt there.

Chefoo, June 23.

According to intelligence brought by the English cruiser *Orlando*, which arrived here to-day, the assailants of Tientsin appear to have been repulsed once, but they were to attack again last night. An English officer was killed, and another officer, together with two marines, were wounded. Further, some of the men of the foreign detachment were either killed or taken prisoners. The largest casualties were sustained by the Russians. The garrison from the military college are still engaged in the defence. Information has been received to the effect that Peh-tai-ho and Shan-hai-kwan are occupied by Cossacks.

Newchwang. June 23.

Steamers can discharge or ship cargo in this port as usual. The Chinese merchants, however, have been thrown into great consternation by the latest war news from Taku.

Shanghai, June 23.

Considerable excitement prevails. Many of the Chinese merchants have closed their stores and removed to some other place. The principal trade is really at a standstill. Mexican dollars were lately quoted at 820 *mon* in Chinese cash, but a few days ago the rate rose to 950, and the figure stands at 850 at present.

In the western fort of Chefoo 4 cannon have been added and 1,000 troops are stationed. It is reported that some reinforcements have arrived from the interior.

Yesterday a force 3,000 strong proceeded from Taku towards Tientsin.

The special correspondent of the *Jiji* gives the latest information from the American Consul in North China as follows:—

Shanghai, June 23, 9.49 a.m.

The American Consul in this place is in receipt of the following information from Colonel Wise, under date of 1 p.m. on the 20th inst.:—This morning the marines arrived here (Tong-ku); I have therefore caused fires to be lighted in the locomotives, and have loaded two field pieces into the train, which now contains 400 Russians and 130 marines. The train is about to start. A number of French officials have also arrived and gone to the front. At 7 p.m. yesterday (19th) the Government troops in Tientsin attacked the foreigners, and demolished the American Consulate. The Americans are in a critical situation.

The Chinese have placed new pattern field-pieces in position and are firing against the foreign entrenchments.

It is rumoured that railway communication is available from this place to a point mid-way between Taku and Tientsin.

A few Russians are known to be stationed there. I have reason to apprehend that I may be attacked by the rioters to-night, but being able to make suitable provision for defence, I have sent all the marines to the mid-way point, lest it should be re-captured by the rioters.

These marines are to proceed by the railway as far as possible, and will thenceforth march on foot, but the train which carries them being absolutely indispensable for my purposes, it is to be run back here at once. I am prepared to send more reinforcements by train so soon as they arrive here. To-day I captured a despatch ship which entered the port secretly. If I had a greater number of stokers and drivers, I should be able to run many more trains, but the men under me who have some experience of locomotives do not exceed 2 at present.

(Signed) Wise, *Monocacy*.

Another telegram in the *Jiji* refers to the latest despatch from an American Lieutenant in North China. Thus:—

Shanghai, June 23, 9 a.m.

The following information was received by the American Consul from Lieutenant Clue in Tientsin at 1 p.m. on the 20th inst:—

It is advisable that reinforcements should speedily be despatched hither, the losses sustained by foreigners having reached a large figure. Arms and ammunition are also extremely scanty. Machine guns or field pieces are absolutely indispensable. Precautions must be taken by the re-inforcements as there may be ambuscades in the neighbourhood of Tientsin.

Rumour has it that Colonel Wright has been severely wounded. The Russians now garrisoning the railway station in Tientsin are fiercely attacked. The Chinese troops are constantly firing heavy guns at the foreign settlement which has been almost completely burnt.

Shanghai, June 26, 6 p.m.

The relief column of the Powers, having rescued Tientsin, advanced towards Peking on the 24th instant.

Shanghai, June 26, 10 p.m.

The allied forces have succeeded in establishing connection with a detachment of troops under Admiral Seymour at a point 9 miles from Tientsin. The detachment in question had been sorely pressed by the insurgents, and a number of men fell sick or were wounded. Fortunately there were comparatively few deaths. They are still confronted by a large force of the enemy.

The united troops and marines now stationed in the neighbourhood of Taku and Tientsin number about 10,000, the greater portion being Japanese.

Shanghai, June 26, 3.49 p.m.

Viceroys Chang and Liu have despatched Tou Shing-ko as a commissioner to Shang-

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hai, with a view to confer with the foreign consuls in regard to the state of affairs in the districts along the Yangtsze-kiang.

Shanghai, June 26, 6 p.m.

The foreign consuls held a conference today with the Shanghai Taotai and the Superintendent of Railways, as a preliminary to receiving the commissioner despatched by Chang and Liu.

A telegram from Ujina, Hiroshima, announces that the Office commanding the 5th Military Division has issued orders to the First Reserves to join by the 29th inst.

(OFFICIAL GAZETTE.)

The following telegrams were received by the Government yesterday (24th) from Tonkin :—

Shanghai, June 23.

A number of ringleaders of the insurrection in Yunnan have already been executed. The authorities of Yunnan have represented to the English Consul, that the riot originated in French imports of shells.

The English Consul has entrusted the duty of carrying on negotiations with the local authorities to missionaries in the district. He insists upon retiring from the capital, but the local officials are endeavouring to persuade him to remain.

Hankow, June 23.

No disturbance has so far occurred in this district or in the province, nor are there any palpable signs of unrest. It has been resolved, however, that a telegraphic request should be made to the Commander-in-chief of the united squadron at Taku, with a view to having a vessel despatched hither.

Shanghai, June 23.

The Commandant of the Woosung forts is making preparations to oppose the foreign troops. The warships now at anchor in Shanghai are reported to have received instructions from their respective governments to prepare their ships in readiness for evolutions.

[FROM THE "ASAHI SHIMBUN."]

Saseho, June 22.

At the Taku bombardment on 17th inst. a fire broke out in the warship *Lion* while the *Koreetz* was struck by a shell which caused the death of two officers and four others, including two petty officers. As to the *Iltis*, the casualties were one officer and six men killed, the Commander being wounded.

No further information has been received about the murder of Chancellor Nishiyama and the burning of his house.

The foreign troops stationed for the protection of the various Legations in Peking are apparently too few to repel the attacks of the Boxers, but the Ceinese troops do not appear disposed to render any assistance.

Chefoo, June 22.

Tientsin is still fiercely attacked by the Boxers who are continuing their work of havoc with a view of affecting the wholesale massacre of the people in the Settlement. Over 500 foreigners have already been killed by them, and rest are in imminent danger.

Saseho, June 22.

It appears that the representatives of the Powers in China have come to the conclusion that as there is no alternative in their present situation but to declare war against the Chinese, they will try to obtain telegraphic instructions to that effect from their respective Governments.

Shanghai, June 22.

The Boxers and the Chinese troops besieging Tientsin are firing only from a distance, and do not attempt to advance. Many of the foreigners, however, appear to have been injured.

Nankin, June 22.

Foreigners are protected by the Chinese Government, and are forbidden to go out at night.

Saseho, June 22.

The Japanese warship *Miyako* sailed for Fusan last night, while the *Akashi* left for Fukuoka at 7 a.m.

It is reported that the English Consul in (?) Kinryo, Nankin, wished to see Governor Liu on the 14th instant to make representations for the protection of the district with the aid of English warships. The local authorities appear, however, to have expressed the opinion that such assistance was quite unnecessary, the garrison being sufficient for purposes of protection. The execution of five criminals outside the castle on the 12th seems to have been the origin of a rumour that some Boxers who had entered Kinryo had been arrested and put to death. Much excitement was caused, but order was subsequently restored. Governor Liu is taking steps to raise recruits with a view to employ them as a reserve.

Shanghai, June 25.

The Governor-General Liu Kung-i and the Police censors of the three provinces are reported to have resolved to send their troops to the north at once, without awaiting imperial sanction of their memorial.

Prince Tuan is to answer Liu's memorial, and it is supposed that he will negative its proposals.

Two missionaries, one German and the other French, belonging to the International Mission in Chihli, have been murdered.

Saseho, June 25.

The warship *Matsushima* sailed to Kure this afternoon.

Shanghai, June 26.

Chung Chihtung and Liu Kung-i have despatched a delegate to the Japanese Consul-General Odagiri in Shanghai, with a formal declaration that they guarantee the strict neutrality of the territories under their jurisdiction.

A telegram from Shanghai received by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, under date of the 26th instant, announces that the Governor, by telegraphing to the Chinese Minister in London with regard to the adoption of measures for preserving neutrality in Shanghai, has obtained the consent of the English Premier.

Chefoo, June 27.

The Japanese land-troops now stationed in the foreign settlement at Tientsin have had only one officer killed and 8 men wounded.

General Fukushima was expected to enter Tientsin on the 26th instant.

The Japanese troops were advancing between Tientsin and Taku on the 25th, and communication between the two places was opened.

Taipeh, June 28.

The Consuls in Amoy have held a conference to arrange measures of protection against the insurrection in North China.

The Formosa garrison is ready to move at a moment's notice.

One French war-vessel and two transports are expected to arrive in Amoy to-morrow.

Chefoo, June 27.

The following telegram was received from the Japanese 3rd Secretary in Tientsin under date of the 25th instant :—

According to the latest information from Peking the various Representatives in the city were requested by the Tsung-li Yamen, on the 19th instant, to leave the capital within 24 hours. They accordingly left the city on the 20th instant.

Admiral Seymour's troops to the number of 2,300 attempted to return from a place some distance beyond Tientsin, but, having been assailed by greatly superior forces of Chinese, they failed to reach Tientsin. The allied forces, 2,000 strong, left Tientsin to rescue them on the night of the 24th inst. It is reported that the foreign Representatives did not take the same route (? This part of the telegram is obscure). The Japanese Minister Baron Nishi was expected to arrive in Tientsin on the 25th.

The foreign settlement in Tientsin was fiercely attacked on the 17th instant at 2.30 p.m., and the allied forces fought desperately in defence of the place. The casualties on the Japanese side were very insignificant, only one officer being killed and a few marines wounded.

The Consulate in Tientsin is safe. One of the residents in the fort was killed and another severely wounded.

A number of soldiers under the command of one officer arrived in Tientsin from Taku on the 25th instant, being charged with the duty of inspecting the road between Taku and Tientsin. They report that the road is free from danger.

The railway from Tientsin to Tong-ku has been repaired, but a Christian Church has been destroyed by the Boxers.

No information has been received as to the safe arrival in Tientsin of the Representatives of the Powers.

A communication from a certain gentleman in Canton under date of the 20th inst. says that the inhabitants are quiet and apparently indifferent to the insurrection.

Li Hung-chang received telegraphic instructions from Peking on the 17th instant, to the effect that he should repair at once to the capital. It is reported that he is determined to proceed to the north, entrusting his duties to the Police Censor.

[FROM THE "NICHI NICHI SHIMBUN."]

Chefoo, June 23, 3 p.m.

The Chinese troops are bombarding the foreign settlement with 60 cannon. The combined forces of the Powers now number about 300, including 150 Japanese. A fierce conflict is going on. The Japanese warships *Tokiwa* and *Atago*, of the standing squadron, have arrived here. The *Akitsushima*, which followed them, is now at anchor in Chefoo.

The 1st class English cruiser *Terrible* arrived at Taku yesterday. The first transport which left Ujina with troops from Japan is expected to reach Taku on the night of the 23rd instant. Major-General Fukushima is supposed to be on board.

The total force landed from Japanese ships has reached 500 men.

(FROM THE "KOKUMIN.")

Shanghai, June 26, 4 p.m.

Tientsin is now under the jurisdiction of the Japanese military officials.

Shanghai, June 26, 4.05 p.m.

Yuen Shih-kai has telegraphed to one of the Consuls in Shanghai, that a messenger be sent to Peking to ascertain the condition of the city, was murdered by the Boxers on the way, but the Representatives of the Powers were quite secure up to the 20th instant.

Various telegrams are published by the Japanese newspapers with reference to affairs in China, but they are chiefly bewildering repetitions. It is asserted that two or even three unsuccessful attempts have been made

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to relieve Tientsin, one by Russian troops and one by German, but as there is no apparent reason that these troops should act independently we doubt the truth of the story.

The three Viceroys, Li, Chang, and Liu, are said to have memorialised the throne in the sense that as the present crisis threatens the integrity of the Chinese Empire they desire to raise 50,000 troops each for the suppression of the Boxers.

Another rumour has it that the Legations in Peking have been attacked and that the 300 foreign guards have had a desperate combat.

There is talk of a plot in Korea actuated by motives similar to those of the Boxers, the idea being to expel all missionaries who are residing outside they limits. The plotters are said to have applied for permission to the Emperor, and have naturally been refused.

Shanghai, June 25.

Liu Kung-i has issued orders to the Northern Squadron now in this port to proceed up the River. The precautionary measures taken by him are highly appreciated by the people.

A telegram from the Japanese Settlement in Nankin announces that Liu Kung-i has sent his family to Honan, and that the Chinese in the city believe themselves quite secure.

Chefoo, June 25.

Communication between Taku and Tientsin was restored on the 23rd instant. Rumour has it that Admiral Seymour is surrounded at a place about 10 miles from Tientsin, and that the foreign Representatives have left Peking under guard of Chinese troops. It is not known where they are now.

Hankow, June 26.

It is desired that a man-of-war should be despatched here for the protection of Japanese residents in the various ports along the upper Yantsze. Chang Chih-tung has proposed that he should assume the responsibility of protecting the foreigners, but it is feared that some of the soldiers under his command are disposed to join the Boxers.

The gunboat *Linnet* is now lying at anchor in this port. English marines and foreign volunteers are guarding the settlement day and night.

Chefoo, June 26.

The combined forces, 2,000 strong, relieved Tientsin at noon of the 23rd instant. The English and American troops were the first to enter the city, and were soon followed by the troops of other Powers. The casualties among the Russians were 4 killed and 30 wounded, those of the other troops being very slight.

Admiral Seymour has been surrounded by Chinese troops and Boxers, and has experienced serious difficulties on account of his sick and wounded.

A communication brought by a steamer from Taku is to the effect that the casualties as well as injuries sustained by the allied troops were not so serious as had been imagined.

AN EYE-WITNESS OF THE TAKU FIGHT.

A very full and graphic account of the situation in Tientsin is given in the *N.-C. Daily News* under the signature of Mrs. James Jones. She says she arrived there on Friday, June 15th, and was surprised to find the place swarming with sailors and marines. She proceeds :—

After having dined, a party of us, escorted by a naval officer, took a short walk before retiring to rest, and then we saw what precautions had been taken for our safety. At every few yards we were challenged by a sentry. There was not a single Chinaman to be seen about and the whole place seemed still and deserted and very unlike Tientsin, especially the Taku Road, which is as a rule, I believe, one constant flow of traffic. Just as we were returning we heard seven shots fired in rapid sucession, but feeling quite safe with so many protectors near we retired to rest. Not, as it happened, for long. At about midnight an officer came with the news that the whole of the Chinese city was in flames, that the Boxers were advancing and were then actually fighting at the Tientsin Railway station, which place they had also attempted to fire. We were told to get up and dress, so as to be in readiness to rush off to the Town Hall on the alarm being sounded.

The fire was a tremendous blaze and a really grand sight. It is reported that the city was fired in fourteen different places, and if the wind had been in the other direction Tientsin would have stood but a poor chance. When ready, we spent most of our time in the garden (the alarm not having sounded) beside the ammunition, which had been carried out there in case of the buildings being fired. Ten men were left to guard us, and the rest went off with their officers to meet the Boxers. It was about three o'clock when we were at last told we might safely retire again, as all was quiet, the Boxers having been driven off. We heard about 60 or 70 had been killed, but the number is uncertain. The firing had been very frequent since about 11 p.m. and that and the barking and howling of dogs round gave one an unsettled feeling, so that we did not retire but just lay down as we were.

It was fortunate we did so, as at 4 a.m., we were hurriedly called up and informed that the Boxers were close upon us, advancing towards the back of our dwelling, and we were to go off at once to the Town Hall. As you can imagine, in a very short space of time we were on our way there. The poor children were taken out of bed and hurriedly put into thick coats and shoes, and off we rushed to the Town Hall, where we found others similarly attired. It was a truly pitiful sight, there were so many little ones, some only a month old, and although they were very quiet and good, there were a few little white scared faces. Very few amahs were there, as most of the servants have run away, in some cases not one being left in the house. We remained at the Hall until about 7.30 a.m. not knowing quite what was happening or had happened during the time we had been there. Of course all sorts of rumours were going round which did not tend to improve matters. At last word came that it was safe to return to our homes. The Boxers had withdrawn but would return that night, and they expected to have a big fight. All the women and children were strongly advised to leave, but then the difficulty arose of how to get away. The lines had been tampered with and the trains were not running. The damage to the lines, however, was evidently not as bad as reported, as it was quickly repaired, and at 2 p.m. as many as could get away left for Tongku, a pilot engine going on ahead. Later on another train arrived, also with a number of ladies and children, and made for the various ships in port.

Even here our troubles were not at an end. We seemed to have fallen "out of the frying pan into the fire," for soon after getting on board we heard there was a probability of the Taku Forts being taken that night. It appears that the naval captains had called on the General of the forts, taking Mr. Johnstone, a good Chinese scholar, as interpreter, and informed him that unless they surrendered by 12 o'clock that that night, they intended to bombard the forts at 2 a.m. it having transpired that thousands of soliders were entering them and also laying mines across the channel during the day. In consequence of this the residents of Taku received orders at 6 p.m. to leave within an hour's time and take refuge on board U.S. S. *Monocacy*, lying at the railway wharf. About 1 a.m. the Chinese opened fire, the first shot passing harmlessly throuugh the *Algerine's* rigging. From this time till about 6.30 a.m. was an increasing bombardment, the roar of the cannon being almost deafening. The first fort taken was the North, by, we presume, the Japanese, as that was the first flag we saw hoisted, followed shortly after by the British on the outer North fort.

After taking these Forts the men-of-war steamed towards the mouth of the river and soon after the German and Russian flags went up on the South Forts. Shortly after daylight we saw four torpedo boats being towed in stern first by the *Whiting* and *Fame*, flying the British flags. During the time of bombardment we and the ships at Tongku were right in the line of fire and had anything but a pleasant time, the shells whistling above and around us in all directions, and the marvel is that the *Monocacy* was the only one struck, she receiving a shot right through her bows. The *Lienshing*, lying at Jardine's, besides running the risk of shells from the forts, was attacked by a party of Chinese who were looting the cargo, but the return fire from the *Lienshing* eventually drove them away. A shell falling into one of the Tongku hotels near the railway station killed three Chinese, the only ones that were in the house at the time.

About 10 a.m. when all was quiet some of the officers of our ship went off to explore, Mr. Conley going to the North Fort, Mr. Burgess to the South, and Mr. Miller to Taku, to see how the foreign residences had fared. On their return they had most ghastly tales to relate. The forts were a mass of ruins, rivers of blood, with headless and armless bodies everywhere, which the blue-jackets were gathering together and cremating in heaps.

Several of the houses at Taku were complete wrecks and nearly all had suffered in some way. As soon as it was daylight we saw in the distance a black mass of Chinese hurrying from the Forts and the villages round about. It is feared they will make for Tientsin and join the Boxers. As we passed down the River on our return we noticed the Russian flag was flying at the Imperial Dock at Taku, also on a destroyer lying in the Dock. We do not know how many Chinese were killed, but near Tientsin Railway Station we saw several corpses lying around, the result of Friday night, a night none of us are ever likely to forget.

On passing through the Fleet outside the Taku Bar on our return it made us all feel very sad to see the flags on every ship half-mast. It brought before us the horrors of the previous night, and made us think, not only of the poor fellows who had lost their lives but also of the unfortunate ones left in Tientsin. The difficulty there is getting away, as it is impossible to leave on either boat or train without a guard. A few residents did start for Tongku but soon after leaving the crews deserted them. The trains are most uncertain and it is not always possible for people to leave, owing to the many attempts to wreck them.

An armoured train that ran during the night for the protection of the line, on the night of the bombardment did not arrive as usual nor had they heard any thing of it in Tientsin up to the time of our leaving. Great uneasiness was felt both there and at Tongku at its non-arrival.

Another trouble is the scarcity of food, it being impossible to get any fresh meat, all the Chinese stores being closed, tinned provisions from the Foreign ones seem to be the only things procurable.

Before closing I should like to express my gratitude to all those who showed us such very great kindness. To Capt. Indrach and Lieut. Lachanovchy of the *Zenta*, who when our servants deserted us, sent sailors to wash and cook and did everything in their power to cheer us up and help us. To Capt. Wise of the *Monocacy* who met as at the Tongku Station and whose servant looked after our baggage, and last but not least to Capt. Warwick and his Officers, who readily gave up their cabins and have been kindness itself all through these trying times.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHTING.

In the course of an interview with an officer of the C. M. S. *Hsingfung*, which arrived from Taku, a representative of the *North China Daily News* was informed that the vessel had a very warm experience during the bombardment. "We were right in the thick of the fight, the shot and shell just clearing our awning boom," said the officer.

There were no big ships in the action, he went on, only gunboats or small craft, comprising three Russians, one English, one French and one German.

One of the Russians got a shot in her bow and is now aground in shallow water. She was hit five times in all and another of the Russians was hit three times. They *Algerine*, the British vessel, sustained no serious damage and only took two shots through her stoke-hold ventilators. The heavy loss of the Russians is accounted for by the fact that a shot or shell fell in the magazine causing an explosion of ammunition.

An ultimatum had been sent ashore to the effect that if the Boxers were not checked other steps would have to be taken. Then some of the naval officers went to see the General at 12 o'clock on Saturday night, to ask what he intended doing. The General replied that he meant to fight, and a bombardment by the fleet was arranged for 2 o'clock that morning. The Chinese, however, began firing a little before 1 a.m., using the searchlight. The U.S.S. *Monocacy* had been up river on patrol work, and as she came down men on shore near the wharves opened fire on her with rifles but they were soon silenced.

It was one of the Russian torpedo boats that silenced the fire of the riflemen along the creeks near the river, the work being done in very short time.

On the inner side of the forts the British and Japanese flags are flying, on the outer side the British and Russian flags, and on the south side the German and Russian colours fly. The Russian flag flies at the Navy yard and the docks. The four captured torpedo destroyers, are all under the British flag.

A report was current at Taku, that the Empress Dowager has issued an edict, and had it published in the local papers, to the effect that all foreigners were to be killed.

The forts do not show much damage from the outside, but on entering them a very vivid idea is gained

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as to be effect of modern shell fire. The place was wrecked, and mutilated men and horses were thickly strewn over the blood-stained ground. The visitors, after the fight, made quite a harvest of mementoes, and we were shewn yesterday a drum, a sword bayonet, and packets of gun fittings, portions of shell and other grim relics of the affray. These were taken from the fort, including also a crystal cap button and red tassel, that were lying near one of the dead.

The C.M.S. *Yunching*, during the early part of the fight, found that the big projectiles fell unpleasantly near her, and her capitain thought it wise to shift his moorings and get out of the line of fire.

The effect of the shell-fire from the ships was terrific. A number of foreign houses ashore suffered severely—one indeed, that of Mr. Limberg, being entirely destroyed. One shell went right through one of the Tongku hotels. The shell that smashed Mr. Limberg's house also killed three people presumably Chinese.

The U.S.S. *Monocacy* had one shot that went through her pinnace and her bulwarks.

THE ATTACK ON TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, 16th June.

An attack was made on Tientsin last night. The Roman Catholic Cathedral, all the preaching places, and the greater part of the city were burned. The Boxers then made a rush on the station and actually came within 50 yards of the Russian troops, who fired fifteen rounds with a big gun. They reported that they had killed between 300 and 400, though there is no proof of this yet. They attacked the Settlement from two sides, and but for 2,000 Russians we should have done badly, as 200 of our men had been sent down to guard the line to Tongku on which Chinese troops were reported marching. Everything is dislocated here, the wires cut, and the mail service off.

WU TING-FANG ON CHRISTIANITY AND THE CHINESE.

Wu Ting-fang, Chinese Minister to the United States, who has been attracting considerable attention by his speeches concerning trade in China, now comes forward with some interesting views on the influence of Christianity and missionaries upon the Chinaman. The Chinese, he says, are nominally all Confucians, who embrace the simple creed of "belief in goodness," but at the same time they recognize the value of lessons from other teachers. Of Christianity, he writes in *The Journal* (New York):—

"I must acknowledge that the teachings of Jesus Christ seem to establish a standard of conduct as highly ethical as that established by the doctrine of Confucius. Jesus Christ, in fact, goes a little further than Confucius. If your enemy smites you on one cheek, he bids you turn the other also. Confucius is more practical. He says:—'Requite justice with justice, favours with favours.' 'If we requite our enemy with kindness, how, indeed, can we reward our friend?' he asked.

"Christianity will make people good, if they live up to it. But how many do? What Christians repay evil with good? Show me them. It must, however, be remembered that Christianity has done immense good in this world. I have no quarrel with any religion that is based on a foundation of virtue. If they all bid one do good and deter one from doing evil, I say let them all go on. If there is a reward in some future life for the good deeds on earth, if there is a heaven for the righteous, there must surely be many ladders leading up to it, just as there may be many staircases in a house. To say that there is only one ladder is too narrow for me. If there is reward for any, I believe it will be for all good people. Some Christians say that except you believe in Christ you can not be saved. I am broader than that doctrine. My religion comprehends all.

"I have read the history of Europe during the Middle Ages, and the account there given of persecutions caused by difference in religious belief has filled me with horror. We have no such records in China. Jews, Mohammendans, Buddhists have lived peaceably side by side. It is only when indiscreet Christian missionaries go to extremes and excite the people that they ever have any trouble. They say:—'Oh, you Confucians! You are all wrong. You worships idols, Tear them down.' This is idle, and does not appeal to the Chinese as consistent, for they know that all Roman Catholics have idols in some shape in their churches. The missionaries should go about their work more quietly if they hope for success. No one ever heard of the Chinese rising against the Mohammedans, although Mohammed was a conspicuous enemy of idols,

"It seems to me that Christians often forget that Jesus Christ was an Asiatic and a Jew. The religion that he founded has gained most of its adherents in Europe and America, and yet some Western people are not very kindly disposed toward Asiatics.

"Christianity owes most of its converts in China to the fact that it is more alluring than any religion we have there. The idea of a future life and rewards for the righteous is tempting to many. Confucius teaches no such doctrine. He was once asked if he believed in a future life, and he answered:—'If I don't know what will take place to-morrow, how can I know anything about a more remote future?' He exhorted men to do their best to-day with no thought of reward. That seems to me the higher view."

THE CROWN PRINCE OF GERMANY.

It is not of much use to speculate on the character of the German Crown Prince, who has just been proclaimed of age, interesting figure though he is as a man who in due course of nature, be it to-morrow or be it forty years hence, must wield so vast a power. Prussians would hardly recognise themselves without a King, and an upset of the Imperial throne of Germany, though not an unthinkable, is a most improbable event. Public estimates of Heirs-Apparent are seldom, if ever, trustworthy, and if they were would help us little, for the weight of the crown, the sudden change in all duties, surroundings, advisers, and, above all, interests, radically modify the character. Henry V. was not Prince Hal in a new robe, but another than Prince Hal, and the scoffing tyrant Frederick, "without fear, without faith, and without mercy," whom, nevertheless, one is forced to call "Great," was supposed as Heir-Apparent to be a flute-playing, ease-loving poetaster. Who, again, can recognise in the Francis Joseph of our day the fierce young tyrant who ascended the throne in 1848, who tried to play steamroller over eighteen States, and who did not court-martial Haynau? William III. may be a very different man from the Imperial and Royal Crown Prince Frederick, and the fact that he is a Hohenzollern gives the world no guidance. The steady rise of the Hohenzollerns, their success as land grabbers, and the heroism of those among them who were fighting men, have produced in the general mind a natural illusion. They are supposed to have been all soldier-statesmen with strong wills, imperious ways, and great ability for affairs. The Hohenzollerns, in truth, have been no more all alike than any other family, than the Hapsburgs, for instance, among whom the strong men have resembled the Julian Cæsars—Wallenstein's master was just Tiberius over again—while the weak have been singularly feeble. The first Hohenzollern King, Carlyle's "most expensive Herr," was an extravagant *poseur*, always wanting to seem grand because he was deformed, though, as it chanced, his mad desire for the "barren title" of King was the making of his house and of Prussia. Potentialities lurk in "barren titles," as Rudolf of Hapsburg knew, and as our poorer nobles know when they go to America, and the Elector might have been swept away when the King emerged from the flood. Indeed, William II., the vacillating voluptuary who invaded Revolutionary France, could but for his kingship hardly have kept his throne. The Hohenzollern, again who was crushed by Napoleon's side, was by nature a *fainéant* who did his one great act for his dynasty and his people when he married Louise of Mecklenburg, a lady sprung from a race that saw and survived Charlemagne and with the heart of a great man. The Hohenzollern of the Crimean time, again, was, a dreamy pietist, who latterly so suffered from absence of mind that a false rumour spread of his drinking habits; while the late Emperor Frederick, though a considerable soldier with the bearing of a Paladin, belonged essentially to the reflecting type of humanity. He purposed rather than acted, and his people loved him because they instinctively discerned his purposes. To be a Hohenzollern is not therefore necessarily to be a strong, swift-cutting, "heady" man, and this Crown Prince may be as unlike his father as the present Emperor is to the Monarch who accepted the Imperial throne. The accounts of him are all pleasant, which may be taken as evidence that he is courteous, and he has been sedulously trained, which means that he will not be hampered in life, as Alexander III. of Russia was, by sheer ignorance of facts. He is said to be "reserved," too, which implies that he can think; reserve, which in the old is often only a cover for indecision, being in the young usually evidence that there is a mind, and that it is not precipitately made up.

There is a disposition to believe that the future Emperor has been over-educated, but the idea is probably ill-founded. Boys, even of the reflective kind, have a most healthy power of refusing to take in more knowledge than they can assimilate, or, on taking it, of throwing it up again. We can remember but one considerable man of our time, John Stuart, Mill, who was over-educated, and his inclination towards priggishness may have arisen from an hereditary tendency rather than over-culture. Sir Robert Peel was trained to be a statesman, and became one of the first order, and the sons of the English clergy, who are generally more carefully trained than other men, because if they were not they would starve, show among them an unusual proportion of successful men with independent minds. Though Charles V. did not know grammar, and Clive never learned an Indian tongue, the belief that ignorance begets strength is only a survival of the old superstition that culture impairs manliness. As a matter of fact, the new officers who are trained are as eager to be first in a charge as the old officers who were not, and though Staff College men blunder like their neighbours, nobody has ventured to accuse them of shirking the shot. Princes, we may rely on it, will not be enfeebled by training, even though their position involves a dissipation of attention which used to be considered injurious. A Crown Prince in our day to play his part reasonably well must speak in at least three languages besides his own, must learn all that a good scientific officer learns, must get up enough history not to make blunders and to recognise what is possible and not possible, must know something of treaties and diplomacy, must be sufficiently scientific to comprehend what a new discovery means, and must be able without too great a strain to extract the essence out of an official report. This is a good deal to require when one remembers that after all the most useful of kingly powers is accurate judgment of others' character; but still the present Emperor has acquired it all, and much seamanship besides, and as his mind has neither been weakened nor stiffened in acquiring it one does not see why the Crown Prince of Germany or the King of Spain should not acquire it too without any injury to his powers. As Heir-Apparent the duties of the former will not be severe, but will leave ample time for study; and the waiting, of which so much is often made, is, after all, what every professional man goes through. Success does not come to politicians, or barristers, or doctors while they are young, and waiting for a throne must be much the same as waiting for success. We see no reason why the Crown Prince should not carry on his great line in a great way,—perhaps reconcile the existence of a strong Monarchy possessing both veto and initiative with the most perfect individual liberty of the subject. That is the work now to be done all over Europe, and if it can be done true Monarchy with right of leadership in the Monarch may last a long while yet. The masses care little for abstract ideas; the arming of the nations has accustomed them all to discipline; and we doubt whether the self-confidence which makes government seem easy really increases in Europe. As education advances, a sense of the complexity of all things filters down among the peoples, and with it a desire for a strong, clear leadership by some one who is not exactly like themselves. Nothing is more singular in a democratic age than the willingness, as well as the completeness, with which the nations leave foreign policy, which concerns their bones as well as their taxes, in the hands of an Executive often, as, for example, in all the Continental Monarchies, not even elected by themselves. The peoples, in fact, perceive that of this subject they know little, and are not vain-glorious enough to act as if they knew much. Everybody used to expect great changes, but for our part we feel great doubt whether a hundred years hence Germany will be so situated that the character of the next Hohenzollern will be of little interest and no importance. In the last five hundred years only two dynasties have even appeared to go out of history; and while the house of France has lost two thrones, it still retains one; and though the Stuarts have disappeared, one of the heiresses of the Stuarts is Queen of Great Britain, sovereign lady of more than a fourth of the inhabitants of the world. Little things are always changing, but the great features of Europe last, and among those features are the dynasties for whose continuance philosophers say they are unable to account.—*The Spectator.*

RAILWAY TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA AND SHIMBASHI.

YOKOHAMA—5.30, 6.10, 6.45, 7.19, 8.30, 8.55, 9.35, 10.05, 10.50, 11.35, a.m.; 12.20, 12.57, 1.30, 2, 2.36, 3.10, 3.55, 4.33, 5.15, 5.33, 6,20, 7.21, 8, 9.13, 10, 10.50, and 11.15 p.m.

SHIMBASHI—4.50, 5.45, 6.50, 7.55, 8.30, 8.45, 9.25, 10.10, 10.45, 11.25 a.m.; 12, 1.10, 1.40, 2.25, 3, 3.25, 4, 4.35, 5.10, 5.25, 6.30, 7, 7.35, 8.20, 9.20, 10.35, and 11.20 p.m.

YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

Leave.		Arrive.	
Yokohama	6.50 a.m.	Kobe	10.47 a.m.
Yokohama	1.14 p.m.	Kobe	9.00 a.m.
Yokohama	6.30 p.m.	Kobe	11.19 a.m.
Yokohama	10.32 p.m.	Kobe	6.36 p.m.
Kobe	6.00 a.m.	Yokohama	10.05 a.m.
Kobe	12.05 p.m.	Yokohama	8.05 a.m.
Kobe	6.00 p.m.	Yokohama	10.50 a.m.
Kobe	10.00 p.m.	Yokohama	6.13 p.m.

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CHESS.

(All communications should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Japan Mail*, No. 51, Main Street, Yokohama.)

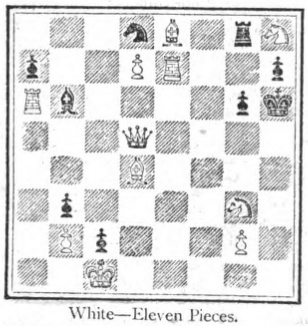
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 478.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1—Q to Q 8	1—K to K6
2—Kt to B5 ch	2—K to B6
3—Q to R 8 mate	
	2—Any other
3—Q to Q 3 mate	
	1—K to B 4
2—Q to B 7 ch	2—K to Q 5
3—Q takes B mate	
	2—K to Kt 5
3—B to K sq. mate	
	1—B to B 4
2—Q takes P ch	2—K to K 6
3—Q to B 2 mate	
	2—P to K 4
3—Q takes P mate	
	1—Kt to Q 2
2—Q to 5	2—K to K 6
3—Q to B 3 mate	

PROBLEM No. 480.

By R. H. BRIDGWATER.

Black—Nine Pieces.



White—Eleven Pieces.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME 602.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White—Ward. Black—Blackburne.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P Q4	P Q4	24 PxP	B Kt5
2 P QB4	PxP	25 Q B3	BxKt
3 Kt KB3	P QB4	26 PxB	QR B
4 P K3	PxP	27 Q Q2	B B
5 BxP	Kt QB3	28 K Kt2	R Kt
6 PxP	P K3	29 R K5	Q KB3
7 Castles	Kt B3	30 Q R2	Q B3
8 Kt B3	B K2	31 Q Kt3	B Kt2
9 Kt K2	Castles	32 P Kt5	Q Kt3
10 B K3	Q R4	33 RxP	BxP
11 Kt Kt3	R Q	34 Kt Q7	RxKt
12 Q K2	P QR3	35 RxR	Q KB3
13 P QR3	Kt Q4	36 Q Q5	B B6
14 KR Q	KtxB	37 R(K)K7	R KB
15 QxKt	Q Kt3	38 RxKtP	Q B5
16 R Q2	B B3	39 P Kt6	P R4
17 QR Q	P Kt3	40 R K4	Q B3
18 Kt K4	B Kt2	41 R(K4)K7	B Kt5
19 P QKt4	Kt K2	42 R(K7)Q7	P R5
20 Kt B5	Kt Q4	43 P R3	B K8
21 BxKt	PxB	44 RxP	RxR
22 R K	P QR4	45 QxRch	QxQ
23 R(Q2)K2	PxP	46 RxQ	Resigns.

GAME 603.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

White—Van Vliet. Black—Jones.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P KB4	P Q4	20 B QB	P BKt3
2 P K3	P QB4	21 B B3	R KB
3 Kt KB3	Kt QB3	22 Q K2	B Q2
4 P QKt3	Kt B3	23 B B4	R K
5 B Kt2	P K3	24 BxKt	QxB
6 Kt B3	B K2	25 P KKt4	B B3
7 Kt K2	Castles	26 Q B4 ch	Q K3
8 Kt Kt3	P Q5	27 Q R6	Q Q2
9 P K4	P K4	28 Q B4 ch	K K3
10 PxP	Kt KKt5	29 Q R6	Q Q2
11 B K2	B R5	30 Q B4 ch	K K
12 Castles	BxKt	31 P R4	P K R3
13 PxB	K KtxP	32 P Kt5	PxP
14 KtxKt	KtxKt	33 B R5	R Q
15 P Q3	P B4	34 B Kt6	Q Q3
16 Q Q2	PxP	35 Q B7	R KKt
17 RxR ch	QxR	36 R B3	P Kt5
18 R K B	Q K2	37 B B5	Resigns
19 PxP	B Kt5		

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan 1	M. July 2
America	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru 2	Tu. July 3
Hongkong	T. K. K.	America Maru	Th. July 5
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	Th. July 5
Europe	N. D. Lloyd	Stuttgart	Sa. July 7
America	P. M. Co.	China 3	W. July 11
Hongkong	M. M. Co.	Tonkin	W. July 11
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Sa. July 14
America	O. & O. Co.	Doric	Th. July 19
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Gaelic	M. July 23

1 Left Vancouver on the 19th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 14th inst.
3 Left San Francisco on the 22nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line.	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong	N. D. Lloyd	Bayern	Sa. June 30
America	O. & O. Co.	Coptic	Sa. June 30
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of Japan	M. July 2
Hkongong	T. K. K.	H'kong Maru	W. July 4
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Nagato Maru	W. July 4
Europe, via S'hai.	M. M. Co.	Sydney	F. July 6
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Em. of India	F. July 6
America	[illegible]	America Maru	Sa. July [illegible]
Hongkong	P. & O. Co.	Rosetta	W. July 11
Hongkong	P. M. Co.	China	Th. July 12
America	P. M. Co.	City of Peking	Tu. July 17
Hongkong	O. & O. Co.	Doric	F. July 20

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 22nd June,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 21st June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, Y. Oda, 22nd June,—Yokkaichi, 21st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Menelaus, British steamer, 2,771, W. Towell. 22nd June,—Liverpool via ports, and Kobe, 21st June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 22nd June,—Shanghai via ports, 16th June, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 22nd June,—Hakodate, 19th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rosetta, British steamer, 2,039, C. C. Talbot, 22nd June,—Nagahama Quarantine Station, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 23rd June,—Otaru via ports, 17th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, Y. Tamuke, 23rd June,—Yokkaichi, 22nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suminoye Maru, Japanese steamer, 866, S. Yamamoto, 23rd June,—Bonin Islands, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Trieste, Austrian steamer, 3,203, A. Mitis, 23rd June,—Trieste via ports, and Hongkong, 17th June, Mails and General.—Browne & Co.

Braemar, British steamer. 2,316, Wm. Watt, 24th June—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe, 22nd June, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Liv, Norwegian steamer, 2,002, Rasmussen, 24th June,—New York via ports, and Kobe, 22nd June, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Fuji, 24th June,—Hakodate, 21st June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 25th June,—San Francisco via Honolulu, 6th June, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,507, C. Christiansen, 25th June,—Otaru via ports, 20th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, T. Tibballs, 24th June,—Yokkaichi, 24th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wilhelmina, Dutch steamer, 2,793, J. de Vries, 25th June,—Philadelphia via Suez Canal, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Gerard C. Tobey, American barque, 1,390, J. F. Shurtleff, 25th June,—New York, 14th January, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,081, Allegre, 25th June,—Marseilles via ports, and Kobe, 24th June, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,591, J. Campbell, 25th June,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, T. Murai, 25th June,—Otaru via ports, 25th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,110, N. Nielsen, 26th June,—Kobe, 24th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, S. Tsuji, 18th June,—Shanghai via Moji and Kobe, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Algoa, British steamer, 4,897, F. G. Hansford, 26th June,—San Francisco, 1st June, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,419, J. Nagao, 27th June,—Moji, 24th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wittenberg, German steamer, 2,363, Hemple, 27th June,—Hamburg via ports, and Hongkong, 20th June, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,706, De La Lande, 27th June,—Otaru via ports, 22nd June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Konoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,034, K. Shima, 27th June,—Kobe, 25th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Nakajima, 27th June,—Yokkaichi, 26th June, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Royalist, British steamer, 2,024, S. Tierney, 27th June,—Kushiro via Muroran, Ballast.—T. M. Laffin.

Trunkby, British steamer, 1,668, John McCarthy, 28th June,—New York via Manila, 19th June, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Gattia, British steamer, 2,744, J. H. Rinder, 28th June,—Hongkong via ports, and Kobe 27th June, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Laos, French steamer, 2,331, Flaudin, 22nd June,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. S.S. Co.

Kotik, Russian steamer, 299, A. Scherbinin, 22nd June,—Vladivostock via Kobe, General.—Walsh Hall & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,065, K. Nakajima, 22nd June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,910, Y. Oda, 23rd June,—Sasebo, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Dardanus, British steamer, 2,992, T. G. Steeves, 23rd June,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Belgian King, British steamer, 2,170, T. L. Weiss, 23rd June,—San Diego and San Francisco, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Toyei Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,696, K. Yamamoto, 23rd June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, K. Nobeta, 24th June,—Yokkaichi via Kobe. General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Tamuke, 24th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, G. Sakano, 24th June,—Ujina and Saseho, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Silesia, German steamer, 3,138, S. Behrens, 25th June,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Gaelic, British steamer, 2,690, Wm. Finch, 26th June,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—O. & O. S.S. Co.

Braemar, British steamer, 2,316, Wm. Watt, 26th June,—Portland, Oregon, Mails and General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,396, K. Fuji, 26th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Menelaus, British steamer, 2,771, W. Towell, 26th June,—London and Glasgow via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 882, T. Tibballs, 26th June,—Yokkachi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rohilla, British steamer, 2,216, C. H. S. Tocque, 27th June,—Hongkong via Kobe and Nagasaki, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Afghanistan, British steamer, 2,190, Williamson, 28th June,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,591, J. Campbell, 27th June,—Kobe, General,—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, T. Murai, 27th June,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobe Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,645, R. Swain, 27th June,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Otaru Maru, Japanese steamer. 1,551, C. Christiansen, 27th June,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Pakling, British steamer, 2,925, E. Warrall, 27th June,—Seattle, Wash., Ballast.—W. M. Strachan & Co.

Fushiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,110, N. Nielsen, 27th June,—Otaru, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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Trieste, Austrian steamer, 3,203, A. Mitis, 28th June, —Trieste via ports, General.—Browne & Co.

Bowman B. Law, British barque, 1,359, Gullison, 28th June,—Portland, Oregon, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Shinagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,001, K. Nakajima, 28th June,—Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per German steamer *Bayern*, from Europe via ports :—Mr. E. Delbanco, Mrs. Guhler, Mr. Massy Leech, Mrs. Massy Leech, Mr. E. Benek, Mr. R. F. Kiobe, Lieut. Beyersdorf, Mr. O. Muller, Mrs. Witt, Mr. Bossard, and Mr. F. Lehodey, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, from San Francisco via Honolulu :—Mr. and Mrs. H. Bentz, Dr. David Starr Jordan, Mr. J. O. Snyder, Mr. T. Takeda, Miss N. J. Lewis, Mr. S. Hashimoto, and Mr. W. Kobayashi, in cabin. For Kobe :—Mr. F. H. Hopler, and Miss D. E. Ogden, in cabin. For Shanghai :—Mr. and Mrs. Skerrett Rogers and child, and Rev. Pius Trovarelli, in cabin. For Hongkong :—Lieut. W. H. Allderdice, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Le Munyon, Dr. E. Davis, Dr. J. T. Kennedy, Mr. W. Rivington, Mr. C. Clift. Dr. G. D. Costigan, Mr. J. Eslick, Dr. Geo. A. Lung, and [illegible] in cabin.

Per French steamer *Sydney*, from Marseilles via ports :—Mr. Atkinson, Mr. A. L. Hay, Mr. Von Bohl, Mrs. Esterbrook, Mrs. E. W. Tisdale, Miss Tisdale, Mrs. Meyer, child and 2 servants, Mrs. Wincker, Mrs. Brid, 2 children and 2 amahs, Mrs. Jessen and child, Mr. L. Leinsset, Mr. Wittemberch, Mr. G. H. Storak, Mrs. Gilbert, daughter and amah, Mr. Pustor, Mrs. Crocker, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Oyama, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Weinberg, Mr. Kumcker, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Rud. Pohl, Mr. W. Isaacs, Mr. Cabeldn, and Mr. R. E. Abenheim, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Coptic*, from Hongkong via ports :—Lieut. T. F. Lyons, U.S.M.C., Mr. A. H. Pol Mr. A. Dupries, Mr. F. E. Duncan, Mr. R. A. Dowler, Mr. E. Thomas, Mr. R. C. Farbridge, Mrs. W. G. Bayne, Mr. and Mrs. C. Forstmann, Lieut. K. P. Hobsen, U.S.N., Mr. Carl Franck, Mr. and Mrs. G. Johnson and 2 native servants, Mr. and Mrs. Worth, 2 children and amah, Mr. Geo. Eckley, Mr. G. P. Godsey, Mr. L. C. Putnam, Mr. J. Sallers, Mr. A. Lopex, Mrs. Wilkenson, and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, in cabin. For San Francisco :—Mr. Tong Yin and wife, Miss Wong Shee, Mr. Wm. Klein, Miss Boone, Mrs. J. S. Fearon, Mr. and Mrs. Woodbridge and family, Mrs. J. O. F. Kiand, Mr. E. Carelan, Mr. A. MacKillop, Mr. A. Mathez, Mr. W. L. Ireland, Mr. E. Mulhausen, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Coltman, Com. Sath Ackley, U.S.N., Lt.-Com. C. S. Richman, Mr. W. Kilburn, Mr. C. J. Boush, Mr. F. Ringer, Mr. E. B. Reid, and Mrs. G. P. Godsey, in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Laos*, for Marseilles via ports :—Mr. M. Isaacs, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. Birschell, Mr. Antonio Lopez, Mr. W. G. Peters, Mr. T. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Chausson, Mr. Matsumoto, Mr. Yamery, Mr. Ch. Schleonger, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Mess, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Ellon, Major and Mrs. Penrose, Mr. Uchiyama, Mr. Muller, Mr. Schmuach, Mr. Ch. Bates, Mr. Blum, Col. Faulkner Brown, Mr. Stewart Harrison, Major and Mrs. Jeffreys, Mr. Robert W. Borthwick, Mr. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Von Ruffin, Mr. J. Nakanishi, Mr. Robertson, Mr. G. Muraour, Mr. T. Takamatsu, Mr. N. Matsui, Mr. Takashi Saito, Mr. Monoshiro Moriya, Mr. Y. Mori, Mr. S. Minobe, Mr. M. Akizuki. Mr. S. Nakamura, Mr. S. Sugimoto, Mr. M. Hatano, Mr. Yamada, Mrs. Krueg, Mr. Krueg, and Mrs. de Carcer and family, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Gaelic*, for Hongkong via ports :—Lieut. W. H. Allderdice, Mr. N. P. Campbell, child and amah, Mr. C. Clift, Dr. G. D. Costigan, Dr. E. Davis, Mr. M. Elliott, Mrs. E. M. Ellott, Mr. J. Eslick, Mr. L. Fong Gook and native servant, Mr. H, B. Grant, U.S.V., Mr. F. H. Hopler, Dr. J. T. Kennedy, Dr. Geo. Lung, Miss D. E. Ogden, Mr. W. Rivington, Mr. S. Rogers, Mrs. S. Rogers and child, Mr. A. W. Taylor, Miss A. E. Todd, Rev. P. Trovarelli, Mr. Ross Thomson, Mr. C. E. Le Munyon, and Mrs. C. E. Le Munyon, in cabin.

Per British steamer *Rohilla*, for Hongkong via ports :—Rev. Father Moore, Mr. L. Deane, Mr. Henry McPhee, Mr. P. V. Mitchell, and Mr. A. D. Akbaralli, in cabin ; 8 Chinese, infant and child, in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru*, for Shanghai via ports :—Mr. Alex. Kenmure, Miss C. F. Keith, Miss L. H. Albrecht, Miss Griswold, Mr. I. Matsudaira, Mr. and Mrs. R. Uchiyama, Mrs. C. M. Thomas, Miss Thomas, Miss E. C. Thomas, Mrs. A. W. Marshall, Capt. J. Bruhn, Mr. H. G. Stevens, Mr. S. Futatsubashi, and Mr. Loshiu, in cabin ; Mr. M. Narikawa, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hirota, Miss Taka Seki, Sub.-Lieut. K. Kawano, I.J.A., in second class.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Wakasa Maru*, from London via ports :—Dr. Tomei Kurimoto, Com. Kogoro Fujii, I.J.N., Mr. L. Longer, Mr. Tojo Okubo, and Mr. Kadzuo Hayashi, in cabin.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Braemar*, for Portland, Ore. :—

TEA.

	Canada.	Chicago & West.	New York & East.	Pacific Coast.		Total Packages.
Colombo.....	—	—	—	357	—	357
Hongkong ...	—	—	—	164	—	164
Amoy	—	552	3.381	—	—	3,933
Shanghai ...	530	2,769	—	81	—	3,380
Kobe	546	1,927	5,998	—	—	8,471
Yokohama ...	750	4,639	4,835	20	—	10,244
Total ...	1,826	9,887	14,214	622	—	26,549

SILK. New York.

Yokohama..... 10

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Gaelic*, Capt. Wm. Finch, reports :—Left San Francisco on June 6th, via Honolulu on the 13th, and arrived at Yokohama on June 25th. Had fine weather throughout voyage.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per French steamer *Laos*, for Marseilles via ports :—Raw Silk for Europe, 138 bales ; Waste Silk for Europe, 52 bales.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

There is absolute stagnation in all lines.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirting—8¼lb, 38½ yds. 39 inches	$2.85 to 3.85
Grey Shirting—9lb, 31½ yds, 45 inches..	4.75 to 6.50
Indigo Shirtings—24 yards, 14 inches ...	2.30 to 3.35
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches ...	2.80 to 5.00
Cotton—Italians and Satteens, Black, 32 inches...	PER YARD. 0.21 to 0.32½

WOOLLENS.

	PER YARD.
Flannels	$0.45 to 0'65
Italian Cloth, 30 yards	0.35 to 0.50
Mousseline de Laine,—Crape, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.24 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 36 inches	0.65 to 0.95
Cloths—Presidents, 51 @ 65 inches	0.90 to 1.10
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.60 to 1.10
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 3 to 5lb per lb...	0.68 to 0.78
	PER PIECE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	9.20 to 11.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches ...	0.96 to 1.20
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3.0 lb 24/25 yards, 30 inches	2.15 to 2.47½
Turkey Reds—3.8 to 4lb, 24/25 yards, 32 inches	2.75 to 3.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 16/24, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 28/32, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 38/42, Singles	Nominal
Nos. 32, Doubles	Nominal
Nos. 42, Doubles	$170.00 to 190.00
Nos. 2/60, Plain	250.00 to 255.00
Nos. 2/80, Plain	300.00 to 325.00
Nos. 2/100, Plain	425.00 to 435.00
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	300.00 to 310.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	575.00 to 400.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 510.00

RAW COTTONS.

American Middling	23 *yen*
Indian Broach	19 *yen*
Chinese	Nominal

METALS.

Complete inactivity prevails.

	PER PICUL.
Round and square ½ inch and upward	6.00 to 6.50
Iron Plates, assorted	5.90 tc 6.40
Sheet Iron	6.40 to 7.00
Galvanised Iron sheets	12;50 to 14.00
Wire Nails, assorted	8.00 to 8.50
Tin Plates, per box	8.20 to 8.50
Pig Iron, No. 3	2.95 to 3.10
Hoop Iron (⅜ to 1½ inch)	7.00 to 7.40

KEROSENE.

The market is weak.

American	$2.28
Russian	2.75
Langkat	No Stock

SUGAR.

The market is steady.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Takao	$5.00 to 5.90
Brown Manila	5.40 to 6.70
Brown Daitong	4.50 to 5.50
Brown Canton	5.50 to 6.90
White Java and Penang	6.90 to 8.50
White Refined	8.00 to 9.70

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A moderate amount of buying, in small parcels, of new crop at quotations. The market has not yet got into its regular stride ; but the ensuing month should see more reliable prices with a fair current business.

QUOTATIONS.

Filatures—Extra, Fine	
Filatures—Extra, Coarse	
Filatures—No. 1, Fine	$1,040 to 1,045
Filatures—No. 1, Coarse	970 to 980
Filatures—No. 1½, Fine	980 to 985
Filatures—No. 1½, Coarse	930 to 940
Filatures—No. 2, Fine	
Filatures—No. 2, Coarse	
Common—Coarse	
Re-reels—Extra	
Re-reels—No. 1	
Re-reels—No. 1½	
Re-reels—No. 2	
Re-reels—No. 3	
Kakedas—Extra	
Kakedas—No. 1	
Kakedas—No. 1½	
Kakedas—No. 2	
Kakedas—No. 2½	

WASTE SILK.

Season closed, and nothing will now be done till new fibre appears on the market next month.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Nominal
Noshi—Filatures, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Best	
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Best	
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Best	
Noshi—Bushiu, Good	
Noshi—Bushiu, Medium	
Noshi—Joshiu, Best	
Noshi—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	
Kibiso—Filatures, Second	
Kibiso—Joshiu, Good	
Kibiso—Bushu, Fair	

TEA.

Price remains as last quoted. The market is firm, though buyers are operating rather less freely than last week.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	43 & upwards
Choice	32 to 33
Finest	30 to 31
Fine	28 to 29
Good Medium	26 to 27
Medium	24 to 25
Good Common	22 to 23
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 28.

London silver ¼ higher, and from China a further advance in exchange, whilst locally all rates keep firm except those on China, which are again lower.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 7/32 @ 9/16
— — Bills on demand	2/0 1/4 @ 3/8
— — 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16 @ 5/8
— Private 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16 @ 7/8
— — 6 months' sight	2/0 13/16 @ 2/1
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	254@ ½
— Private 4 months' sight	260@ ½
— — 6 months' sight	262 @ ½
America—Bank sight	49¼
— Private 30 days' sight	50 @ ⅛
— Private 4 months' sight	50¾ @ 7/8
Germany—Bank sight	206½
— Private 4 months' sight	212@ ½
Hongkong—Bank sight	1½% dis.
— Private 10 days' sight	3% dis.
Shanghai—Bank sight	72
— Private 10 days' sight	73½
India—Bank sight	151¼
— Private 30 days' sight	153½
Bar Silver (London) 2nd	28 5/8

BISSET AND URE'S SHARE REPORT.

Yokohama, June 28.

Breweries changed hands to-day at *yen* 155. Oriental Hotels—old shares can be had at *yen* 150. Offers for new shares are wanted. Club Hotels—A few shares can be placed at *yen* 80. Langfeldts—offers for shares are wanted. Helms are obtainable at par. Laundries have sellers at par.

Y. U. Club debentures are obtainable at *yen* 108.

Tokyo Ropes were again sold to-day at *yen* 70.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ltd., ¥50 ..... 220 Sa.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd., ¥50 ..... 155 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ltd., ¥100 ..... 240 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ltd., ¥100 ..... 80 B.

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Oriental Hotel, Ltd. ¥100	150 S.
Oriental Hotel (Founders), ¥12.50	500 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd., ¥100	Nominal
North and Rae, Ltd., ¥100	215 B.
Brett & Co., Ltd., ¥10	9 B.
Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., ¥100	105 S.
Helm Bros., ¥50	50 S.
Yokohama Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., ¥50	50 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	110 St.
Yokohama United Club 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100.	108 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	101 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	108 Sa.
Nagasaki Hotel, Ltd. 7 per cent. Deb., ¥100	92 Sa.
Oriental Hotel, new ordinary shares, ¥25	40 St.
Oriental Hotel. preference shares, ¥25	40 St.

A. C. HUTTON POTTS.

LOCAL SHARE LIST.

Yokohama, June 28.

Langfeldts changed hands to-day at *yen* 95. Y. U. Club debentures have sellers at *yen* 108. Bretts have buyers at *yen* 9.25. Offers are wanted for Oriental Hotel shares.

	YEN.
Yokohama I.. & I. Works	... Sales.
Grand Hotel	245 Sales.
Club Hotel	90 Sellers.
Oriental Hotel	150 Sales.
Langfeldt & Co.	100 Sellers.
Japan Brewery Co.	160 Sales.

TOKUMIYA.

BROKER IN LOAN BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, AND STOCKS.

Cash and time transactions.

No. 1, KABUTOCHO, NIHONBASHI-KU, TOKYO.
TELEPHONE NO. 921, NANIWA OFFICE.

MEAN PRICES OF SHARES AND STOCKS FOR DIRECT DELIVERY.

Tokyo, June 28.

	YEN.
Redemption Loan Bonds	*... 90.80
War Loan Bonds	*... 90.80
Tokyo City Loan Bonds	*... 93.80
Nippon Ginko—paid up yen 200	... 409.00
Japan Industrial Bank—paid up yen 50	... 65.00
Specie Bank—paid up yen 100	... 170.00
Specie Bank, new—paid up yen 12.50	... 94.00
First National Bank—paid up yen 50	... 65.00
Third National Bank—paid up yen 50	... 65.00
Fifteenth Bank—paid up yen 100	... 100.50
Teikoku Shogyo Bank—paid up yen 25	... 26.20
Japan Railway—paid up yen 50	... 69.90
Japan Railway, 7th issue—paid up yen 44	... 62.00
Japan Railway, 8th issue—paid up yen 12.50	... 21.70
Kobu Railway—paid up yen 45	... 105.00
Kobu Railway, new—paid up yen 25	... 68.00
Sanyo Railway—paid up yen 47	... 49.60
Kansai Railway—paid up yen 50	... 3 .30
Kyushu Railway—paid up yen 50	... 48.60
Kyushu Railway, new—paid up yen 40	... 37.50
Hokkaido Colliery Railway—paid up yen 50	... 78.20
Hokkaido Colliery R'way 2nd issue—paid up yen 28	61.90
Sobu Railway—paid up yen 50	... 76.00
Narita Railway—paid up yen 50	... 37.00
Boso Railway—paid up yen 50	... 17.90
Toyokawa Railway—paid up yen 50	... 73.00
Nanao Railway—paid up yen 37.50	... 37.00
Hokuyetsu Railway—paid up yen 50	... 28.90
Kyoto Railway—paid up yen 38	... 16.50
Chugoku Railway—paid up yen 31	... 8.00
Tobu Railway—paid up yen 22	... 16.80
Tokyo Tramway—paid up yen 50	†... 150.00
Tokyo Tramway, new—paid up yen 35	†... 141.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha—paid up yen 50	... 57.20
Osaka Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	... 23.30
Toyo Kisen Kaisha—paid up yen 25	... 23.00
Nippon Shosen Kaisha—paid up yen 39	... 23.50
Yokohama Dock—paid up yen 25	... 39.00
Yokohoma Dock, new—paid up yen 20	... 32.00
Domestic Transport—paid up yen 60	... 38.60
Japan Weaving—paid up yen 40	... 16.00
Osaka Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	... 197.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange—paid up yen 50	... 152.00
Tokyo Rice Exchange—paid up yen 50	... 139.00
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange—paid up yen 25	... 74.00
Tokyo Electric Light—paid up yen 50	†... 45.50
Shinagawa Electric Light—paid up yen 32	... 23.00
Tokyo Gas—paid up yen 40	... 94.00
Tokyo Gas, new—paid up yen 30	... 81.00
Japan Beer—paid up yen 50	... 107.00
Japan Beer, new—paid up yen 12.50	... 42.00
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning—paid up yen 50	... 37.00
Tokyo Warehouse—paid up yen 40	... 78.00
Ishikawajima Dock Yard—paid up yen 50	... 40.00
Tokyo Tatemono Kaisha—paid up 25	... 21.00
Tokyo Fire Insurance—paid up yen 12.50	... 14.30
Imperial Marine Insurance—paid up yen 50	... 43.00

* Cancellation of Interest † Ex dividend.

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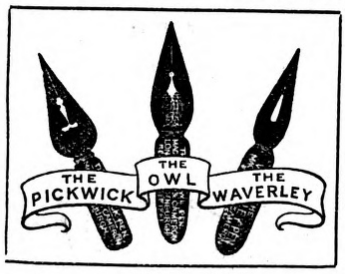

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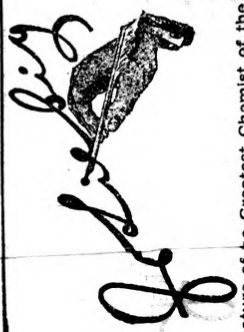

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